

R. REACH.
BALL FOR USE IN ATHLETICS.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 29, 1908.

929,013.

Patented July 27, 1909.

Fig. 1.

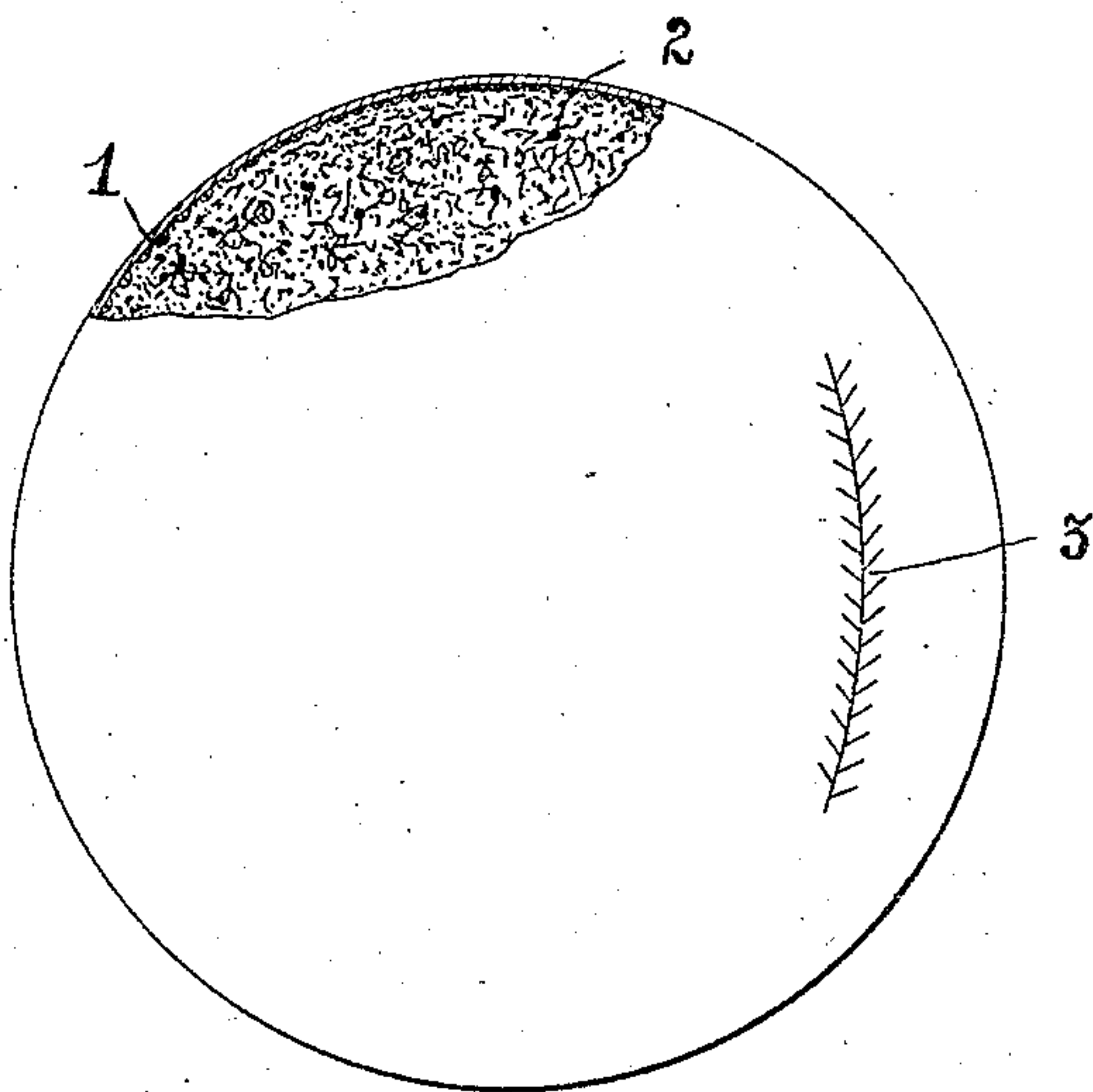
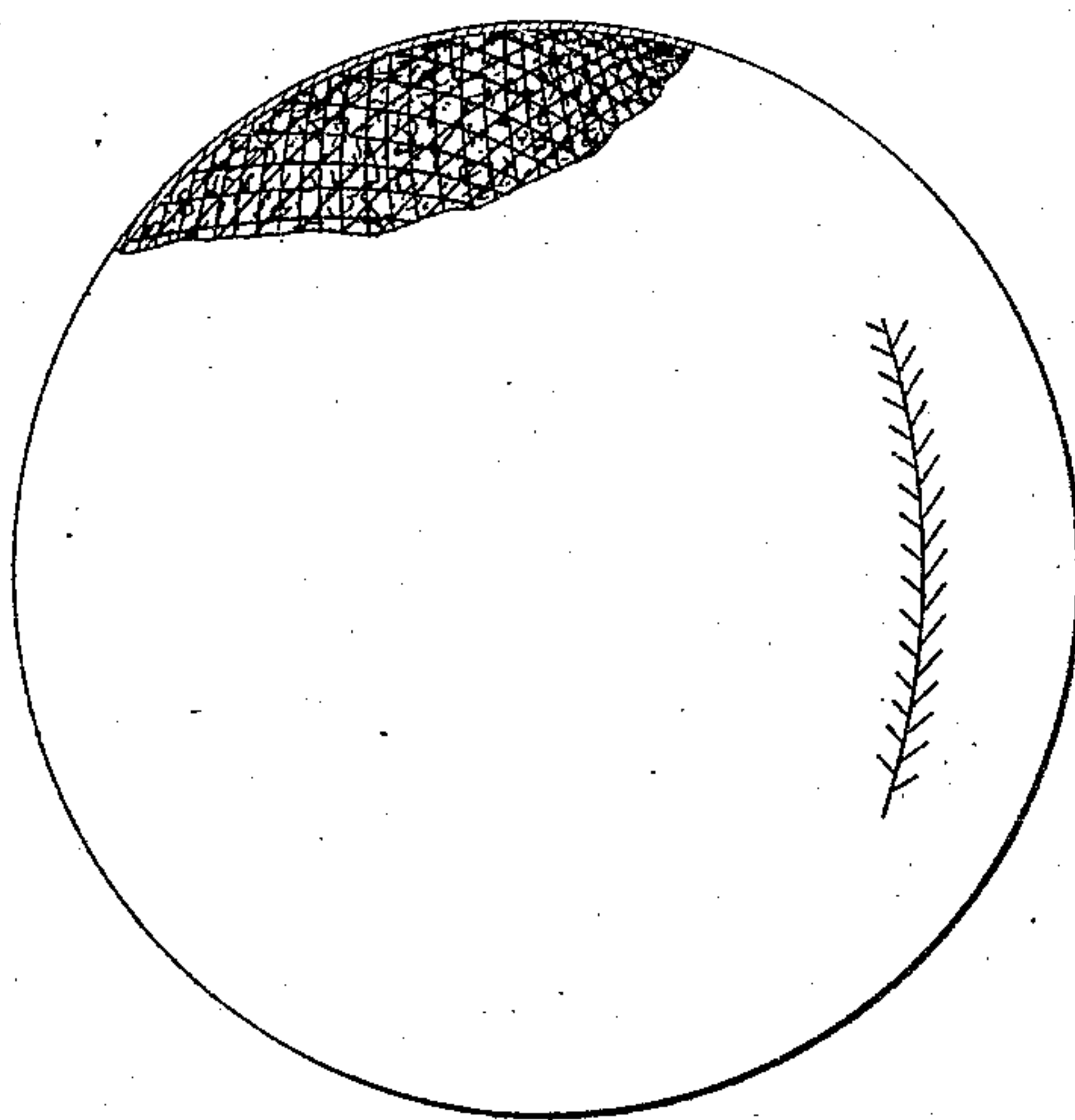


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT REACH, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BALL FOR USE IN ATHLETICS.

No. 929,013.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 27, 1909.

Application filed May 29, 1908. Serial No. 435,753.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT REACH, citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Balls for Use in Athletics, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to athletic goods and particularly to a ball for use in gymnasiums and athletic sports, and it consists in the features of construction and combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a ball partly in section and partly in elevation constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a ball constructed in accordance with a modification of my invention.

In making up this ball, I employ a center of sponge which is held in shape under compression by an envelop or covering shown at 1. This covering or holder for the sponge is of spherical form, being made of canvas, cotton or similar flexible material or textile fabric. The sponge material 2 is made to completely fill this envelop or holder, and for this purpose I prefer to introduce it in wet condition, through a slit or opening 3 in the envelop which may then be closed by stretching as shown. It is forced in under sufficient pressure and in sufficient quantity to completely fill the envelop or holder, so that this will be of spherical form and will remain completely filled with the sponge when the same has become dry. After completing the formation of the sponge center with its containing envelop, I place about the envelop a covering material of leather, canvas, or other suitable material which closely fits the exterior of the envelop. By

this means I provide a ball which is light and resilient, and suitable for use in athletic sports. The sponge center, when dry, completely fills the interior of the envelop and of the ball, and provides a light and springy material, and thus meets all of the necessary conditions. The sponge when dry is still in a compressed state, so that every portion of the envelop is completely filled out and is of spherical or other desired shape.

The compressed sponge may be employed for centers of base balls instead of rubber as now used, with equal efficiency and at less cost. In carrying out the invention as applied to this use I wind the compressed sponge with yarn and to the size desired, and the cover is then applied. This winding is indicated at 4 in Fig. 2.

I claim as my invention:—

1. The method herein described of making a ball, consisting in wetting sponge, taking the wet sponge and surrounding the same while in a wet condition with a holding or binding material which will hold the wet sponge in compressed condition, and then applying a cover to the binding or holding means and the compressed sponge held thereby, substantially as described.

2. The herein described method of making a ball, consisting in wetting sponge, taking the wet sponge and forcing it under pressure into an envelop adapted to assume the shape desired when extended and then applying an outer covering to the said envelop, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT REACH.

Witnesses:

MARY M'CALLA,
STEPHEN F. BEALE.