

CHILDREN'S GAMES.

Of the outdoor amusements of children many are common to this and other districts. Amongst those played here are the following games:—Cricket, Football, Running, Kite-flying, Leap-frog, Tut-ball (a local form of Rounders), Hop-scotch, Tick, Cross-tick, Marbles, Cuckoo, Drop Handkerchief, and many "Ring" and dancing games—the latter probably being survivals of those played round the May-pole.

Running.—Children's races are started by one clapping hands four times, and calling out—

"One to stop, two to stay,
Three to make ready, and four away."

Hop-scotch, played in the spring months, is perhaps one of the oldest games in the world. A chalk figure drawn upon the pavement is divided into compartments by lines, across which a stone is pushed by the foot, whilst hopping on one leg. I give some diagrams of the forms of "beds" used.

Tick, or *tig*, is a simple game, one of the party being selected—usually by one of the counting-out rhymes—to touch any one of the others, who in turn becomes "tick." In some cases anything wooden is "den," any of the players touching which are safe from capture. This is called "Ticky, ticky, touch wood." A player being tired and calling "barley" cannot be touched.

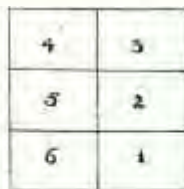
Cross-tick is a variety in which the pursuer being touched by any one player must pursue that one, it being the business of all the other players to put any impediment they can in his way.

Marbles.—This game is played in various ways here, generally by each player placing a certain number in a hole, and throwing at them in turn with a round stone. The marbles knocked out by any player become his property. Clay marbles are called "dumps," stone marbles are "stonies" or "ralies," marbles generally are "taws." The boy desiring to play first must call "fogs," the second calls "segs," and the last is called "lags."

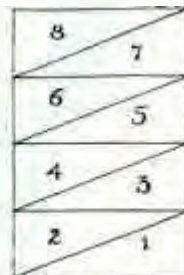
MOP-SCOTCH DIAGRAMS



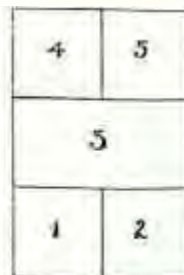
STOKE.



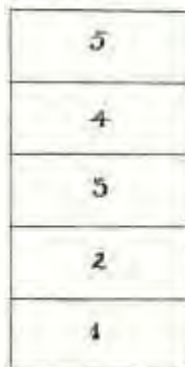
STONE.



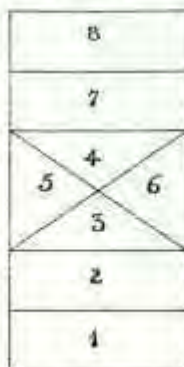
TUNSTALL.



STOKE.



CHEADLE, STONE
& STONE.



CHEADLE.



STOKE & STONE



STOKE.

One who in shooting a marble from the knuckle, instead of "knuckling down," pushes forward his hand in delivery, is said to "fudge:" this is unfair. If a boy wishes to claim any marbles about which there is a dispute, he says "bags I," and picks them up without challenge. "Smugs" is called out by boys, often bystanders, who snatch at or steal the marbles of other boys. One who has lost all his marbles at play is said to be "shobbled" or "shobble-diddled."

Drop Handkerchief is played in a ring, outside which one goes round singing—

"I lost my supper last night, I lost it night afore;
If I lose it this night, I'll never lose it more."

The handkerchief is then thrown at some one, who runs and endeavours to get back to her place before her pursuer. If she is caught she is kissed, and has in turn to become pursuer; but if she gets "home" first, the one who unsuccessfully pursued her has to begin again.

Circle and Dancing Games.—I only give the rhymes which accompany these.

Ring o' Roses. The children sing—

"Ring a ring o' roses,
A pocket full o' posies;
One for you, and one for me,
And one for little Moses."

Children then sneeze—"ash-oo," "ash-oo," and fall down together.

(General.)

Bobby Bingo.

"There was a farmer had a dog,
He called it Bobby Bingo;
B-i-n-g-o, B-i-n-g-o, B-i-n-g-o,
He called it Bobby Bingo."

(General.)

Wallflowers.

"Wallflowers, wallflowers, growing up so high,
We are all little ones, and we shall have to die,
Except (*a name*), she is the youngest girl!
Oh for shame, fie for shame, turn your back to the wall again."
(*Hanford.*)

Oranges and Lemons.

"Oranges and lemons, say the bells of St. Clement's;
You owe me five farthings, when will you pay me?
Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
And a great pair of snappers to snap off your head."
(*Stone, Cheadle.*)

Nuts in May.

"Here we come gathering nuts in May,
Nuts in May, nuts in May;
Here we come gathering nuts in May,
On a cold and frosty morning.

"Who will you have for nuts in May?
Nuts in May, nuts in May?
Who will you have for nuts in May,
On a cold and frosty morning?
(*Girl's name given.*)

"Who will you send to fetch her away?
Fetch her away, fetch her away?
Who will you send to fetch her away,
On a cold and frosty morning?

"We'll send (*boy's name*) to fetch her away,
Fetch her away, fetch her away;
We'll send (*boy's name*) to fetch her away,
On a cold and frosty morning."

(*Stone, Cheadle, &c.*)

"The wind blows high, and the snow blows cold,
And the rain comes pattering down the street.
Oh, isn't (*a girl's name*) very, very pretty?

She is the pride of the noble city.
She goes courting—one, two, three :
Pray tell me who that may be ? (*Girl chooses a boy.*)
(*Boy's name*) says he loves her.
All the boys are fighting for her ;
Let them all say what they will,
(*Boy's name*) says he loves her still ;
He takes her by her lily-white hand,
And leads her over the water ;
He gives her kisses—one, two, three,
And it's (*Mrs. Somebody's*) daughter."

(*Hanford.*)

" On the carpet you shall kneel,
As the grass grows round your feet ;
Stand up straight upon your feet,
And tell me the one you love so sweet."

(*Stramshall, Uttoxeter.*)

" Who's going round my old stone walls ?"

" Only little Bobby Bingo."

" Don't steal none of my fat sheep !"

" I'll steal them one by one,

Till they all are gone,

So come along, little Bobby Bingo."

(*Beamhurst, Uttoxeter.*)

" ' How many miles to London ?'

' Threescore and ten.'

' Can I get there by candle-light ?'

' Yes, there and back again.' "

(*Beamhurst.*)

" ' Mother, come buy me a milking can,

A milking can, a milking can.'

' Where shall we get the money from ?'

The money from, the money from ?'

' Sell my father's feather bed.' "

(*Uttoxeter.*)

" All around the village, (*repeat three times*)
As you have done before."

" In and out the windows, (*three times*)
As you have done before."

" Stand and face your lover, (*three times*)
As you have done before."

" Follow him to London, (*three times*)
As you have done before.

(*Stoke.*)

" There were two jolly fishermen,
And they went out to sea ;
They cast their nets into the sea,
And see what they have found."

(*Tittensor.*)

" Barley and oats and corn ;
You and I and every one
See the farmer sow his seed,
Plough his land and stamp his feet ;
He stamps his foot and claps his hand,
And turns him round to view the land."

(*Tittensor.*)

" I buy a horse and steal a gig,
And every one shall have a jig ;
And I do all that ever I can
To push the business on."

(*Tittensor.*)

" What colour is the sky ?"
" Blue."

" Look up, and tell me true ?"
" It is blue."

" Follow me through every little hole
That I go through."

(*Cheadle.*)

" There were three jolly fishermen,
They all went out to sea ;

They cast their nets into the sea, (*repeat twice*)
And jolly fish caught they."

(*Cheadle.*)

"One, one will never be the more, O!

Two, two, the lily-white boys dressed all in green, O!

Three, three Gerivers, O!

Four the Gospel-makers,

Five the wimbles in the sky,

Four the Gospel-makers.

Three, three Gerivers, O!

Two, two, the lily-white boys dressed all in green, O!

When one is left alone, never shall be the more, O!"

(*Hanford, Tittensor.*)