

G. L. Morse,

Croquet.

N^o 62,495.

Patented Feb. 26, 1867.

Fig. 5.

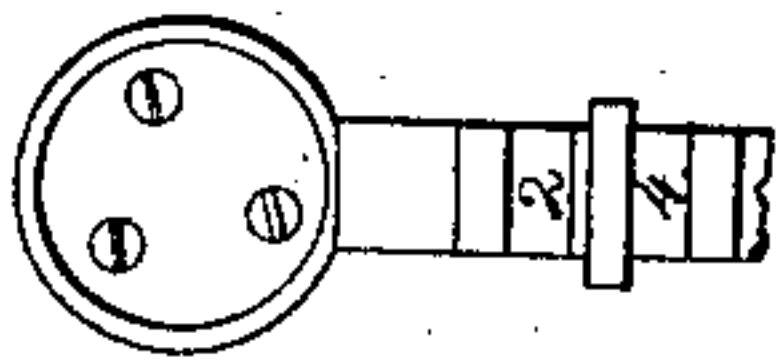


Fig. 3.

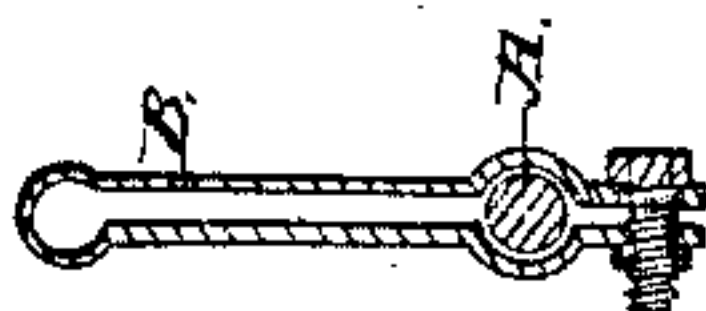


Fig. 2.

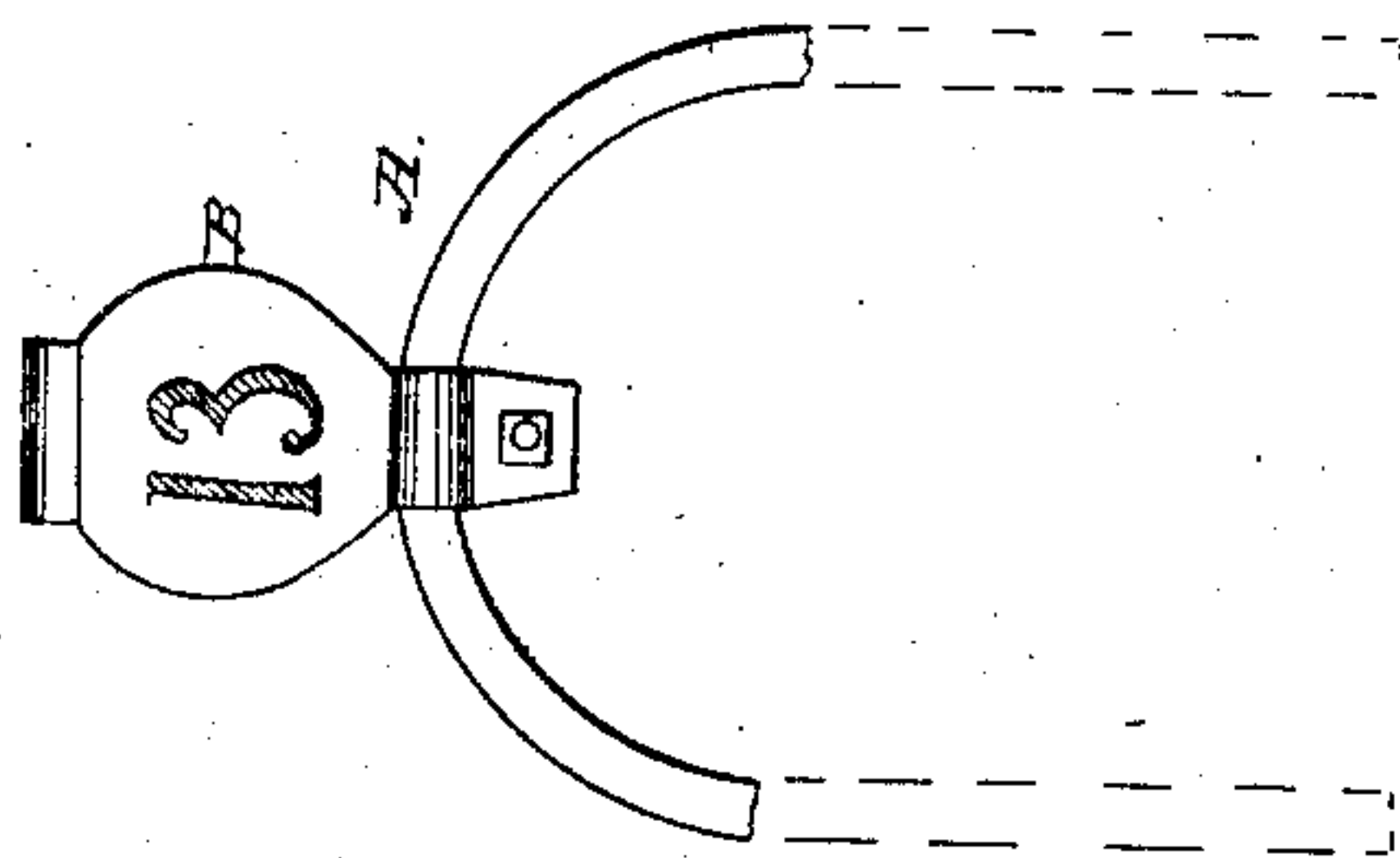


Fig. 1.

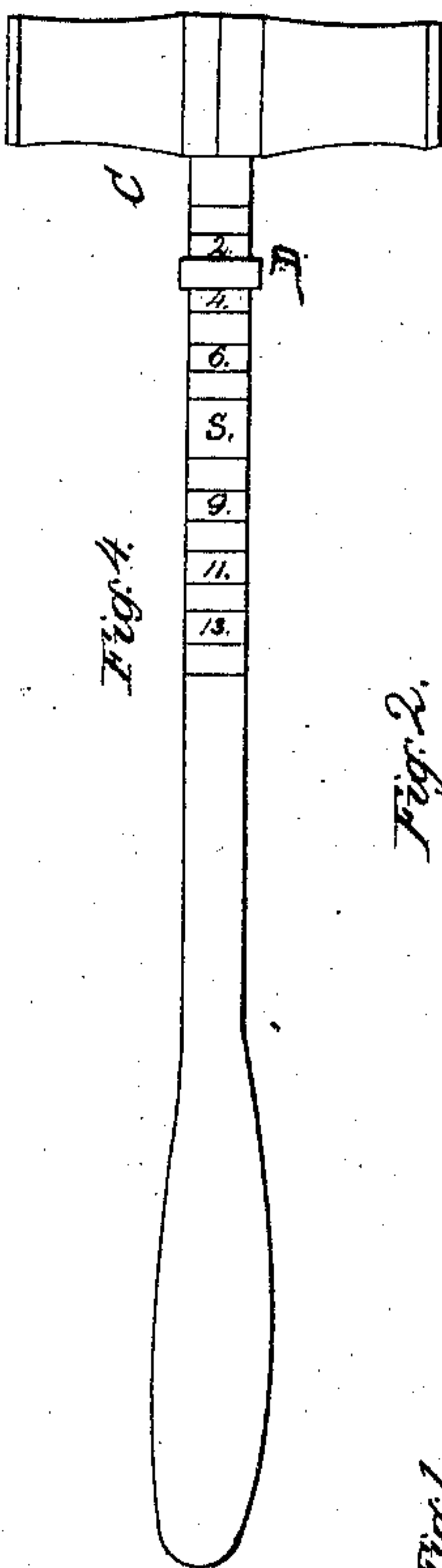
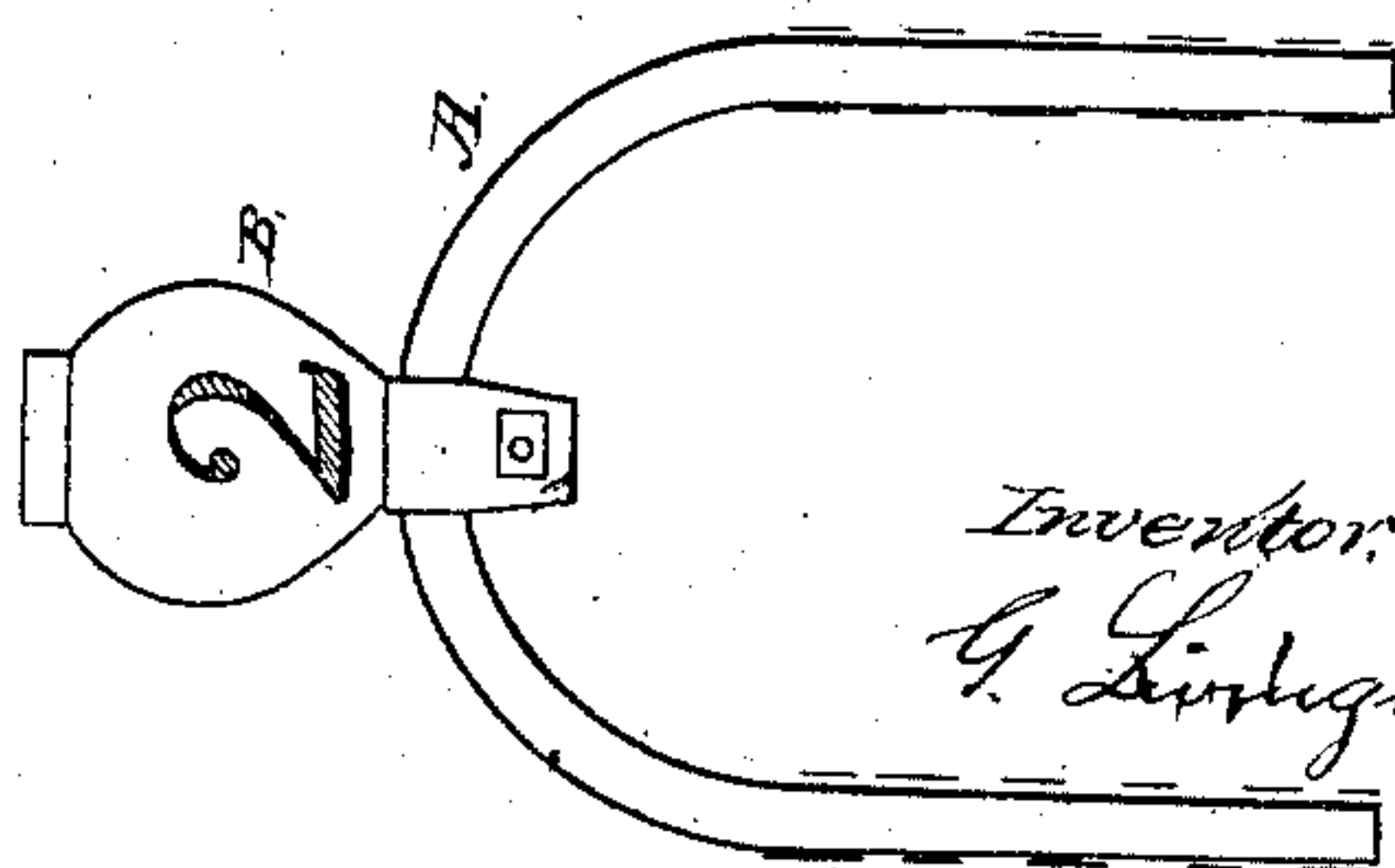
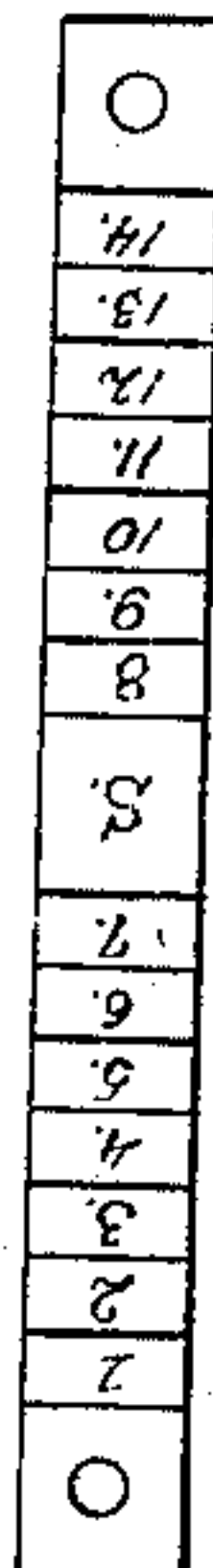


Fig. 6.



Witnesses.
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G. LIVINGSTON MORSE, OF HARRISON, NEW JERSEY.

Letters Patent No. 62,495, dated February 26, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN CROQUETERIES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, G. LIVINGSTON MORSE, of Harrison, Hudson county, State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Game of Croquet and its Implements; and I hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which drawing—

Figure 1 represents a croquet wicket or arch, numbered or marked according to my invention.

Figure 2 represents the same in reverse.

Figure 3 is a vertical section, which shows how the pins or clips bearing proper numbers or marks can be attached to a wicket or arch.

Figure 4 is a full-length side view of a croquet mallet, the staff or handle of which has painted or stained thereon a series of numbers or rings, or both, to correspond with the wickets on the field, and otherwise made according to my invention.

Figure 5 is a view of the head of the mallet, part of the handle being broken off.

Figure 6 represents a strip or band, prepared separately from the mallet, having on it the numbers or marks to correspond with the wicket, and otherwise so made that it can be affixed to the mallet on its handle or elsewhere.

In playing the game of croquet, it is found, by unskillful players, and by such as have poor memories, to be difficult to keep in mind their true places in the field. A device which has been used to obviate this difficulty consists of a clip colored to correspond with the respective colors adopted by the players, which clips are forked at their lower ends like clothes-pins, to fit over the tops of the wickets. They are put on the wickets when the players have driven their balls through, and their use is to help the players recollect the wickets they are at respectively. One of the defects or disadvantages in using this device is that a player is compelled to go some distance, in some cases nearly the whole length of the field, (as at the times when he has made a good run,) to reach the place where the clips are deposited, thereby consuming time. Another disadvantage is that the player must remember to change his clip after he has made his next arch or wicket; and failing to do so, unless he can prove that he has fairly gone through, he must go back to the arch or wicket on which he left his clip. This, therefore, is a constant cause of disputes; and the use of such clips, colored as aforesaid, has been, by many players, given up altogether; and players generally prefer to rely on their memories alone to ascertain their true position, rather than use a device which involves so much trouble. My invention relieves the players from burdening their memories with the recollection, unaided by outward or visible signs or marks, of their proper wicket or arch. It also prevents the occurrence of disputes on that subject, and saves the labor and time required for going across the field after a clip, and does away with all uncertainty about the true place in the game of the several players, and furnishes a distinct designation for each wicket throughout the game.

The invention consists in numbering or marking in some proper order the several wickets of the series with appropriate numbers or marks, and providing on the mallet a series of numbers or marks corresponding with the designations or numbers of the wickets. By means of such tally on the mallet a player can register or record his game from time to time, and prevent inaccuracies, and avoid the delays and embarrassments that arise from disputes. While the game is in progress the players retain their mallets in their hands, and, consequently, by recording the game thereon, or their respective places in the game as it advances, each player is kept informed of his true position on the field by the mere inspection of the tally on his mallet.

The letter A designates a wicket, which has on its top a number or figure that designates its position on the field relatively to the other wickets. In this example the number or figure is made on a pin, B, whose lower end is forked, so that it can be attached to the wicket by springing its forks upon the top of the wicket. The top or head of the pin or clip is wide enough to receive on it the proper number or figure, or other mark selected for designating it. Instead of numbering or designating the wickets by means of removable pins or clips, they may be numbered or designated by placing the characters used permanently on the wickets. The opposite faces or sides of the pins or clips B, or the opposite side of the wickets, when the characters are put permanently on the wickets, are numbered or marked in accordance with the positions of the several wickets, counting from the turning stake. It is not material what characters are employed for distinguishing the several wickets from

each other, provided that they are applicable to the series. In this example the reverse side of the pin or clip, seen in fig. 2, is marked 13, which number, for the purpose of this illustration, is supposed to be the return number of wicket A. Each wicket consequently has two numbers or marks, one on its front, that gives its relative place from the starting post, and another on the back or reverse side of the wicket, that gives its relative place from the turning stake. One side may be designated by Roman numerals, and the other by Arabic; or, one side may be numbered and the other lettered. In addition to this provision for designating the relative order of the wickets, I distinguish the characters on the outgoing side from those on the reverse or return side of the wickets by making the former of a white or a light color on a dark ground, and the latter of a dark color on a light ground, so as to have additional security against mistakes in setting the wickets or placing the pins or clips on them, and against the liability of players to become turned round or confused as to the direction in which they ought to drive their own balls or those of their adversaries. Fig. 3 shows how the pin or clip D is held on the wicket by means of its forks, the forks being, for greater security, provided with a bolt and nut. The mallet C is shown in figs. 4 and 5. The characters to correspond with those of the wickets are in this example put on the handle, the colors of the characters and of the ground being, if thought desirable, the same as those on the wickets. The place of the turning stake is indicated on the tally at S, where the series of outgoing characters is separated from that of the return characters. The mallet is provided with an elastic ring, D, which is moved along on the tally as the game proceeds; and, by covering therewith any of the characters, the position of the player in the game is indicated or recorded on the tally. Instead of an elastic movable ring, I can use, with like results, a metallic ring, or a slide, or a movable gauge, having the characters marked on it; or, the tally can be let in the mallet by forming a groove therein, and so be protected from accidental misplacement. The scale or tally can be made separate from the mallet on a strip of metal, or other material, which can be sold separately, and be affixed to the mallet at pleasure.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The pins or clips B, or their equivalents, marked as specified, in combination with the wickets or arches of croquet, substantially as set forth.
2. I also claim the combination, with such pins or clips, marked as specified, of a registering tally for recording the game, substantially as described.

The above specification signed by me this fifth day of December, 1866.

G. LIVINGSTON MORSE.

In presence of—

AMASA A. REDFIELD,
J. VAN SANTVOORD.