

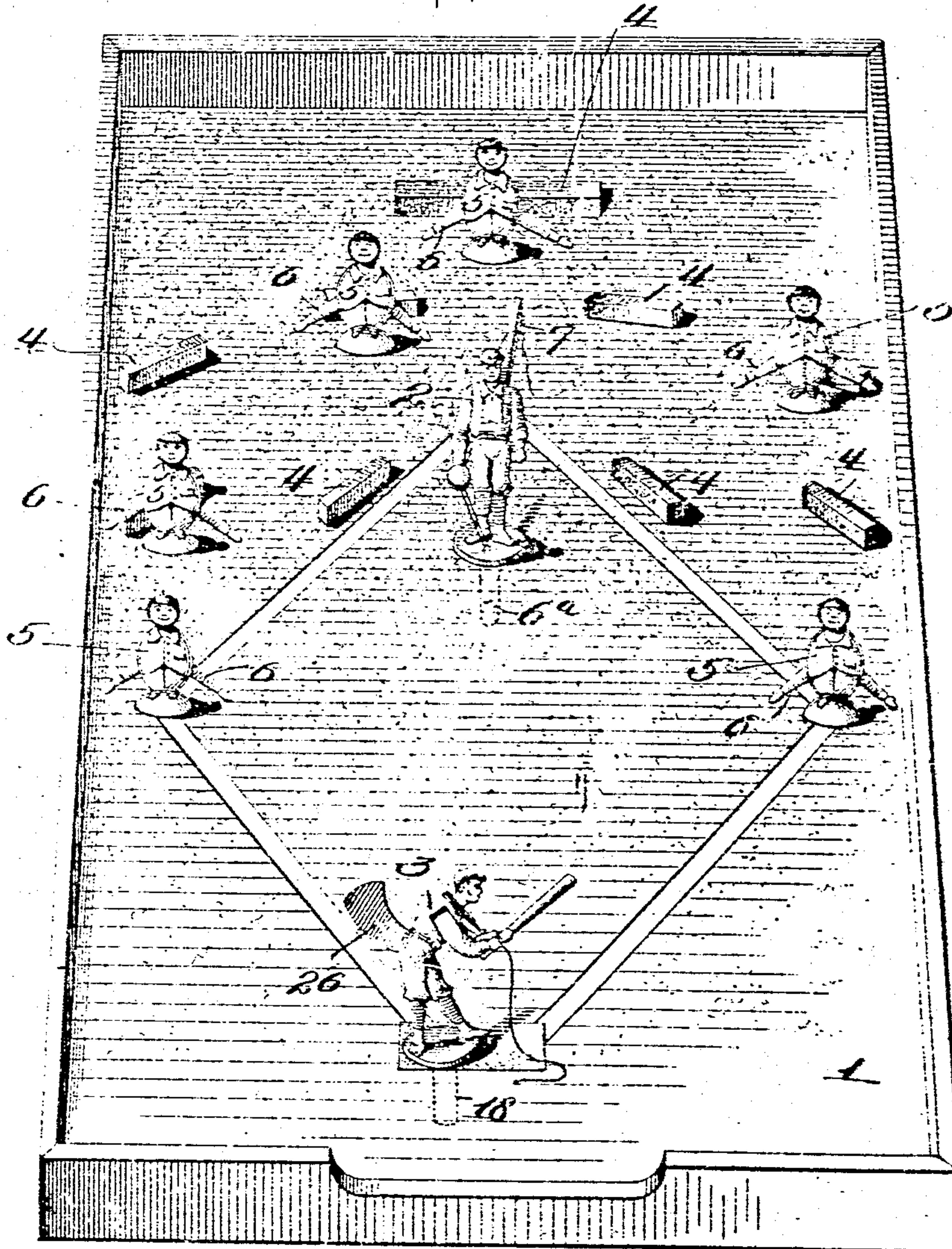
GAME APPARATUS.

983,250.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

2 SHEETS--SHEET 1.

714.



Guustav Dietrich
George Bamberg.

INVENTOR

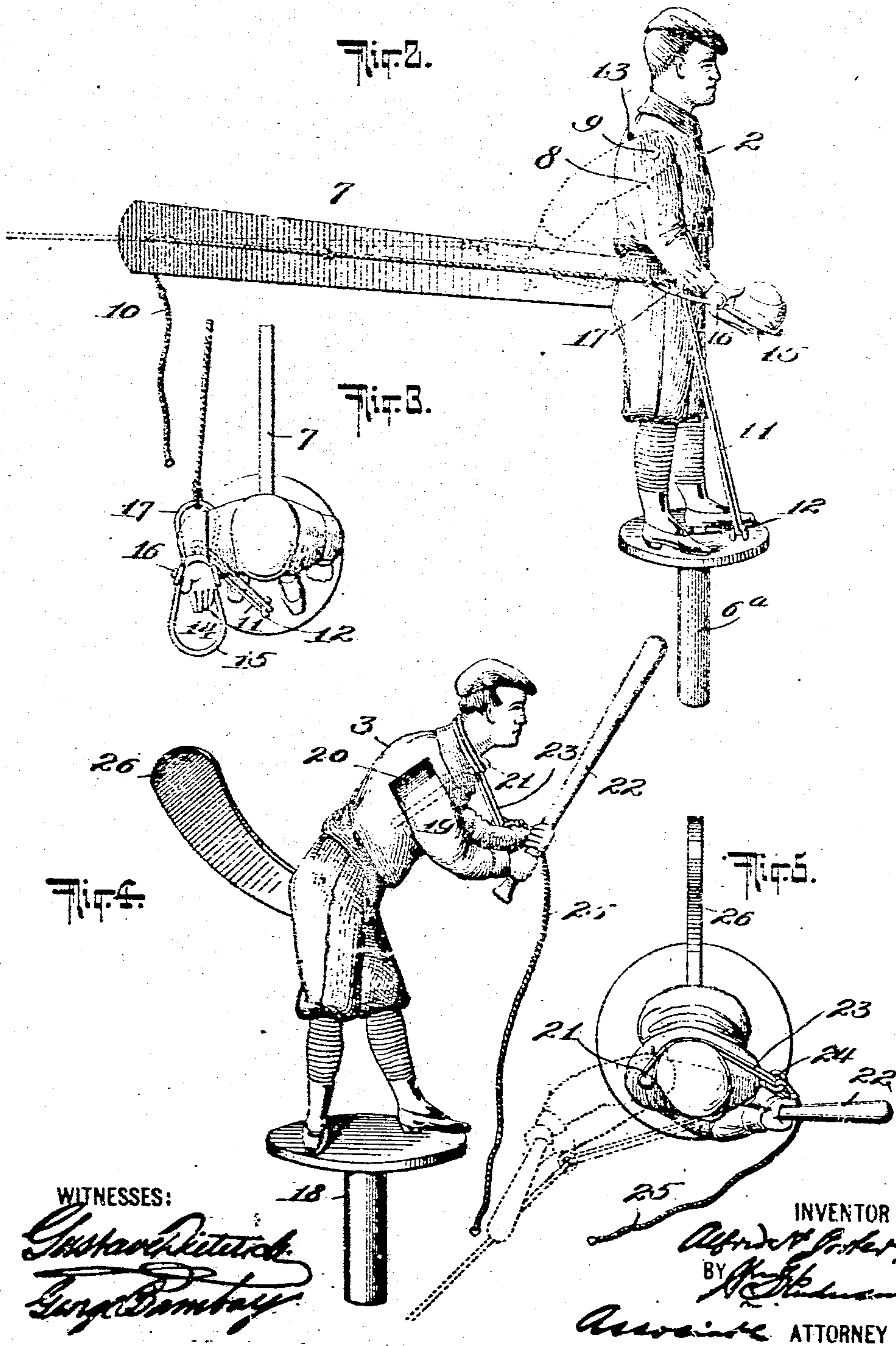
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A. H. PORTER.
 GAME APPARATUS.
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 28, 1909.

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2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



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GAME APPARATUS.

983,250.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED H. PORTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Monmouth Beach, county of Monmouth, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to games, and more particularly to a game-board or apparatus having features or elements adapted to be manipulated for reproducing in miniature the main features of the game of base-ball.

It has for its object to provide for a construction and arrangement of parts permitting of a wide range of discretion and skill in pitching and batting so that the element of chance will to a large measure be eliminated and the reward of the players will depend mainly on their skilful playing or manipulation of the elements or parts employed in playing the game; and also in which the disposition and movement of parts will clearly resemble the actual outdoor game, the exercise of judgment and skill on the part of the players adding largely to the interest of the game.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and such other objects as may hereinafter appear the invention consists in the features hereinafter particularly described and then sought to be clearly defined, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the board with the parts arranged in position for playing the game; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the miniature pitcher; Fig. 3 a plan view of the same; Fig. 4 a side elevation of the miniature batter; and Fig. 5 a plan view of the same.

The game comprises in general a board 1 provided with a raised border flange and having outlined thereon a base-ball diamond which may be in contrasting colors, and with places for the pitcher 2 and batter 3 in proper position in relation to the diamond. On the remaining surface of the board will be disposed a number of movable stops 4 the same preferably being arranged in three rows, and which will be so arranged that each will stop a ball moving in its direction and striking the stop but no one of which will be between the batter and any other

stop, thus making it possible by skilful manipulation of the miniature batter to direct a ball through the space between any two stops and past one or more rows of the stops. The stops will be positioned by one of the players, say, by the player representing the nine in the field, and according to the judgment of the player as to make it most difficult for the player at the bat to direct the ball clear of the stops and past one row to another. The first row of stops being the easiest to reach with the batted ball, will entitle the batter to a one-base hit if his batted ball strikes one of the stops in the first row. The second row, being more difficult to reach, will entitle the batter to a two-base hit if he bats the ball with sufficient skill to pass it beyond the first row and the ball strikes a stop of the second row. The third row being still more difficult to reach, will entitle the batter to a third-base hit if he be skilful enough to direct the ball against a stop of that row. The stops of the several rows may also be so positioned (for instance, as illustrated in the drawing) that by the most skilful batting, the ball may be directed past the several rows of stops so that it will strike the back flange of the board, and in that event the batter will be entitled to a home run. Instead of leaving the disposition of the stops to the judgment of the player they may be permanently secured in position by any suitable means so that they will remain the same at all times for both players.

Small movable figures, representing the members of a base-ball nine, other than the pitcher and batter, will be suitably positioned on the board (six figures being illustrated in the drawing) and be located corresponding to the position of men in the field and at bases at the discretion and in the judgment of the player representing the pitching side will best intercept the ball. These figures are designated by the numeral 5, for convenience, and preferably are formed with extending arms 6 so as to be more apt to intercept the ball, and they may, if desired, be colored like ball players, but such is not necessary. If one of the figures be knocked over by the ball, the batter will be caught out; but if the figure is merely moved without tipping over, it will be counted as an error by the fielder.

The miniature pitcher 2, which may be colored like a ball player, is revolvably attached to the board, for instance by a pivot peg 6^a fitting loosely in a hole in the board. A handle or wing 7 extending preferably from the back of the figure allows the pitcher to be turned in the desired direction so as to send the ball over the home-plate, or, if desired, to either side. The arm 8 swings forward and back on a shaft or pin 9 and is actuated by suitable means, for instance, in one direction by a cord 10 and in the other direction by a suitable spring, for instance, by an elastic band 11 which is illustrated as attached to the base of the figure by a staple 12 and at the other end to the arm. A suitable stop, for instance a pin 13, will restrict the swing of the arm. The hand of the arm is supplemented with a pivoted ball-holder 14 of suitable form and construction adapted to receive the ball in a cavity in which the ball will seat. In the form illustrated the ball-holder consists of a metal-loop 15 in which the ball may seat and which is attached to the hand by a pivot 16 and has a rearwardly extending portion or loop 17 to which latter the actuating cord 10 is attached, which cord may pass through the handle or wing 7 so as to be sustained by the handle. When the cord is pulled from behind the arm is drawn back against the tension of the spring 11, while the ball-holder, by reason of being pivoted, remains practically horizontal in all positions of the arm until the cord is released, when the weight of the ball will depress the front of the holder and at the same instant the arm will swing forward under the influence of the actuating spring and propel the ball along the surface of the board, the direction of propulsion being controlled by the discretion and skill of the player in adjusting the position of the miniature figure, and the speed of the ball likewise being controlled by the discretion and skill of the player in placing the actuating spring under greater or less tension by the extent of backward movement of the arm and the point of releasing tension on the spring. This makes it possible for the player manipulating the miniature pitcher to deliver most puzzling balls to the batter, first fast, then slow, to the right or left, thus tempting the batter to strike at balls out of reach, or to strike too early or too late, as or in simulation of the actual out-door game.

The miniature batter 3 may be colored like a base-ball player, and is revolvably connected to the board, for instance, by a pivot peg 18 fitting loosely in a hole in the board so that the figure may easily be turned laterally in any direction. To the body of the figure is attached the arm or arms 19 in a suitable manner so as to swing transversely to the body which inclines forward. The

preferred manner of attaching the arm to the body of the figure is by forming a socket 20 in the body transversely of the same and inclining downwardly and in which the member constituting the arm or arms 19 is hinged, or pivoted by a pin or spindle 21, as illustrated clearly in Fig. 4 of the drawing, so that the arm will extend at an angle to the surface of the board and be capable of swinging from one side to the other transversely to the body of the figure, a bat 22 being supported at the lower or hand end to the arm member. The body of the figure inclines forwardly so as to simulate the posture of a batter at the bat, and by pivoting the arm member in the socket as described, the bat is caused to describe a swinging sweep in the swinging of the arm from one side of the body to the other, the lowest point of the sweep being in front of the body. This also makes batting more difficult, but the bat might be arranged horizontally, if desired, without departing from the other novel features, although that would make batting easier.

The arm member is actuated in one direction by a suitable spring, for instance, by an elastic band 23 attached at one end to an eye 24 connected to the arm member and at the other end to the pivot pin or spindle 21 as illustrated. It is drawn toward the other side of the body, or the striking position illustrated by dotted lines in Fig. 5, by means of a cord 25. When drawn from its normal position shown by full lines in Figs. 4 and 5 to its raised striking position illustrated by dotted lines, in Fig. 5, the spring is put under tension, and when the cord is released the spring draws the arm and bat downward and then upward with swinging sweep before mentioned. If the ball thrown by the miniature pitcher is encountered by the bat at the low point of the sweep of the bat it will be driven by the force of the blow over the surface of the board and in the direction for which the player adjusts the miniature figure. The player effects this adjustment by grasping a handle or wing 26 extending from the rear of the figure and turning the figure on its pivot to such position as in his judgment will cause the bat to strike the ball in the path while the other player has caused the miniature pitcher to propel it, the batter player also exercising his judgment as to the length of the backward stroke to be given to the batter's arm and the consequent tension of the returning spring. If the batter's arm under tension is released too slow or too quick the bat will fail to strike the ball in the forward sweep of the bat and a strike will be counted against the batter. If the ball is struck by the bat the direction in which it is propelled will be determined by the position to which the player has adjusted the minia-

ture batter, and the credit for the play is counted according to its success as previously stated.

It will be observed from the foregoing, that there is the widest range for the exercise of the best judgment and greatest skill on the part of the batter in determining whether to hit the ball hard or gently and also as to propelling the ball in the direction which seems least guarded by the players or stops of the other side. Skill and judgment are likewise required on the part of the playing pitcher in pitching the ball in a manner and direction most likely to mislead or surprise the batter.

Strikes and balls will be counted as in the actual out-door game.

The positions of the base runners may be indicated by figures differently colored and located to represent the batting side placed behind a base to denote a runner on that base, but such figures are not illustrated as they do not constitute an essentially novel feature of the invention.

I have illustrated and described what I consider to be the best details in construction of the several parts but variations can be made therein without omitting essential features of the invention.

The body of the batter will incline more or less forwardly, and the bat will extend at a greater or less angle to the horizontal, according as it may be desired to have the outer end of the bat at a greater or less distance from the plane of the board or field, in the swing of the bat, according as the wishes of the maker of the game-board may determine.

Having described my invention and set forth its merits, what I claim is:—

1. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a pitcher-figure provided with a swinging arm to impel a ball supported by the arm, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to control the direction of propulsion of the ball, and means under the control of a player for determining the time of projecting the ball and the speed of its propulsion, substantially as described.

2. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a pitcher-figure provided with a swinging arm to impel a ball supported by the arm, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to control the direction of propulsion of the ball, substantially as described.

3. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a pitcher-figure provided with a swinging arm to impel a ball, and a ball-holder pivotally connected with one end of the arm, substantially as described.

4. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a pitcher-figure provided

with a swinging arm to impel a ball, a ball-holder movable relatively to the end of the arm, and means for retracting the arm and simultaneously changing the position of the ball-holder relatively to the arm, substantially as described.

5. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a pitcher-figure provided with a swinging arm to impel a ball, a ball-holder pivotally connected with one end of the arm, means connected with said holder for retracting the arm and simultaneously changing the position of the ball-holder relatively to the arm, said ball-holder operating to tilt downwardly under the weight of a ball supported thereon in the return movement of the arm, substantially as described.

6. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a batter-figure provided with an arm-member carrying a bat and connected with the body of the figure to swing transversely across the front of the body, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to change the direction of sweep of the bat in the swinging of the arm-member, substantially as described.

7. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a batter-figure having the body portion above the legs inclined forwardly of the legs and provided with an arm-member carrying a bat, said arm-member extending downwardly in a forward direction from the inclined body-portion and connected therewith to swing transversely across the front of the body and impart a sweeping curvilinear movement to the bat in the swing of the arm-member, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to change the direction of sweep of the bat, substantially as described.

8. In a game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, a batter-figure formed with a downwardly inclined socket in the body portion above the legs, said socket being open at the front of the body, an arm-member carrying a bat and downwardly inclined in front of the body portion and pivotally supported in said socket to give a curvilinear sweep to the bat in the swing of the arm-member, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to change the direction of sweep of the bat in the swing of the arm-member, and a wing member extending from the figure to effect its rotative movement, substantially as described.

9. A game apparatus representing the game of base-ball, comprising a board representing a base-ball diamond and field, a pitcher-figure having an arm adapted to swing relatively to the figure, said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to control the direction of

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propulsion of the pitched ball, a batter-figure having a swinging arm-member carrying a bat, said arm being connected with the body portion of the figure to sweep the bat
5 in a curvilinear path in the swing of the arm-member and said figure being pivotally supported to turn around its longitudinal axis to change the direction of sweep of the bat, elevated stops disposed in rows on the
10 field portion of the board and in such position that one stop will not be disposed be-

tween the batter and any other stop, and a series of tiltable figures disposed on the surface of the board, substantially as described.

Signed at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 5th day of April, 1909. 15

ALFRED H. PORTER.

Witnesses:

KATHRYN M. KILEY
HERMAN GUSTON.