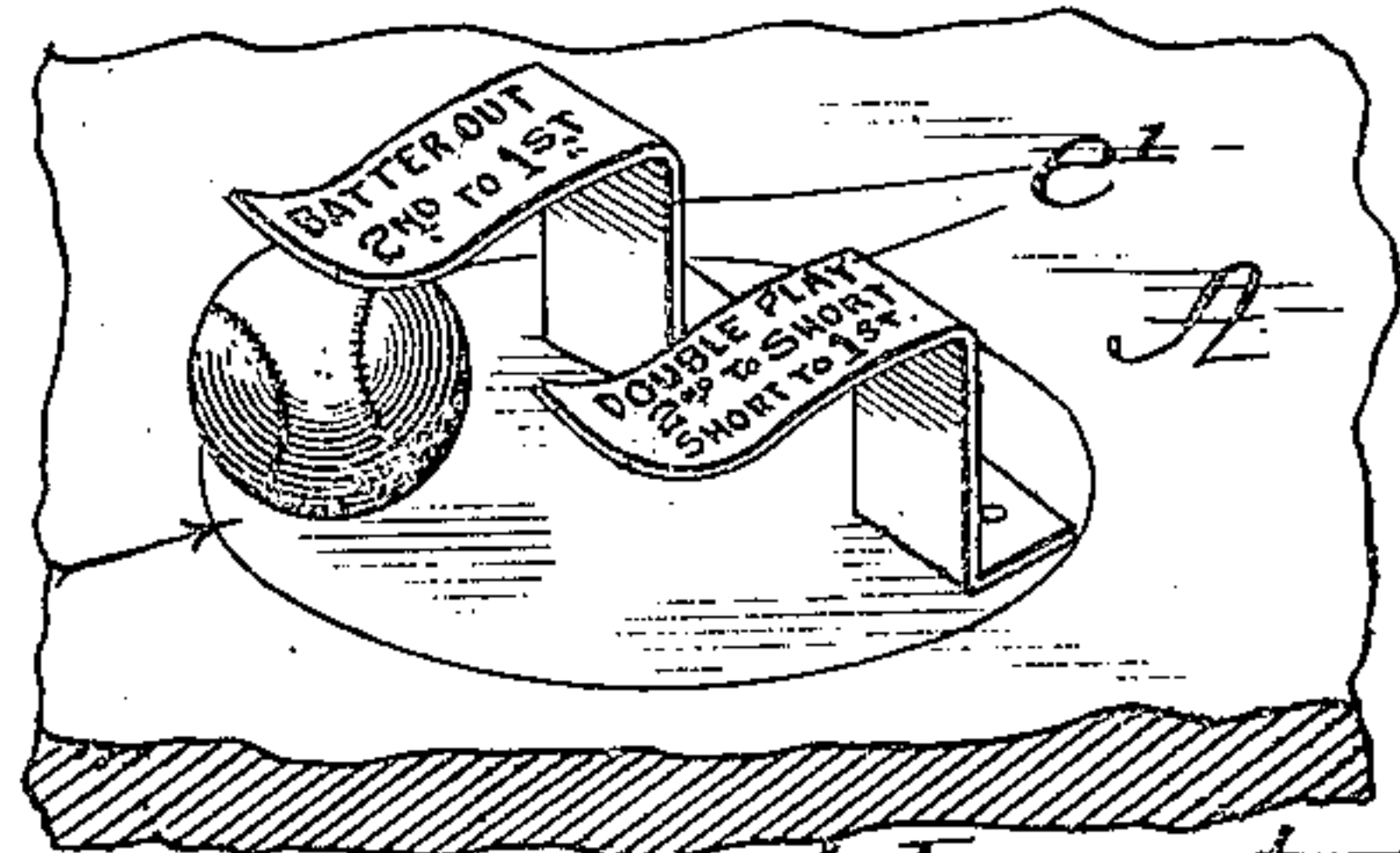


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Fig. 1



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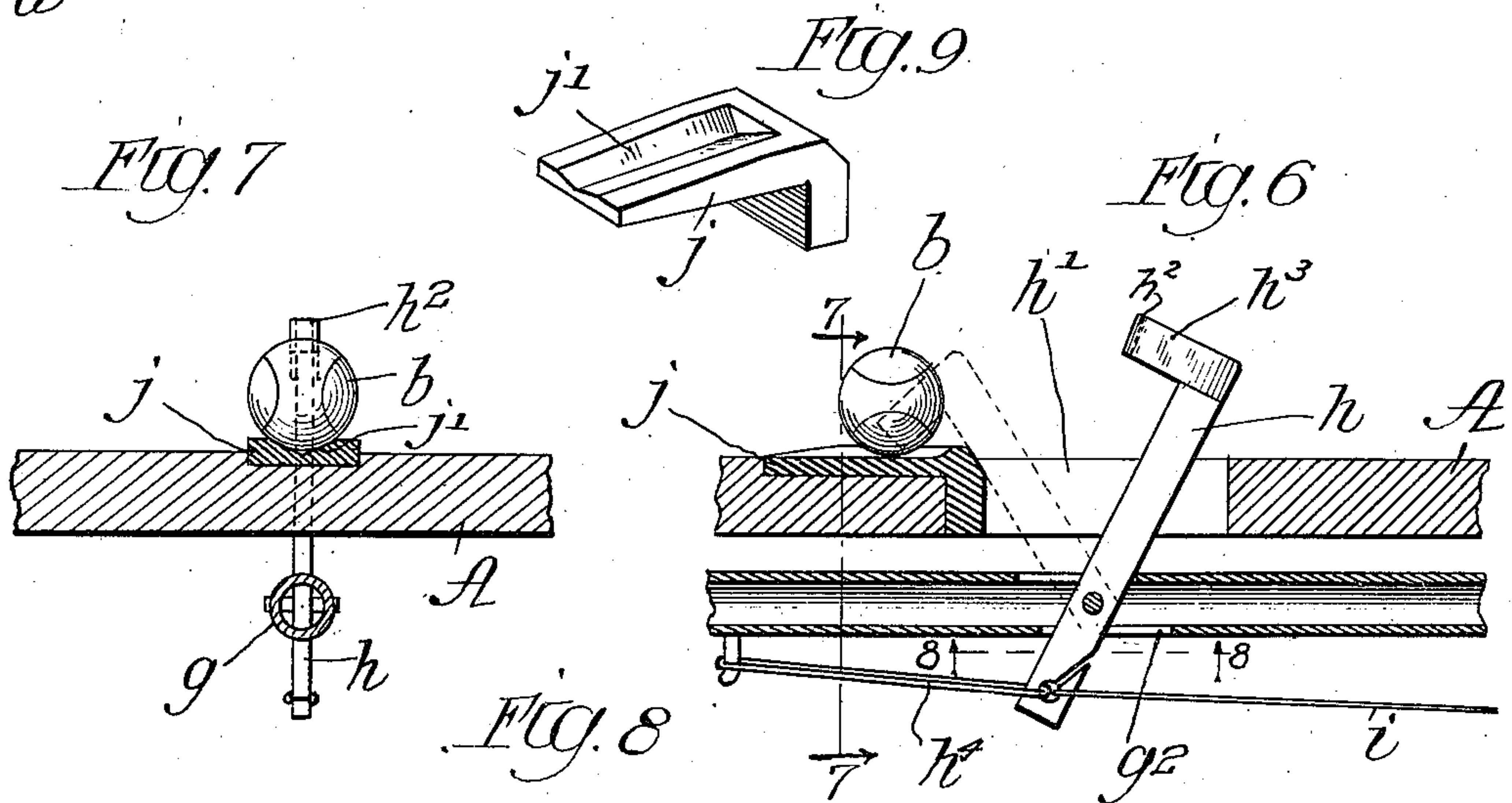
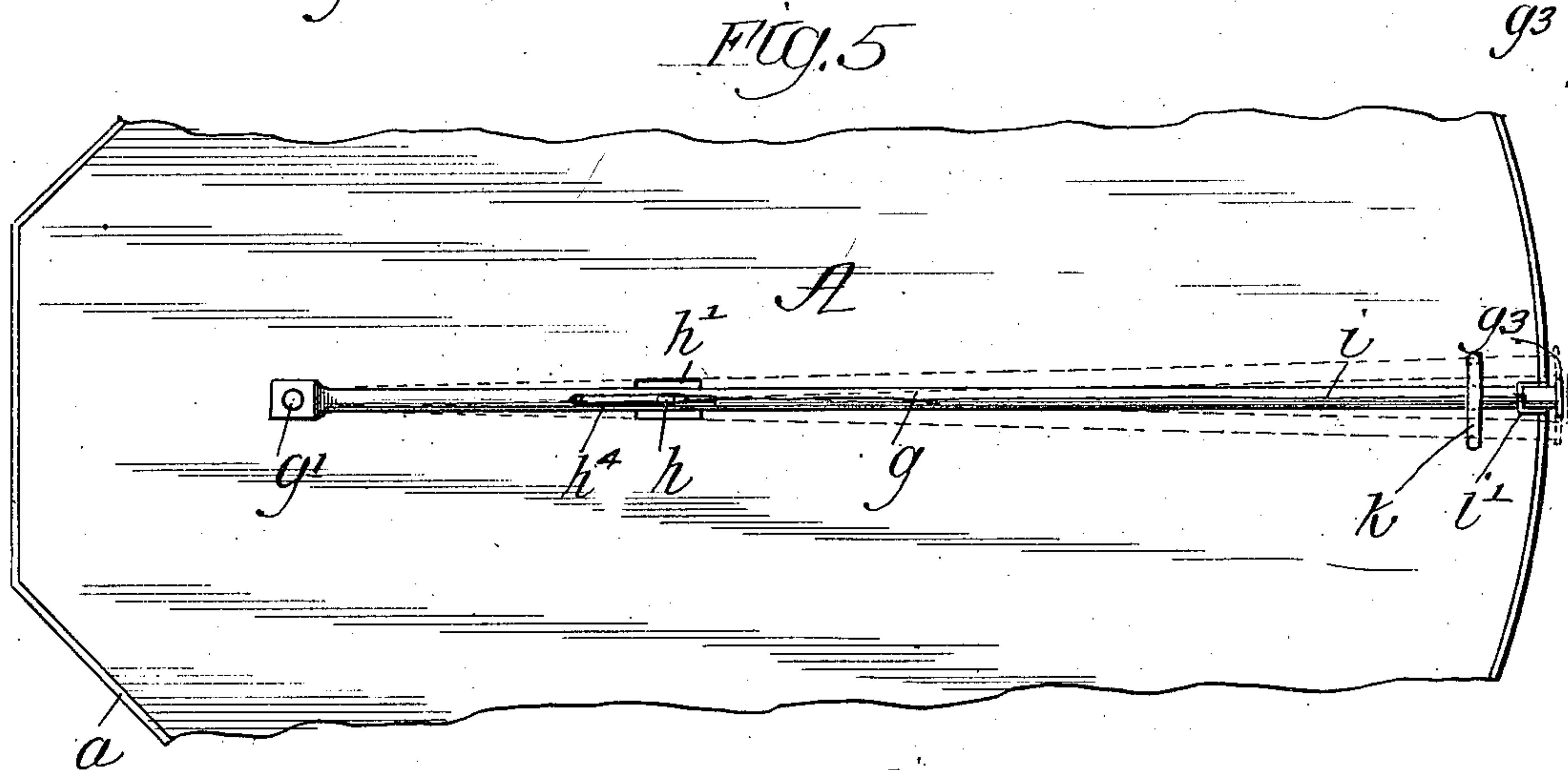
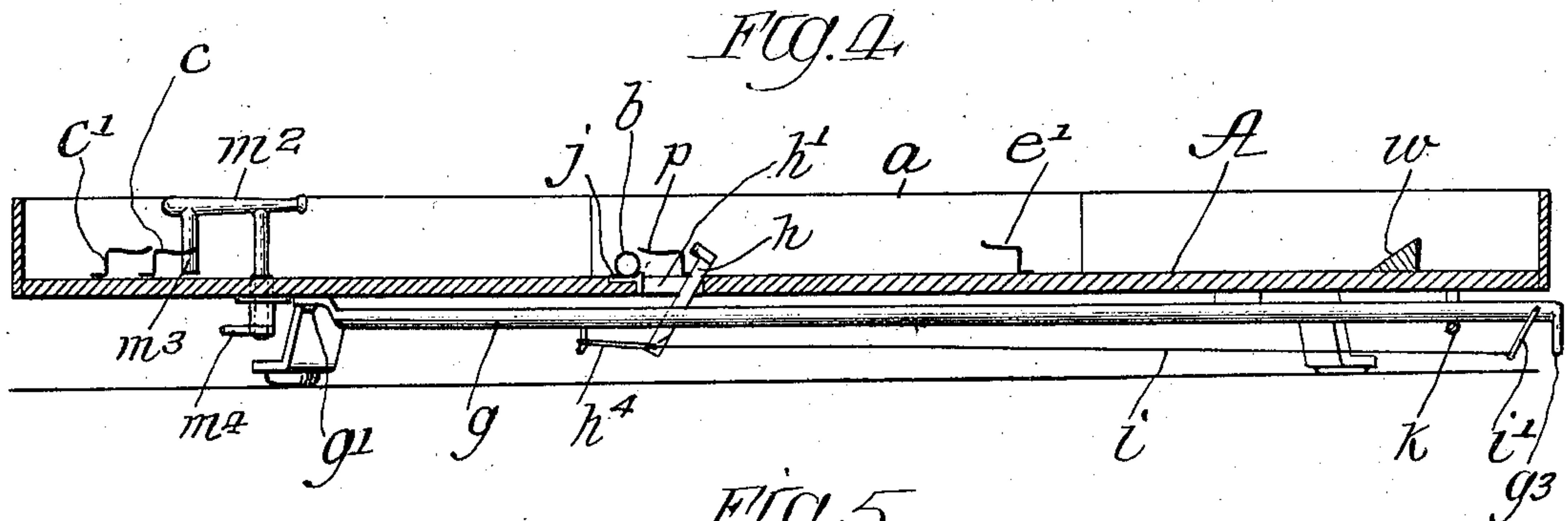
H. G. BARRETT.
GAME APPARATUS.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses:
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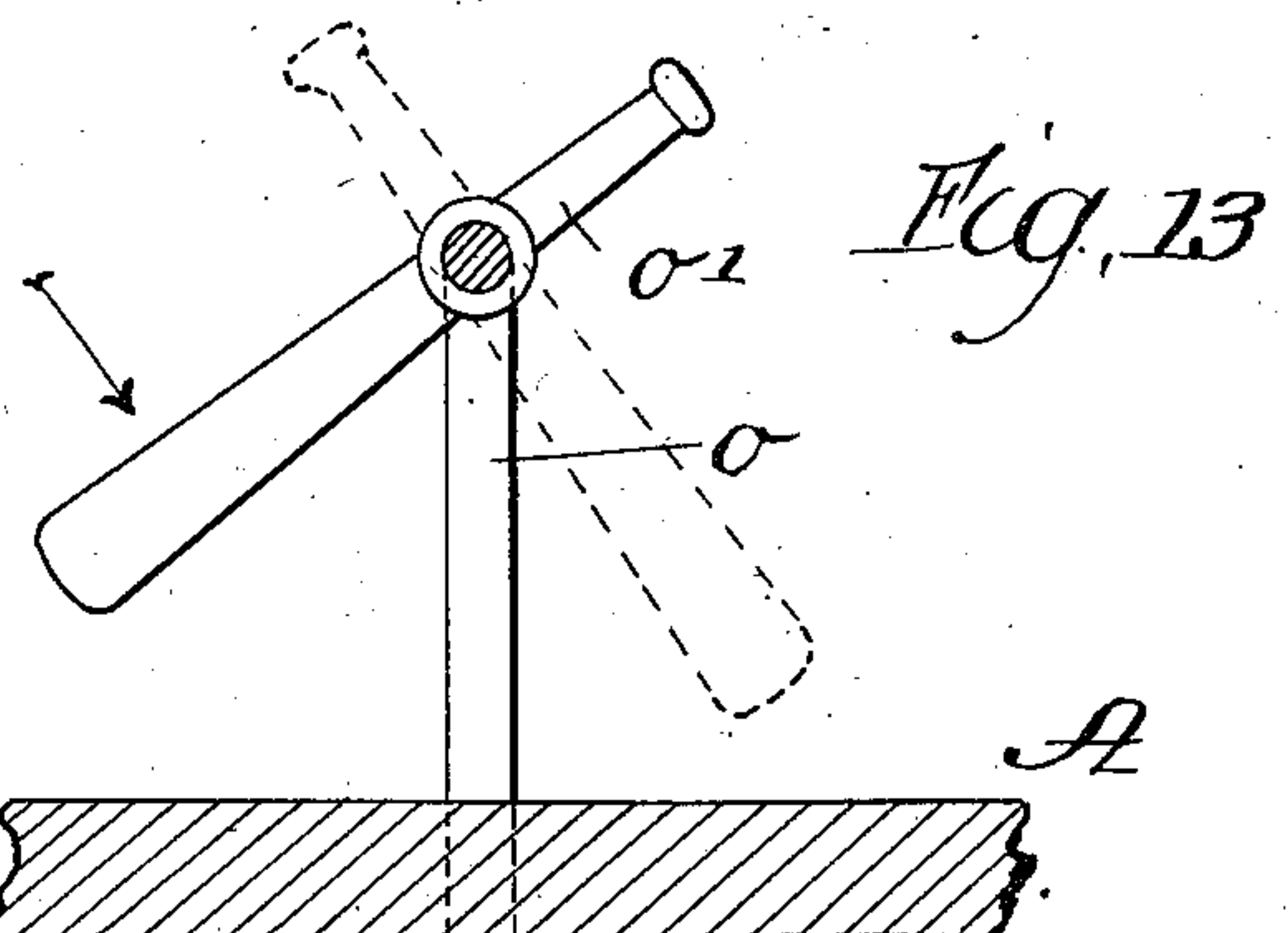
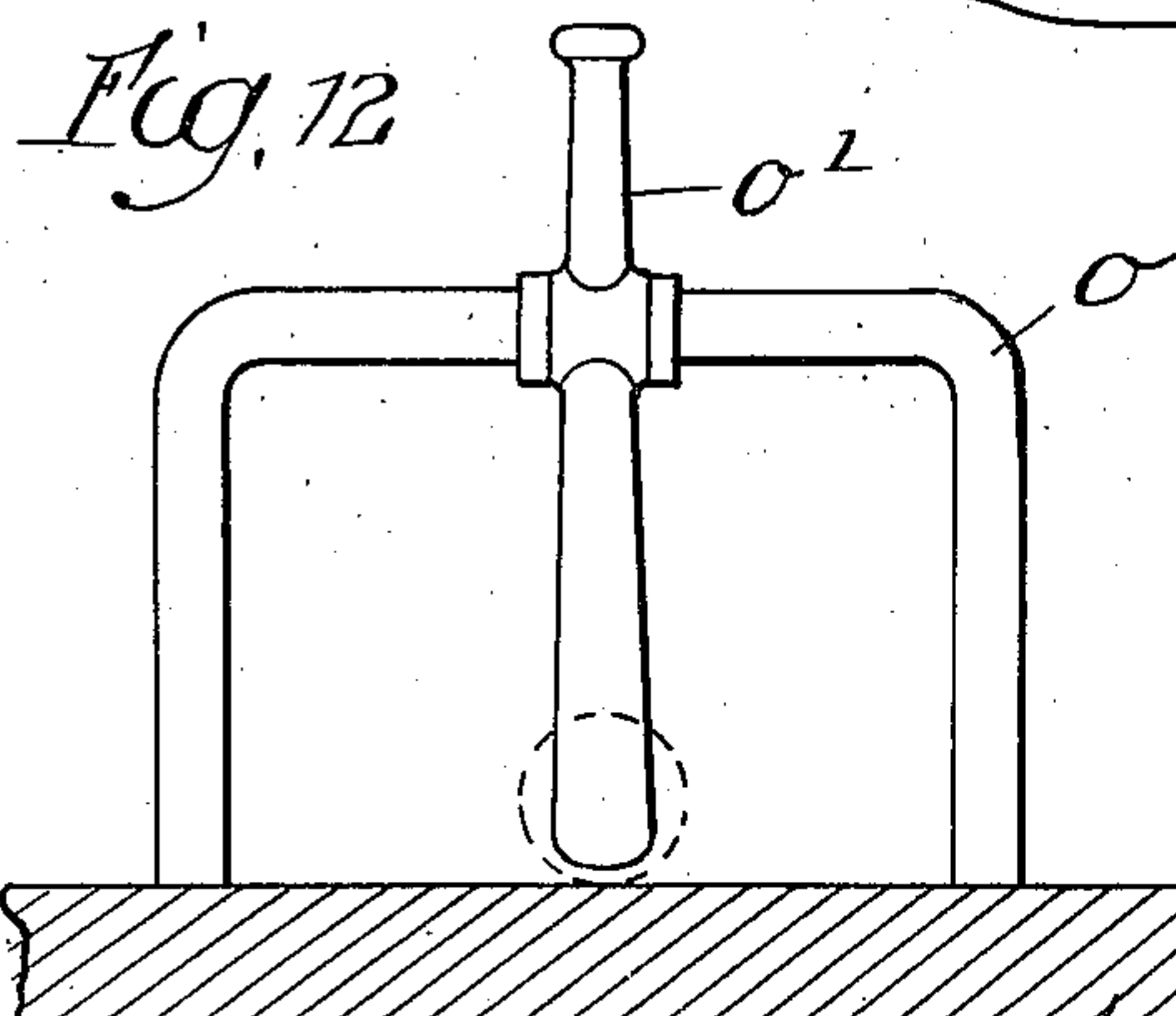
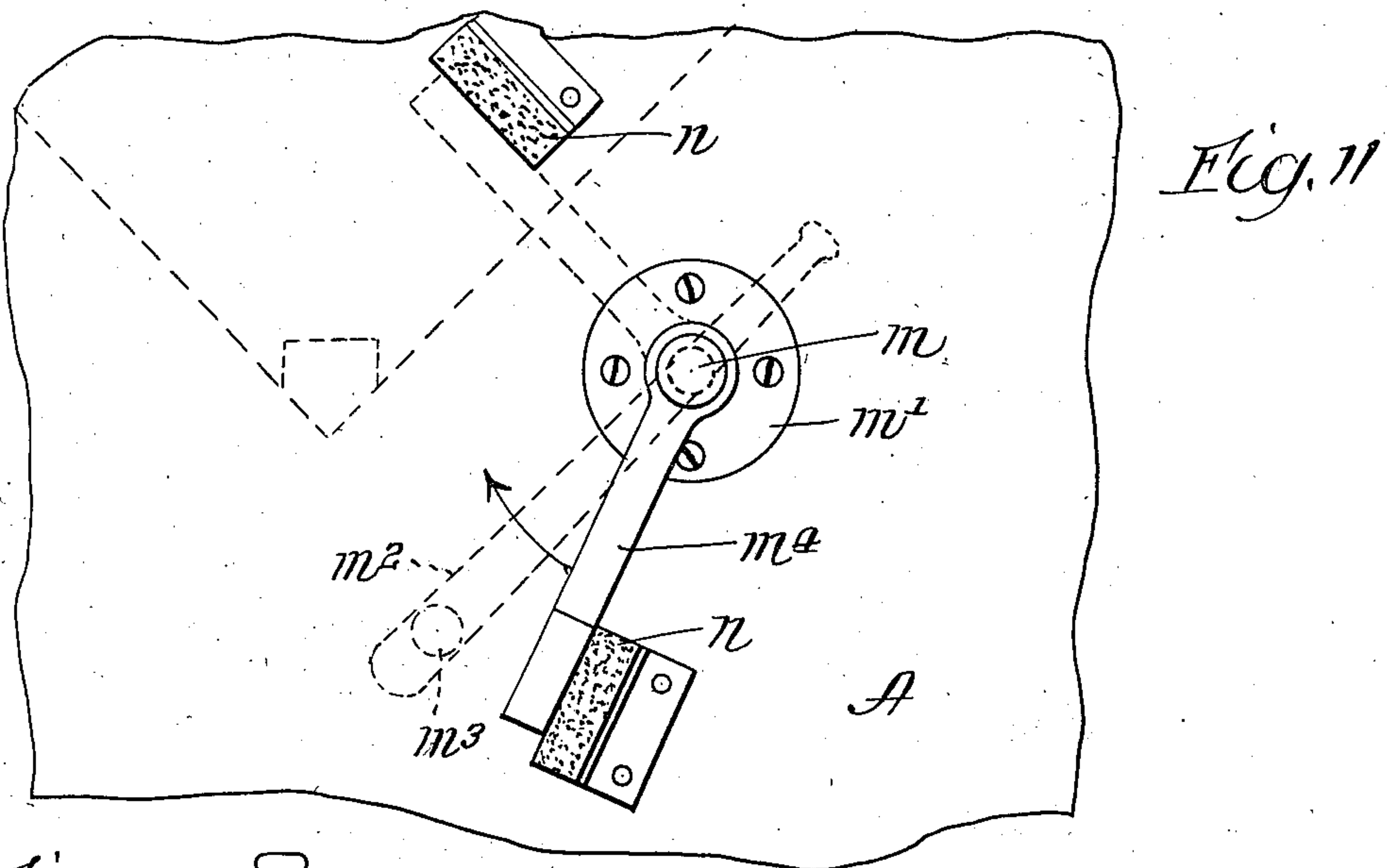
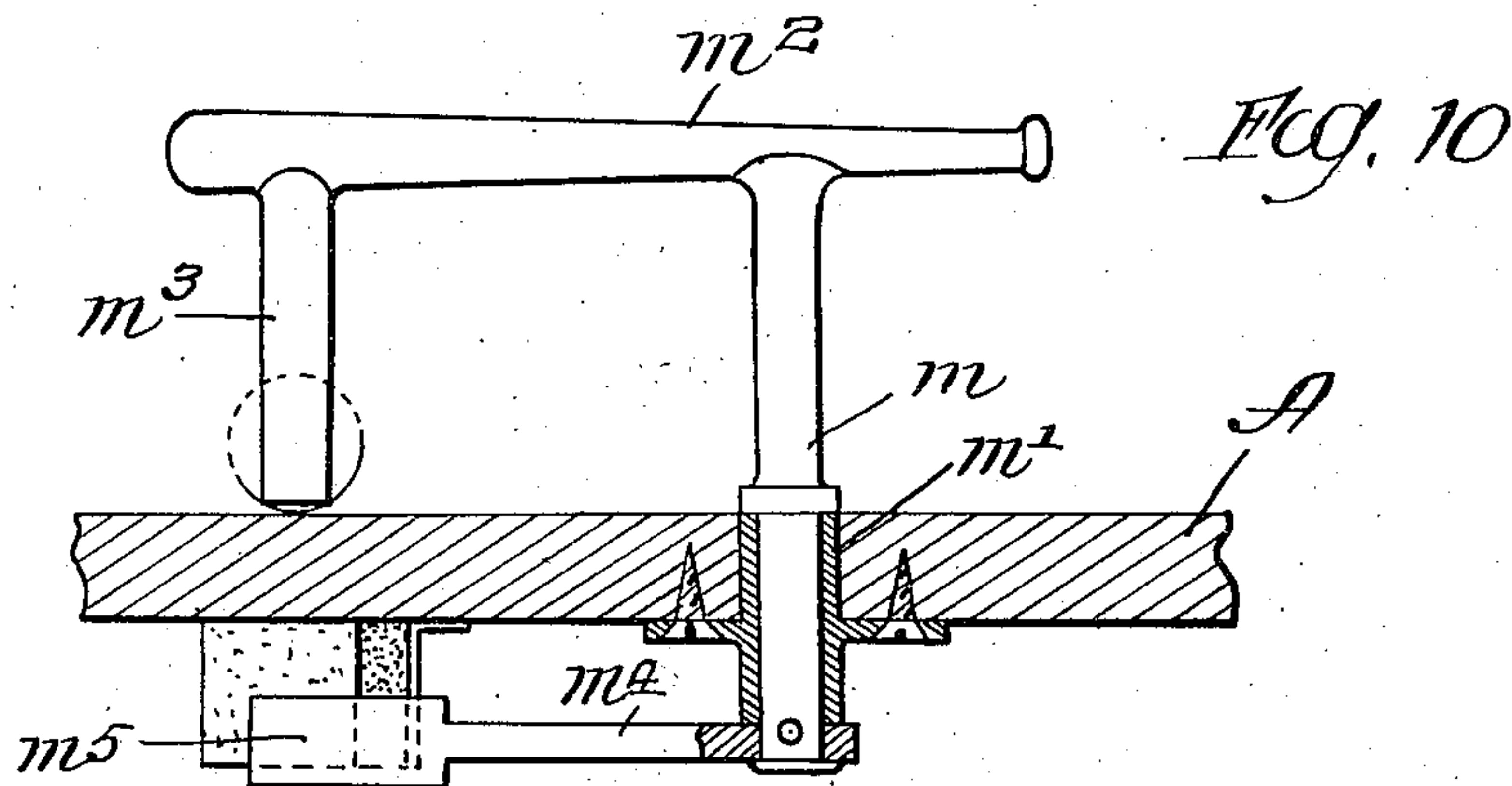
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3 SHEETS-SHEET 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME APPARATUS.

975,316.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 8, 1910.

Application filed November 21, 1908, Serial No. 463,859. Renewed August 30, 1910. Serial No. 579,749.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HAROLD G. BARRETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilmette, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the present invention is to provide a game apparatus for indoor use which can be employed for playing a game having all of the characteristics of the outdoor game of base ball. Thus a board is used marked off into a diamond and out-field with foul territory, and mechanical devices are used to represent the fielders, basemen and pitcher and catcher and the arrangement is such that a ball can be mechanically delivered and if struck by another mechanical device representing the batsman it may or may not be caught or "fielded" by lodging in one or another clip or pocket suitably designated to indicate the play. The pitching apparatus is such as to enable the player manipulating the same to vary the delivery of the ball and suitable provision is made for the catching of the ball as it comes over the "home plate" straight or at varying angles or curving. The batting device will be under control of the other person playing the game and will be so arranged as to provide for his exercising judgment in the manner of offering at the pitched ball, according to his estimate as to whether or not it is going to cross the plate and, if so, how, and also to provide for calculating to meet the ball sooner or later in its approach to vary the direction in which to drive it and further to provide for varying the force of impact to get different results between a slow roll, corresponding with what is termed in the outdoor game "laying down a bunt," and a hard drive. Suitable inscriptions will be employed on the board to indicate the fielding positions and how many bases are to result from a ball escaping all of the clips or pockets which represent the fielders or basemen. The bases will of course be indicated at the corners of the diamond and if desired playing pieces may be used to represent runners. In the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification Figure 1 represents a plan view of a game apparatus constructed in accordance with the present invention; Fig. 2 is a plan view on an enlarged scale of devices used in the short-

stop position; Fig. 3 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale showing similar devices used at the second baseman's position; Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal section of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a partial bottom plan view; Fig. 6 is an enlarged section of some of the devices which appear on a smaller scale in Fig. 4; Fig. 7 is a cross-section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6; Fig. 8 is a section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6; Fig. 9 is a perspective view of one member of the pitching apparatus; Fig. 10 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale illustrating the batting apparatus; Fig. 11 is a bottom plan view of the same; and Figs. 12 and 13 illustrate a modification of the batting device.

The reference letter A designates a board of suitable dimensions having a raised rim *a* extending entirely around it. At an appropriate distance from this raised rim of the board there is inscribed upon the board a suitable representation of that portion of a baseball playing field known as the diamond, squares being provided at the corners thereof to represent first base, second base and third base as indicated in Fig. 1, the home plate being similarly illustrated as a limited, laterally defined area though of somewhat different outline. The base lines will be indicated as illustrated by full and dotted lines *b* and *c* in Fig. 1 and the area of the infield as by shading *d* as well as spaces back of first and third bases representing the coaches' boxes as by shading *e*. Lines *f* are marked as extensions of the first and third base lines to divide foul from fair territory and the foul territory is appropriately indicated as upon the drawing. The pitcher's box is represented at the center of the infield and apparatus is located at this point both to provide for the delivery of the ball and for the fielding of the ball. The ball delivering apparatus comprises a rod *g* on the underside of the board (see Figs. 4 and 5) pivoted as at *g'* to have a limited movement side-wise. This rod is shown as a length of tubing and is vertically slotted as at *g''* (Fig. 6) to accommodate an arm *h* which is pivoted to the rod or tube and extends up through a slot *h'* in the board A. This arm has a forwardly-directed head-piece *h''* which is adapted to strike the ball and drive it toward the home plate, said head-piece being tipped with rubber as by having a band *h'''*

stretched around it. Normally the arm is retracted, being connected by an elastic band h^4 with a forward projection on the rod or tube g . A cord or wire i connected to the lower end of the arm and to a finger-piece or trigger i' near the extremity of the rod g , provides for swinging said arm h in opposition to said elastic band.

At the front of the slot h' there is fitted a piece j with a portion providing an abutment for the arm h and a portion set into the top of the board A and grooved longitudinally in its upper side as shown at j' . The ball b is placed in this groove to be struck by the head of the arm h . If the latter was to strike the ball always squarely in the middle such a groove might not be necessary but it is intended to provide for curving the ball by striking it to one side or the other of the center according to the will of the player. The pivoting of the rod g provides for this, its front portion being confined by a guide k which permits sufficient latitude of lateral movement. The extremity of the rod has a handle g^3 and the player by taking hold of said handle can shift the rod as desired, at the same time having a finger on the trigger i' . It will be obvious that the delivery of the ball can be varied both by reason of varying the point of impact and by varying the force applied to the arm or varying the speed of movement thereof. Furthermore, the ball can be placed at different positions in the groove g' and the delivery of the ball affected thereby. The desirability of the groove will be apparent when it is considered that in many instances the ball will be struck to one side of the center and at the same time should be projected toward the home plate and not sidewise. It should be noted in this connection that the acting portion of the arm h when it strikes the ball b is moving toward the board. This is practically essential to the accomplishment of the result of causing the ball to curve on the surface of the board. When the acting portion of the arm strikes the ball the board, or the piece j set in the board, offers sufficient resistance to prevent the ball being simply pushed off to one side, the sides of the groove j' constraining the ball to first move toward the "home plate." Of course when the ball is struck to one side or the other of the center a swirl will be imparted to it which, as the force impelling the ball toward the home plate diminishes, will cause the ball to curve on the surface of the board. By varying the point at which the arm strikes the ball, and the force of the blow, varying effects can be produced in the delivery of the ball, such as different directions and different degrees of curving. In such case the point of impact of the rubber-tipped end of the pitching arm is in rear of a vertical central transverse plane of the ball and to one side

or the other of a vertical plane at right angles thereto, above a horizontal central plane of the ball, and the line or plane of movement of said tipped end if projected would intersect the surface of the board or of the ball-rest at or near a point where the ball is in contact with such surface. (In the appended claims this characteristic is what is meant by the phrase "movable toward the surface of the board.") This involves the principle of the so-called "masse" shot in billiards, where the cue is directed downward toward the table and the cue-ball struck forcibly at such a point as above defined but varying laterally to produce varying familiar effects in curving the ball on the surface of the table.

One form of batting apparatus here shown comprises a rotary post m (Fig. 10) in a suitable bearing or socket m' extending through the board A and secured thereto, a horizontally-extending member m^2 integral with the post m or appropriately secured thereto and preferably made in the form of a base-ball bat, and a depending arm m^3 at the outer end of said member m^2 and extending to within a very short distance of the top surface of the board A. This batting device is so located that the portion m^3 will swing across the center of the home plate as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1. The horizontal portion m^2 extends on both sides of the vertical member or post m as shown and I have found that this form of batting device can be best controlled by applying the first and second fingers on opposite sides of the pivot in front of the horizontal portion m^2 , and the thumb on the rear side of the latter, about at the pivot point. This affords a delicate control of the freely oscillating batting device which is quite important considering the desirability of obtaining results as varied as those produced by the use of the bat in the hands of the player in the outdoor game, and as nearly as possible simulating the outdoor effect. To limit the swing of the bat there is secured to the lower end of the post m an arm m^4 which has a blade m^5 at its extremity adapted to strike against buffer pieces n secured to the under-side of the board A, though this is not an essential feature and can be dispensed with altogether leaving the batting device without limitation as to swing. In the modification shown in Figs. 12 and 13 a yoke o is mounted on the board A and the bat o' is mounted to swing in a vertical plane on the horizontal bar of the yoke, such vertical plane of course intersecting the center of the home plate.

It will be obvious that with a pitching apparatus capable of manipulation to vary the delivery of the ball, the person manipulating the batting apparatus cannot be sure of meeting the ball and so the feature of a

strike-out is present. Furthermore, the batting apparatus, though it may meet the ball, may not so meet it that the ball will be batted into foul territory and of course the direction the ball goes in fair territory will vary according to the point at which the bat meets it. There is thus the same element of chance in the direction the ball will take as in an actual game of base ball. Then of course the ball may go wide of the plate, *i. e.*, may not cross any portion of it, and so provision is made for counting "balls," as distinguished from "strikes," and also for calling a "passed ball" or a "wild pitch," as when the ball is not caught after passing the plate. Furthermore, it is intended that should a ball delivered from the pitching apparatus strike the upright portion or part *m* the batsman is to be considered as having been hit by a pitched ball and entitled to take first base. The force with which the ball goes from the bat will of course vary according to how soon the ball is met and how fast the bat is moved or in what manner.

Behind the batting apparatus and the home plate are arranged a number of lodgments in the form of spring clips *c*, one directly in line with the center of the home plate for the lodgment of any ball which comes over the plate and is not offered at by the batsman or if offered at is missed. Then on each side of said central clip there are clips *c'* for the lodgment of balls which go wide of the plate. These clips are shown inscribed with the word "Ball" and the central clip with the word "Strike," but of course if a ball lodges in one of the clips *c'* after the batsman has offered at it it will count as a strike. A ball which goes outside of any of the clips will count as a wild pitch when passing to one side and a passed ball when passing to the other side. Clips *d'* are located in foul territory on both sides of the home plate for the lodgment of the ball when not met squarely by the bat. This occurrence would count the batsman out on a foul. Of course if the ball goes into foul territory but does not lodge in a clip, then the batsman is not out but merely has a strike called unless he already has two strikes. It is intended to cover the area of the infield and the outfield with similar clips to practically the same extent that the fielders and basemen in the regular outdoor game will cover ground. Thus two clips *e* are located a distance in from first base and similar clips *e'* are located to the right of second base and another pair of clips *e²* to the left of second base and then a pair of clips *e³* a suitable distance in from third base. In addition to this, clips *p* are located on either side of the pitching apparatus. Thus it will be seen that there are ten clips in which a ball may lodge to indicate an infield play.

These clips may be differently inscribed to indicate different plays, for example as shown in Fig. 2 one of the short-stop clips may be inscribed to indicate a play from short to first base and the other clip inscribed to indicate a double play from short to second and second to first base. Similarly the second base clips may be differently inscribed, one to indicate the fielding of a ball by the second baseman to the first baseman and the other a double play from second base to short-stop and short-stop to first base. The territory of the outfield is similarly provided with clips, there being preferably four for each fielding position though of course this number may be increased if desired or lessened. As here shown two pairs of clips are employed for each fielding position, spaced a considerable distance apart. Thus a pair of clips *r* will be located in right field close to the foul line and another pair of clips *r'* in a line from the home plate midway between first and second base fielding positions. For the center field position two pairs of clips *s* and *s'* are located equidistant from the central longitudinal line of the field. The arrangement of the clips *t* and *t'* for the left field position is similar to the arrangement of the clips for the right field position. Around the edge of the board A back of the outfield there is preferably a subdivision of a marginal area and in the different spaces there are inscriptions which govern the number of bases to be taken according to where the ball first lands when it strikes the rim of the board. Thus a ball passing the pitcher's box and going over second base and between the pairs of center field clips lands in a space marked "Home run" and entitles the batsman to circle the bases. Other subdivisions of this marginal area are marked to indicate base hits, two base hits and three base hits. Further provision may be made for home runs by locating in the outfield at one or more places inclines *w* which, if the ball happens to run onto the same, will cause it to clear the rim of the board.

It will be obvious without further description that an apparatus constructed as above described provides for the playing of a game which will be governed by the same rules as the familiar outdoor game of base ball.

Any suitable form of loose playing pieces can be used to represent base runners and these will be moved about according to the familiar rules of the game.

It is to be understood that the form of the various members of the apparatus, the relative arrangements, the combined action, and the manner of inscription of the board, are things which can be variously altered as compared with what is here specifically shown and described, without necessarily departing from the spirit and scope of the in-

vention. For example, the form of means for providing lodgment for the ball to denote a fielding play can be varied. Then the particulars of the pitching or ball delivering apparatus are susceptible of modification.

A rubber band is described as a simple means for tipping the pitching arm with a friction material to take a hold on the ball and impart the twist or twirl which causes it to curve, but of course rubber might be otherwise applied or other material used to supply the friction.

What is claimed is:—

1. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, and a ball-delivering device movable toward the surface of the board and adapted to strike the ball to one side; substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, and a ball-delivering device tipped with friction material and movable toward the surface of the board and adapted to strike the ball to one side; substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, and a ball-delivering device movable toward the surface of the board and adjustable to strike the ball at different points; substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. In game apparatus, the combination with a board having a grooved ball rest, of a ball-delivering device movable toward the surface of the latter and adapted to strike the ball to one side; substantially as and for the purpose described.

5. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board having a grooved rest for a ball, and ball delivering means comprising an arm operating back of said rest movable toward the surface of the board and laterally adjustable to vary the point of impact against the ball; substantially as and for the purpose described.

6. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, a ball delivering arm movable toward the surface of said board, and a support for the arm adjustable laterally to vary the point of impact of the arm against the ball; substantially as and for the purpose described.

7. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board having a grooved ball rest, a ball delivering arm back of said rest and movable toward the surface of the board, and a support for said arm adjustable laterally to vary the point of impact against the ball; substantially as and for the purpose described.

8. In game apparatus, the combination of a board having an opening; a ball delivering arm projecting through said opening; a swinging rod on which said arm is pivoted;

means for retracting the arm; and means for advancing the same.

9. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, and a ball delivering device movable toward the surface of the board and adapted to strike the ball to one side, combined with a batting device, the board being marked with an area over which said batting device works.

10. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board, and a ball delivering device movable toward the surface of the board and adjustable to strike the ball at different points, combined with a batting device, the board being marked with an area over which said batting device works.

11. In game apparatus, the combination of a suitable board having a grooved rest for a ball, and ball delivering means comprising an arm operating back of said rest movable toward the surface of the board and laterally adjustable to vary the point of impact against the ball, combined with a batting device; the board being marked with an area over which the said batting device is movable and the groove of the aforesaid rest being directed toward said area.

12. In game apparatus, the combination of a board having a playing surface with a defined area indicated thereon, ball delivering and twirling means on one side of such area, and a group of ball lodgments on the opposite side thereof distributed transversely of the board.

13. In game apparatus, the combination of a board suitably marked off to represent a baseball field; a batting device; lodgments for the ball located variously over the board; and one or more inclines for the ball to run over when clearing the lodgments.

14. In game apparatus, the combination of a board suitably marked off to represent a baseball field; ball delivering means; a batting device; lodgments for the ball located variously over the board; and one or more inclines for the ball to run over when clearing the lodgments.

15. In game apparatus, the combination with a board and means for projecting an object over the surface thereof, of a freely oscillatory batting device comprising an upright portion journaled on the board, a horizontal portion extending on opposite sides of the upright portion, and a striking portion extending at right angles to said horizontal portion to one side of the upright portion, the horizontal portion to the other side of the latter constituting a handle.

16. In game apparatus, the combination of a board having a journal bearing or socket, and a freely oscillatory batting device comprising an upright portion journaled in said socket, a horizontal portion extending on both sides of said upright portion, and a

striking portion projecting from said horizontal portion toward the board to one side of the upright portion, the horizontal portion to the other side of the latter constituting a handle.

17. In a toy base-ball game apparatus, the combination of a board having a playing surface with a defined area outlined thereon to indicate the home plate, means for projecting a ball over such surface toward said home plate, and a group of lodgments for such ball arranged transversely of the board back of said home plate, one of said lodgments being directly back of the plate and one or more being arranged on either side thereof, each lodgment having associated with it an inscription to indicate the character of each pitched ball, so that each pitched ball will have a separate significance in the score of the game.

18. In a toy base-ball game apparatus, the combination of a board having a playing surface with a defined area outline thereon to indicate the home plate, means for projecting a ball over such surface toward said home plate, and a group of lodgments for such ball arranged transversely of the board back of said home plate, one of said lodgments being directly back of the plate and one or more being arranged on either side thereof, said ball lodgments being separated from each other and each lodgment having associated with it an inscription to indicate the character of each pitched ball, so that each pitched ball will have a separate significance in the score of the game.

19. In a toy base ball game apparatus, the combination of a board suitably marked off

to represent a base ball field, a ball delivering device, a batting device at the home plate, and a series of devices representing fielders distributed about the field and each consisting of a ball catching and clamping means, said means being transversely arranged with respect to the field to enable each player to receive and hold the ball when projected from the batting device into the field on different lines radiating from the home plate, each clamping means having associated with it a plurality of exposed inscriptions indicating the plays that that player is usually capable of making in a regular game, for the purpose set forth.

20. In a toy base ball game apparatus, the combination of a board suitably marked off to represent a base ball field, a ball delivering device, a batting device at the home plate, and a series of devices representing fielders distributed about the field and each consisting of a ball catching and clamping means, said means consisting of a series of separate clips transversely arranged with respect to the field to enable each player to receive and hold the ball when projected from the batting device into the field on different lines radiating from the home plate, each clamping means having associated with it a plurality of exposed inscriptions indicating the plays that that player is usually capable of making in a regular game, for the purpose set forth.

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