

No. 652,056.

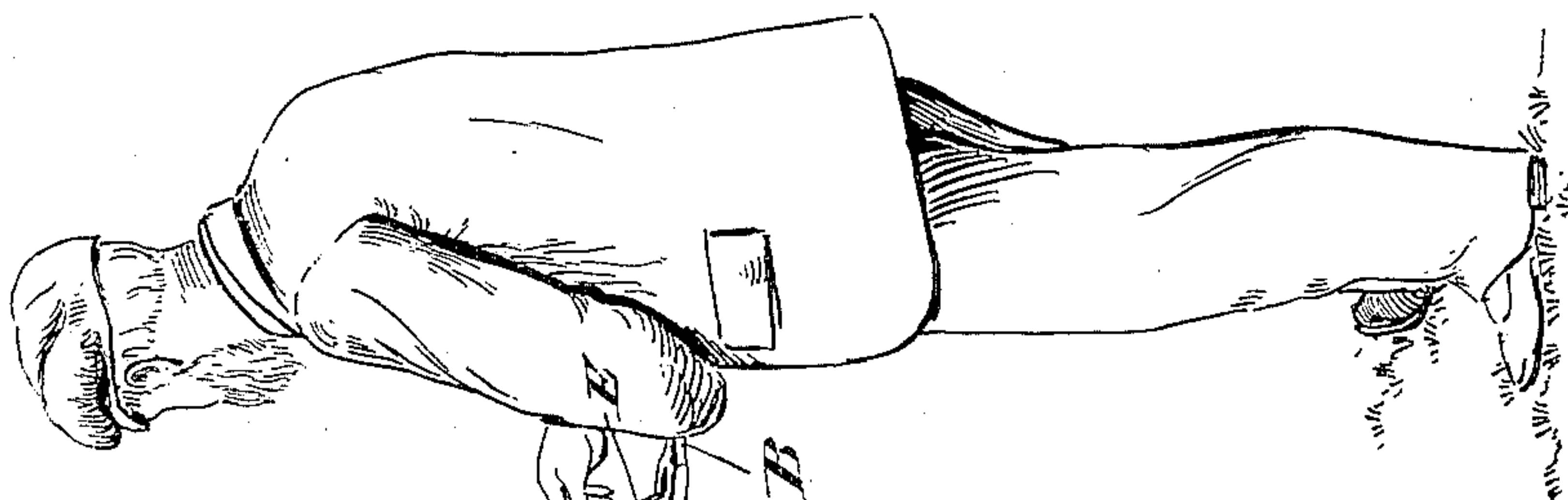
**Patented June 19, 1900.**

H. J. TAIT.  
PARLOR GAME.

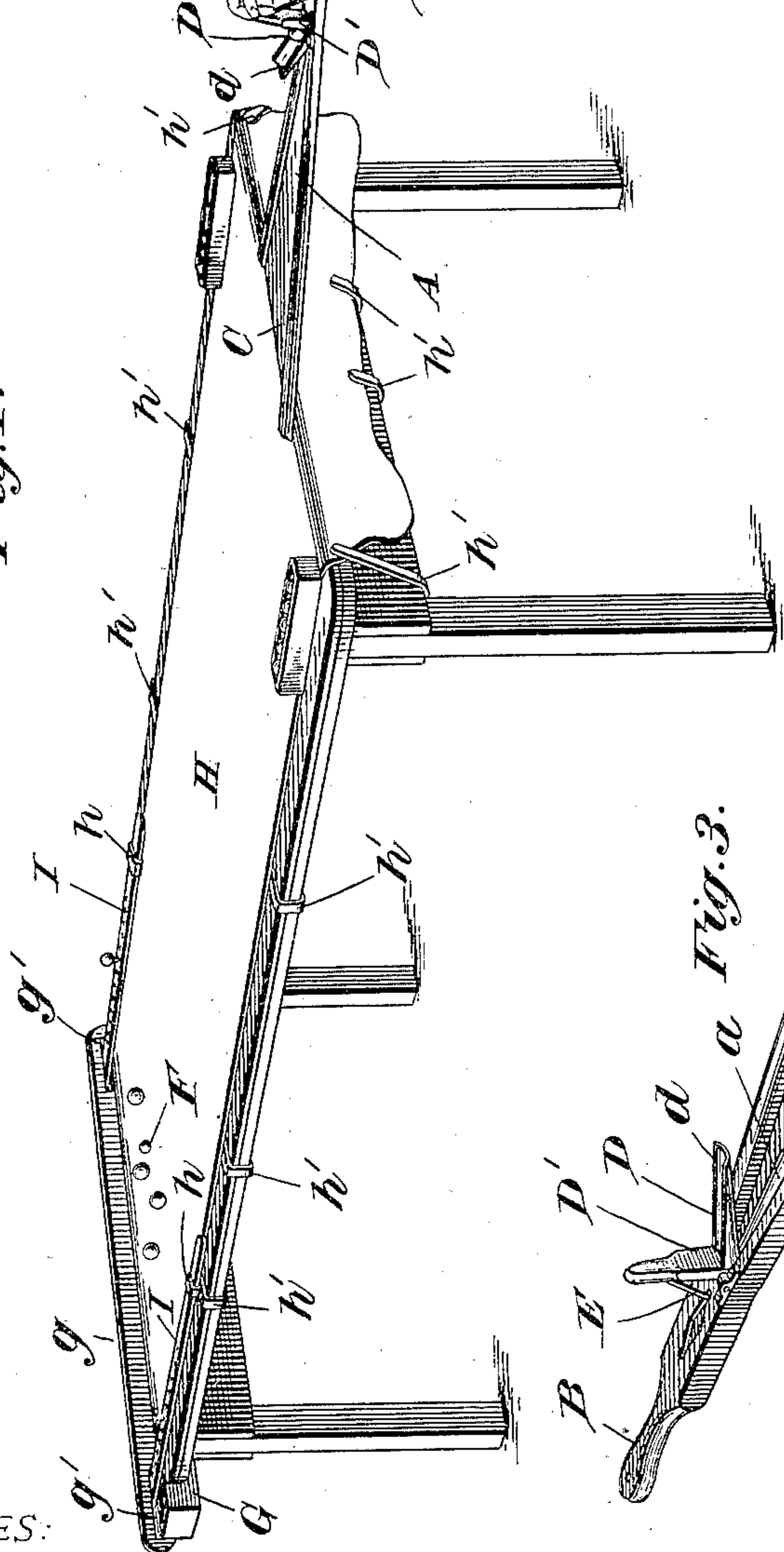
(Application filed Mar. 17, 1900.)

(No Model.)

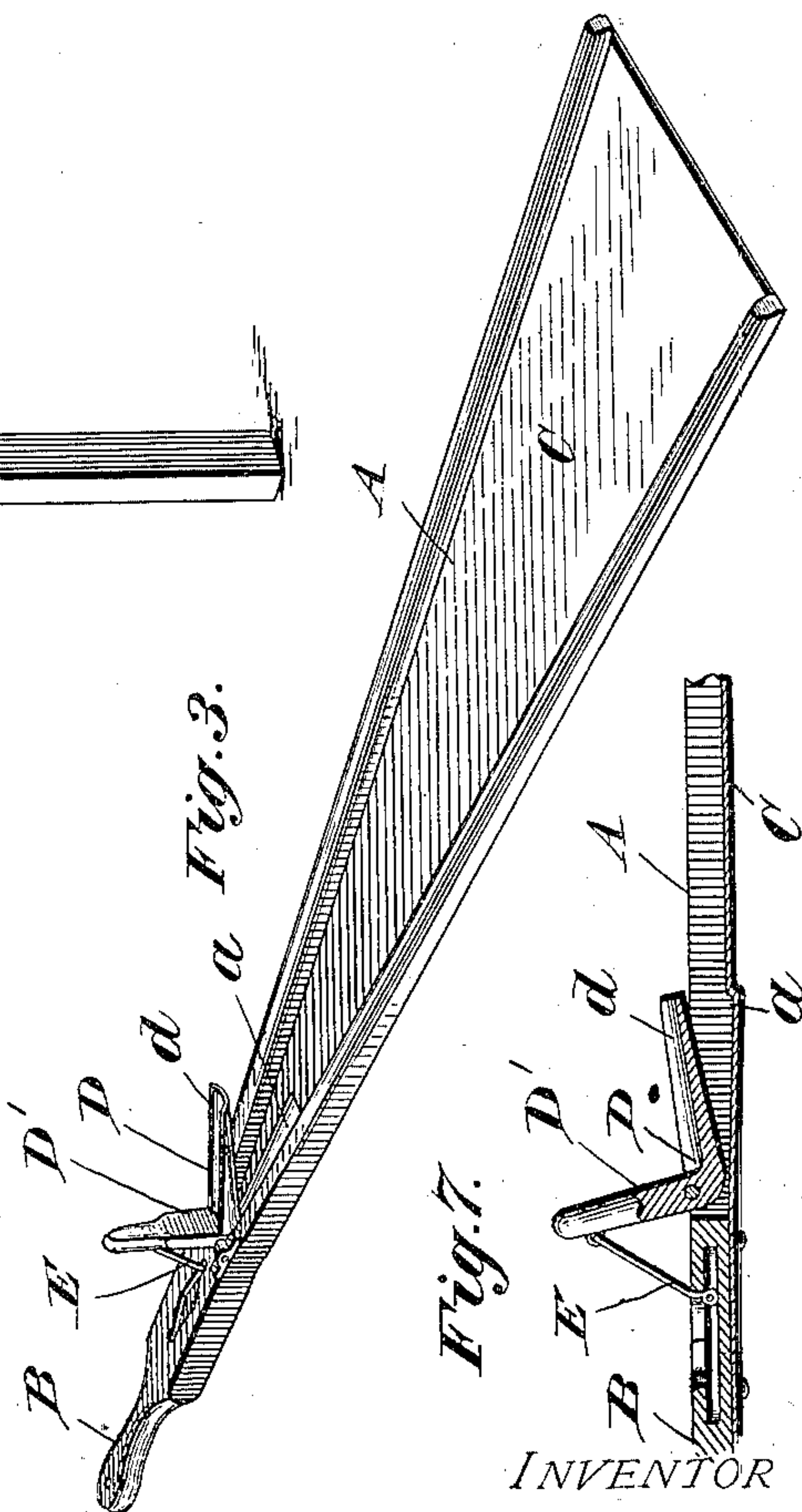
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*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 3.*



**Fig. 7.**

INVENTOR

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WITNESSES:

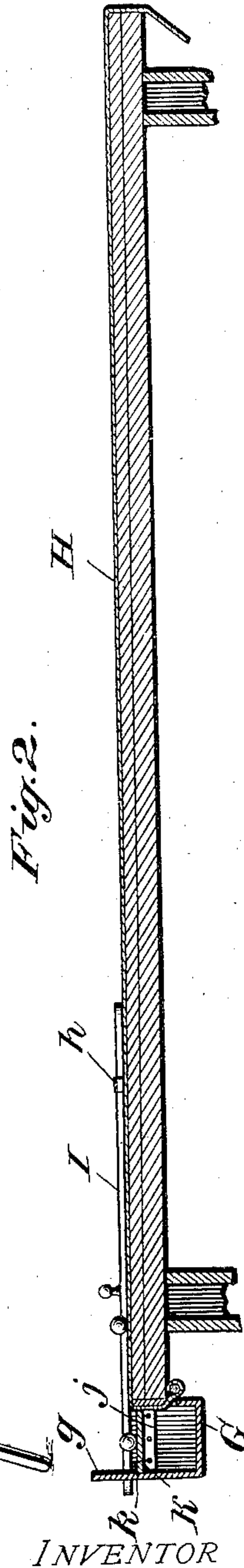
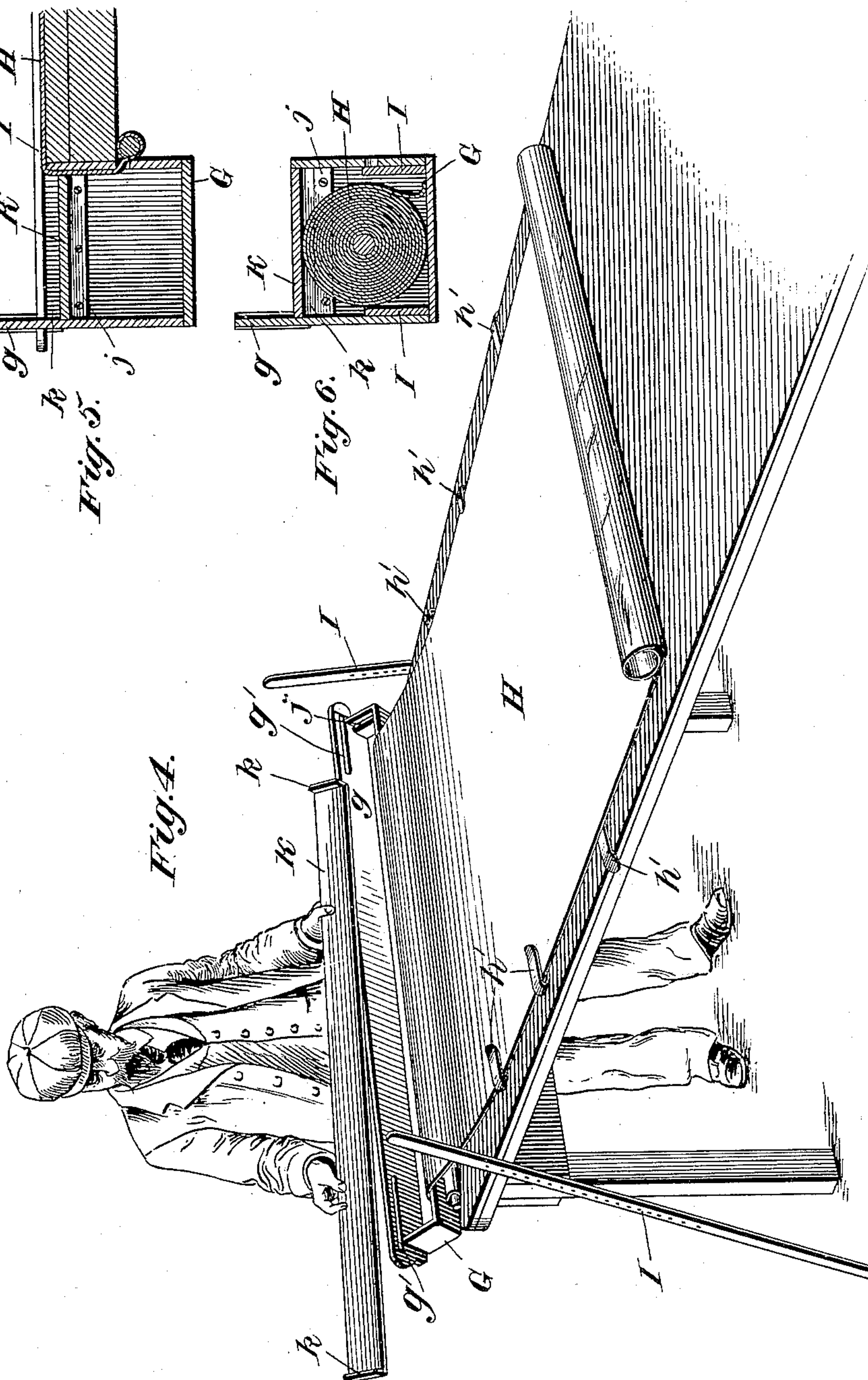
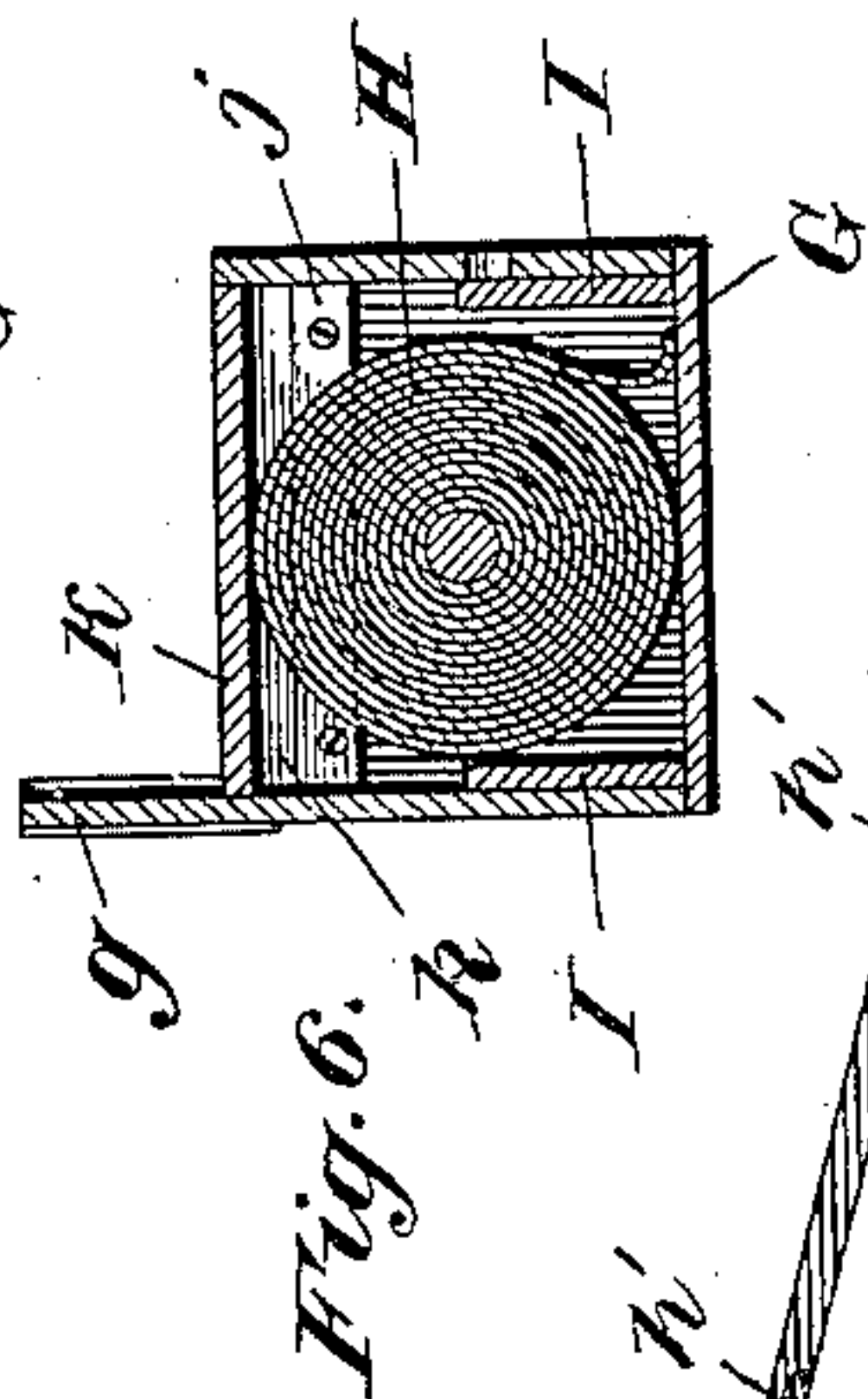
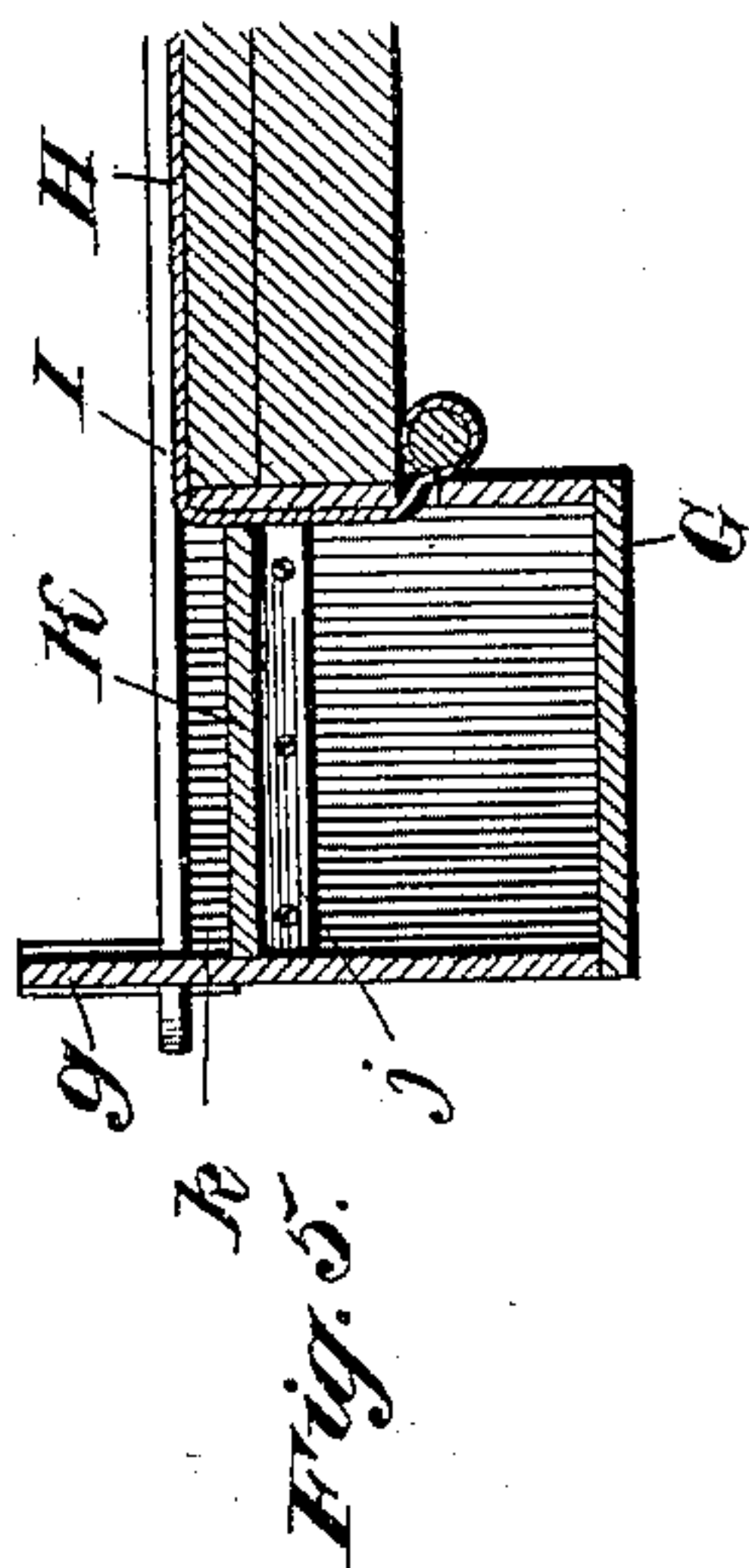
L. C. Mills.  
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PARLOR GAME.

(Application filed Mar. 17, 1900.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

(No Model.)



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY JAMES TAIT, OF MUSSELBURGH, SCOTLAND.

## PARLOR GAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 652,056, dated June 19, 1900.

Application filed March 17, 1900. Serial No. 9,105. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY JAMES TAIT, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Musselburgh, county of Mid-Lothian, Scotland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Parlor Games; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

This invention is an improvement in parlor games; and it consists in an apparatus for playing a close imitation of the game commonly known as "bowls."

In practice a parlor, dining-room, or similar table can be used, taking the place of the outdoor bowling-green. The "tee" or "jack," as it is called, is placed at one end of the table, and the player is provided with a light bowl-starting board, one end of which rests on the table, while the other end is held in the hand, and at this end of the board is a receptacle for the "bowl." When the bowl is placed in position, the player elevates the starting-board, (at the grip end only,) so as to direct the bowl by gravity onto the table in the direction desired. The starting-board is provided with a bowl-retainer, by which the bowl is held until the player is ready to release it, whereupon the bowl travels down the board and along the table at a speed and a distance corresponding with the extent to which the starting-board has been elevated.

The bowls, which may be made of wood or other suitable material, have a bias side the same as the ordinary outdoor bowl, which side is marked to enable the player to readily see it. The bowls are marked in some distinctive manner, as by different colors, to enable the players to readily distinguish their opponents' bowls from their own.

When the player wishes to play along the right-hand side of the table toward the jack or tee, he places the bowl in receptacle, with bias side to his left, and points the starting-board toward right-hand side of table. The bowl during its course gradually leaves the side of table toward which it has been directed and finds its way toward the jack, which is placed approximately equidistant from each side of table and at a convenient distance from the end of table. When a player wants

to play along the left-hand side of table, the bowl and starting-board are arranged vice versa.

The starting-board, besides being necessary for propelling the bowl, adds, as it were, to the length of the table, giving a longer "range" from the jack than the table would provide of itself.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the complete apparatus, showing the mode of using the starting-board. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the table. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the starting-board. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view showing the manner of attaching the parts to a table. Fig. 5 is a sectional view through the box or ditch as applied to a table. Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the apparatus closed. Fig. 7 is a detail sectional view of part of the starting-board.

Referring to the drawings, the starting-board A is shaped like an isosceles triangle, tapering about an inch for every four or five inches of length of board. A convenient length for the starting-board is four feet. It has a hand-grip B at its smaller end, and the upper part of the starting-board—to wit, the hand-grip—the part under the bowl-detainer, and the two sides running toward the table may be of wood or other suitable material, and the lower part C of the board may be of thin sheet-zinc or other suitable material. The thinness of the zinc allows the bowl to leave the starting-board and enter onto the table without any perceptible bump, which would take place if the board should be thick.

The bowl-detainer D, attached to the starting-board, is from five to six inches long, and in its upper side is a rounded groove *d* of a width suited to the size of bowl. The end D' of the detainer next to the hand is curved upwardly to prevent the bowl from running back toward the hand and is suitably shaped to enable the fingers or thumb to push it gently forward when the bowl is to be delivered. The detainer is pivoted to the starting-board at the base of part D', and a suit-



able spring E is employed to hold the re-  
tainer in position. When in its normal back-  
ward position, the end D' of the detainer points  
at a slight angle toward the player, while the  
5 grooved part points at a slight angle upward  
away from the player. The bowl is then laid  
in the shallow groove of the detainer and re-  
mains in place until the detainer is tripped,  
whereupon the bowl runs along the groove  
10 onto the starting-board. In order to prevent  
the bowl from getting a drop in passing from  
the detainer onto the starting-board, recess a  
is made in the starting-board to allow the dis-  
charge end of the detainer to get down to the  
15 plane of the starting-board.

For the jack F a boy's "marble" may be  
used of about the same size and weight in re-  
lation to the small bowls as the bowling-green  
jack is to the bowls in the outdoor game.

20 At the jack end of table is a narrow box or  
trough, which may be either fixed to the table  
or supported by legs resting on the floor.

A detachable apparatus for an ordinary  
table may be made in the following manner:

25 A box G is provided with a roll of cloth H of  
about the same width as the length of the  
box, one end of this cloth being fastened to  
the inside of the box. The box G is held  
against the end of the table, while the cloth

30 H is unrolled along and over the table-top  
toward the other end of the table, where it is  
drawn tight and fastened to the table by any  
suitable means. The outer side or back of  
box is higher or broader than the inner side,

35 and when the box is held up to the position in  
which it is to be finally fixed it will be higher  
than the top of table. In the (high) back g  
of the box are cut two holes or slots g', one  
at or near each end of box, through which

40 pass flat pieces or strips I, which may be from  
two to three feet long and run parallel with  
and near the sides of table, lying on top there-  
of and along the margin of each side of cloth.  
Each strip I passes through a loop h, of tape

45 or other suitable material, attached to the  
cloth H. The box is thus properly supported,  
as shown. The side edges of cloth H may be  
fastened down to the table, so as to stretch  
the cloth tautly thereon in any suitable man-

50 ner, as by means of tapes h', carried under-  
neath the table and fastened together. The  
back of box being higher than the top of  
table prevents the bowls from rolling beyond  
the box and onto the floor, and the strips I

55 along the margin of cloth prevent a badly-  
played bowl from rolling off at the sides at  
the jack end of table. The strips I may be  
provided with holes and pegs for scoring the  
game, similar to a cribbage-board. The box

60 G takes the place of what is called the "ditch"  
in the outdoor game of bowls, and the cloth  
H, besides being the means of fastening or  
assisting in fastening the ditch, takes the  
place of the "turf" or "green." A bowl

65 played with too much strength falls into the  
ditch and is considered "off the green," as in  
the outdoor game. Narrow strips i j of suit-

able material are fixed on each end of the box  
or ditch inside and about an inch below the  
top. These form a support for a false bot- 70  
tom K, which fits into the box. The false  
bottom being about half an inch thick gives  
a ditch about half an inch deep. The space  
between the real and false bottoms of box G  
can be utilized for storing away the cloth, with 75  
other appliances, inside the box. On the up-  
per side of this false bottom, at each end, is  
fixed a narrow strip K, about half an inch  
thick. When the false bottom is taken out,  
(after the game is over,) it is inverted and 80  
then used as a lid for the box. The pieces k  
being then on the under side and contacting  
the strips j inside the box (at each end) allow  
the lid to enter the box only until its top side  
is flush with inner side and ends of box. The 85  
lid may be secured while being moved with  
the box and its contents by any suitable fas-  
tenings.

When the game is finished, the two strips  
I, acting as supports for the back of box, are 90  
withdrawn and the cloth unfastened from the  
table, and the box is then placed on the table,  
its false bottom taken out, and the cloth is  
rolled up and placed in the box with other  
parts of the game apparatus. 95

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

1. In a parlor bowl-game apparatus, the  
combination of a table and a box or recep- 100  
tacle forming a "ditch" below the level of  
the surface of the table at one end thereof;  
with a starting-board adapted to be held  
partly by the table and partly by the hand  
and to direct the bowls onto the table, for 105  
the purpose and substantially as described.

2. The combination of a table, a box ar-  
ranged transversely thereof at one end and  
forming a "ditch" below the level of the sur- 110  
face of the table, and a tapered or wedge-  
shaped starting-board adapted to be grasped  
by the hand at the smaller end, for the pur-  
pose and substantially as described.

3. The combination of a table provided  
with a box or "ditch" at one end; with a start- 115  
ing-board adapted to be grasped by the hand  
at one end while its other end rests upon the  
table and provided with a bowl-detaining de-  
vice near the hand end, for the purpose and  
substantially as described. 120

4. The combination of a table, a box se-  
cured to one end and below the level of the  
table, and a cover detachably secured to the  
table; with a starting-board for the bowls  
constructed substantially as and for the pur- 125  
pose described.

5. The herein-described starting-board for  
parlor game apparatus consisting of a tapered  
or wedge-shaped board provided with side  
flanges and having a wide lower end adapted 130  
to rest upon the table and a handhold at the  
smaller end, for the purpose and substan-  
tially as described.

6. The combination of a tapered or wedge-



shaped starting-board provided with side flanges and having a wide lower end adapted to rest upon the table and a handhold at the smaller end; with a bowl-detainer thereon  
5 near the handhold, for the purpose and substantially as described.

7. The combination of a table, the box detachably secured to one end thereof and below its surface, and the flexible cover or field  
10 attached to said box and adapted to be detachably secured to the table.

8. The combination of the table, a detachable box or "ditch" provided with a false bottom, and detachable strips for supporting said  
15 box on said table and below the surface thereof.

9. The combination of the table and the box or "ditch" attached to one end of the table below the surface thereof and provided with  
20 a false bottom; with a flexible cover or "field" having one end attached to said box and adapted to be spread over and detachably secured to said table.

10. The combination of the table, the detachable box or "ditch" attached to one end of

the table below the surface thereof and provided with a false bottom, and the detachable strips for supporting said box on said table; with a flexible cover or "field" having  
30 one end attached to said box and adapted to be spread over and detachably secured to said table.

11. The combination of the table, the detachable box, the "ditch" provided with a false bottom and the detachable strips for supporting  
35 said box on said table; with a flexible cover or field having one end attached to said box and adapted to be spread over and detachably secured to said table, and the tapered or wedge-shaped starting-board having a  
40 handhold and a bowl-detaining device at its smaller end, for the purpose and substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of  
45 two witnesses.

HENRY JAMES TAIT.

Witnesses:

JOHN McLAREN,  
GEO. S. MCCRINDLE.