2. Sheets, Sheet 1.

W. A. Clark,

Billiard Table.

No. 95,084. Patented Sep. 21. 1869.

FIG. 1.

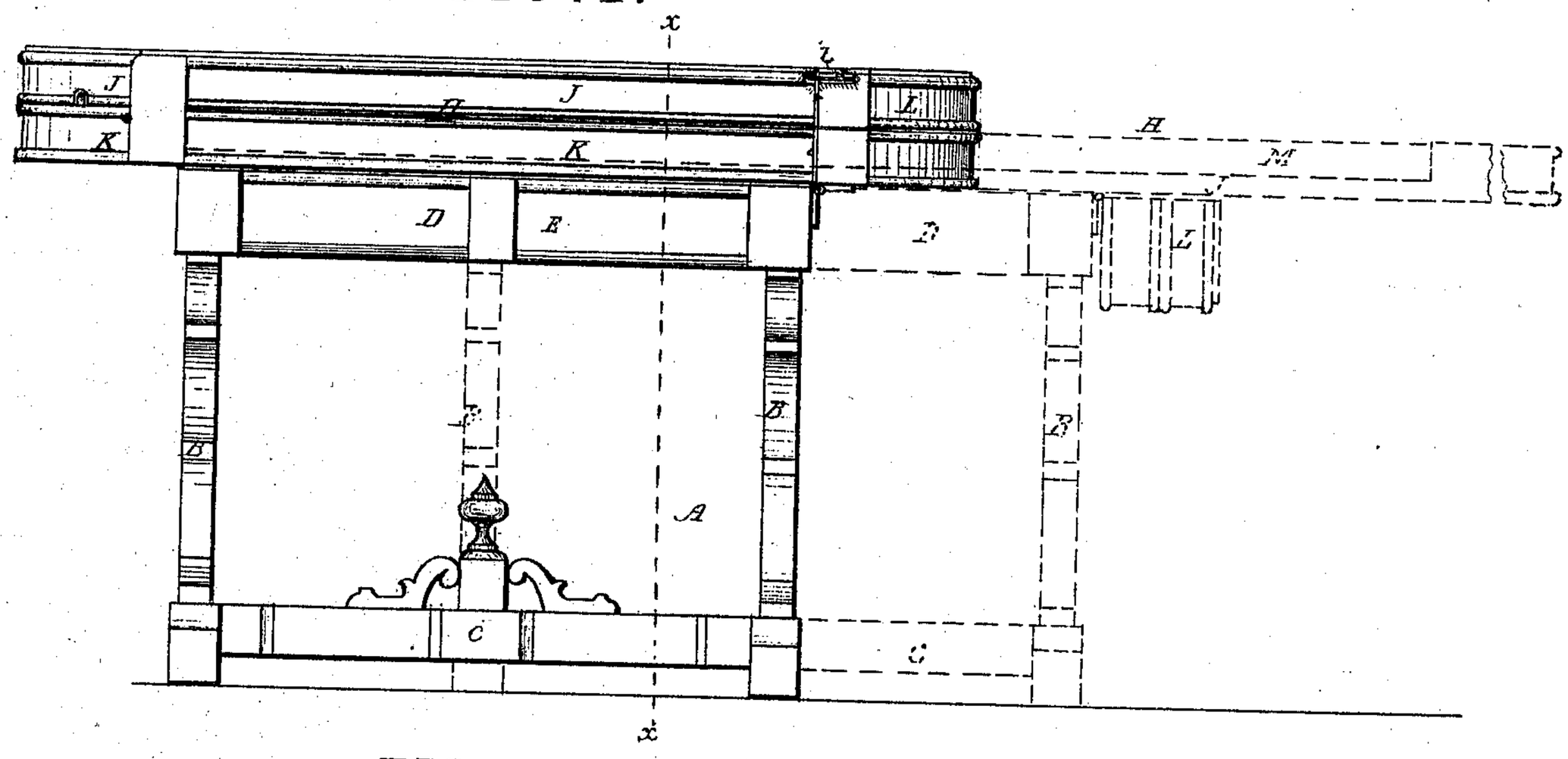


FIG. 2.

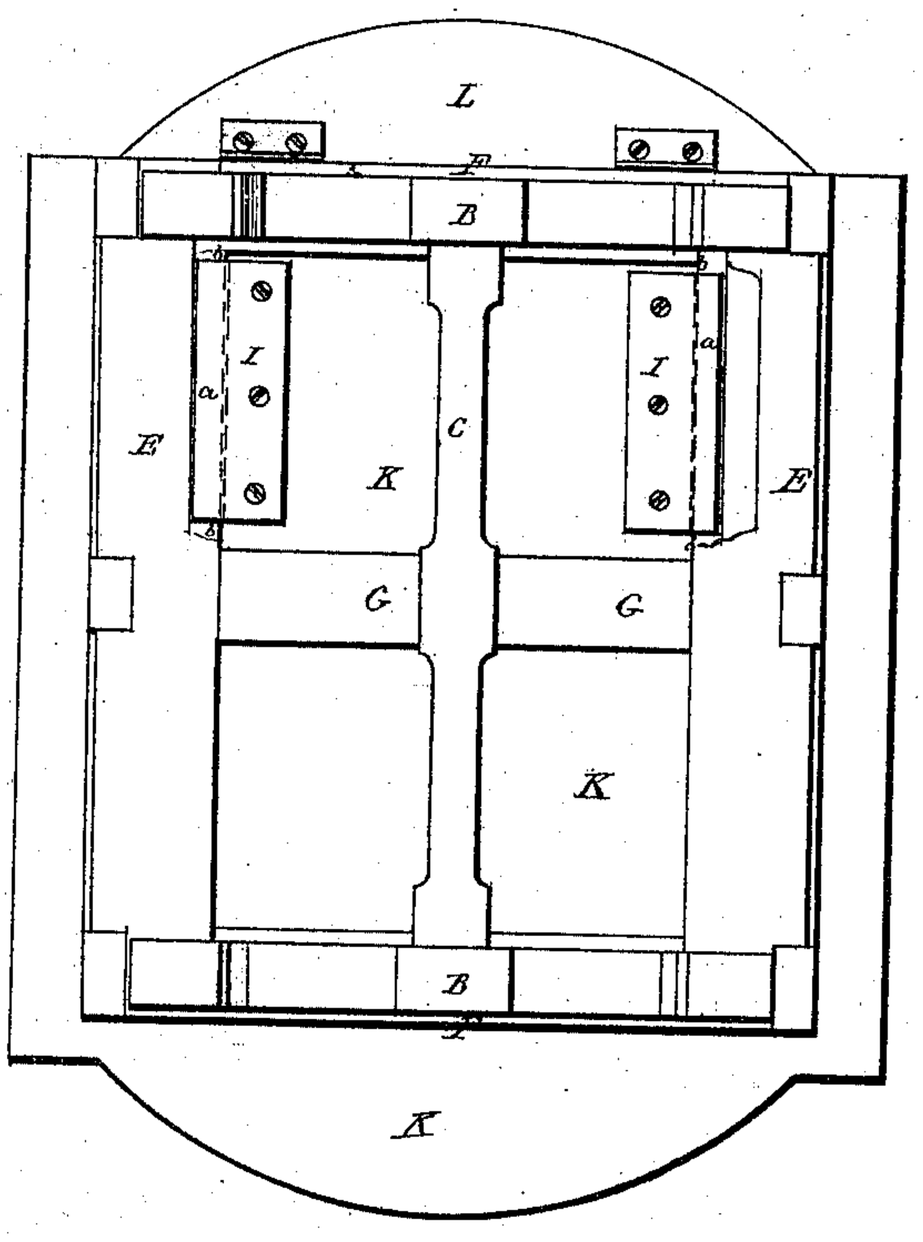
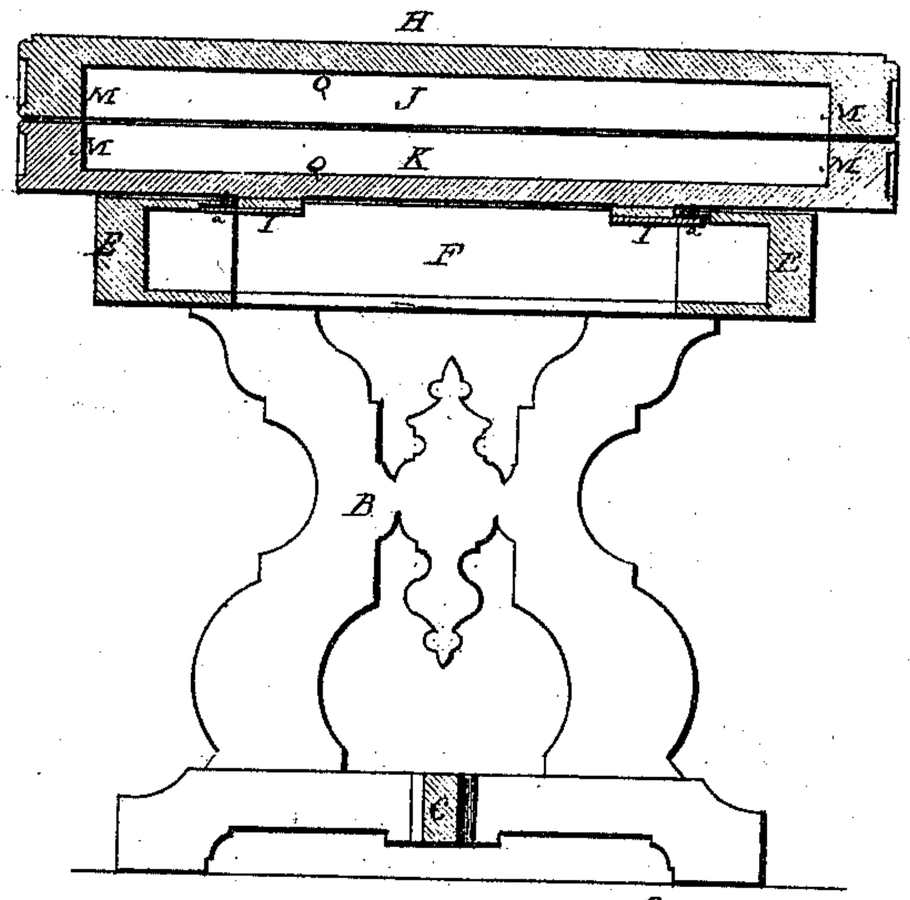


FIG. 3.



INVENTOR W. A. Clark

WITNESSES.

Albert W. Brown

Edwin W. Brown

W. A. Clark,

2. Sheets. Sheet 2.

Billiard Table.

No. 95,084. Patented Sept. 21. 1869.

FIG. 4.

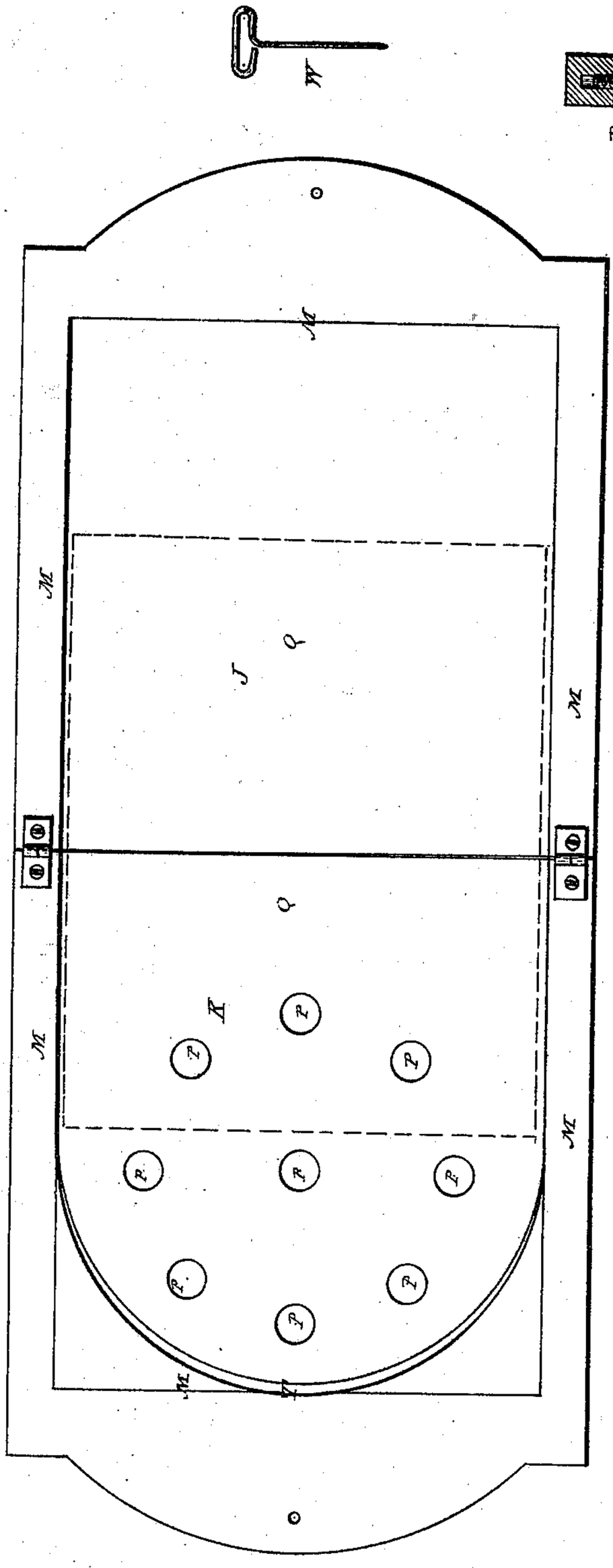
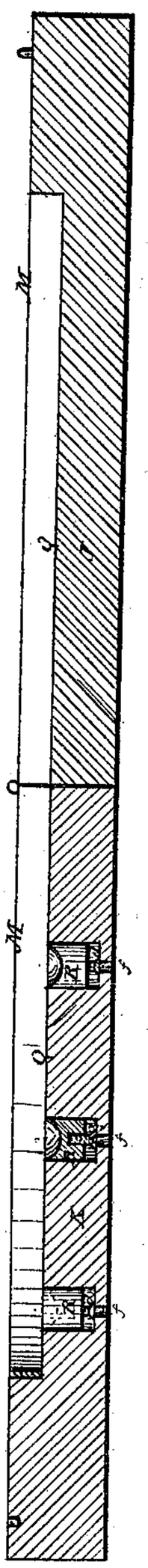


FIG. 5.



WITNESSES.

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W. A. CLARK, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 95,084, *dated September* 21, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN A BILLIARD AND BAGATELLE-TABLE.

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

To all persons to whom these presents shall come:

Be it known that I, W. A. CLARK, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tables; and that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying plates of drawings.

The present invention consists—

First, in so connecting a table-top, that is made in sections, hinged or otherwise, susceptible of being arranged, connected, and laid, or brought into the same horizontal plane or position, by either more or less of its section, as may be desired, to a supporting frame-work below, that the relative position of such frame-work under the table-top can be changed, by sliding the one on the other, to adapt it in position to produce the necessary support to the table-top, as it is lengthened or shortened, or otherwise changed in its size, by opening and closing one or more of its several leaves.

Second, in combination with the above, so constructing the sections of the table-top, that, when opened, they will present a surface having a raised strip or bearing entirely around it, whereby the table is susceptible of use, for playing billiards thereon, or, if properly constructed, with concave sockets, and a circular edge at its end, for a bagatelle-board, or, if suitably provided with wickets, &c., as a croquet-board, or for any other game which requires a surface similarly protected around its edges.

Third, in the combination with a table-top, constructed in sections, having an interior depressed surface, of an end piece hinged to the supporting frame-work, so that it can be swung up to close the open ends of the top, when its sections are closed upon each other, or swung down to allow the top to be opened and extended; this hinged end being held closed against the open ends of the top by a spring-catch, or other means, arranged in any suitable manner and position therefor.

Fourth, in constructing the interior surface of the table-top, at the proper points, with sockets, open at the surface, but closed, partially, at or near the bottom, for receiving plugs, suitably formed, to have such surface to the table, either smooth and plain or provided with depressions, according as the game to be played upon the table may require; and also, in combination with the above, with a detachable curve-strip at one or both ends.

Fifth, in combination with the fourth part of my invention, so constructing the plugs therein referred to, that they can be adjusted, in height, in the sockets of the table-surface, as may be desired.

Sixth, in constructing the said plugs with a smooth or plain surface at one end, and a concave at the other.

In the accompanying plates of drawings, my improvements in tables are illustrated—

Figure 1, being a side elevation of a table, constructed according to my invention, showing its top sections closed, but by dotted lines opened or extended, and the supporting frame-work brought to its proper supporting position for the increased length of top;

Figure 2, a plan view of the table, from its under side;

Figure 3, a transverse vertical section in plane of line *x x*, fig. 1;

Figure 4, a plan view of the table-top opened, and showing its thus exposed surface, constructed for the game of bagatelle;

Figure 5, a longitudinal section through table-top when opened, showing my invention, embraced in the fourth and fifth parts; and

Figure 6, a view, in detail, of a plug, constructed for being lengthened and shortened, and provided with one end smooth and plain, and the other concave or hollow.

A, in the drawings, represents a frame-work, consisting, in the present instance, of parallel side pieces B, joined together, near their lower ends, by a bar or rail, C, and at their upper ends attached to a horizontal frame, D. This frame D consists of side-rails E E, end-bars F F, and an intermediate cross-piece, G, the whole being joined together in a strong and workmanlike manner.

On the upper side of the frame D, the table-top H, constructed as will be presently described, is placed and rests, and to such frame it is attached and connected by means of strips, I, fastened to its under side, that are constructed at one edge, *a*, to set over and beyond the inner edge *b* of the side-rails. By this construction and arrangement, while the top is fastened to the frame D, the one can be moved upon the other, in the direction of the length of the said side-rails, as is obvious, for adjusting the relative positions of the top and under frame-work, to give the most proper support to the top when extended, as will be described

The table-top H, in the present instance, is constructed in three sections, J, K, and L, with the first two, J and K, at one end, hinged together, so as to be opened from and closed upon each other, and the remaining section L hinged to one end of frame D, for being swung up into position against the hinged ends of the other sections, J and K, or relieved therefrom by swinging it down against the frame D.

l, a spring-catch, applied to section L, for fastening it against the ends of the sections J and K.

The two sections J and K of the top H are each constructed upon their contiguous sides or faces, when closed, with a raised strip or bearing, M, entirely

around the same, except at the end, in each instance, where hinged, for the purpose of leaving, when they are opened, a clear depressed surface, through the whole length thereof, guarded by a raised bearing or strip, M, entirely around its sides.

When the top sections are opened and extended, as above described, the relative positions thereto of the supporting frame-work below is changed, so as to give support to the whole, and hold the top firmly in position, by moving the top upon the said frame, or *vice versa*, bringing it to the position, or nearly so, shown in fig. 1 by dotted lines.

P, a series of sockets, made in interior surface Q of table-top, at one end thereof.

These sockets are either closed at their lower ends, or provided with a shoulder for a plug, R, in each case to rest upon, for filling the same.

These plugs are for the purpose of giving a smooth or plain interior surface to the top, and for giving depressions or concavities therein, where the sockets are located, and, in the one case, are constructed at one end with a smooth or plain and in the other with a concave or hollow end, or, in each plug, with both a plain and concave end.

d, a screw inserted in one end of plugs R, by the screwing of which in and out of the plugs, they can be shortened or lengthened, as it were, in the socket, for adjusting the plane of their ends, at the table-surface, with regard thereto.

In case the plugs have one end flat and the other concave, they are made in two parts, transversely to their length, joined together by a screw-rod fixed in one and screwing into the other, to enable them to be lengthened and shortened for their proper adjustment, relative to the table-surface.

The object of the plugs, and of the sockets in the table-top to receive them, is to enable the table-surface to be changed for use, either as a billiard-table or a croquet-board, &c., provided the necessary fixtures are located, or for use as a bagatelle-board, by simply changing the plugs from plain to concave ends, or *vice versa*, and, in the latter instance, additionally, by inserting a circular board or strip, T, at the end where the cavities are located.

It may be here remarked, that, to more perfectly adapt the table for playing billiards, its side-bearings should be provided with proper constructed cushions, pockets not being absolutely necessary; and that, also for locating the wickets, starting and home-stations, in the game of croquet, it would be well to provide the interior table-surface with sockets P and plugs R, at suitable points, for the wickets, &c., to be driven or screwed into *f*, small holes, continued from bottom of sockets to lower side of table-top.

These holes are made so that a suitable instrument (see W, in the drawings,) can be inserted to force the plugs out, when desired to change them, for others, or to reverse their ends.

These holes are, however, not absolutely necessary, as the plugs can be removed by openings in their ends, exposed at the table-surface, or in many other ways.

The table-top may be constructed in sections, in many forms other than that shown, as, for instance, in separate leaves, like the ordinary extension-tables, should it only be desired to produce a plain table; but I prefer the construction herein described, as it enables me to produce a table combining all the features of an ordinary table, with the additional ones of a croquet, or bagatelle, or billiard-table, &c., either all, or one or more, combined in one.

Having thus described my improvements in tables, I shall state my claims, as follows:

What I claim as my invention, and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent, is—

1. A table-top, constructed in sections, in combination with a suitable frame-work or under-support, when the connection between the two is such that they can be relatively adjusted, by sliding the one upon the other, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

2. A table-top, made in sections, and each section so constructed as, when opened, to leave a raised bearing around its interior surface, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

3. A table-top, constructed in sections, with one hinged to the under supporting-frame, when the latter is arranged for adjustment under the former, or table-top, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. A table-top, constructed in sections, with their interior surface provided with sockets for the reception of plugs, substantially as and for the purpose described.

5. The plugs R, for the sockets of the table, when so constructed as to be susceptible of adjustment in length, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

6. The plugs R, when made smooth at one end and concave at the other, substantially as and for the purpose described.

7. The two-part plug, secured together for adjustment in length, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

W. A. CLARK.

Witnesses:

ALBERT W. BROWN,

EDWIN W. BROWN.