

W. P. WHITLEY.

BALL.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1910.

978,250.

Patented Dec. 13, 1910.

Fig. 1.

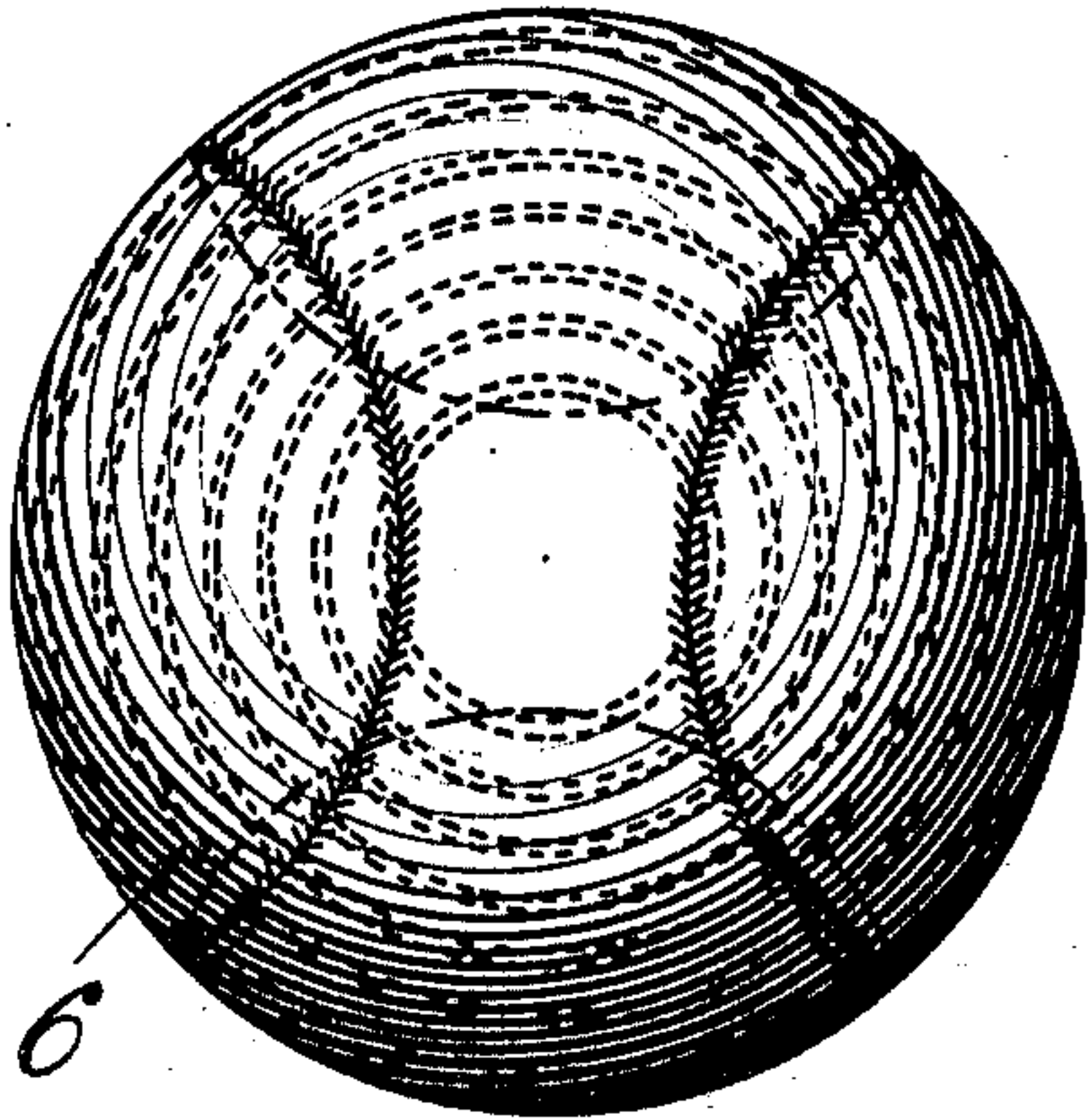


Fig. 2.

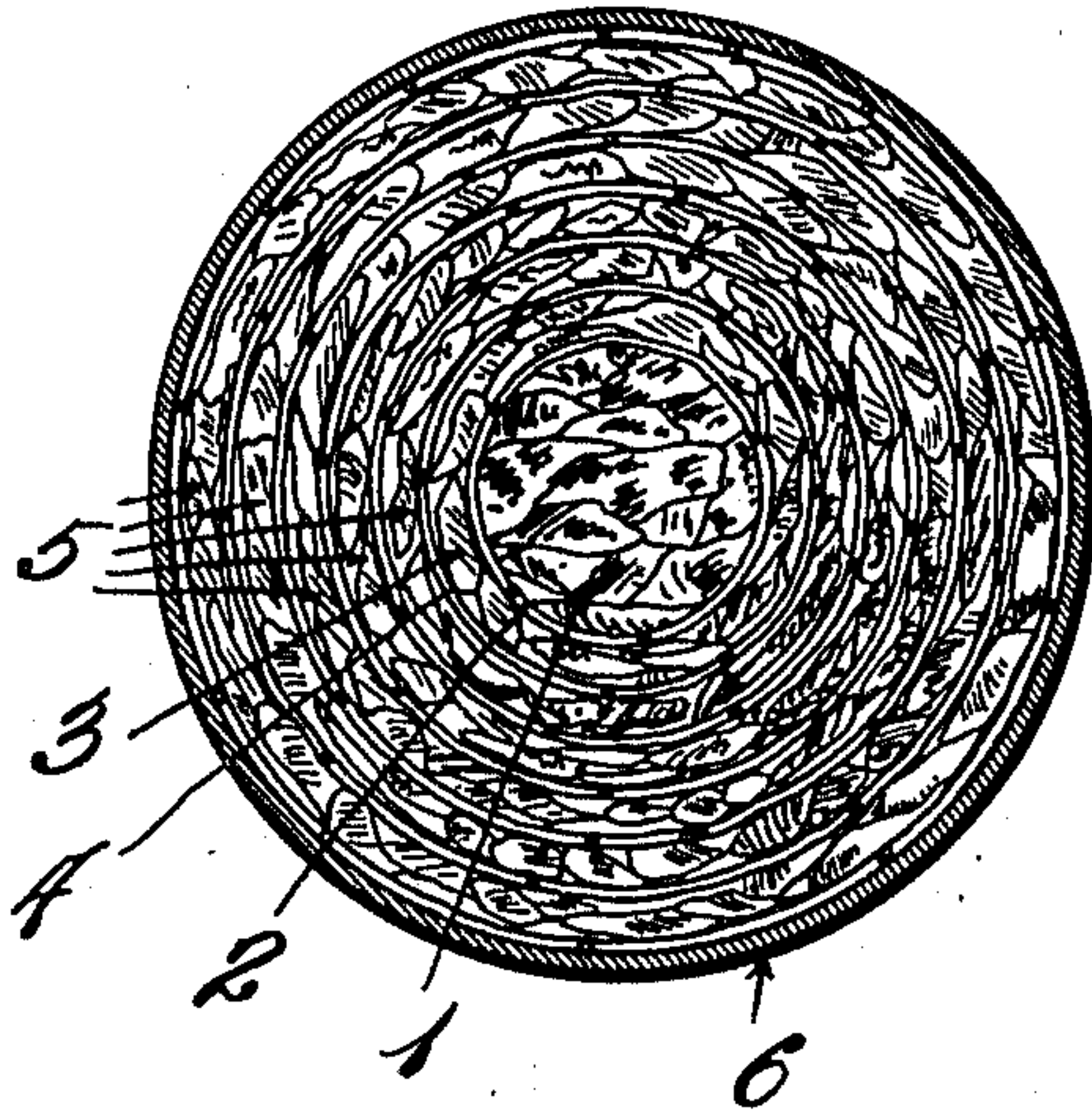


Fig. 3.

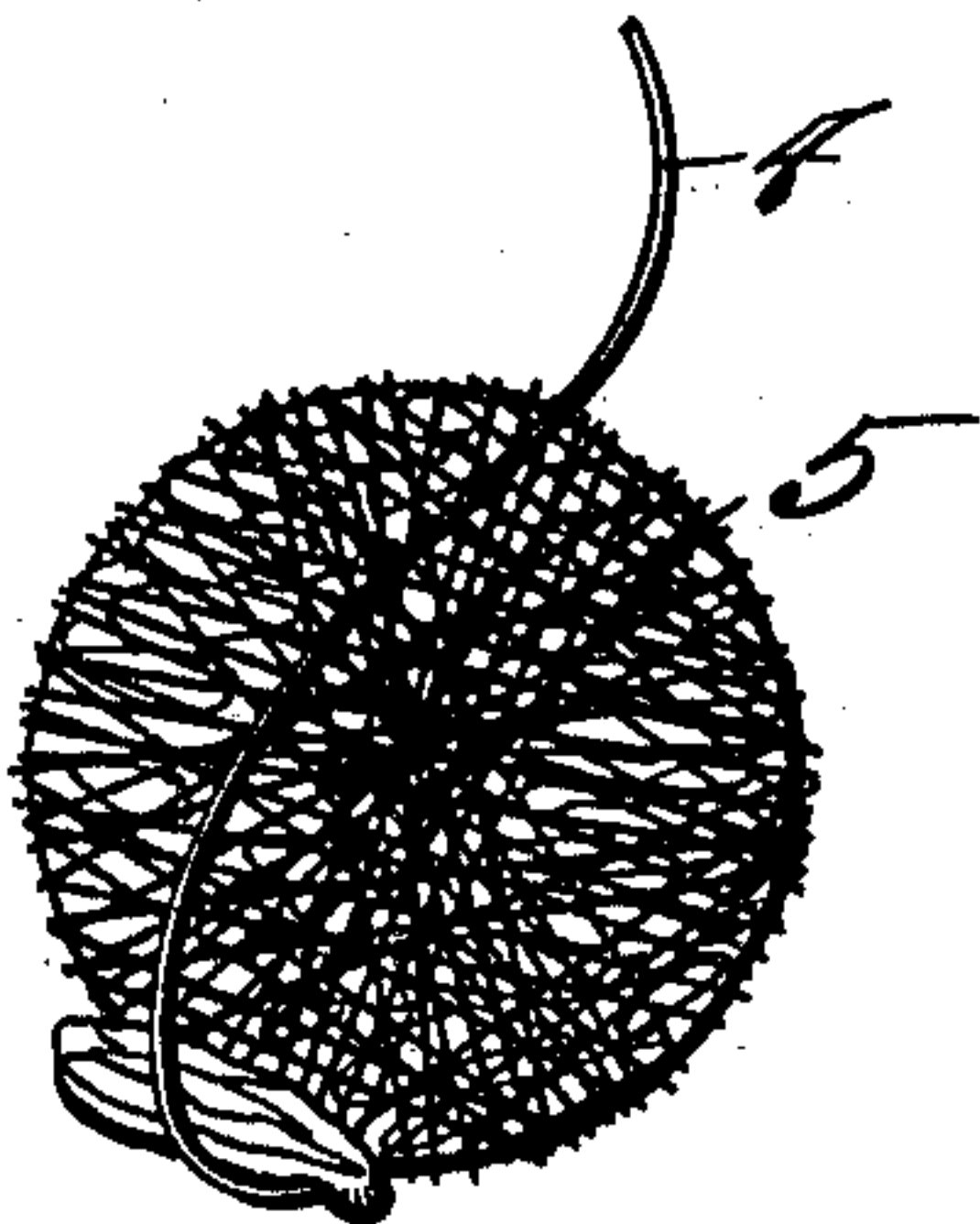
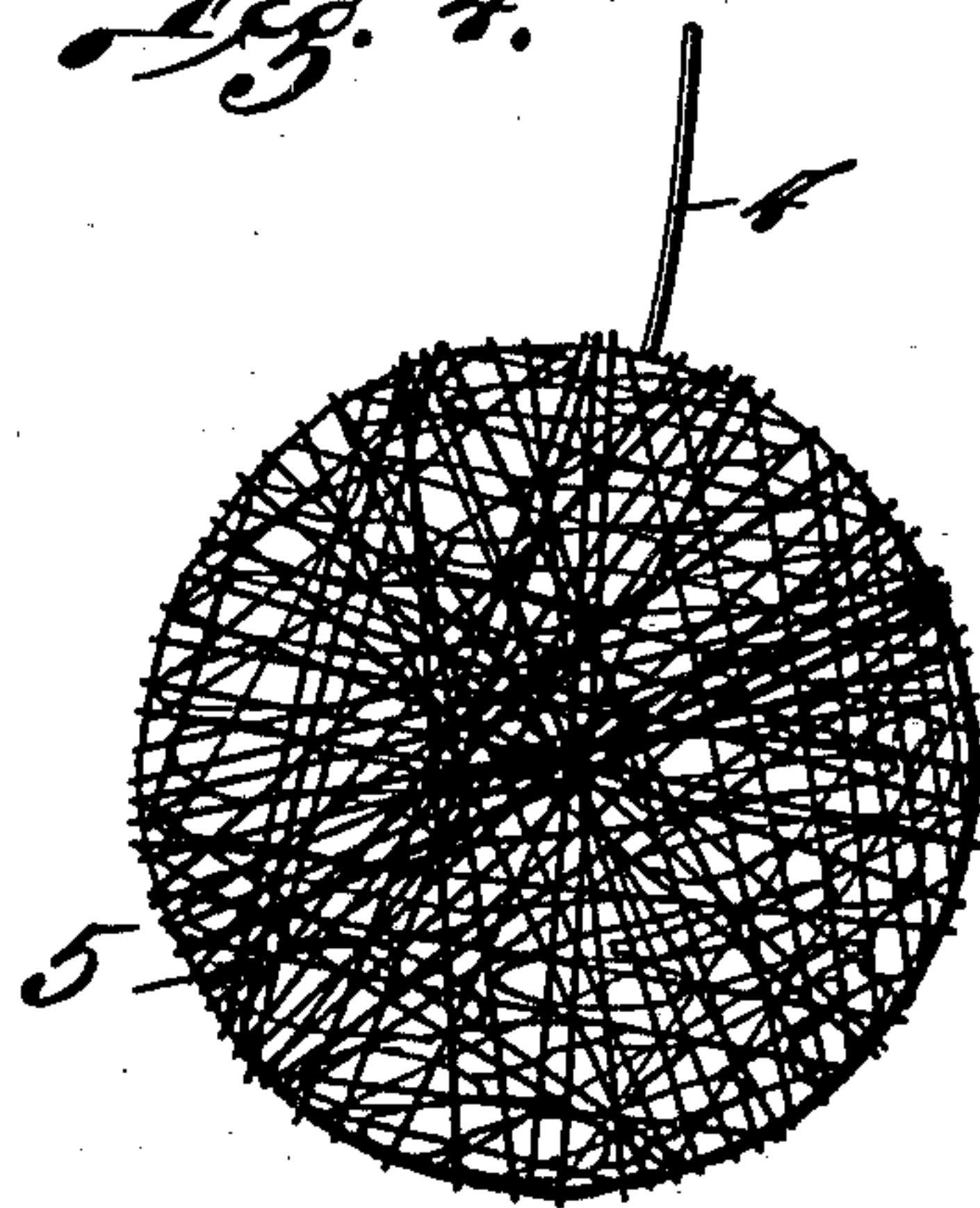


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES.

E. M. Harrington.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM P. WHITLEY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO THE RAWLINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, A CORPORATION OF MISSOURI.

BALL.

978,250.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 13, 1910.

Application filed June 9, 1910. Serial No. 566,030.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM P. WHITLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Balls, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a ball of my improved construction. Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken through the center of my improved ball. Figs. 3 and 4 are elevations of the ball as the same appears at different stages of manufacture.

My invention relates to a playing ball particularly adapted for the use of ladies and children, the principal object of my invention being to construct a ball which compared to an ordinary base ball is exceedingly light in weight.

Ordinary base balls are too heavy and hard to be conveniently and comfortably handled by ladies and children, and I propose to provide a ball which is of the same size and has the same appearance as a base ball, but which is composed of a light spongy material, thereby providing a ball which may be readily thrown and caught without hurting the hands, and which ball is exceedingly resilient, owing to the character of the material of which the body of the ball is made.

In the manufacture of my improved ball I make use of a round core 1 made up of a series of small pieces of sponge or analogous light yielding material, said core being slightly compressed, and the pieces of sponge making up said core being held together by a light thread or yarn 2 wound upon the exterior of said core. After this core has been formed and wound with thread or yarn it is covered with a thin layer 3 made up of small particles or fragments of sponge, and this layer is held in position by means of thread or yarn 4 wound on the exterior of said layer. Succeeding layers 5 made up of small pieces of sponge or analogous material are placed one upon the other and each layer

being wound with string or yarn until the body of the ball is of the proper size, and the same is then provided with a cover 6 of leather or fabric. Thus it will be seen the body of my improved ball is made up of a small core, and a series of superimposed layers of sponge or analogous material and each layer being wound with thread or yarn.

The layers of material forming the body of the ball are each wound with a thread or yarn in order to reinforce the body of the ball and give stability thereto, thereby overcoming any tendency of the ball to get out of shape while in use.

It has been demonstrated that where a ball is made up of a solid body of light material without reinforcement that said ball will quickly get out of shape when repeatedly struck by an object such as a base ball bat.

A ball of my improved construction is comparatively light in weight, is exceptionally "lively", owing to the resiliency of the material used in the body of the ball, and said ball can be thrown and caught without injury to the hands, and is, therefore, particularly adapted for the use of ladies and children.

I am aware that playing balls have been made up of small pieces of sponge or the like, as for instance, in Patents No. 456,920 dated July 28, 1891, and No. 646,350, dated March 27, 1900, but in the construction of the ball shown in both of these patents a large body of sponge or a body made up of a number of pieces of sponge is wrapped or wound only upon the exterior, and where this construction is carried out the body of the ball will not maintain its initial shape for the reason that the interior of the body of the ball is not reinforced.

I claim:

1. A ball consisting of a body made up of a core formed of a number of small pieces of light resilient material, a winding of thread or yarn around said core, a series of superimposed layers made up of a number of small pieces of light resilient material, a winding of thread or yarn upon each layer and a cover inclosing said body.

2. The herein described ball comprising a

core made up of a number of small pieces of
sponge, a reinforcing thread or yarn mount-
ed upon the surface of said core, a series of
superimposed layers formed of a number of
5 small pieces of sponge arranged upon said
core, a reinforcing thread or yarn mounted
upon each layer, and a cover inclosing the
body.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my
signature in the presence of two witnesses, 10
this 2nd day of June, 1910.

WILLIAM P. WHITLEY.

Witnesses:

M. P. SMITH,

F. R. CORNWALL.