

Put and Take Is One of the Oldest Games on Earth

BY ROBERT L. RIPLEY

Of course you play that new game of the spinning top called Put and Take?

It is the newest and latest craze to tempt our gaming instinct, and is all the rage all over the country.

What's that!

New game?

Well, you will be surprised to know that it is one of the very oldest games in the world. It was played in the dusty depths of antiquity several thousand years B.C. This little game of the spinning top was a favorite pastime of the ancient Chinese, Hindoos, and Hebrews long before any other game we know today was ever thought of.

The Put and Take game is an evolution of dice—a teetotem, or spinning die—and the game of dice is nearly coeval with the creation of man.

Probably the first game man ever played was "odd or even" with a couple of sea shells. Next our shaggy forefathers began tossing the knuckle bones of animals—"rolling the bones," in fact. The spinning die came next and upon the sides were various notches or marks.

The original Put and Take top is to be seen in the Museum of Archaeology and Paleontology, University of Pennsylvania. It was found in Korea, and the same game today is called the Tjyong Kyong To—the Game of Dignitaries. It is a three-sided affair marked with notches instead of figures and probably interested the grownup boys and girls of that day as much as the little top of our own country and time does today.

The old Chinese used a prismatic die top called the Ch'e Me. The Hindoo counterpart of the Put and Take game is called the Chukree.

Another parallel was found of ancient Jewish design—a four-sided top bearing upon its sides the Hebrew letters: shin, gimel, he, nun: meaning, "put," "take," "half," "nothing."