similarities might indicate a common origin, or, at least, parallel thinking. No doubt others are traceable to European sources and perhaps a few to Africa.

2. The idea of using a brush to sweep the night sky dates back to the ancient Vedas. See Angelo de Gubernatis, Zoological Mythology, 1872, p. 143.

4. This riddle is undoubtedly of European origin, and is also in common circulation in various parts of the United States, where the "bowl" or "spoon" usually takes the place of the "thimble". A. M. Bacon and E. C. Parsons record a variant from Virginia, in which the thimble appears as it does in the Surinam version. Another form reported from Virginia by the same authors, runs thus:

Hitty titty in the house,
Hitty titty out of doors,
Nary man can catch hitty titty.


5. Another version found in Surinam is: "Tasi nakhi tasi". The significance of the word "tasi" so used is not known to us.

9. The allusion is to the crushing of a louse between the thumb nails. Compare this with one in Henry Callaway's Nursery Tales, Traditions, and Histories, 1868, Vol. 1, p. 364, which is almost identical:

"Guess ye an ox which is slaughtered in two cattle-pens."

10. The "excrement" is evidently the nits.

11. It is supposed that the Chinese introduced the Flea into Surinam; hence the name "Sinesi".

16. The Sapodilla (Achras sapota) has a brown skin and brown flesh, and the seeds are black outside and white inside.

17. Guavas (Psidium guajava), especially when ripe, are frequently wormy.

19. It will be remembered that only one of the three so-called "eyes" of the coconut can easily be opened to get at the "milk".

20. This riddle has its exact counterpart in the Bahamas, as reported by Elsie Clews Parsons:

"Me riddle me riddle me randy oh,
Perhaps you can,
Perhaps you cannot.
Me fader had a t'ing.
It white inside,
It green outside."

Ans. — Coconut.


22. The ripe fruit of the Awarra palm (Astrocacyum sp.) is of a vivid orange color and hence very conspicuous.

24. "Tomtom" is a preparation made by pounding green plantains (Musa sp.) to the consistency of a thick dough. It is eaten like dumplings in soup.

25. Alludes to the structure of the pod of the fruit of the "Masoosa" (Renealmia exalata), and to the great number of small brown seeds.

26. A similar riddle, lacking the completeness of the Surinam version, has been reported from South Carolina by E. C. Parsons: "Green on de outside, an' red on de inside". Ans. — Watermelon.