

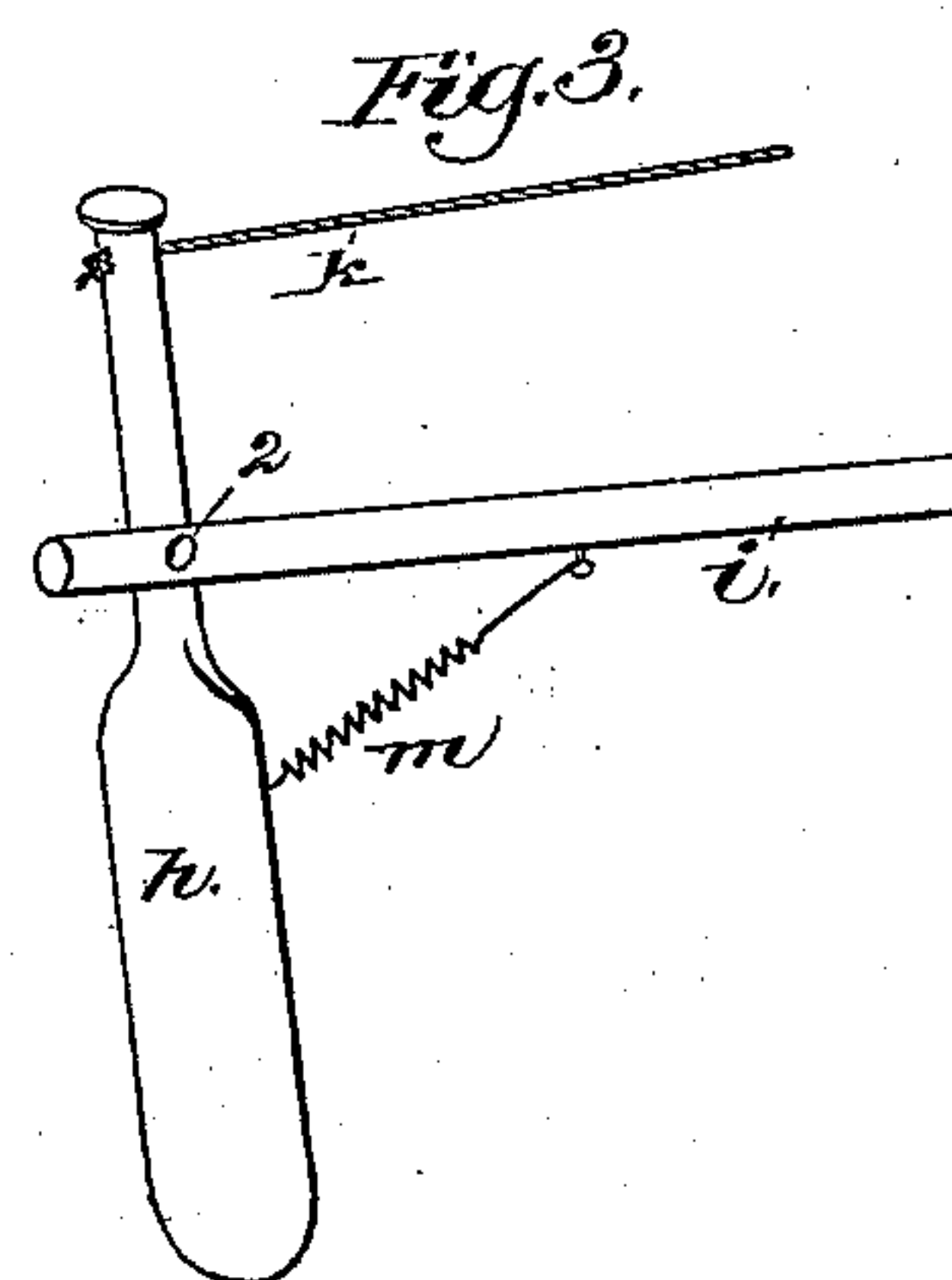
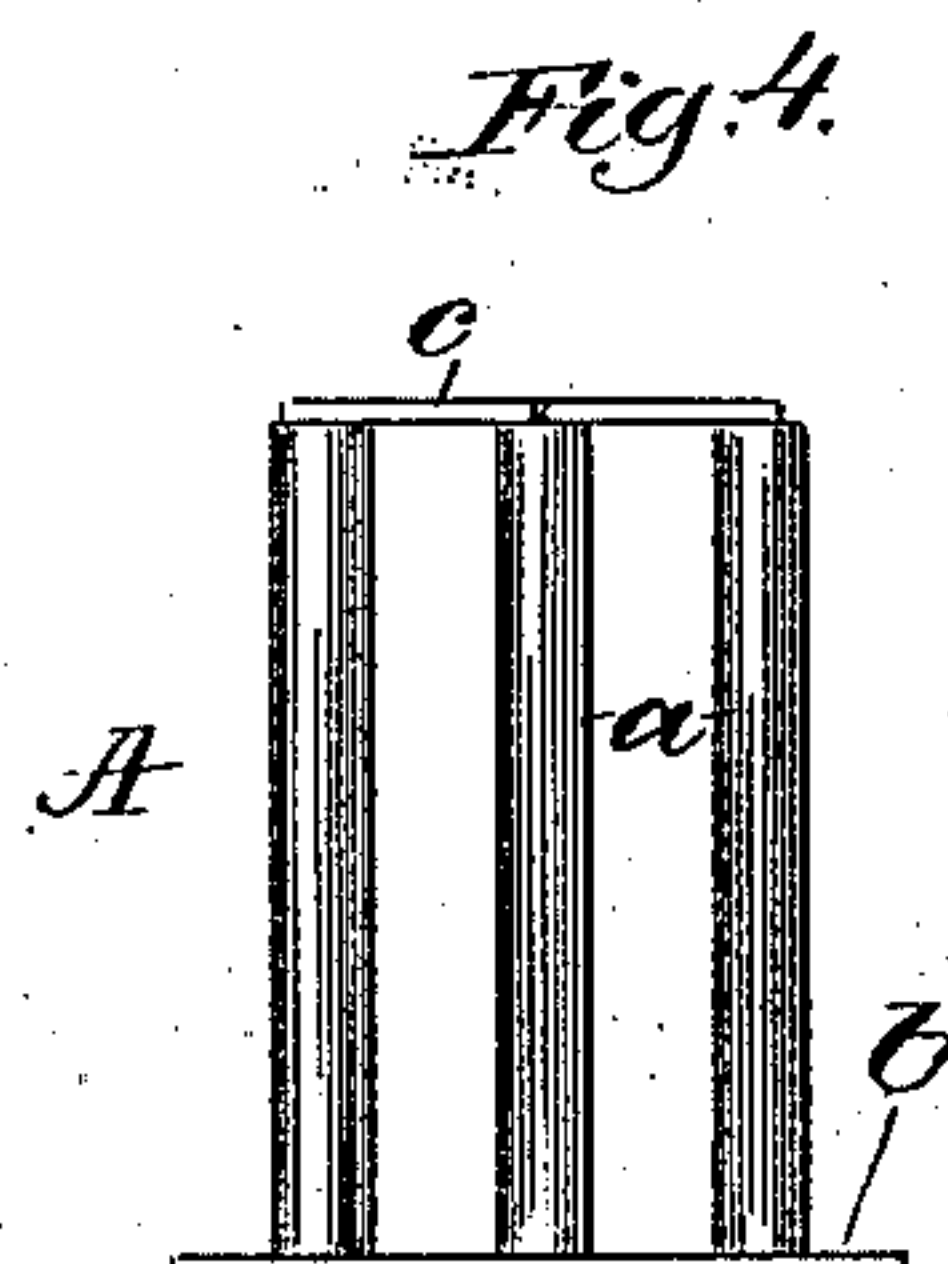
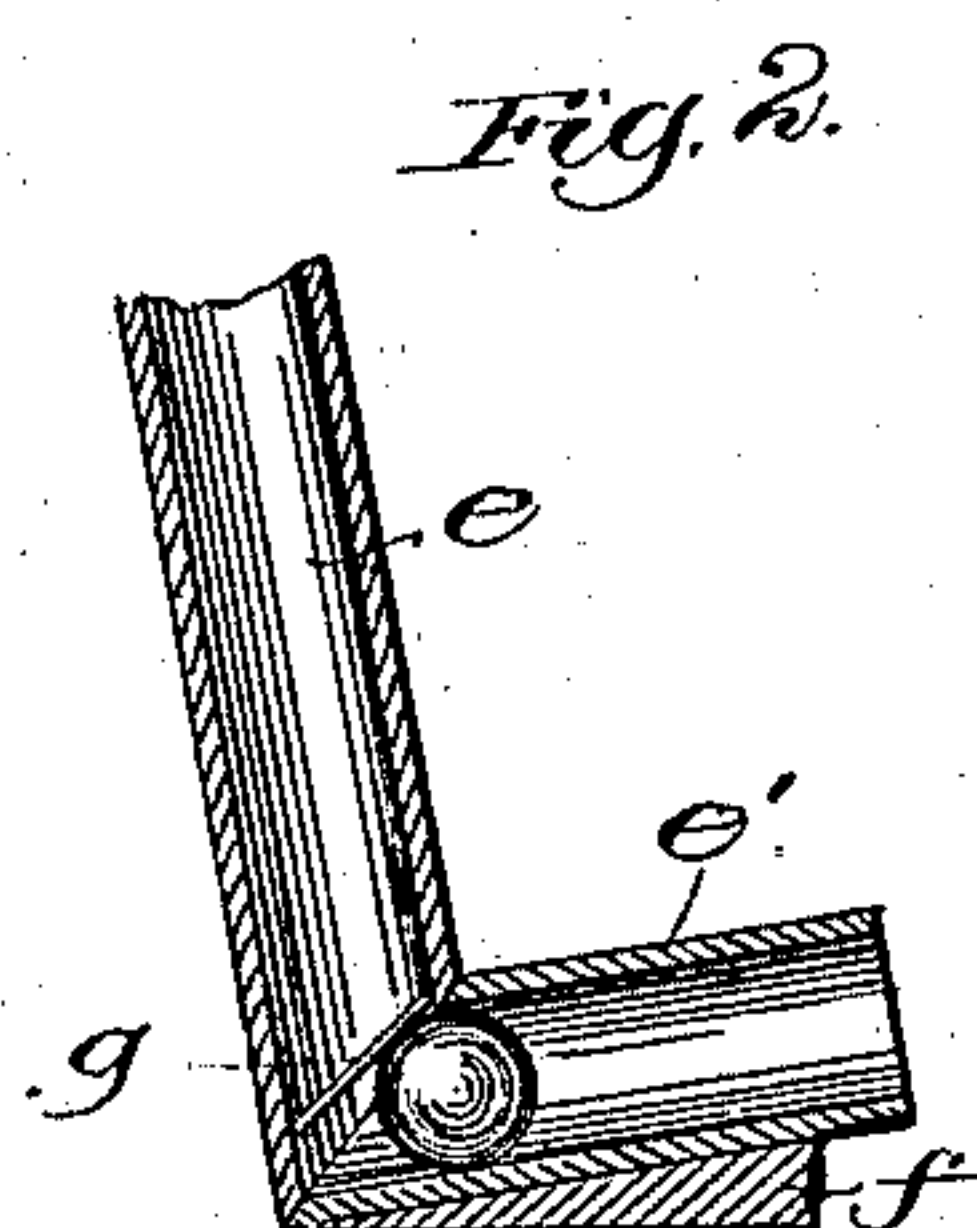
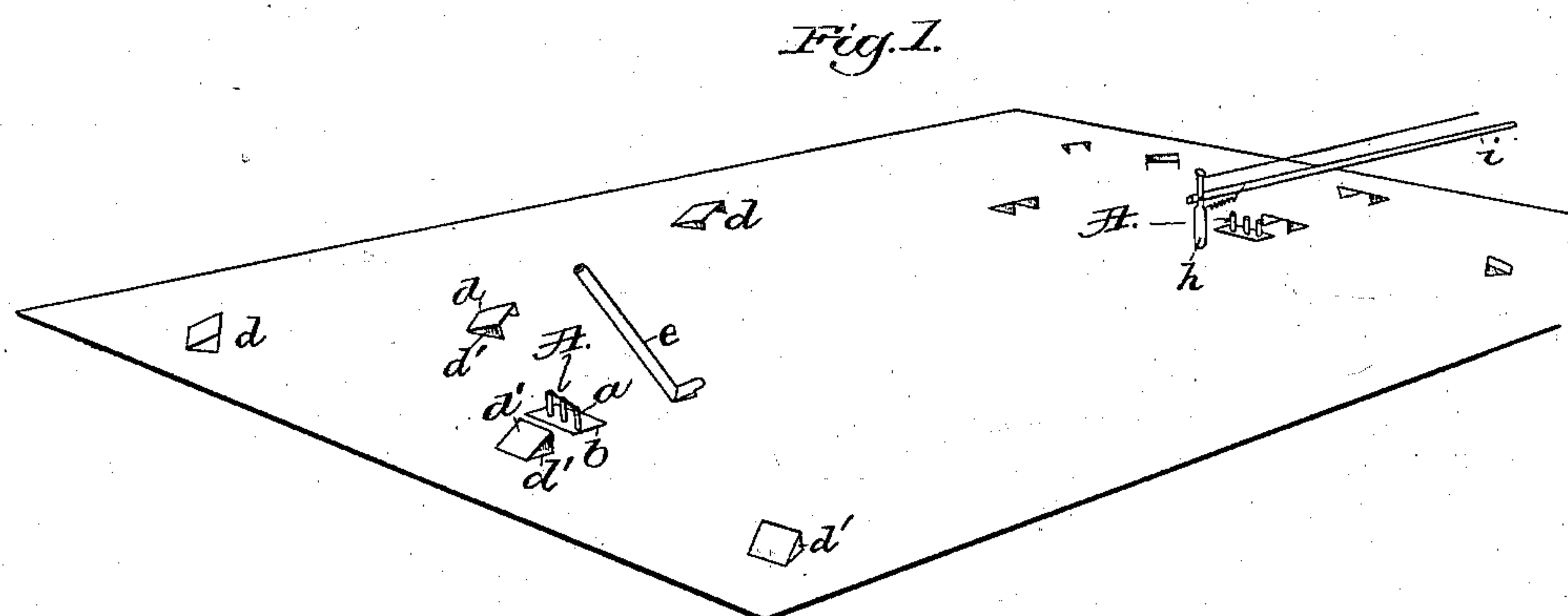
(No Model.)

B. B. TOWNSEND.

GAME APPARATUS.

No. 268,057.

Patented Nov. 28, 1882.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN B. TOWNSEND, OF BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 268,057, dated November 28, 1882.

Application filed October 11, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN B. TOWNSEND, of Brookline, county of Norfolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Game Apparatus, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

My invention relates to a game apparatus, it being intended to reproduce on a smaller scale as an indoor game the outdoor game of cricket.

The apparatus comprises one or two wickets, each consisting of the usual three standards, which are mounted upon a base-piece, preferably composed of tough flexible material—such as stiff paper or leather-board—the said wicket being provided with the usual loose bails to be knocked off by the ball.

The apparatus also comprises a ball-propelling device, consisting of a tube having a foot-piece to give it proper angle to the floor or table upon which the wickets are mounted, the ball being propelled by the player blowing through the tube.

The opposing player is provided with a miniature bat pivoted upon the end of a bat-supporting rod, and provided with an actuating-cord attached to the handle portion, by means of which it can be rocked on its pivot, imitating the movement of an ordinary full-sized bat in the hands of a player. The bat is also provided with a spring tending to move it on its pivot in the opposite direction to the actuating-cord.

In addition to the apparatus thus far described, a series of pockets are provided, they occupying the position of the usual players, and operating to catch the ball if propelled toward them, and it being the object of the player with the bat to guard his wicket and at the same time strike the ball without sending it into any of the pockets.

Figure 1 shows in perspective the apparatus in the position occupied in playing. Fig. 2 is a detail, showing in longitudinal section a portion of the ball-propelling device; Fig. 3, a side elevation of the bat, its supporting-rod and actuating-cord and spring; and Fig. 4, a front elevation of the wicket.

The apparatus, when in use, occupies the position shown in Fig. 1, the game being played either upon the top of a table or upon the floor.

The wickets A, one or two of which may be

employed, as desired, consists of the usual three sticks or standards, *a*, mounted on a base piece, *b*, preferably consisting of card-board or leather-board, the said wicket being provided with the usual bails, *c*, placed loosely upon the top of the sticks 2 in the usual manner.

The pockets *d*, which represent the out-field players, each consist of an inclined top or cover portion and triangular end pieces, *d'*, this forming a roof-like pocket which is set with its open side toward the point at which the bat is operated.

The ball is propelled toward the wicket with the object of knocking the bails *c* off therefrom by means of the ball-propelling device consisting of a hollow rod or tube, *e*, bent substantially at right angles to form a short ball-receiving portion, *e'*, provided with a foot-piece, *f*, by which its angle to the floor or table upon which the apparatus is mounted may be gaged. The said foot-piece necessitates the ball being propelled somewhat upward, and consequently at a comparatively slow speed. The ball, when dropped into the ball-receiving portion *e'* of the propelling device, rests against a stopping-pin or wire, *g*, in proper position to be acted upon by the air blown through the portion *e* of the tube to propel it toward the wicket.

The player guarding the wicket is provided with a bat, *h*, (shown as of the same shape as the usual cricket-bats,) it being pivoted at 2, near the point where the handle portion unites with the main portion of the bat, upon the bat-holding rod *i*, by means of which the operator places the bat in proper position to hit the ball, the said rod being held in the hand of the player and moved about at will. The bat is also provided with an actuating-cord, *k*, connected with the end of the handle of the bat, so that by pulling upon the said cord the bat is swung upon its pivot, it being normally pulled in the opposite direction by means of the actuating-spring *m*, connecting the rear side of the bat with its holding-rod *i*.

By means of the bat-holding device *i* the operator has perfect freedom in manipulating the bat, it being moved about to strike the ball, in whatever direction it may come, whether toward the wicket or not.

The game may be played with substantially the same rules as the outdoor game of cricket, striking the ball without sending it into one of

the pockets counting as a run, and allowing the bails to be knocked off or the ball to be caught by one of the pockets counting as an out for the batsman.

5 It is obvious that the ball-propelling and bat-manipulating apparatus can be employed for other games besides cricket—such, for example, as for playing the game of base-ball in miniature.

10 I claim—

1. The herein-described game apparatus, comprising a wicket, pockets, a ball-propelling device and bat and its manipulating mechanism, substantially as described.

15 2. The bat-supporting rod, adapted to be manipulated by the player, combined with the bat pivoted thereon, and its actuating mechanism, substantially as described.

20 3. The ball-propelling device, consisting of a tube bent, as described, to form a ball-receiving portion, substantially as set forth.

4. In a game apparatus, the wicket, composed of three standards fixed upon a base-piece, combined with bails loosely mounted upon the said standards, substantially as described.

25 5. The combination of the bat-supporting rod and bat pivoted thereon with the bat-actuating cord and the spring connected with the said bat and rod, substantially as described.

6. The combination of the bent ball-propelling tube, ball-stopping pin therein, and gagging foot-piece, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

BENJAMIN B. TOWNSEND.

Witnesses:

JOS. P. LIVERMORE,
B. J. NOYES.