

No. 654,692.

Patented July 31, 1900.

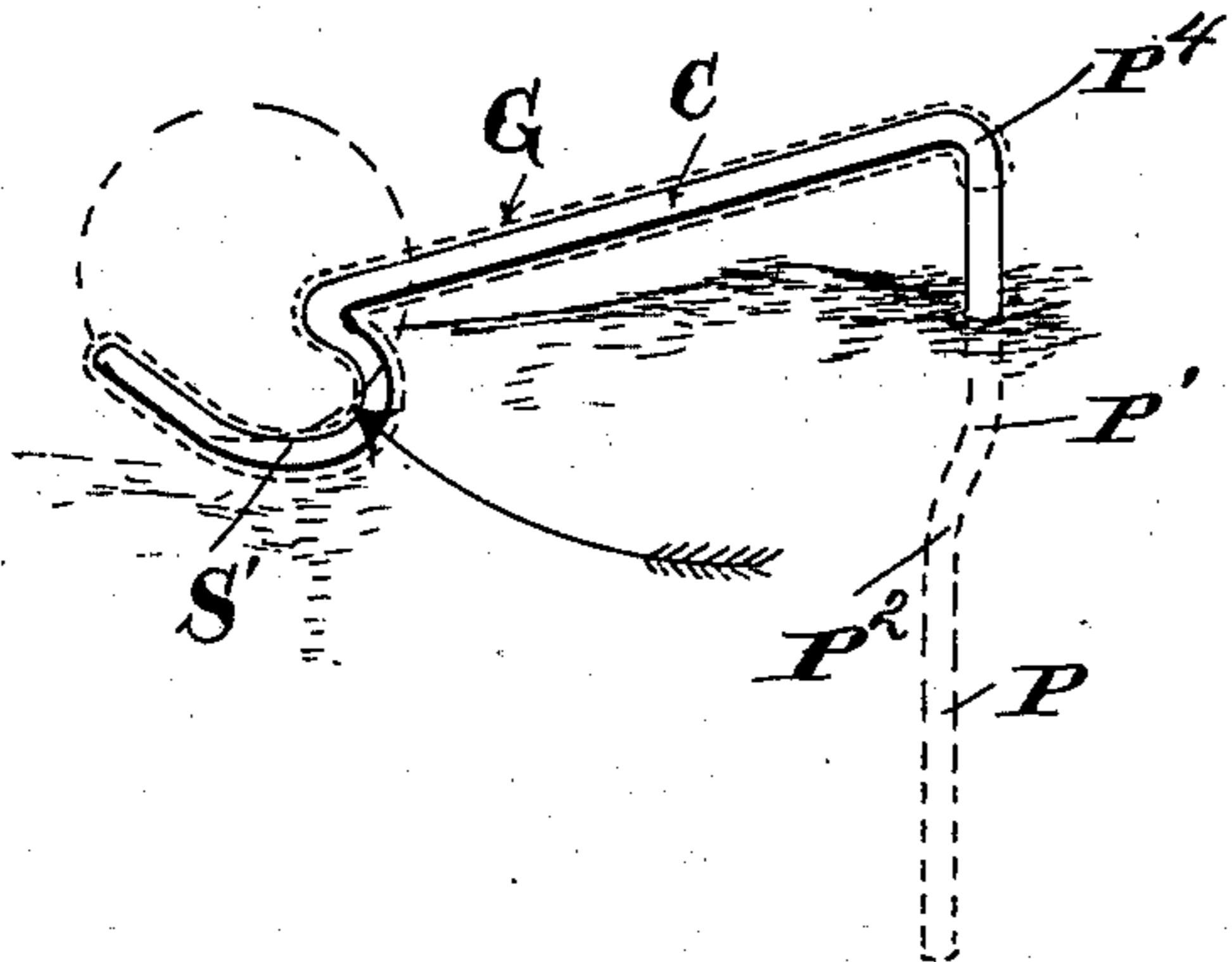
W. H. TYLER & G. E. SMITH.

GOLF TEE.

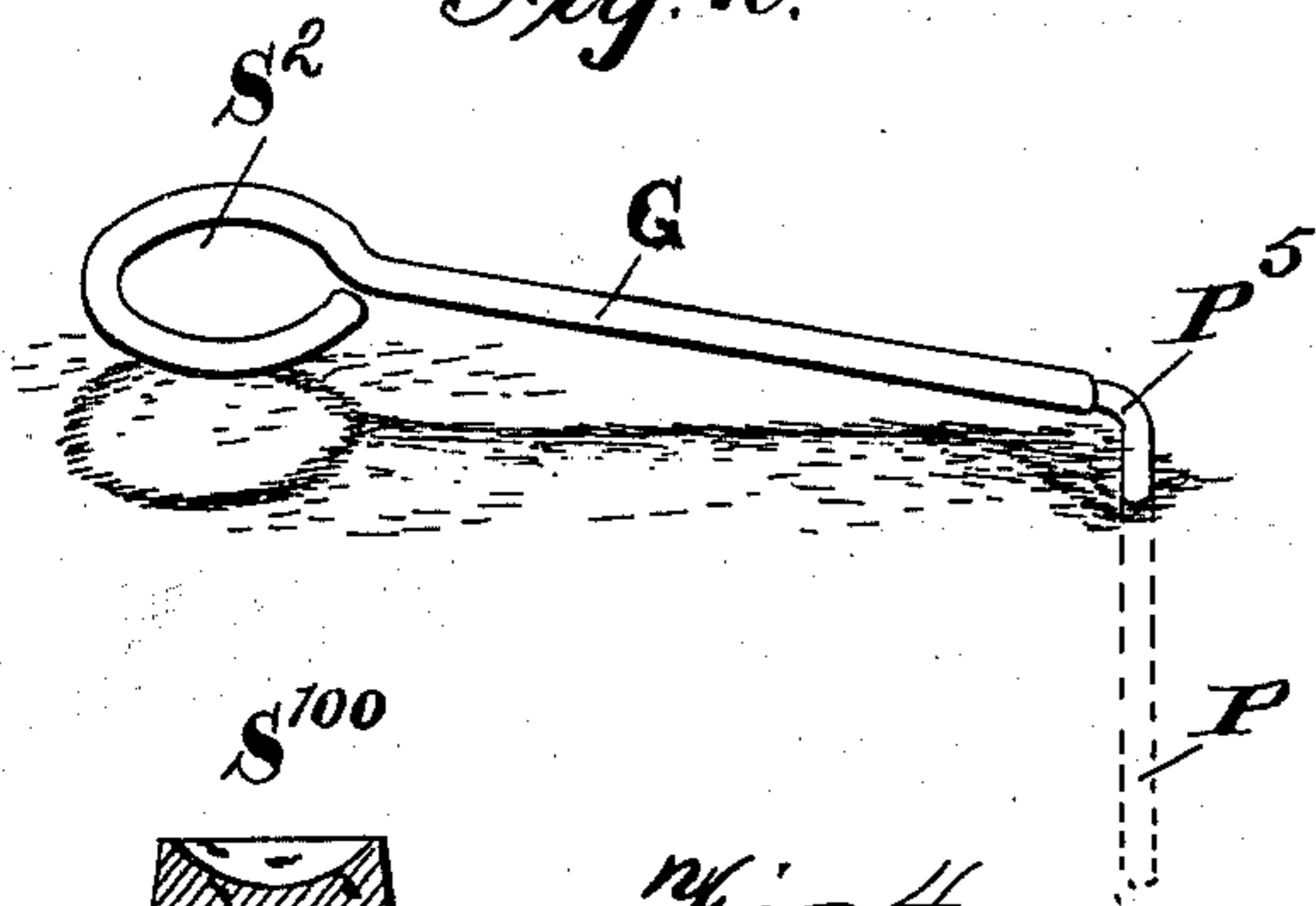
(Application filed Apr. 4, 1900.)

(No Model.)

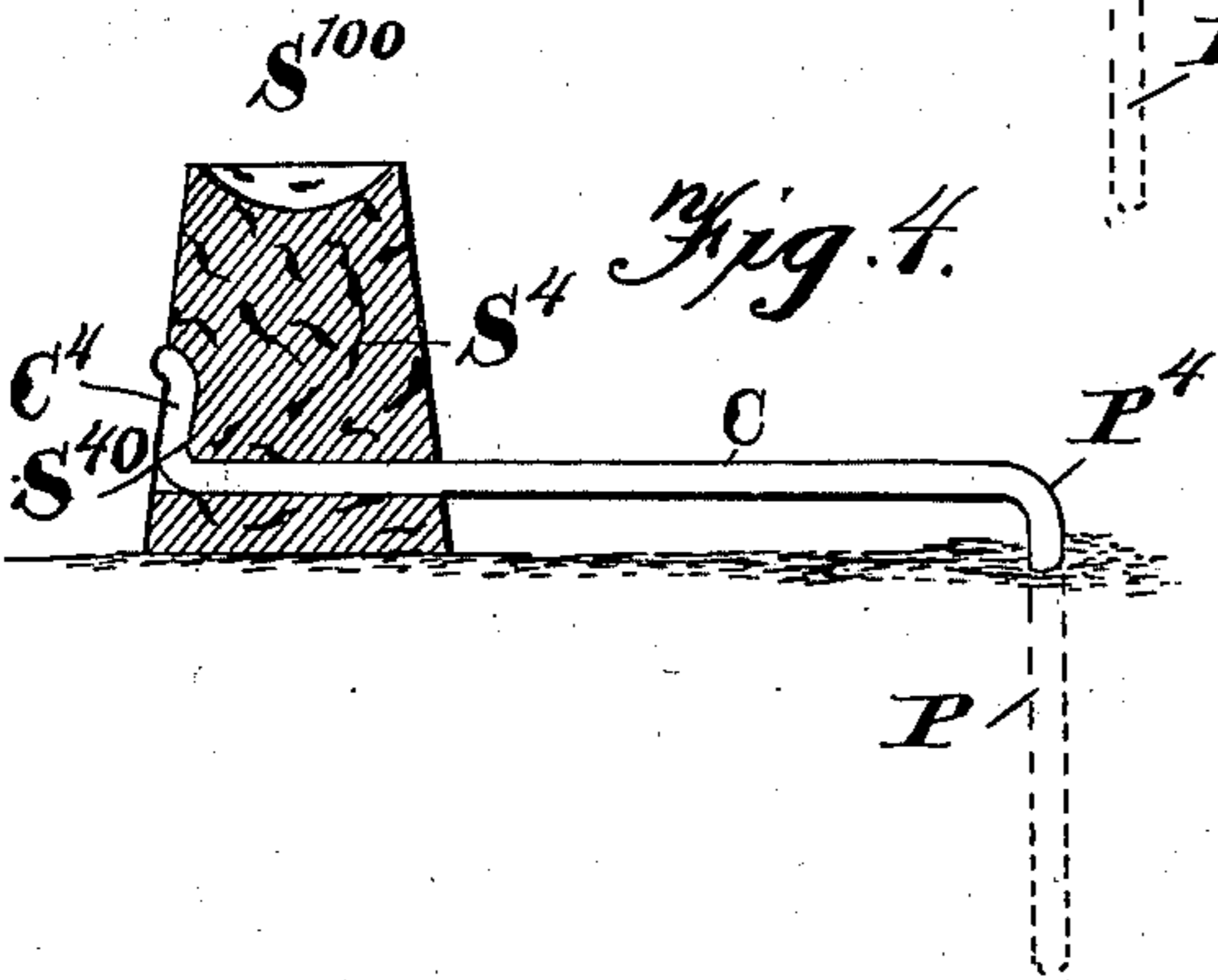
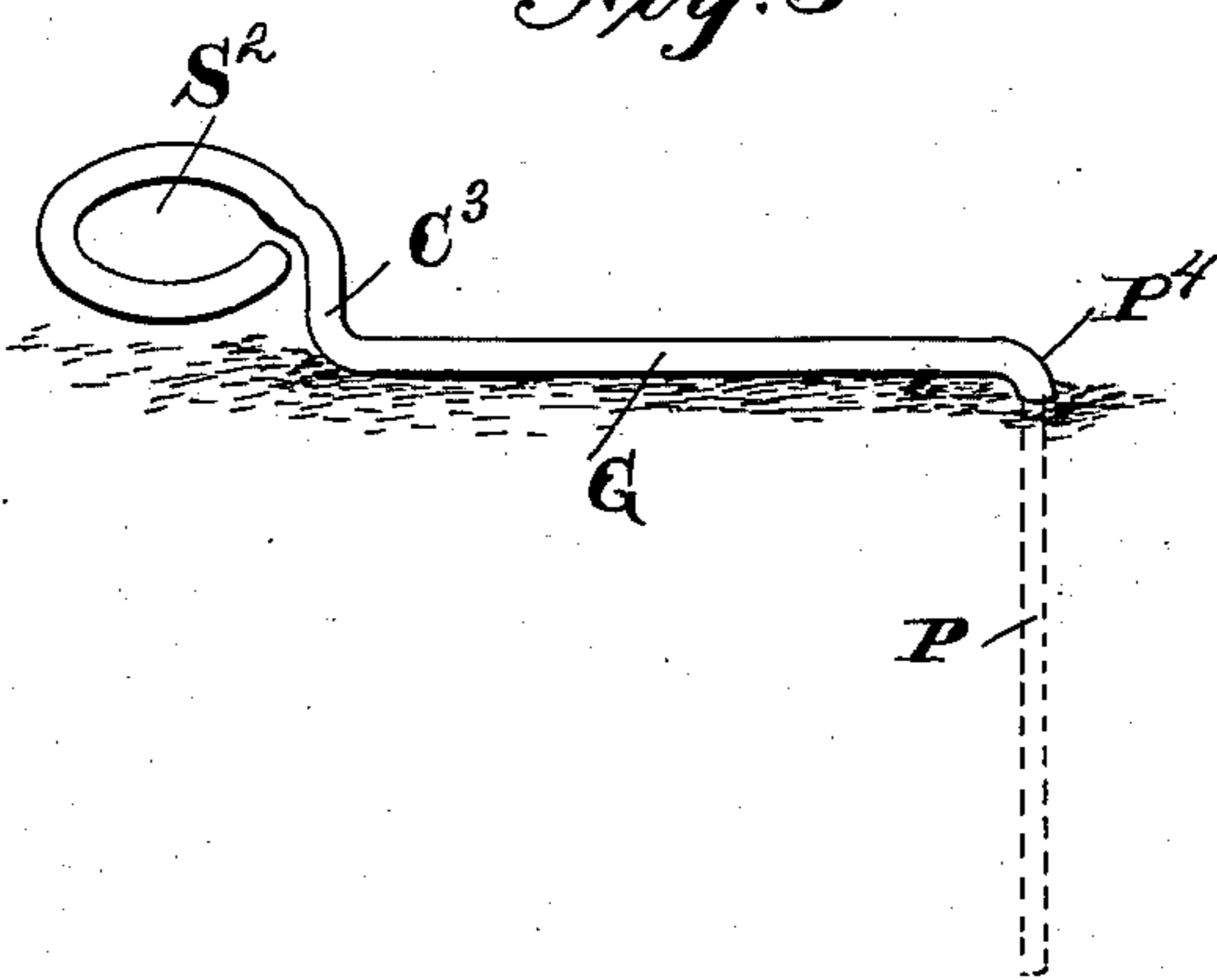
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## GOLF-TEE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,692, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed April 4, 1900. Serial No. 11,482. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM H. TYLER and GEORGE E. SMITH, citizens of the United States, residing at Shelburne, in the county of Chittenden and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Golf-Tees; 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 games and toys, and more especially to implements used in playing golf; and the object of the same is to produce a mechanical tee. It is well known to players of this game that on some kinds of soil or on sod it is often difficult or impossible to make the tee of a pat of sand or earth, and it is not always convenient to make a serviceable tee of stones or pebbles. Portable tees have heretofore been made of various materials and were carried by the player for use under such circumstances. Again, the use of a tee of hard material invariably injures the club if the player strikes a little too low, and under these circumstances the tee is destroyed, or if it is a portable device it is knocked away and often lost. The present invention contemplates the provision of a portable mechanical tee whereof several forms are shown herein. These are variously designed to permit free exit of the ball, to prevent injury to the club, and for use in various kinds of soil or under varying conditions. The following specification describes several forms, all possessing the same general characteristics, as shown in the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form, showing the guard and ball in dotted lines and an arrow indicating the direction of the stroke. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a somewhat simpler form, showing the body and support covered with a guard, as of rubber. Fig. 3 is a similar view with the pin at right angles to the body or connection and the latter having an elbow adjacent the support. Fig. 4 is a side elevation very much similar to Fig. 2, excepting that the support is a separate piece, (preferably cork or rubber,) and here shown in section.

Broadly speaking, in all of the drawings S is the support, P the pin, and C the connec-

tion; sometimes covered with a guard G, while T is a tubular sheath attached to the player's garment. Supernumerals distinguish the various forms of these individual parts. In all the views the connection is an integral part or extension of the pin, and in all the views excepting the fourth the support is an integral part of the connection.

The preferred form is shown in Fig. 1, wherein the pin P is deflected twice, as at P<sup>1</sup>, P<sup>2</sup>, out of a straight line, so that when it enters the earth it will not so readily turn therein, which turning might occur just as the stroke was about to be made and would naturally carry the ball out of position to permit an accurate play. The upper end of this pin is turned at substantially a right angle, as at P<sup>4</sup>, and is continued in a horizontal body or connection C for some little distance, as shown. It is then continued farther into the support S', which in this view is an incomplete ring or practically a semicircular bend of the wire, with the open side adapted to be placed in the direction in which the ball is to be played, whereby no resistance is afforded to the free exit of the ball from the tee. The whole is in one piece of comparatively-stiff wire, which may be galvanized to prevent rusting, and it is clear that it can be wholly or partially covered with the guard G, as seen in dotted lines in Fig. 1 and as described below.

In Fig. 2 the angle P<sup>5</sup> between the pin and body or connection is slightly obtuse, so that when the pin is vertical in the ground the connection rises a little therefrom toward the support. The latter in this view is shown as a complete ring S<sup>2</sup>, and the body and eye are covered by the guard G, which may be of rubber tubing or a spirally-wound flexible sheet, such as ordinarily employed in insulating wire.

Fig. 3 is very much the same, excepting that a right angle is again here shown and that between the body or connection and the support there is an elbow C<sup>3</sup>, consisting of an upturned portion of the body, which raises the support slightly above the ground, and therefore takes the place of the upward incline of the body shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 3 again shows the guard, and it may be here remarked that this guard could be used with any of the wire forms.

In Fig. 4 the pin and connection stand prac-

typically at right angles, and the outer end of the latter is turned up, as at C<sup>4</sup>. The support S<sup>4</sup> is here a block, as of cork or rubber, mounted on the body and preferably having a notch S<sup>40</sup> in its outer end to receive the upturned end C<sup>4</sup> of the body, so as to prevent the support from accidentally turning to either side. The upper end of the support preferably has a slight cavity S<sup>100</sup>, forming a ring in which the ball rests lightly.

With any of the forms above described the player on reaching a point where a tee is desired removes the implement from the sheath and manually sinks the pin into the earth and then turns the body or connection so as to bring the support to the point where it is desired to hold the ball ready for the stroke. If the pin is straight, the device turns easily in the earth around the pin as an axis—perhaps too easily, and hence the advantage of the construction shown in Fig. 1. If the surface of the ground is level, most any form can be used; if rough, then the forms shown in Figs. 2 and 3 are of advantage, because either will raise the ball a little. The ball is then placed in the ring or cavity of Figs. 3 and 4, in the complete ring of Figs. 2 and 3, or in the incomplete ring of Fig. 1, the latter possessing the advantage that there is nothing to interfere with the free exit of the ball when it is struck. If the club hits the ball only, all well and good. If the club hits the support, it is obvious that the device will not be knocked away and lost. If the support is of cork, as in Fig. 4, or covered with a guard, as in Figs. 2 and 3, and as described as possible with Fig. 1, the club will not be injured even if the player should strike the tee.

What is claimed as new is—

1. A golf-tee consisting of a support for the ball, and a single piece of wire connected

therewith and comprising an upright pin and a substantially-horizontal connection between the pin and support.

2. A golf-tee consisting of a single piece of wire comprising an upright pin, a substantially-horizontal connection or body leading from the pin, and a support consisting of a horizontal ring at the other end of the body.

3. A golf-tee consisting of a single piece of wire comprising an upright pin, a substantially-horizontal connection or body leading from the pin, a support consisting of a horizontal ring at the other end of the body, and a guard covering the ring and a portion of the body.

4. A golf-tee consisting of a substantially-upright pin whose lower end is adapted to enter the earth and is deflected out of a straight line, a substantially-horizontal connection or body leading from the pin, and a substantially-horizontal ring at the other end of the body.

5. A golf-tee consisting of a substantially-upright pin deflected out of a straight line, a substantially-horizontal connection or body leading from the pin, and an incomplete ring at the other end of the body with its open side standing in the direction of the stroke.

6. A golf-tee consisting of a single piece of wire comprising a substantially-upright pin, a substantially-horizontal connection or body leading from the pin, and an incomplete ring at the other end of the body with its open side standing in the direction of the stroke.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

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GEORGE E. SMITH.

Witnesses:

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