

H. SHRIMPTON.
GAME.

No. 432,287.

Patented July 15, 1890.

Fig. 1.

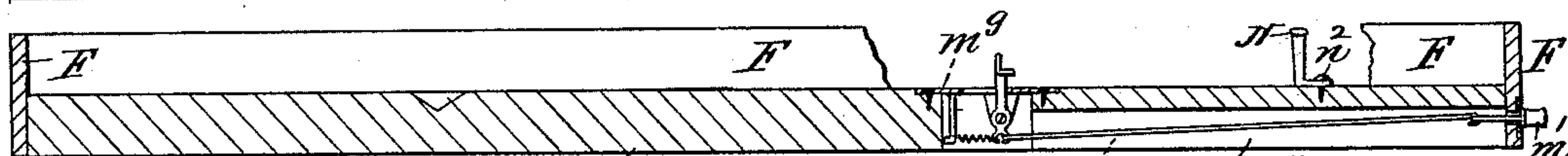
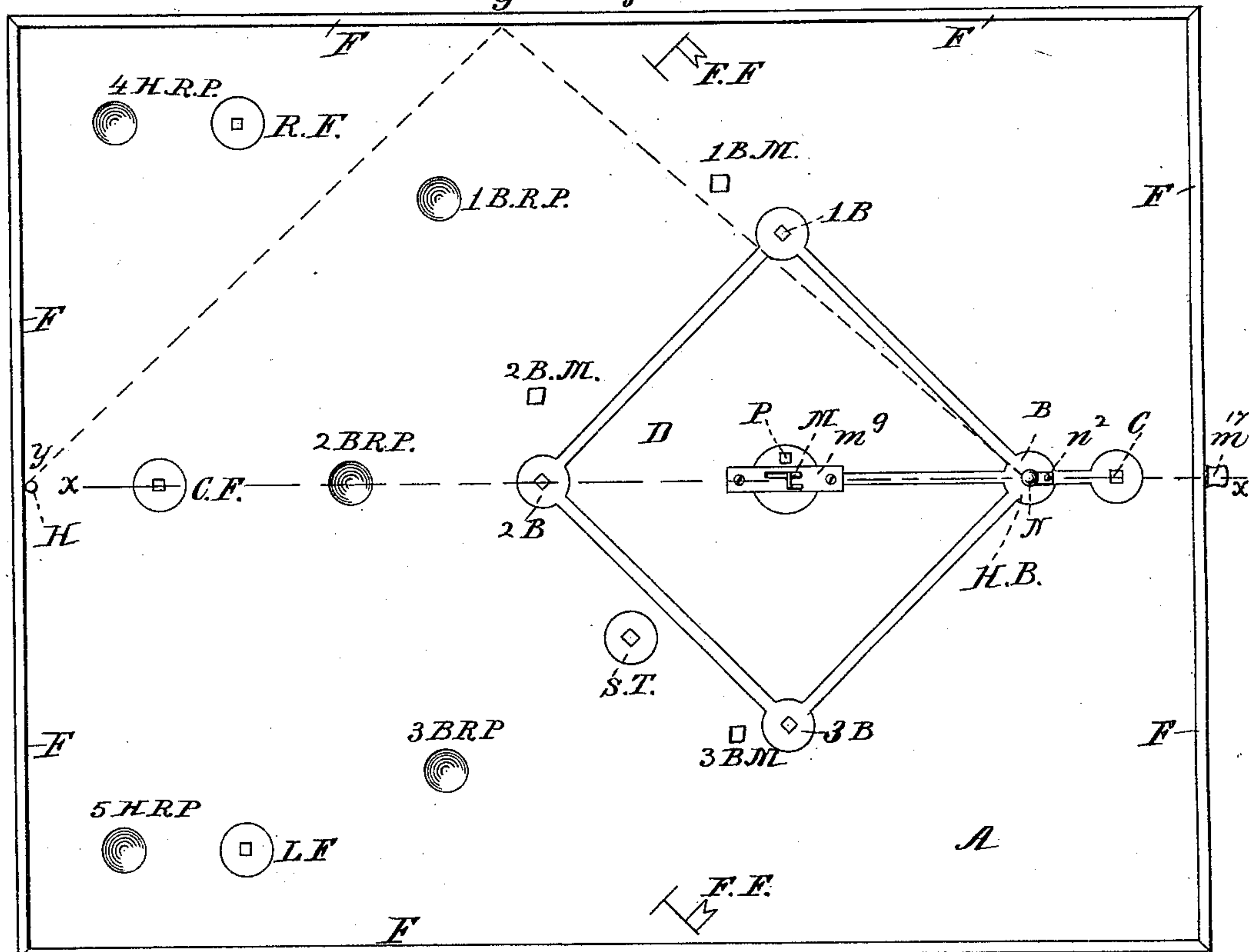


Fig. 2.

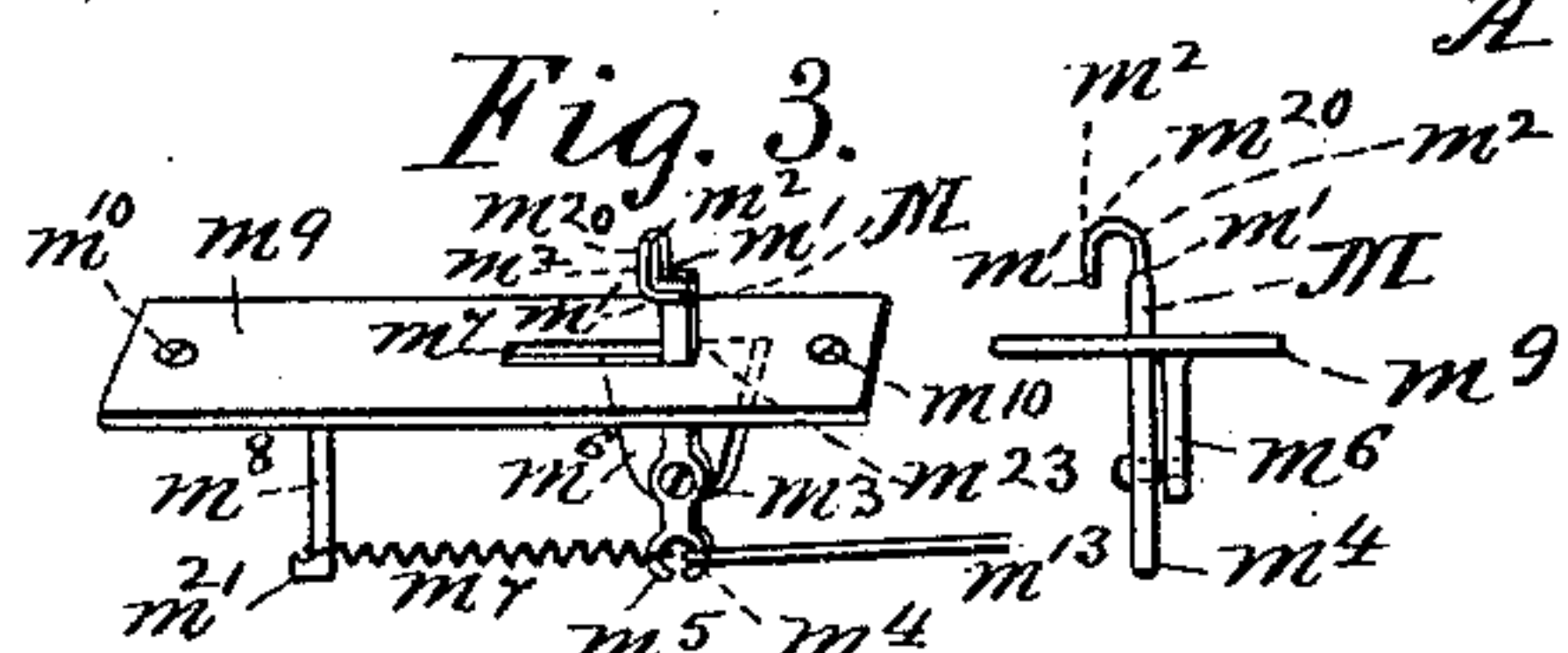


Fig. 5.

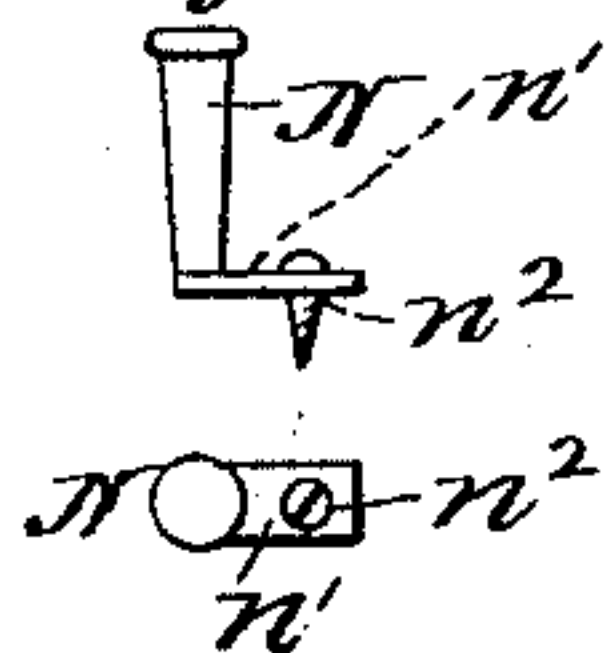


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

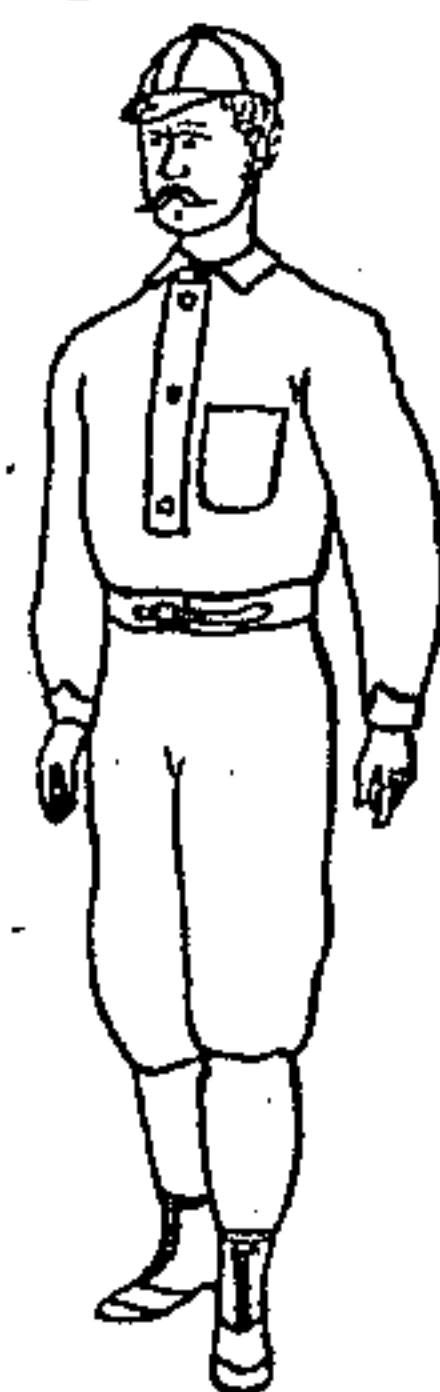
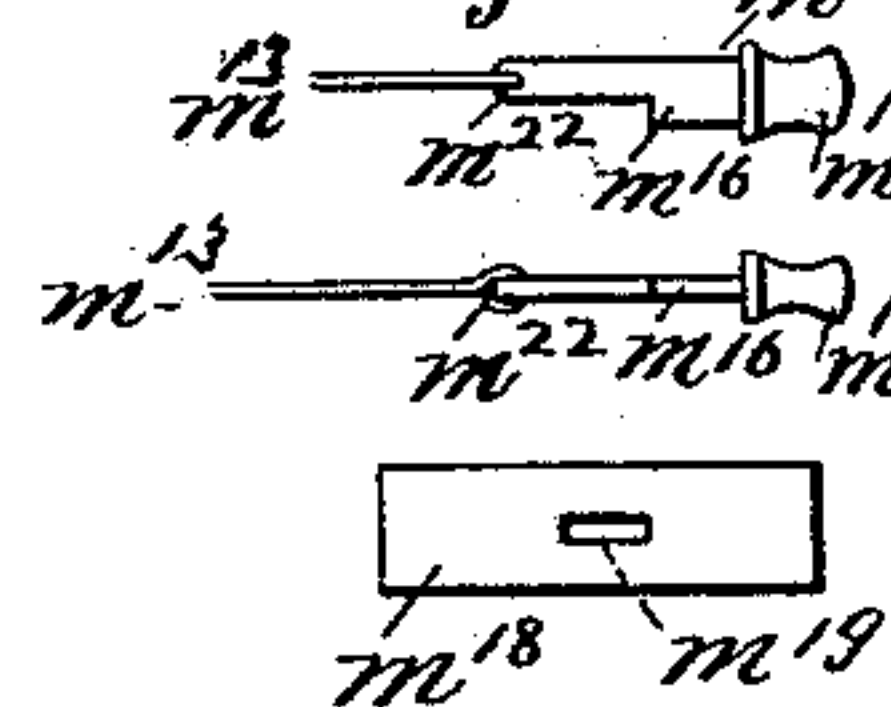


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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HENRY SHRIMPTON, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

GAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 432,287, dated July 15, 1890.

Application filed August 17, 1889. Serial No. 321,146. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY SHRIMPTON, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Games, of which the following is a specification.

The several features of my invention and the various advantages resulting from their use, conjointly or otherwise, will be apparent from the following description and claims.

In the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, Figure 1 is a top view of a board representing a ball-field, the board being constructed and being marked with spaces and lines and provided with up-
rising edge, pockets, and a mechanism for throwing and batting the ball, all in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical central section, taken at the dotted line $x x$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail view in perspective of the device for throwing the ball and a front end elevation of the same. Fig. 4 shows a side and an edge view of the handle for setting the ball-pitching device and for unlocking the same, and the connection of the same to the draft-rod for straining the spring of the pitching device. This figure also shows a front or rear elevation of the plate wherewith the handle aforementioned engages when the pitching device is set. Fig. 5 shows a side and a top elevation of the bat and of the screw connecting the bat to the ball-field. Fig. 6 is an elevation of the ball. Fig. 7 is a view of one of the preferred description of little figures employed upon the ball-field in the playing of the game.

In actual use all portions of the mechanism will preferably be on a larger scale than shown in the drawings.

The ball-field is made of any suitable material. It is preferably made of wood. It consists of a broad flat basal sheet or floor A of suitable material. At its edge is a strip F of material either integral with it or rigidly attached to it. This strip projects above the upper surface of the sheet A and surrounds the field.

The strip F represents a fence, and the primary purpose of its presence is to furnish

a deflecting-surface for the ball to strike against when the latter reaches the edge of the field.

P indicates the position where the pitcher is located, and at his side is the mechanism for holding and throwing the ball.

The ball-pitching device is located at the pitcher's stand P, and consists as follows: The throwing-lever M is provided at its top with a cup or basket for holding the ball. This ball-holder may be formed in various ways. The preferred mode of its construction consists in bending a wire to the shape shown in the drawings, and attaching this wire to the shank of the lever M, thereby presenting two wires or rods m' parallel to one another and horizontal when the length of the lever is vertical, as shown in Fig. 3, and also presenting two wires or rods m'' , respectively extending from the respective rods m' , and when the lever is vertical, as in Fig. 3, extending vertically and joined together at the top by an arch of wire m^{20} . Thus an open basket or cup is formed for the reception of the ball H. The lever M is pivotally fulcrumed at m^3 to a support m^6 , the pivot being preferably a simple screw-bolt m^3 . To the lower end of the lever M is attached the spring m^7 , strained between the lever and a post or connection m^8 at the rear of the lever. This post has on its lower end a hook m^{21} , for retaining the spring in position thereon. To the lower end of the lever M is also attached the rod m^{13} , extending from the lever toward the front edge of the board. A convenient mode of pivotally connecting this spring m^7 and rod m^{13} to lever M is shown, and consists in forming the lower end of the lever in the shape of a split eye, one hooked limb m^5 of which holds the end of the spring m^7 , and the other hooked limb m^4 thereof holds the end of rod m^{13} .

A convenient means for supporting the support m^6 , to which the lever is pivoted, and the post m^8 , to which the rear end of the spring m^7 is connected, is the broad flat plate m^9 , suitably secured, as by screws m^{10} , to the upper surface of the base A, and sunk therein, so that its upper surface shall be in the same plane with the upper surface of the basal support. To the lower surface of this plate are

fixed the support m^6 and post m^8 . A slot m^7 in this plate m^9 allows the lever M to be moved forward and backward as far as necessary for its successful operation, as herein-
 5 after specified. From the post m^8 up to the front edge portion extends a groove or channel m^{14} in the floor A. This groove or channel preferably does not extend through the upper surface of the floor A, but lies therein
 10 below the surface, concealed from view and out of the way. Near the front edge of the floor A the rod m^{13} terminates in an eye or hook, engaging at m^{22} a similar eye or hook at the inner end of the pull-handle m^{17} . The
 15 shank m^{15} of this pull-handle is provided with a shoulder m^{16} . The shank slides through a slit m^{19} in the edge of the floor A. For the sake of permanency and of accuracy of operation the slit is made in a flat piece of
 20 metal m^{18} .

The vertical bat-post N is preferably round and tapering larger toward its top for the purpose of deflecting the ball toward the table. It is fixed to one end of a base-strip
 25 n' . The means of attachment of the bat-post to the floor A is a pivotal one, and such pivot n^2 is intentionally located in that end of the base-strip n' opposite where the post is affixed. The bat-post N is located at the bat's-
 30 man's stand B.

The mode in which this part of my invention operates is as follows: The player draws back the handle m^{17} , and thereby draws forward the rod m^{13} and moves the lower end of
 35 lever M forward and the upper end thereof backward, at the same time stretching the spring m^7 . He now moves the handle m^{17} laterally sufficiently for the shoulder m^{16} to catch over the edge of the plate m^{18} . Having
 40 done this, the pitching device is set for action. A very elastic ball, as H, preferably of rubber, is placed in the basket $m' m' m^2 m^2 m^{20}$ of the lever. The bat or post N is now set, as desired, viz: When the bat is set, as shown in
 45 Fig. 1, the ball when discharged from lever M will strike the post directly in front, and will by its elasticity be repelled from the bat and will bound back in the direction of the lever M. Should the bat be moved toward the
 50 right—that is, toward the right hand of the bat'sman as he faces the pitcher—the ball upon striking the post will be deflected toward the left side of the field, and in case it strikes the left fence F will be again deflected, and in
 55 many cases it will again strike the fence and be deflected, and so on, till its velocity is spent.

The dotted lines $y y$ of Fig. 1 illustrate the course of the ball rebounding from the bat-
 60 post when the batter has been set a little to the left of the straight line joining the ball-throwing lever to the catcher's stand C. The distance the bat is turned toward the left will control the direction of the reflection of
 65 the ball from the bat, and in case it reaches the fence will also control the direction of its reflection therefrom. The bat may be turned

toward the right, and in this case also the direction of the rebound from the bat and also from the fence, in case the ball strikes the
 70 latter, will be determined by the distance the center of the bat N is moved out of the vertical plane drawn passing through the center of the cup of the lever and the center of the catcher's stand C, located, as usual, behind
 75 the bat'sman's stand.

It may be here remarked that the friction between the base n' of the bat and the surface of the floor A is, if the base n' is well screwed down, sufficient to retain the bat in any posi-
 80 tion in which it may be set.

To discharge the ball from the lever M, the operator moves the handle m^{17} laterally, thereby releasing the shoulder m^{16} from the edge of plate m^{18} , whereupon the spring, no
 85 longer meeting with a resistance from the handle, rapidly draws the lower end of lever M toward post m^8 and as rapidly moves the upper end of this lever and its cup containing the ball toward the bat. When the lever
 90 M strikes the forward edge m^{23} of the slit m^7 , its forward movement is suddenly and completely arrested. At the same time the ball, from the impetus communicated to it, flies forward toward the bat and, striking the same,
 95 rebounds in the directions aforementioned, according to the position in which the bat is set.

D indicates the diamond with the bases, as follows:

1B indicates first base; 2B, the second base; 3B, the third base, and HB the home - base. Each base and also each position of the out-
 100 fielders is surrounded by a circle, the use of which is explained in the direction for play-
 105 ing the game.

1BM is the position of the first-base man, 2BM that of second-base man, and 3BM that of third-base man.

ST indicates the position of short-stop, RF
 110 that of the right-fielder, CF that of the center-fielder, and the position of left-fielder is indicated by the letters L F.

The foul-flags are duly located, and are indicated by the letters F F.

In the floor A of the field are concave depressions, preferably of a hemispherical shape, termed "pockets," and respectively indicated for the purposes of this description by the following letters, viz., 1BRP is the first-
 120 base-run pocket. 2BRP is the second-base-run pocket. 3BRP is the third-base-run pocket. 4HRP is one of the home-run pockets, and 5HRP is another home-run pocket.

The game is played substantially as follows: There are two sets of men, viz., play-
 125 ers—nine on each side—and one figure to represent the umpire. These men are small movable pieces, and are preferably each formed in the figure, and a ball-player represented by a ball costume. One of these sets
 130 of nine men is distinguished from the other set of nine by a suitable mark or indication, preferably by a different costume or by dif-

ference in the color of their costume. A score-card should be provided to keep the score. The game may be played in either five, seven, or nine innings. Three persons may participate in the game. One of these is to take charge of one nine and the other is to take charge of the other nine. The third person is to act as umpire and decide as to all doubtful plays. The person whose side is in the field shall control the trigger—that is, the ball-throwing lever M and the handle m^{17} and the operation thereof. The person whose side is at the bat shall have the right to move, viz., adjust the position of the bat if he desires.

I will now describe an illustrative instance of the mode in which the game is played. The two persons, as A and B, who are to play the game, choose their respective nines or sides, and draw lots for the first innings at the bat. If A win, B will place his men in their positions in the field. The figure of the pitcher is placed by B beside the pitching mechanism. A will place his batter in position at the side of the bat N, the bat being located on the home-base. All being ready, the umpire will say, "Play ball." B will draw back lever M in position for throwing the ball and will set the lever in this position by means of the handle m^{17} , as hereinbefore described, and will place the ball in the cup of the lever. The handle being moved, the ball will be thrown against the bat and rebound out into the field. When the ball drops in the first base-socket or stops in the field outside of the foul-lines, it is counted as a first-base hit and a man of B's nine is placed on said base. A second-base hit is counted when the ball drops in the second-base pocket, and a third-base hit when it drops into the third-base pocket. A home-run is counted when the ball drops into either of the home-run pockets. During the progress of the game the out-fielders are duly placed on their respective circles, and each baseman is placed a little to the side of his respective base, just outside the circle thereof.

As to "outs" and "fouls:" When the ball touches a fielder or stops within a circle of a base, or within the circle of an out-fielder's position, the batter is out by that fielder. The ball touching or stopping within the circle of any out-fielder will be an out on a fly-ball. If the ball crosses one base or circle and stops on another, then if men of B's side are on these bases it is counted a double play and both men are out. Should a man of B's side be on the first base and the ball, for example, crosses the second-base circle and rests on the circle of first base, the runner is out by the first-base man assisted by second-base man, termed an "assist" in the nomenclature on the score-card. If the ball touches the batter, it is called "one ball," and four such balls give the batter his first base. If the ball stops inside of the foul-lines it is a foul-ball.

If the bases be each respectively occupied

or full by a respective man of B's side when another hit is made, the men are advanced each one base, the batter taking the first base, and the man on the third base coming home and completing his run. A home-run clears all the bases. Three men out puts the side out. The nine of B at the bat will then take the field, and the nine of A, heretofore in the field, will take their turn at the bat, subject to the rules heretofore mentioned. Thus the game proceeds, the two nines successively and alternately being at the bat and in the field, as is the case in the present common and well-known game of "base-ball." At the close of the game the nine having made the most runs are the winners of the game.

While the various features of my invention are preferably employed together, one or more of said features may be employed without the remainder, and, in so far as applicable, one or more of said features may be employed in connection with games different from the one herein specifically described.

What I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The ball-throwing lever provided with the cup or basket and the bat having the laterally-extended base n' , pivoted to the floor out of the vertical center of the vertical post of the bat, this extended base being in frictional contact with the floor for enabling the bat to retain a given position, in which it has been placed, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The lever M, having the ball-cup consisting of ridges $m' m'$ and ridges $m^2 m^2$, this lever M being pivoted to the game-board, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. The lever M, pivoted to the game-board and having the ball-cup consisting of ridges $m' m'$ and ridges $m^2 m^2$, the two latter ridges being united by the arch m^{20} , substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. The lever M, having the ball-cup, and consisting of the main shank, whose upper end forms a ridge m' , the shank or an extension thereof being thence bent up, forming a ridge or wall m^2 , and then across, forming a ridge m^{20} , and then down, forming a second ridge or wall m^2 , and then parallel to the first ridge m' , and forming a second ridge m' , substantially as and for the purposes specified.

5. The pivoted lever M, and spring and post for holding the spring when strained, and draft-rod and the handle provided with shoulder or detent m^{16} , and stationary detent for engaging said detent on the handle, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

6. The pivoted cup-lever M, pivoted to support m^6 , and spring m^7 , attached to post m^8 and to said lever, and draft-rod with setting device, and plate m^9 , fixed on the floor and having said post m^8 and lever-pivot support m^6 , fixed thereto and provided with slot m^7 , in which said lever is located, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

7. The ball-throwing lever located in the

diamond of bases, as mentioned, and the bat-post located opposite to the said lever and the catcher's stand, the bat-post being located between the ball-throwing lever and the catcher, and having base and pivot, substantially as described, for adjustment of the bat to the right or left of a straight line drawn from the ball-throwing lever to the catcher's stand, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

8. The combination of a game-board having a ridge around the same and the lever M moving in a vertical plane and having its fulcrum pivoted at a point between its upper cup-shaped end for the reception of the ball and the lower end, whereto the connection m^{13} is attached in a plane substantially parallel to the surface of the game-board for throwing the ball above and clear of the said board or table until by gravity it has reached said

board or the ridge around the latter, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

9. In a game, the combination of the game-board, pockets therein, stations thereon provided with circles, diamond marked on said board, ball-throwing lever pivoted to the game-board, bat having base and pivot, enabling said bat to be adjusted to the right or the left, and separate ball, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

10. The combination of the ball-throwing lever M and the bat-post N, placed opposite thereto and tapering smaller from the top downward, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

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Attest:

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