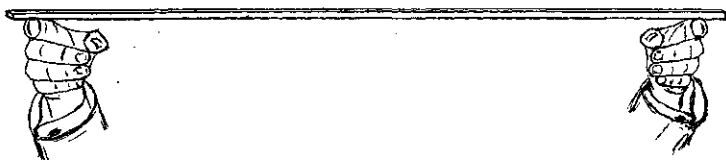


AN EXPERIMENT ON FRICTION.

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The following simple illustration of the laws of friction never fails to arouse interest and curiosity when first seen. Place a meter stick horizontally upon the extended index fingers as shown



in the sketch. Now slowly move the hands toward each other. It will be found that slipping takes place first upon one finger and then upon the other, but in such a manner that when the hands come in contact the middle of the meter stick rests upon the fingers so that the stick balances. Now place a weight of say 100 grams upon the stick near one end and repeat the experiment. As before, it will be found that when the hands come into contact the fingers lie under the center of gravity of the system, which will now be some distance from the center of the stick.

The explanation is so simple that it may well be left as an exercise for the students with, possibly, the suggestion that friction depends upon pressure, and that the friction between two surfaces at rest is greater than when there is relative motion.