

WHAT CAN BE MADE WITH A HANDKERCHIEF.

BY DANIEL C. BEARD.

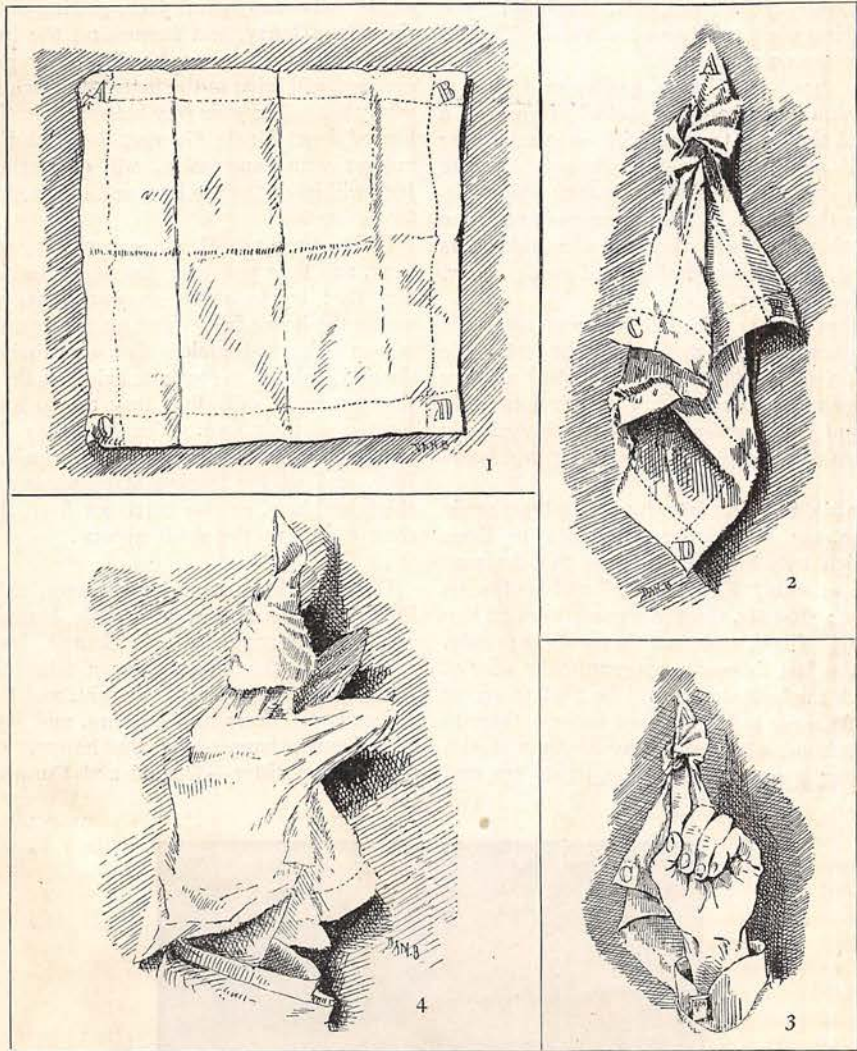
If a folder of handkerchiefs folds as he's told,
Rolling and folding the folds he has rolled,
The folder unfolds, from folds he has rolled,
Amusing amusement both for young and for old.

A PLAIN white handkerchief would hardly appear a very promising object from which to derive any great amount of amusement, but, as the complicated and intricate steam-engine was evolved from

make from an ordinary pocket-handkerchief. As the conjurer says, after surprising you with some marvelous trick, "It's quite easy when you know how."

"The Orator" (Fig. 4) is one of the most simple, and, in the hands of a clever exhibitor, one of the most amusing, of all the handkerchief figures.

To "make up" the Orator, tie a common knot



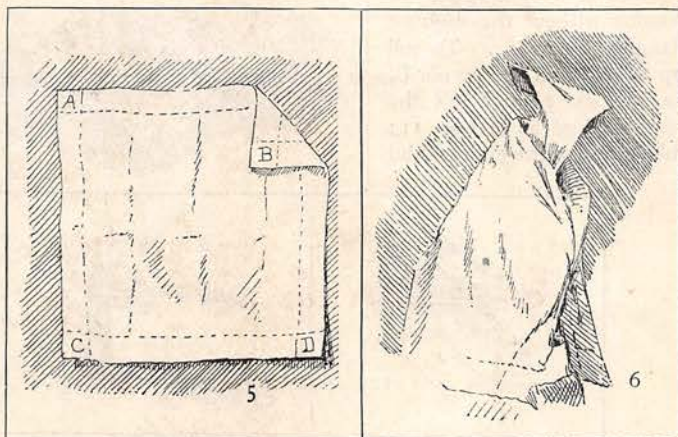
"THE ORATOR."

the boiling tea-pot, you need not be astonished when you see what curious and interesting things we can in the corner A (Fig. 1). (See Fig. 2.) Fit the knot on the forefinger of the left hand, as in Fig.

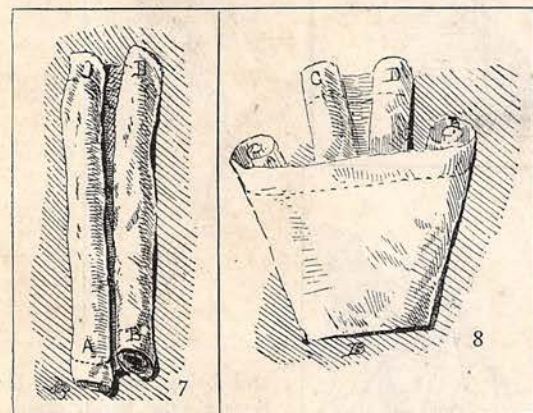
3, draw the sides B and C over the thumb and middle finger to form the arms, and our orator stands forth (Fig. 4) ready to entertain his audience. If, now, the speech of Othello, beginning "Most potent, grave, and reverend seigniors," be repeated, accompanied with appropriate gestures of its arms and solemn nods of its head, the ludicrous effect will cause great fun and many a merry laugh.

"The Father Confessor and the Repentant Nun" properly come next, as the Orator will serve for the Priest. To form the Nun, another handkerchief is required. As you know, the dress of a nun is very simple. You have but to turn the corner B (Fig. 5) and place it over the forefinger of the right hand with the fold uppermost, so as to form the cap; then draw the handkerchief over the hand, using the thumb and middle finger as arms, as in the Orator, and the Nun is complete (Fig. 6). With the left

appropriate for the little folks. The first thing which suggests itself as a toy for a child is almost invariably a doll. Almost all children have a natural curiosity to



"THE REPENTANT NUN."



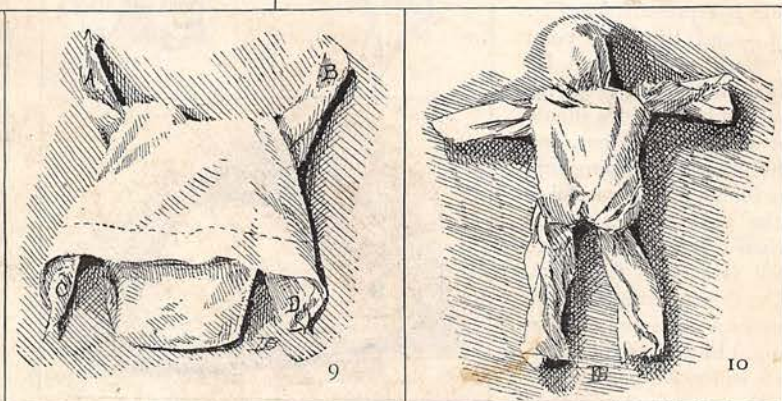
discover the mechanism of their playthings, otherwise toys would last much longer than they do; so, to stand and watch the manufacture of the doll will prove a new source of pleasure to our little ones. "The Doll-baby" is a little more complicated than the preceding figures, but, after one or two trials, is not difficult to make. First, roll the two sides of the handkerchief until they meet in the middle; next, fold the two ends, A and B (Fig. 7), as shown in Fig. 8; then fold the upper ends, C and D, over and down, as in Fig. 9. The rolled ends, C and D, are then brought around the middle of the handkerchief and tied, the ends of the knot forming the arms; then, with a little pulling and arranging, you have a pretty fair doll (Fig. 10).

We know that some little boys will disdain to play with dolls, as belonging exclusively to

hand dressed as the Priest, and the right as the Nun, any dialogue that suggests itself may be repeated.

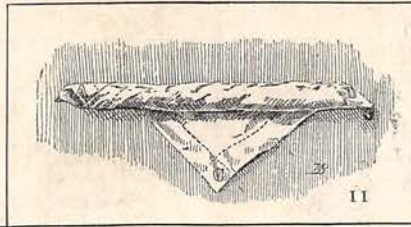
If the proper gestures, nods, and bows be introduced, this will prove very laughable to those who have never seen it before.

Now, let us see if the handkerchief cannot produce something more especially appro-

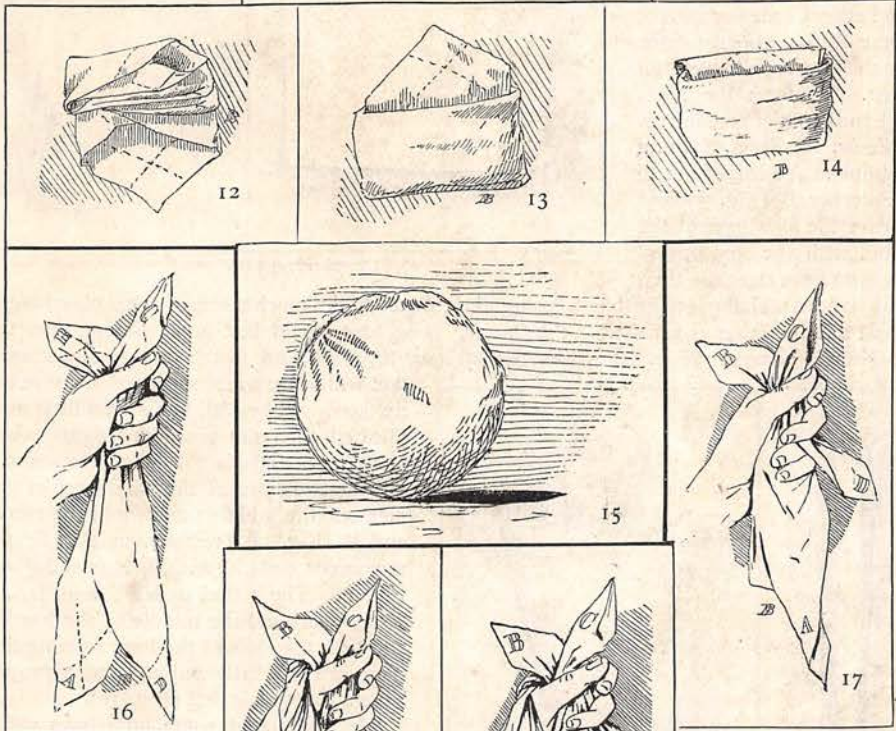


"THE DOLL."

the girls. Such little fellows can be pacified at the white rabbit. Take the two corners B and C once by the production of a very creditable ball, (Fig. 1), holding them as shown in Fig. 16, while you bring the end D over the back of the hand, and hold it down with the second finger (Fig. 17). Draw the end A over the front of the hand, and hold it down as seen in Fig. 18. Still holding these tightly, fold the end A,

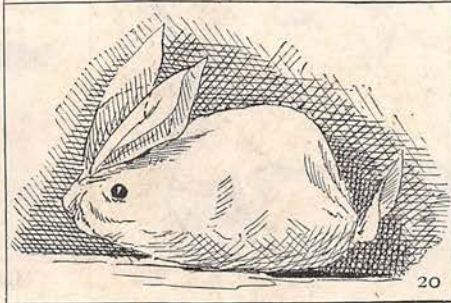


and one that can be thrown against a looking-glass or window without the slightest danger of damage. To roll up a ball, fold the corner B, as in Fig. 5, and roll the handkerchief as in Fig. 11; fold back the two ends, A and



D (Fig. 12),—the reverse side is represented in Fig. 13,—and turn the point C back over A and D; then the pocket (Fig. 14) formed by the sides should be turned inside out, and this process of turning kept up (being always careful to take hold at the corners when turning) until a firm ball is formed (Fig. 15). The first attempt may not produce as round a ball as might be desired, but practice will make perfect.

You can further delight the children with "Bunny,"



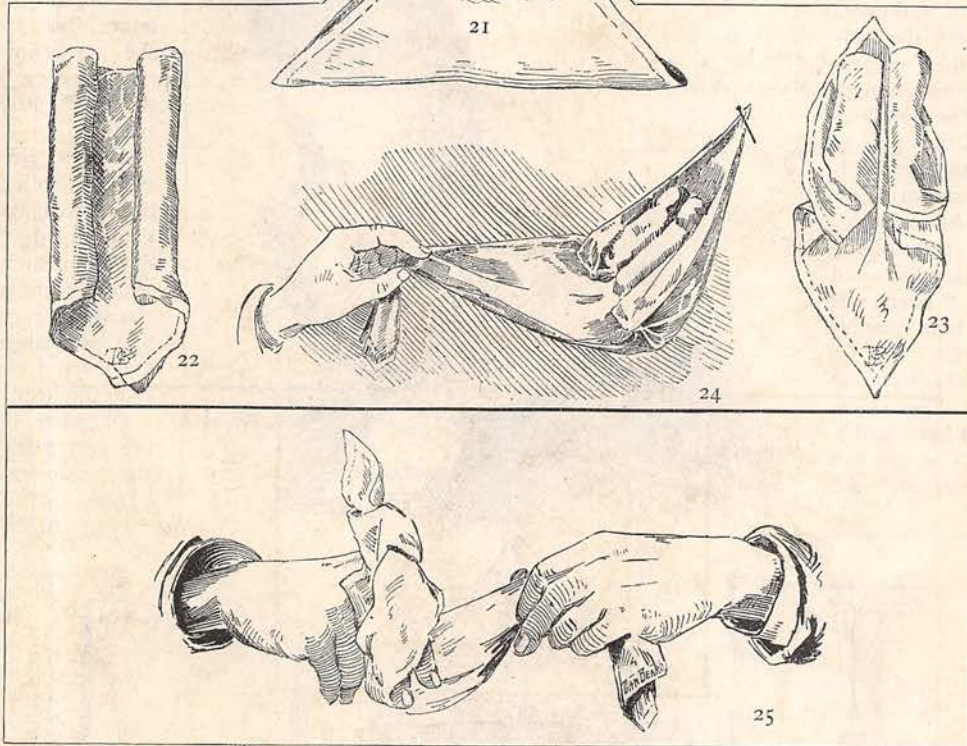
and bring the corner D through the hand, clasping it as in Fig. 19. The portion of the handkerchief covering the back of the hand must then be turned over that in front, taking heed, however, to prevent the ends B, C, and D (which are to form the ears and the tail respectively) from being wrapped in with the body; keep turning (after the manner in making the ball) until the body is firm; then spread out the ears and arrange the tail, and you

"THE BALL."—"THE RABBIT."

have "Bunny," as shown in Fig. 20. A pink button fastened on makes an effective eye.

"The Twins" are not so difficult to make as the preceding, but would be quite odd, if they were not

tied loosely in one corner; the remainder of the handkerchief is then wrapped around the two first fingers, as shown in Fig. 25. Call the attention of the spectators to the comical appearance that a man



even. Fold the handkerchief as in Fig. 21; roll up the two folded ends as in Fig. 22; then take the handkerchief by the two lower corners and gently pull them in opposite directions. (See Fig. 23.) A doll's head may then be placed in each of the rolls, or a string tied around them a little below the upper ends, which will give the appearance of heads. The hammock, with the twins in it, will then appear, as in Fig. 24.

The Bather is simple in construction, consisting of a handkerchief with an ordinary knot



cuts in a bathing-dress, and then run the handkerchief figure (Fig. 26) rapidly toward the company. He is sure to create a laugh, if made properly.

"Oh, you have left out Little Red Riding Hood!" exclaimed a young friend of mine, after she had carefully examined the foregoing sketches.

"And, pray, how is Little Red Riding Hood made?" I asked.

She answered by running into the next room, and, returning with a bright red silk pocket-

"THE TWINS."—"THE BATHER."

handkerchief, she proceeded to fold it in the manner shown in Fig. 27. Then, at the places marked by the dotted line, she folded the corners back, and, reversing the handkerchief, the opposite side appeared folded as shown in Fig. 28. At each fold, she patted the handkerchief, and said: "There, you see how that 's done?"

"Yes, but that looks like a soldier's hat," said I.

"Now, you wait a moment," she

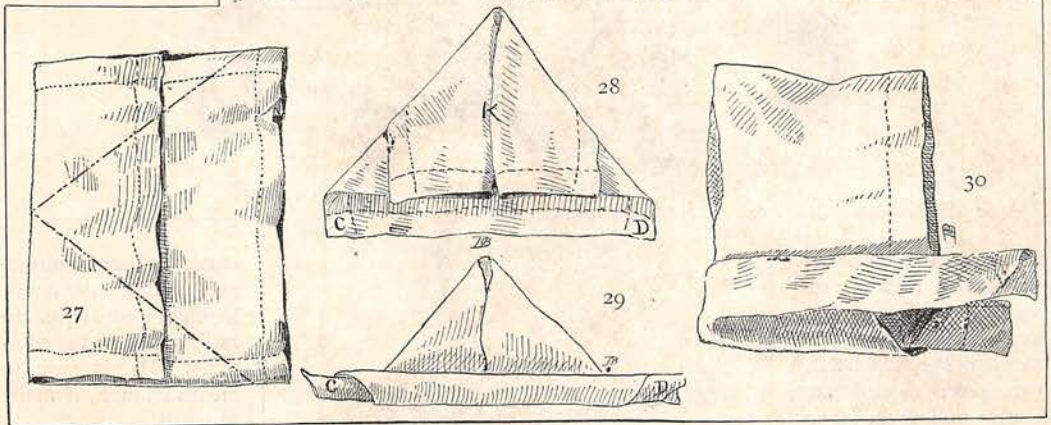


Sure enough, here was the hood (Fig. 30).

Putting it upon her head, and deftly tying the ends under her chin, she exclaimed: "And here is Little Red Riding Hood!"

A more simple but very cunning little cap may be made for baby (see final illustration), by tying knots in the four corners of a handkerchief, and fitting it closely to the head.

Of course, these are only a few of the curious and



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.

answered, and, as she spoke, she folded the bottom margin, C D, over, until it had the form of Fig. 29.

"Now, what do you call that?" I asked.

"Why, that" (here she picked it up by the corners C and D and bent the corners back, making a fold at K) "is the hood!"



interesting things that can be manufactured from a handkerchief. And now that the girls and boys have seen how easily these have been made, they can exercise their own ingenuity in devising other methods of using their handkerchiefs for the amusement of their friends in the coming winter evenings.