

(No Model.)

W. L. FINLEY & H. B. KIRKWOOD.

GAME BOARD.

No. 356,870.

Patented Feb. 1, 1887.

Fig. 1

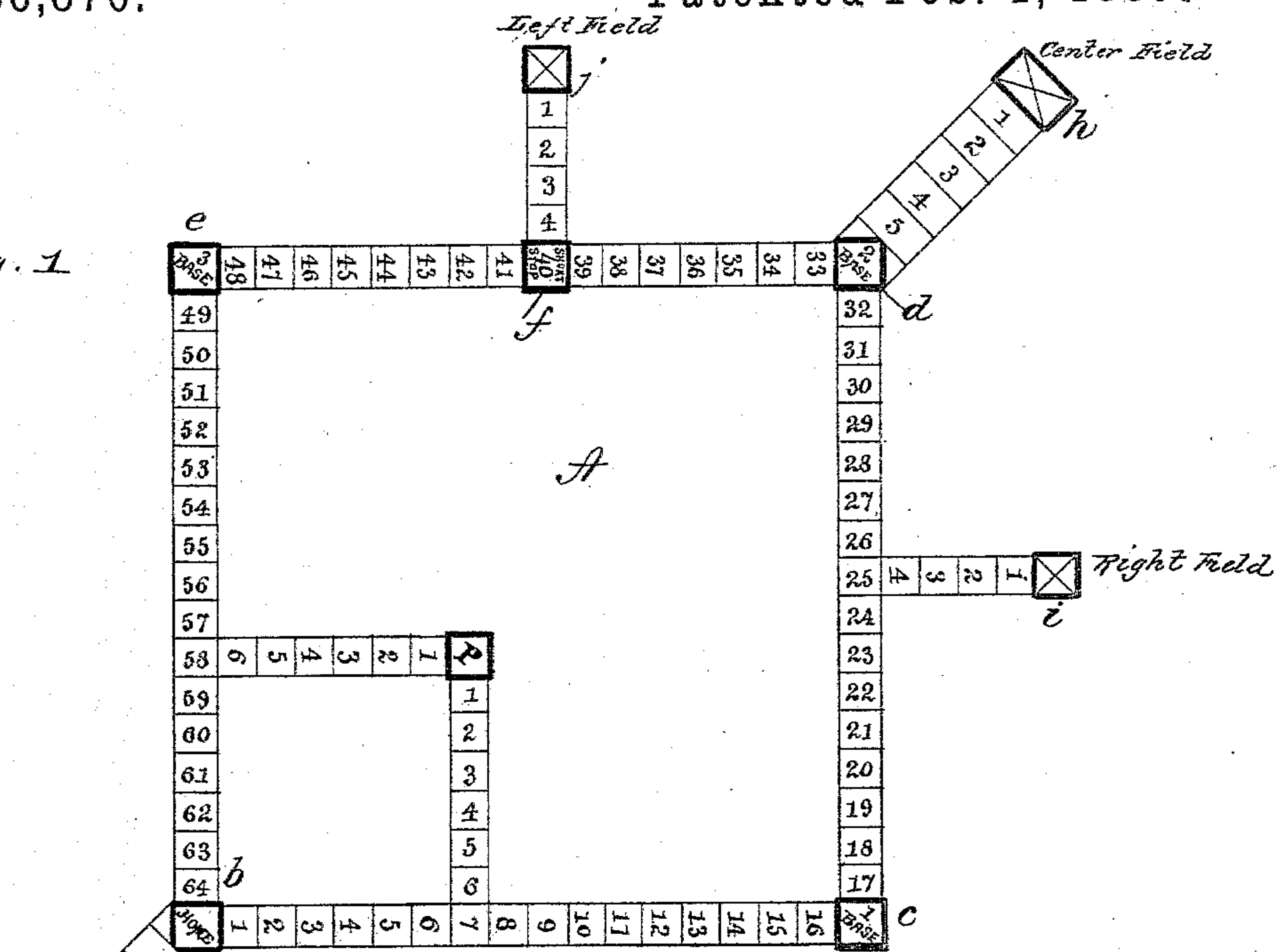
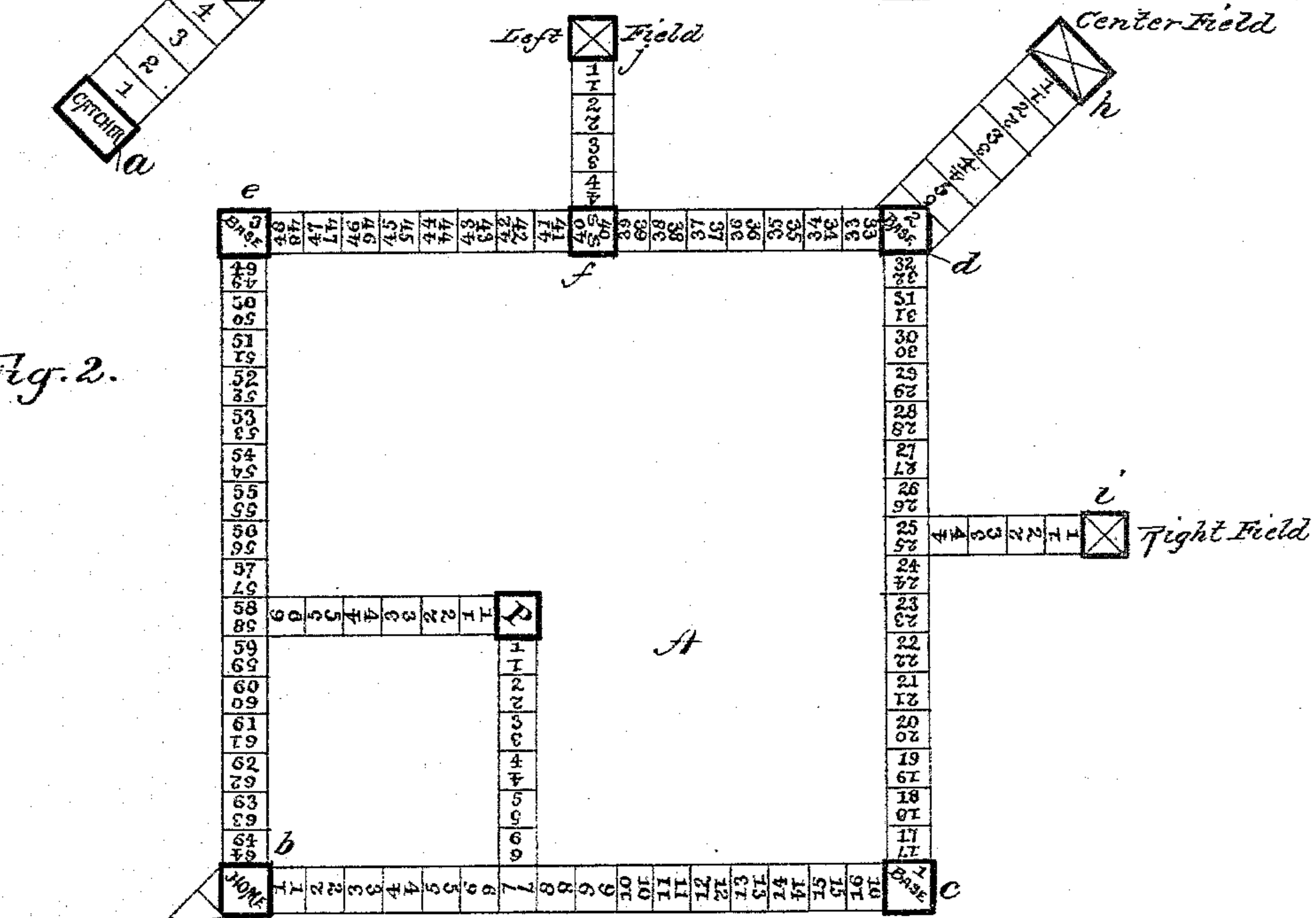


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY AND HORACE B. KIRKWOOD, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

GAME-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 356,870, dated February 1, 1887.

Application filed November 17, 1885. Serial No. 183,127. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM L. FINLEY and HORACE B. KIRKWOOD, citizens of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Boards in Imitation of the Game of Base-Ball; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention,

such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same. This invention relates to an improved game-board for parlor or indoor amusement by which two or more players may be amused in imitating the familiar game called "base-ball;" and it consists, substantially, in the features hereinafter named, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying sheet of drawings, in which Figure 1 represents a plan view of a game-board embodying our invention, and Fig. 2 represents a similar view of a modification thereof.

In the practice of our invention we provide an ordinary board of convenient dimensions and imprint or otherwise design thereon the diagram of a base-ball field. The position of each player is indicated by a square, circle, or other preferred distinguishing character, having the name of the position marked therein, and said positions are connected by double or parallel lines, which are divided into a suitable number of squares, hexagons, or circles having numerals therein, the numbering of such spaces beginning with the home base to one side and ending therewith at the other side in consecutive order. Between the parallel lines completing the circuit of the bases there are preferably sixty-four spaces provided, and extending at right angles from each side of the pitcher's position are six similar spaces. From the rear of home base to the catcher's position there are four spaces provided. From "short stop" to "left field," and from a position corresponding with short stop to that of "right field" there are four spaces each, and between the "second base" and "center field" there are five spaces. It is evident, however, that the number of spaces included between any two positions may be changed to suit the convenience of the players.

In the modification, Fig. 2, we have shown two sets of numerals arranged in reverse position to each other, thus enabling the number of any particular space to be read from either direction to facilitate rapidity of counting in the practice of the game.

Referring to the drawings by the letters marked thereon, A, as a whole, represents a game-board embodying the principles of our invention. *a* indicates the catcher's position; *b*, the home base; *c*, *d*, and *e*, the first, second, and third bases, respectively; *f*, the short stop; *g*, the pitcher; *h*, the center field, and *i* and *j* the right and left field positions.

Beginning at the right of home base and extending around through a circuit taking in the several bases, there are sixty-four spaces, as indicated by the numerals. The number of spaces between any other two positions is also indicated by the numerals.

Following is a description of the manner in which the game is to be played: The game is played by two (or more) persons, each representing a "nine" or "base-ball club," and is begun by each of the players throwing dice once to determine which nine is to take the bat or "inside" first, the club or nine throwing the highest having the choice of such positions. When this has been decided, the clubs take their respective positions on the board in the same order as is done when beginning the regular game of base-ball. The player representing the inside nine throws the dice first and then places the "striker" on the numbered space of the board corresponding with the number thrown, it being the object of the "ins" to take their man from point to point until he makes the circuit of the bases without being caught by any man of the opposite or outside nine, thus counting one score. The dice are thrown alternately by the persons representing each side, it being the object of the outside nine to bring one of their men on a space occupied by the runner, thereby putting him out, the outer nine moving any man that will be most to their advantage.

Two dice only are employed, and if a "double three" is thrown it indicates a "foul ball" and out. If three, five, or seven are thrown, it indicates a "fly ball" and out. Nine, ten, and eleven are strikes, and if either such are

thrown three times in succession it indicates
"three strikes" and out. The player is com-
pelled to move one man according to the num-
ber thrown, (buttons or other articles rep-
5 resenting the men.) Any man can be re-
placed to his position after the runner has
passed his post, or, for instance, if the run-
ner has passed first base and the "first base-
man" is between first base and home, the first
10 baseman can be replaced on his post, if he so
desires it. The outside have the privilege of
moving their men over the spaces in any desired
direction. As the strikers are put out or
make a score, the men retake their positions
15 and proceed with the game until three men are
put out, whereupon the nines change places,
the same as in a regular game of base-ball.

Any number of innings may be played, and
should a tie score be had at the end an addi-
20 tional inning may be played to determine the
victor.

We are aware that game-boards have been
heretofore invented for a purpose analogous
to ours, and that it is not new, broadly, to de-
25 sign upon the board the diagram of a base-ball
field in which the bases and positions of the
players corresponding thereto are connected
by spaces formed between double parallel
lines, as well, also, to provide similar spaces in
30 the area within the base-circuit, such former
inventions comprising, in addition to the fea-
tures named, a dial and indicator by which to
note the different moves or points in the play;
but in our invention we resort to a diagram of
35 a base-ball field having the bases connected
by consecutively-numbered spaces and simi-
lar spaces extending to the positions of the

players corresponding to the bases adjacent
thereto, and, besides, we dispense with the use
of a dial-indicator by which to note the differ- 40
ent positions or plays made, and it is thought
that the particular diagram herein shown has
never before been invented.

Having thus described our invention, what
we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Pat- 45
ent, is—

1. A game for indoor amusement, consisting
of a card or board having formed or imprinted
thereon the diagram of a base-ball field, the
circuit of the bases whereof is comprised by 50
parallel lines divided into consecutively-num-
bered spaces, and similar spaces extending be-
tween the remaining or field positions and
those of the bases adjacent or corresponding
thereto, substantially as shown and described. 55

2. A game for indoor amusement, consisting
of a board having arranged or formed thereon
the diagram of a base-ball field, the circuit of
the bases being comprised by consecutively-
numbered spaces, and similar spaces extend- 60
ing from each side of the pitcher's post and
intersecting with the main spaces between
home base and catcher, second base and cen-
ter field, and from short stop to left field, and
a position corresponding to short stop and 65
right field, substantially as shown and de-
scribed.

In testimony whereof we affix our signa-
tures in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY.

HORACE B. KIRKWOOD.

Witnesses:

E. EVERETT ELLIS,
FRANK WHITE.