T. M. SMITH.

Ball-Trap.

No. 214,962. Patented April 29, 1879.

FIG. I.

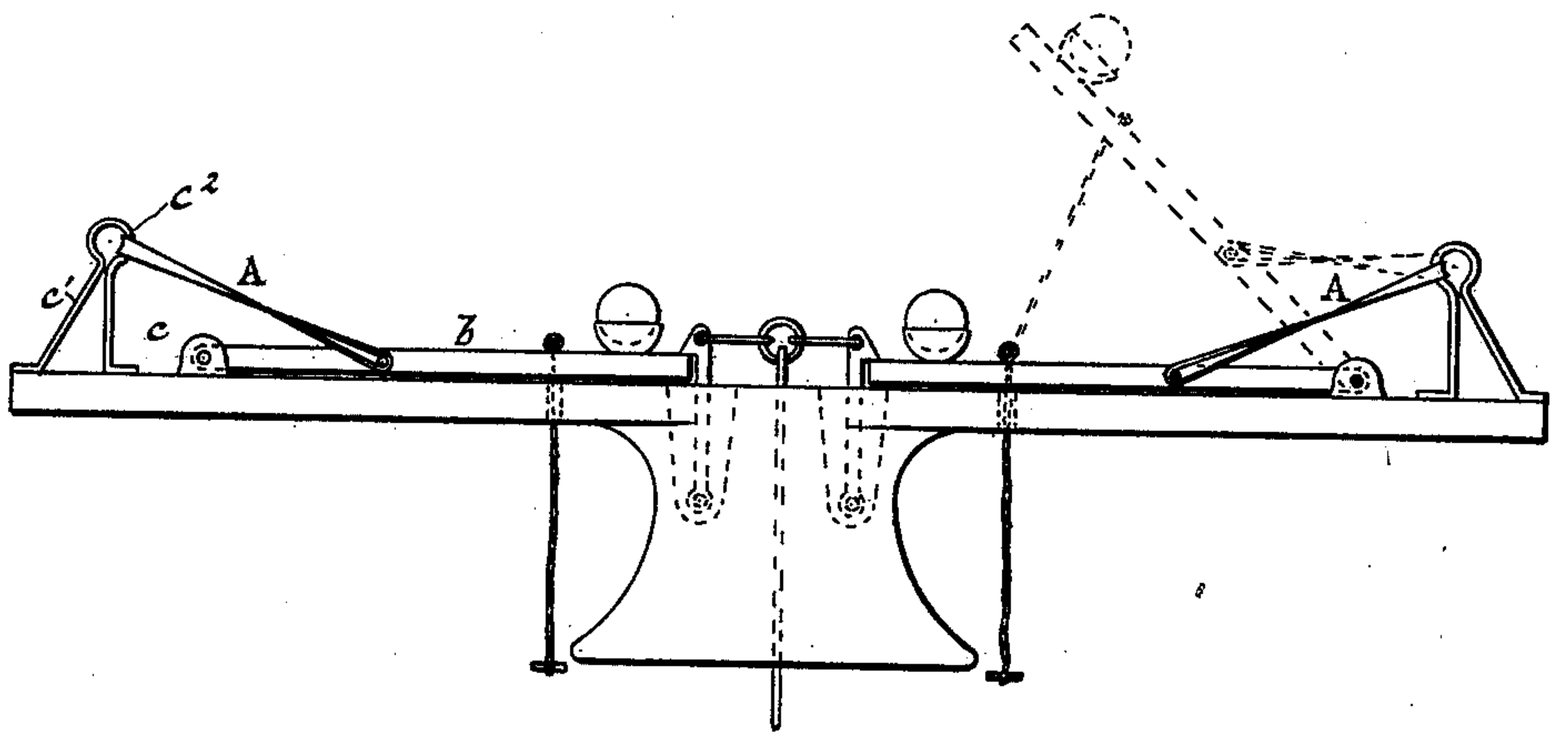
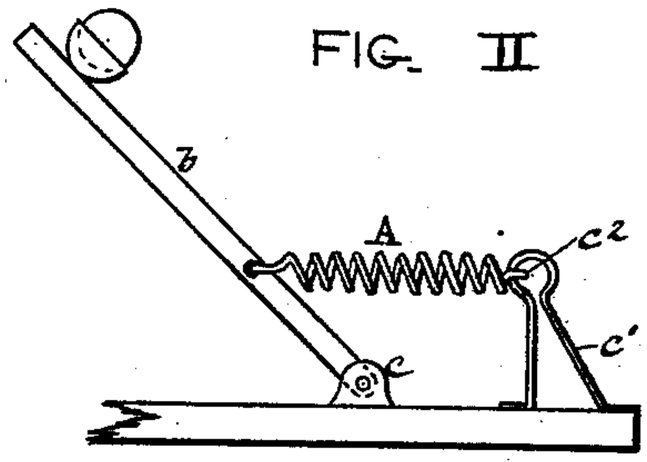


FIG. II



WITNESSES:—

Alexander Scott

D. C. Ridout

INVENTOR:—

Thomas M. Smith,

by M. H. W. Wood,

Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS M. SMITH, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN BALL-TRAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **214,962,** dated April 29, 1879; application filed February 26, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS M. SMITH, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain Improvements in Ball-Traps, of which the following is a specification; and I do hereby declare that in the same is contained a full, clear, and exact description of my said invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention consists in combining, with the hinged bar or lever employed to project the ball, an extensible spring secured at one end, at a point above the hinge of the bar, and at the other to the bar itself, between the hinge and the end which receives the ball, as hereinafter set forth.

The object of the invention is to avoid the use of the elastic arms used for projecting the balls, which become weakened by constant use, and which have other disadvantages attendant upon the use thereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows the application of the invention, a rubber spring being used. Fig. 2 shows, as a modification of the invention, the application of a wire-spiral spring.

A is the spring, which is secured to the bar *b* forward of the hinge *c*. The other end of the spring is held at c^2 by the standard c^1, which is elevated above the hinge, as shown. When the bar is depressed, as shown by the full lines in Fig. 1, the spring is lengthened, and a certain strain applied thereto. When the bar is released, as shown in Fig. 1 by dotted lines, the spring A is the agent which causes the upward movement of the bar, by reason of its recovering its original length.

The spring shown in Fig. 1 may be made of rubber, united with some other flexible substance to add to its strength.

In Fig. 2 the spring is shown made of wire, and of spiral form.

I make no claim in this application to the construction of the several separate parts of the trap, nor to any combination of such parts, except to such combination as forms the subject of the following claim.

Having, therefore, described my invention, I claim as new and wish to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

The hinged bar *b* and standard c^1, elevated above the hinge *c*, combined, in a ball-trap, with the extensible spring A, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 15th day of February, A. D. 1879.

THOMAS M. SMITH.

Witnesses:

JAMES F. PEARSON,

JAMES R. MYERS.