

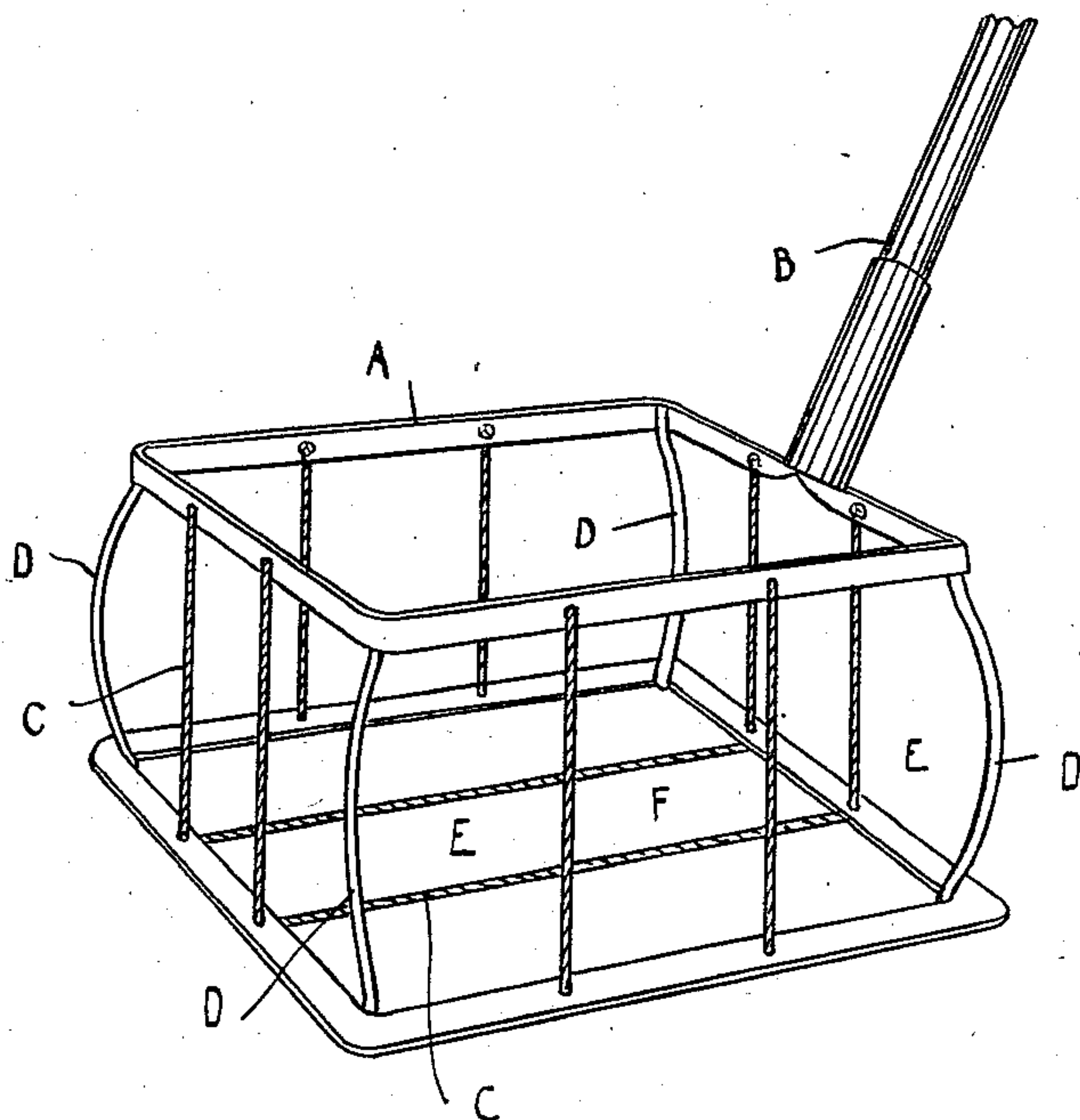
No. 698,226.

Patented Apr. 22, 1902.

E. E. ROBERTS.
PICKING UP APPLIANCE FOR BALLS.

(Application filed Jan. 14, 1902.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD EMRYS ROBERTS, OF CLAUGHTON, NEAR BIRKENHEAD,
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PICKING-UP APPLIANCE FOR BALLS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 698,226, dated April 22, 1902.

Application filed January 14, 1902. Serial No. 89,649. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD EMRYS ROBERTS, student of medicine, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing in Claughton, near Birkenhead, in the county of Chester, England, (whose full postal address is 7 Slatey road, Claughton,) have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Picking Up Balls, (for which application for patent has been made in England, provisional protection, No. 25,301, dated December 11, 1901,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object a simple form of caddie or picker-up for table-tennis by which the balls can be at once seized and a considerable number captured at once without the device having to be emptied.

The accompanying drawing is a perspective view of the device.

It consists, essentially, in forming a basket or bowl A, fixed to the end of a rod or handle B in a sloping position and having a bottom and also sides formed with elastic strips, threads, or tapes C or even spiral wires or springs. The basket or bowl A can be any shape required and be attached to the handle in any convenient manner. The handle itself can be made in two halves socketed together or telescopic, so that they can be packed in a small space; but it can be made, if preferred, as a single shaft. The corners D of the basket or bowl can be bent or concaved outward to conform to some extent to the shape of the balls. The spaces E between the corners D and their adjacent elastic threads and also the spaces F are a little less than the diameter of the balls, so that the threads C must stretch a little when the ball is being squeezed through; but as the threads at the sides of the spaces F are both elastic said spaces F are made a little less in width than spaces E.

The mode of action is as follows: A ball having fallen onto the ground, the operator presses the basket or bowl A down onto it, or if it happens to be against a wall presses the side of the bowl laterally against it. The ball slips through between the elastic strips, threads, tapes, or the like C into the bowl or

basket and lies inside it. Without lifting the bowl to empty it the operator can immediately press his caddie down on another ball, and so on until he has obtained all the balls and then quietly empty them out on the table at pleasure. A spring would probably do for the threads C, &c.—in fact, any material which has a slight amount of give when the balls are slipped through between.

It will be noted that the characteristic features of my invention are the frame or skeleton of the basket or receptacle open at sides and bottom and the laterally-yielding strained connectors C, of whatever material they be made, spaced and extending substantially parallel with each other across the openings of the frame, producing flat grid-like sides and bottom.

I declare that what I claim is—

1. A device for the purpose specified, comprising a skeleton receptacle having a flat bottom formed of spaced and substantially parallel connectors of flexible material, extending across from side to side and strained, substantially as set forth.

2. A device for the purpose specified, comprising a receptacle having a skeleton frame with open sides and bottom, and connectors of flexible material strained across said sides and bottom in straight lines, the contiguous connectors being parallel with each other, substantially as set forth.

3. In an appliance for picking up balls, the combination of a pair of open frames of any suitable shape, placed one above the other at a suitable distance apart, corner-pieces adapted to fasten said frames together at a suitable distance apart, and made so as to concave outward, and elastic or flexible strips or cords at sides and bottom of said frame forming a grid-like structure between which the balls can be slipped through, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name, this 4th day of January, 1902, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

E. EMRYS ROBERTS.

Witnesses:

G. C. DYMOND,
JOHN A. MIDDLETON.