

KITES AND KITE-FLYING; AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT FOR BOYS.

BY

WILLIAM ABNER EDDY,

Expert in Kite-flying and Kite-photography.

KITES can be made from sticks, cloth, paper, or from material intended for other purposes. If two sticks of spruce be bound together and one placed across the other at a distance of one-fifth of the upright stick from the top of the upright stick—both sticks of equal length—the resulting kite so made will fly without a tail if the cross-stick is bent backward into the form of a flat bow. Very thin sticks can be put together in this way and tissue paper can be pasted upon them without using string for the edge of the paper. The bridle of this kite, known as the Eddy kite type, should be tied well below the top of the kite. While a kite made without edge-strings saves much trouble, it yet fails of durability because the edge is easily torn, especially when tissue paper is used. If edge strings are passed around the ends of the sticks, as in the ordinary tail kite, this should be done before bending the cross-stick backward into the form of a flat bow, because any bending of the cross-stick afterward will loosen the edge-strings. So far as adjusting the bridle is concerned, that can be done in various positions experimentally until the kite flies.

I advise against the use of a very large kite for boys—say six feet in diameter, because considerable extra expense for sufficiently strong cord will thereby be incurred.

Many interesting experiments can be easily tried by using the upward slanting kite cord as a lifting force. For example, a square piece of thin pasteboard with four thin sticks fastened to the corners and united in a bunch at the top makes a light suspended platform upon which may be placed thin pieces of tissue paper not over three or four inches in diameter. This platform can be attached to the upward slanting kite string, and paid out upward as the kite is paid out. This will raise the light platform into the air. The tissue paper is laid on the platform and held down by a light stick of wood fastened to a string a foot long. When the platform has reached a height of about 200 feet, the paper can be released by quickly jarring the string at the earth or by paying out ten feet so rapidly that the stick of wood holding down the paper drops off the platform and releases the paper, which may float away to a great height in the air in case of a rising air current. I advise hanging the platform by means of sticks at the corners of the pasteboard because string twists and distorts the platform. The platform should be suspended from one

string. It will then escape entanglement with the kite string extending on up to the kite.

Several pieces of tissue paper can be dropped aloft at the same time. Following roughly is the back construction of the Eddy kite. It flies with its bulging side toward the wind, and tailless.

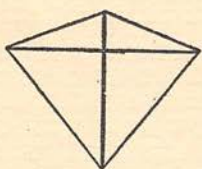
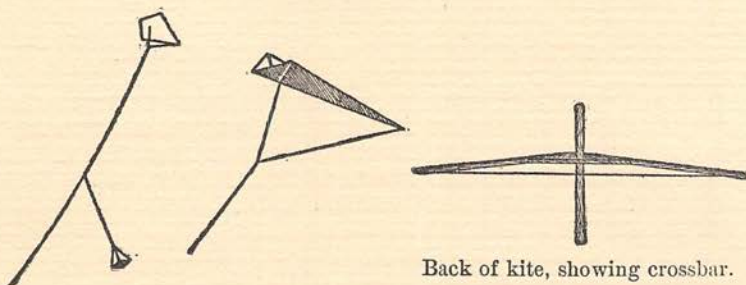


Fig. 1.

Very thin strips pasted down on tissue paper without edge strings.
Fig. 2 shows bridle,
Fig. 1 back of kite.

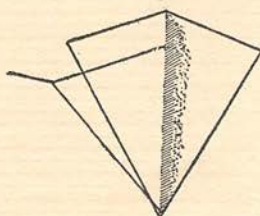
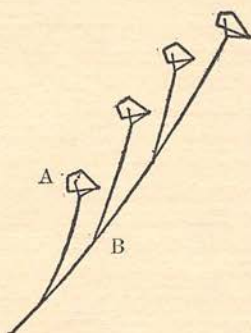


Fig. 2.

I advise boys by all means to avoid the use of wire for flying kites. String is preferable, because the wire may kink or break and trail over live electric wires and cause currents of electricity to jump the insulation. Any one taking hold of such a trailing wire, if he were standing on wet ground or iron, would be seriously shocked if his kite were sagged owing to light wind and came in contact with a live wire. It is the general belief that in such a case the electricity would jump the insulation and charge the kite wire with fatal results. But I consider dry cotton cord perfectly safe.



In flying kites tandem, each kite is flown with its individual string, but none of the branch lines must be so long that they permit the lower kite to get to the point where the lines radiate. If kite A drops upon the junction point B, a bad tangle results.

But if kite A only drops against the line below B, it only upsets and again rises into position.

LACROSSE.

BY

THOMAS WALL,

Canadian Representative for A. G. Spalding & Brothers.

LACROSSE had its origin among the aboriginal tribes of America, with what particular tribe or in what particular section, no man can tell with any degree of exactness, but it is probable that while Christopher Columbus was yet having his argument with the Spanish scientists, the game was then ancient in the New World.

But the game, which had its inception among the Indians, really reached its highest state of development in the hands of the far distant grandsons of the men who first took possession of the North American continent.

When the French first landed in America they found the Indians in the northern part of the land amusing themselves with a game played with a netted stick and a ball. The stick resembled a cross or bishop's crozier, and this led the adventurous Frenchmen to name the implement used in the pastime "La Crosse," this latter being welded in one word and applied to designate the game and the stick.

There is one story handed down of a tragic event connected with the game. A band of Indians approached a fort in the days of the old French régime and announced that a game of lacrosse would be played. The game started, and in the excitement of the contest, sentries carelessly left their posts, and the doors of the stockade were left ajar. The game had centred in a struggle close to the fort, and, at a signal, blankets were discarded, and from under the cover weapons were quickly produced and a massacre followed.

In the old days of the Indian game it was played by unlimited sides, sometimes whole villages playing against each other, and from the accounts handed down in the old records, these games appear to have sometimes resulted in bloodshed.

The history of the game is not a very clear one, but the Indian seems to have clung to his old pastime, at least in Canada, although there are some instances of the game yet remaining with some of the tribes in the United States. The Indians of Caughnawaga, near Montreal, and those of St. Regis, near Cornwall, and not far from the New York border, retained the game, and fifty years ago they were the greatest exponents of the game in Canada. Then the white men