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Patented Oct. 4, 1898.

H. T. PYCROFT.
GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed June 10, 1898.)

(No Model.)

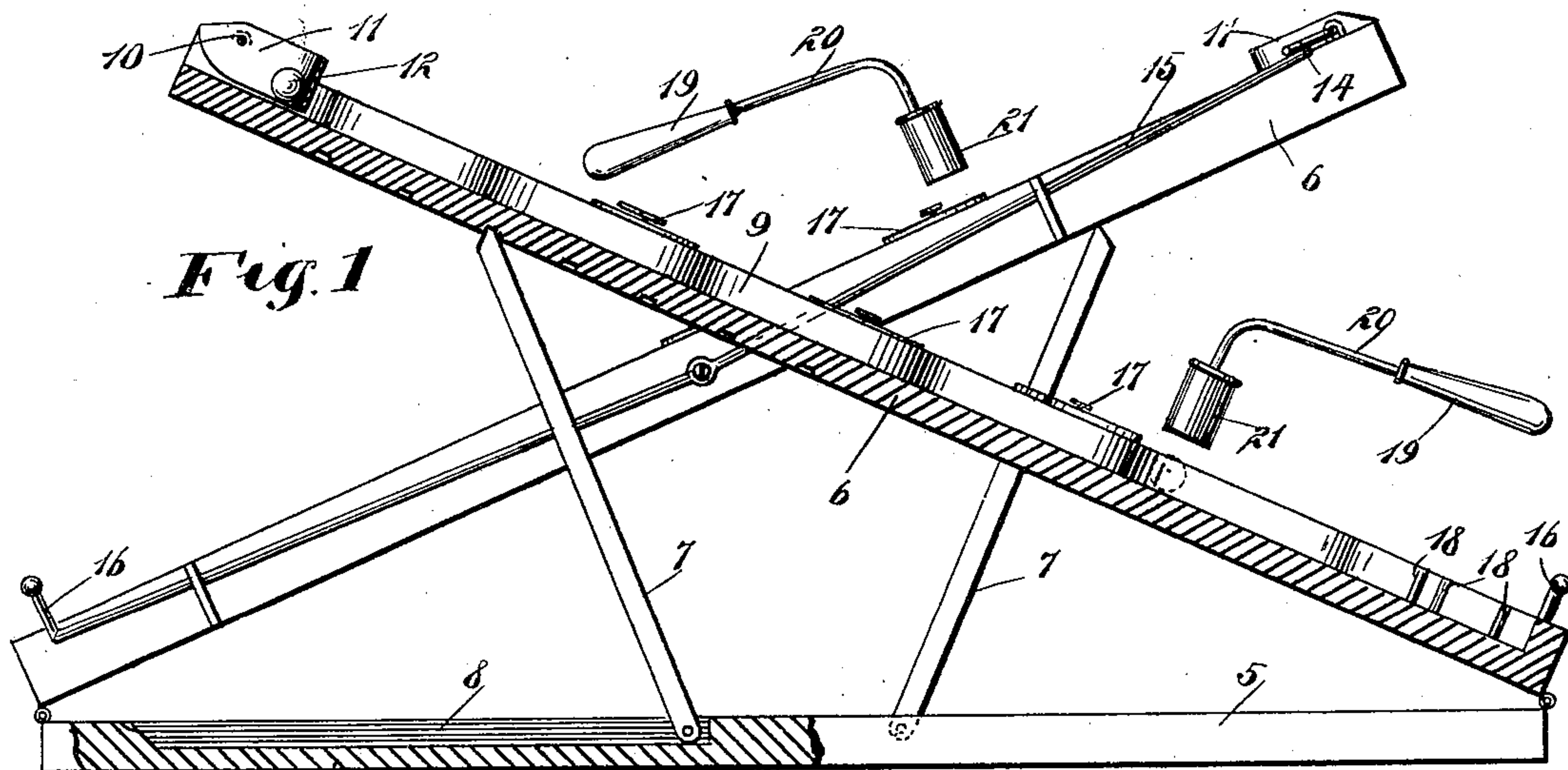


Fig. 1

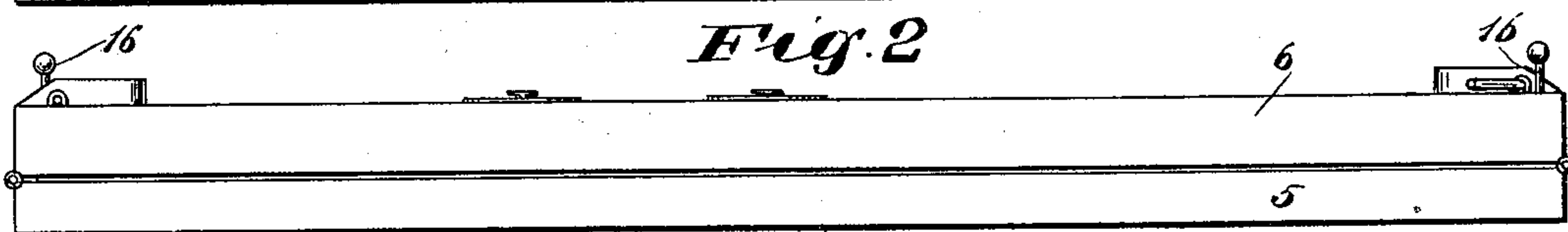


Fig. 2

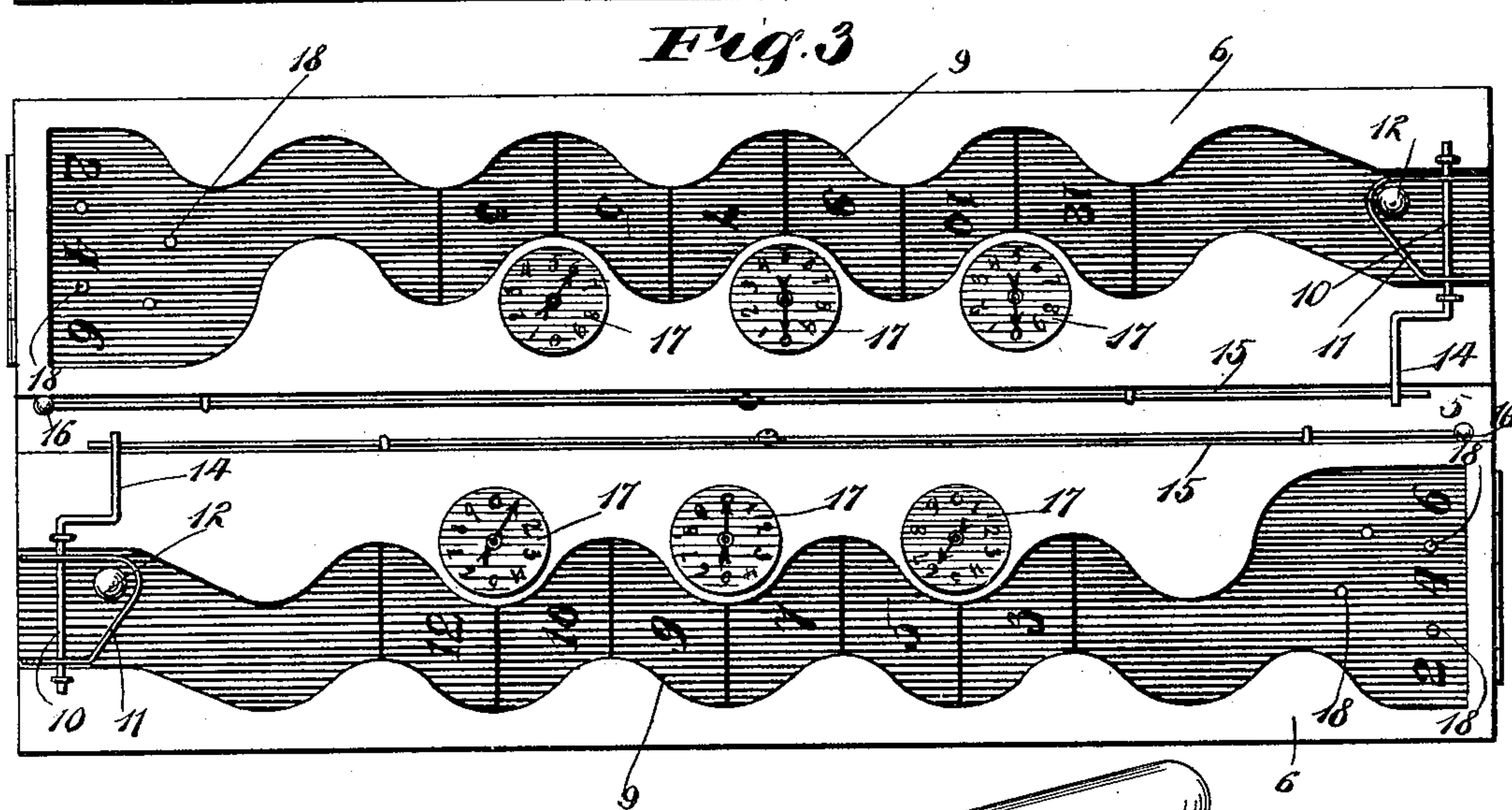


Fig. 3

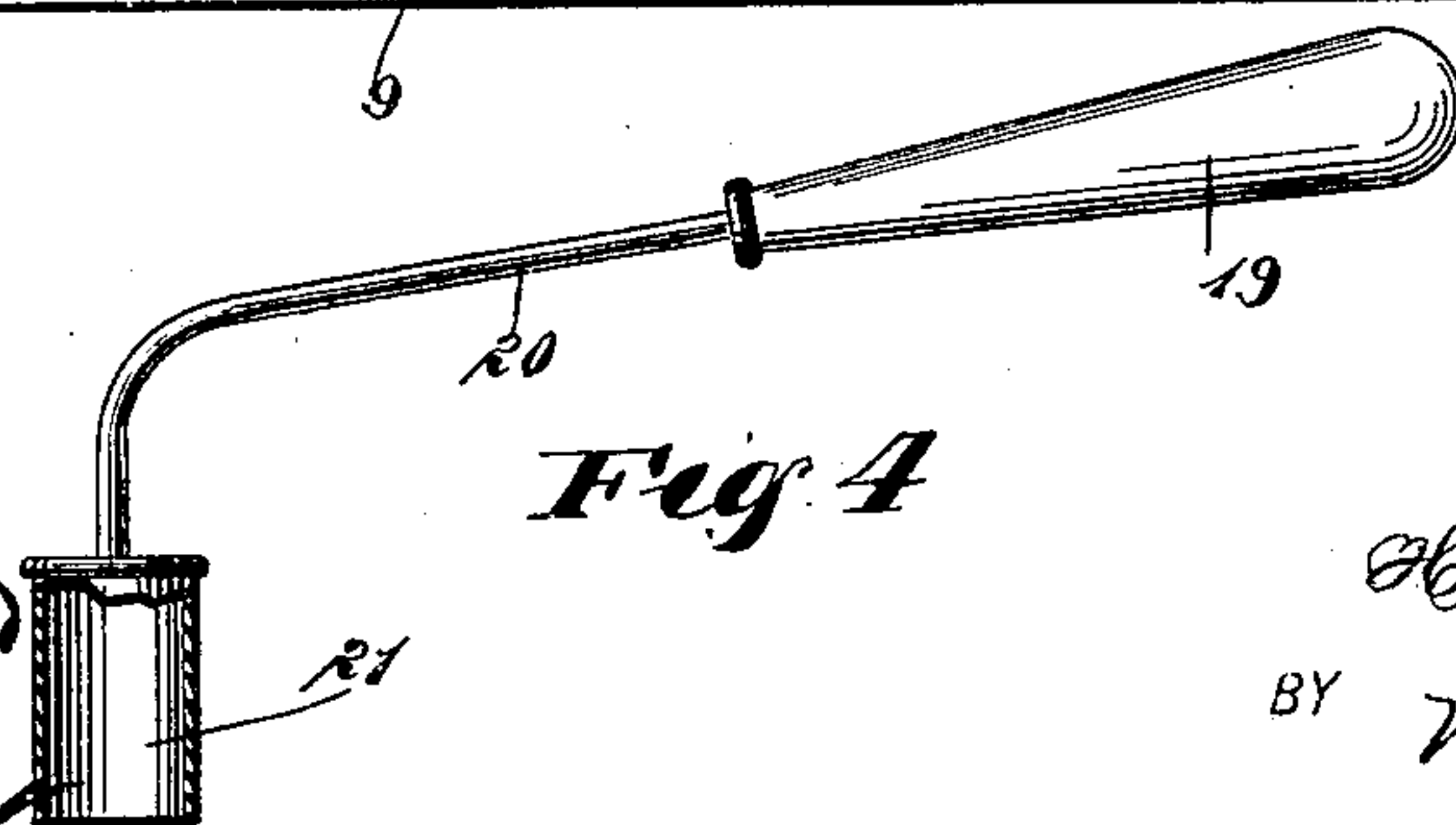


Fig. 4

WITNESSES:

John A. Thompson
Isaac W. Wray

INVENTOR

H. T. Pycroft

BY

Mumford

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY THOMAS PYCROFT, OF PARNELL, NEW ZEALAND.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 611,868, dated October 4, 1898.

Application filed June 10, 1898. Serial No. 683,090. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY THOMAS PYCROFT, of Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand, have invented a new and Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention is a game apparatus of that class in which an inclined board or way is provided and spherical objects arranged thereon to roll along its length and score certain points for the players.

This specification is the disclosure of one form of my invention, while the claims define the actual scope thereof.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the invention in operative adjustment. Fig. 2 is an edge elevation with the parts in folded position. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the invention with the parts in folded position, and Fig. 4 is a partial section of one of the cups which are manipulated by the players.

The game apparatus has a base 5, on which are arranged side by side the boards 6. These boards are two in number and are hinged to the end edges of the base 5, respectively at opposite ends, so that when the boards are raised, as shown in Fig. 1, they will be inclined oppositely, respectively, toward the players, who shall be seated one at each end of the base 5. Mounted to swing on the base 5 are two braces 7, which are located, respectively, beneath the boards 6 and are adapted to engage notches in the bottoms of the boards, so as to hold the boards elevated at any desired inclination, as shown in Fig. 1. The base 5 is provided with two indentations 8 in its upper surface, only one of which indentations is shown in the drawings. (See Fig. 1.) These recesses 8 are designed to receive the braces 7 when the same are lowered, which arrangement places the braces when lowered flush with the top of the base 5 and permits the boards 6 to lie snugly on the base, as shown in Fig. 2.

Each board has a zigzag or serpentine groove 9 formed in its upper face. At the free end of each board and arranged to cross the corresponding groove is a rock-shaft 10.

Each rock-shaft 10 carries a cage 11, which cages swing with the rock-shafts and are movable up and down in and out of the grooves, so that the balls 12 may be held in the grooves at the free ends of the boards 6 or permitted to roll downward through the grooves. Each shaft 10 has a crank 14. These cranks 14 project inward and are engaged, respectively, by levers 15, which are fulcrumed, respectively, at the inner edges of the boards 6, approximately midway the length thereof, and which have at the ends adjacent to the hinges of the boards upwardly-projected thumb-pieces 16. By pressing down the thumb-pieces 16 the opposite ends of the levers 15 are thrown up. This throws up the cranks 14 and rocks the shafts 10 to lift the cages 11 and release the balls 12, permitting the balls to roll down the grooves in which they are respectively arranged. Each board is provided with three dials and indicators 17, the dials bearing numbers from "0" up to "9" and the indicators being arranged to turn around the respective dials. On each board the dials and indicators are arranged to record, respectively, units, tens, and hundreds, so that the score of the game may thus be kept. Each groove 9 has the end which is adjacent to the hinge of its board 6 widened, as shown in Fig. 3, and provided with baffle-pins 18, which serve not only to baffle the balls, but also to form three compartments at the base of each groove. These compartments are provided with suitable numbers, as shown in Fig. 3, by which to indicate the score for the player whose ball shall enter any one of the compartments.

Each groove 9 is provided between its ends with a series of transversely-extending division-lines dividing the groove into spaces, and each of these spaces is provided with a number, as may be seen in Fig. 3, which numbers score points for the players who shall arrest the balls in any of said spaces.

Each player is provided with an instrument for arresting the balls at points intermediate the ends of the grooves. These instruments, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, have each a handle 19, holding a curved shank 20, to the end of which is fixed a cylindrical cup 21.

In using the apparatus the boards are inclined, as shown in Fig. 1, and the players sta-

tioned opposite each other at each end of the base 5. Each player carries in one hand the instrument for arresting the balls and with the other hand manipulates the lever 15 of the board 6 on which his opponent plays. The balls 12 are first placed in the cages 11, and at the word "go" the players simultaneously depress the levers 15, so as to lift the cages and release the balls. Then with the arresting instrument, the players endeavor to stop the balls at some point along the grooves 9 intermediate their ends, and when a ball is stopped in one of the spaces marked on the grooves the player so stopping the ball scores as many points as there are units in the numbers marked in the grooves intermediate their ends. Should a player be unsuccessful in arresting the ball before the ball reaches the lower or widened end of the groove, the ball will pass into one of the compartments formed by the baffle-pins 18, and his opponent then scores points according to the number on the compartment in which the ball rolls. The scores are cast up on the indicators and dials 17, as is usual in such game apparatus. It is an important feature of the invention that the cage 11 of one player is released by the action of his opponent, so that the starting of the balls 12 is abrupt, and the task of arresting the ball is therefore more difficult.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base, boards hinged on the base at opposite ends thereof, so that the boards may be raised

to oppositely-inclined positions, the base having recesses in its upper surface, and braces mounted to swing on the base and capable of holding the boards lifted, and also capable of dropping into the recesses in the base to lie flush with the upper face thereof.

2. In a game apparatus, the combination with a base, of two boards mounted thereon and adapted to be inclined oppositely, a cage at the upper end of each board, the cages being capable of holding and releasing objects movable along the boards, and a means for operating each cage, such means being carried respectively by the boards and extending down to proximity with the lower ends of the respective boards.

3. In a game apparatus, the combination of a base, two boards mounted thereon and capable of being inclined oppositely, a cage at the upper end of each board to hold and release an object movable along the board, and a lever fulcrumed to each board and extending along the length thereof, the levers being respectively capable of operating the cages.

4. A game-board having a base, two boards mounted on the base in parallelism with each other, the boards being hinged to the base at opposite ends, and means for supporting the boards in inclined positions on the base so that the boards are inclined oppositely to each other and cross each other at points intermediate the lengths of the boards.

HENRY THOMAS PYCROFT.

Witnesses:

E. A. MACKECHNIE,
O. NICHOLSON.