

(Model.)

T. H. EULASS.

PARLOR GAME APPARATUS AND CUE THEREFOR.

No. 302,196.

Patented July 15, 1884.

Fig. 1.

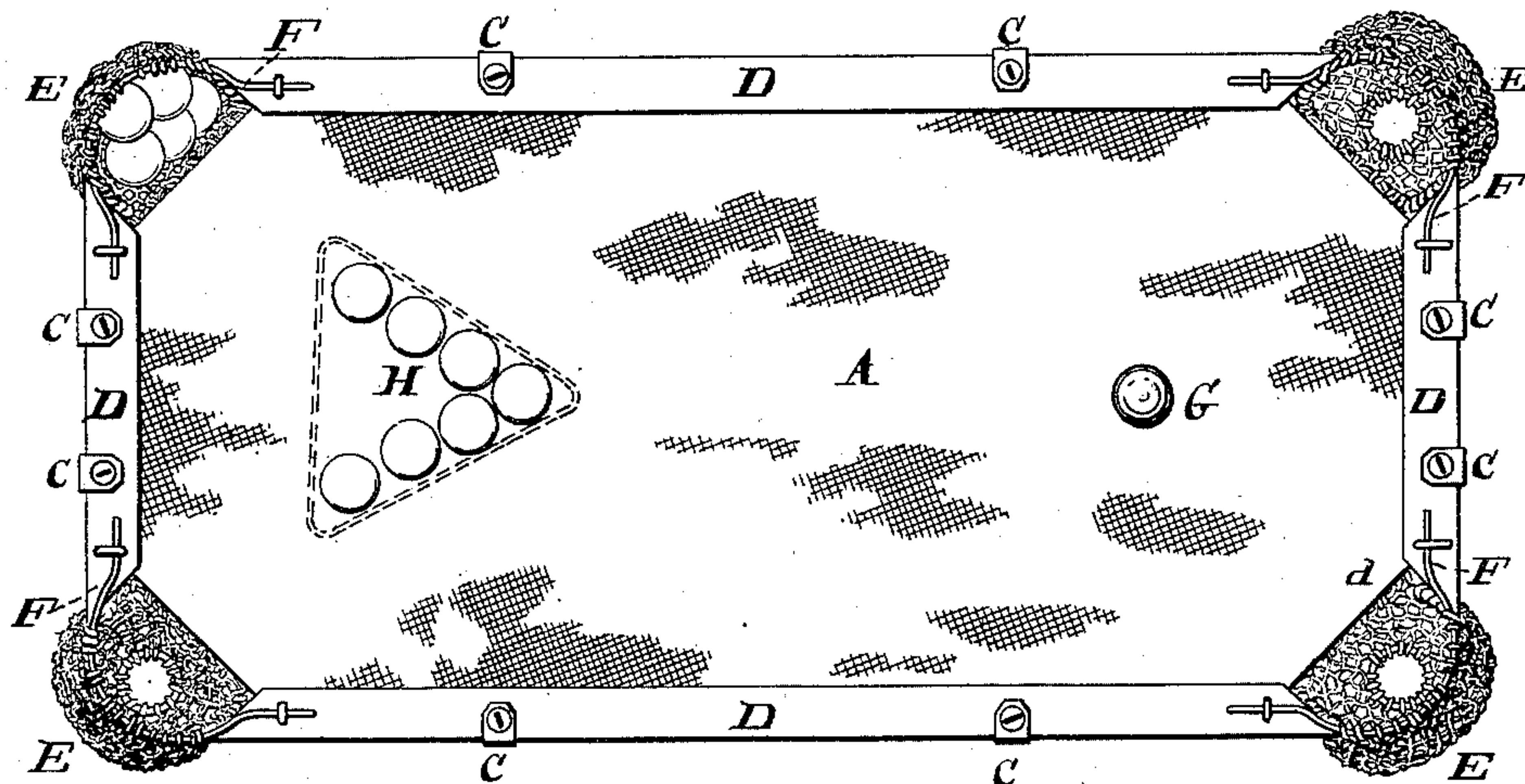


Fig. 2.

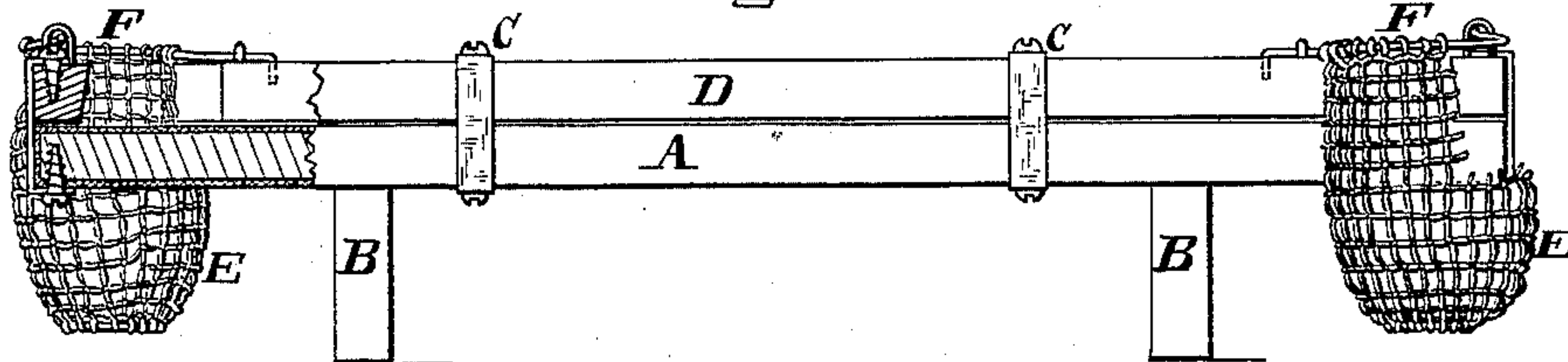


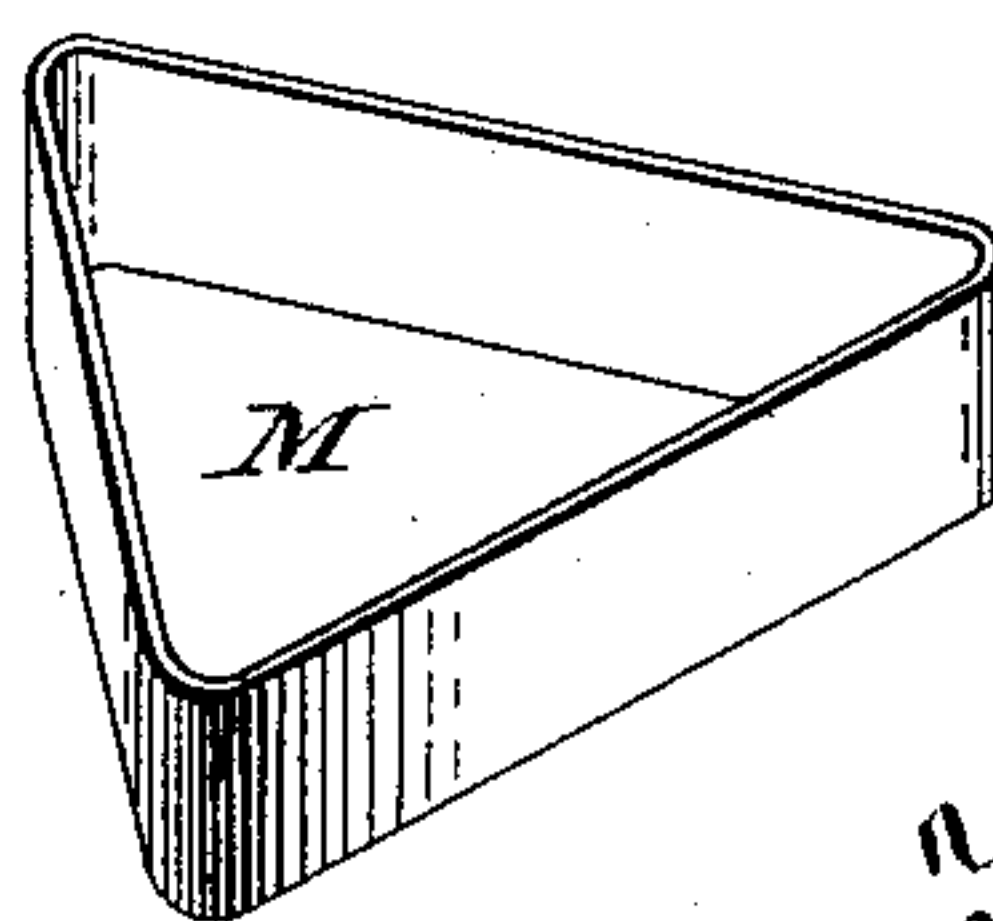
Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Attest:

A. V. Knight
Geo. L. Wheelock

Inventor:
Thomas H. Eulass
A. V. Knight Pros. Attor.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS H. EULASS, OF MASON CITY, ILLINOIS.

PARLOR GAME APPARATUS AND CUE THEREFOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,196, dated July 15, 1884.

Application filed March 10, 1884. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS H. EULASS, of Mason City, Mason county, Illinois, have invented a new and useful Parlor Game Apparatus and Cue therefor, of which the following is a specification.

My apparatus consists, essentially, of a board preferably covered with cloth or other textile fabric, and walled in on its four sides by curbs or cushions, except at the corners, which have gateways or passages into bags or pockets, so as, in its general appearance, to be comparable to a miniature pool-table. Balls or marbles are employed, of which one or more are projected by my cue against the others, with the object of driving the latter into the pockets. The attachment of the curbs to the board is wholly by springs, so as to impart to said curbs resilient qualities to assist the rebound of any ball striking them, and, with the same object, the bows or railings from which the pockets are suspended are made of spring-wire. My cue is tubular, so as to partly inclose a mallet, which is so connected to the cue proper by a rubber thong, or its equivalent, as after a slight retraction and sudden release of such mallet to operate percussively upon the head of the cue proper, and cause its point to impel the "striker-ball" against one or more balls of those grouped near the other end of the board, and which are known as the "pieces."

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top view of a board such as employed by me. Fig. 2 is a partly sectioned elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is an axial section of the cue with the mallet retracted. Fig. 4 is an external view of the same with the mallet discharged. Fig. 5 represents a crib which may be employed to expedite the proper grouping of the pieces upon the board.

A represents a perfectly flat board or plate, which may have the represented oblong rectangular contour, and be supported in an accurately horizontal position upon cleats B, fastened to its under side. These cleats may further be useful in preventing any warping of the board in case it is made of wood, as its cheaper forms generally will be. The said board is preferably covered by fine cloth, flannel, enameled muslin, india-rubber, leather,

paper, or other fabric, stretched tightly over it. Attached at the four edges of the board, by spring hangers or brackets C, are curbs D, which operate to confine the balls to the board, and also as cushions from which any ball striking them rebounds. The extreme corners of the board being removed and the curbs being stopped a little short of actual contact and chamfered, as at *d*, permit escape at any corner of a ball reaching it, whence such ball is caught in a bag, net, or pocket, E, that is suspended partly from the board and partly from a hanger or rail, F, of spring brass or steel.

G represents the striker-ball, and H other balls called the "pieces." These balls may be of any appropriate material—such as glass, porcelain, earthenware, ivory, celluloid, or of metal—and be of uniform color, or of diverse colors, as by staining, painting, or electroplating. The striker or strikers may be of material of greater specific gravity than the pieces. For example, the striker may be of lead, brass, or iron, or other metal, while the pieces may be of glass, bone, ivory, or celluloid.

For driving the striker against the pieces, I employ a combined cue and mallet, such as represented in Figs. 3 and 4. In this form the cue proper, J, consists of a sheath, or, in other words, is made tubular except at and near its point or tip, the central bore, *j*, being open toward the butt-end or head of the cue. This bore *j* receives the shank *k* of my mallet K *k*, whose head K is of sufficient diameter to prevent its entrance to the bore. A thong, L, of india-rubber, one end of which is fastened to the shank *k*, and its other end to the cue near the inner end of the bore, operates to draw the shank of the mallet forcibly into its sheath when released after a retraction by the operator, so as to cause the head K to strike the butt of the cue with greater or less force, according to the extent of the retraction.

To enable the pieces to be set symmetrically upon the board, the user may employ a crib, such as shown at M, Fig. 5, the same being simply a light frame having a triangular opening, which crib being placed upon the board, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, and the pieces being arranged in contact with its inner surfaces, they are left in their assigned

positions on withdrawal of the crib, as shown in said figure.

Instead of the rubber thong L, a helical spring may be used, if preferred.

5 The cue may be constructed of any proper material—for example, of mahogany or other suitable wood; or the cue proper alone may be of wood, and the mallet of brass or other metal; or the head of the mallet being of metal, 10 its shank may be of wood.

The board may be of any preferred form and dimensions—for example, of the form of a rectangle whose corners have been removed, and whose width is to its length as twenty to 15 thirty-six.

Spring-wire railings may be employed instead of the wooden curbs here represented.

Any desired number of pieces and strikers may be employed; but I prefer the use of fifteen pieces and one striker, which latter may 20 be of the same material as the pieces, or of some heavier material, as may be preferred.

The board may while in use be placed upon a table or stand, or may have legs of its own 25 of sufficient length to enable it to serve as a stand or table.

The cloth covering of the board may be imprinted or marked to indicate the proper stations for the balls.

30 The toy thus constructed may be used in conformity with any set of "rules" or prearranged programme—as, for example, the pieces being placed in a symmetrical group near one end of the board, as explained, and 35 the striker near its other end, as shown in

Fig. 1, the player places the point of his cue in contact with the striker, and, retracting the mallet, as shown in Fig. 3, suddenly releases it, as shown in Fig. 4, so as to cause it to strike the cue proper, which, in obedience to 40 a well-known dynamic law, causes the striker to be projected across the board in a direction and with a velocity depending on the relative positions of the cue and striker, the angle of presentation of the latter, the extent of mallet 45 retraction, &c.

It will be seen that the mallet itself does not come in contact with the striker-ball, and operates upon it only through the cue, which is held perfectly at rest by the operator. 50

I claim as new and of my invention—

1. A parlor game apparatus consisting of a flat board, A, curbs D, spring-supports C, by which the curbs are secured to the board, pockets E, fastened to the corners of the 55 board, and spring-rails F, by which the pockets are supported from the ends of the curbs, as shown and described.

2. The combined cue and mallet whose cue proper is hollow at the butt and contains the 60 shank of a mallet, which is connected by a rubber thong, or its equivalent, with said cue proper, in the manner explained.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

THOMAS H. EULASS.

Attest:

JAMES A. HADLEY,
A. S. CLEMENTS.