



M A R T I N
G A R D N E R



The



Universe

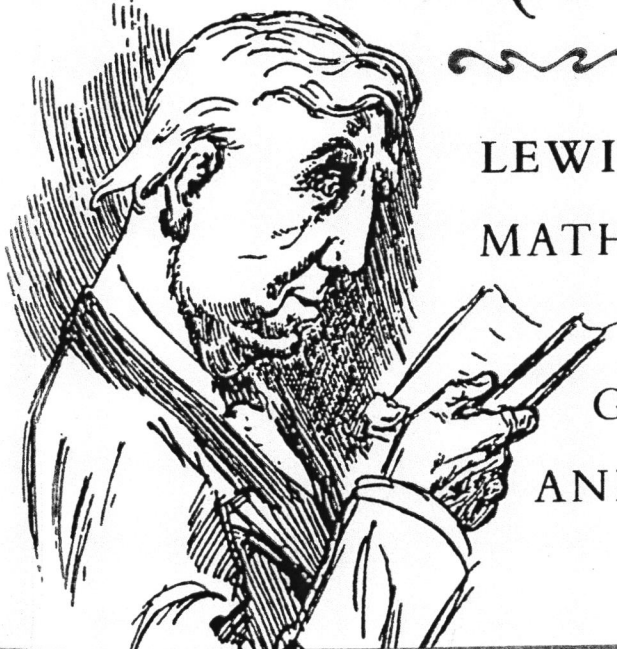
in a

Handkerchief



LEWIS CARROLL'S
MATHEMATICAL

RECREATIONS,
GAMES, PUZZLES,
AND WORD PLAYS.



Carroll was fond of what puzzlists call "river-crossing problems," and several turn up in his letters. His favorite was the old problem involving a fox, a goose, and a bag of corn.

A wolf does not eat cabbage, so the crossing can start with the goat.



The man leaves the goat and returns, puts the cabbage in the boat, and takes it across. On the other bank, he leaves the cabbage but takes the goat.



He leaves the goat on the first bank and takes the wolf across. He leaves the cabbage with the wolf and rows back alone.



He takes the goat across.



The solution to Carroll's problem of the fox, goose, and bag of corn, here presented with a fox, goat, and cabbage. The illustration is from The Moscow Puzzles, by Boris Kordemski (Scribner's, 1972).