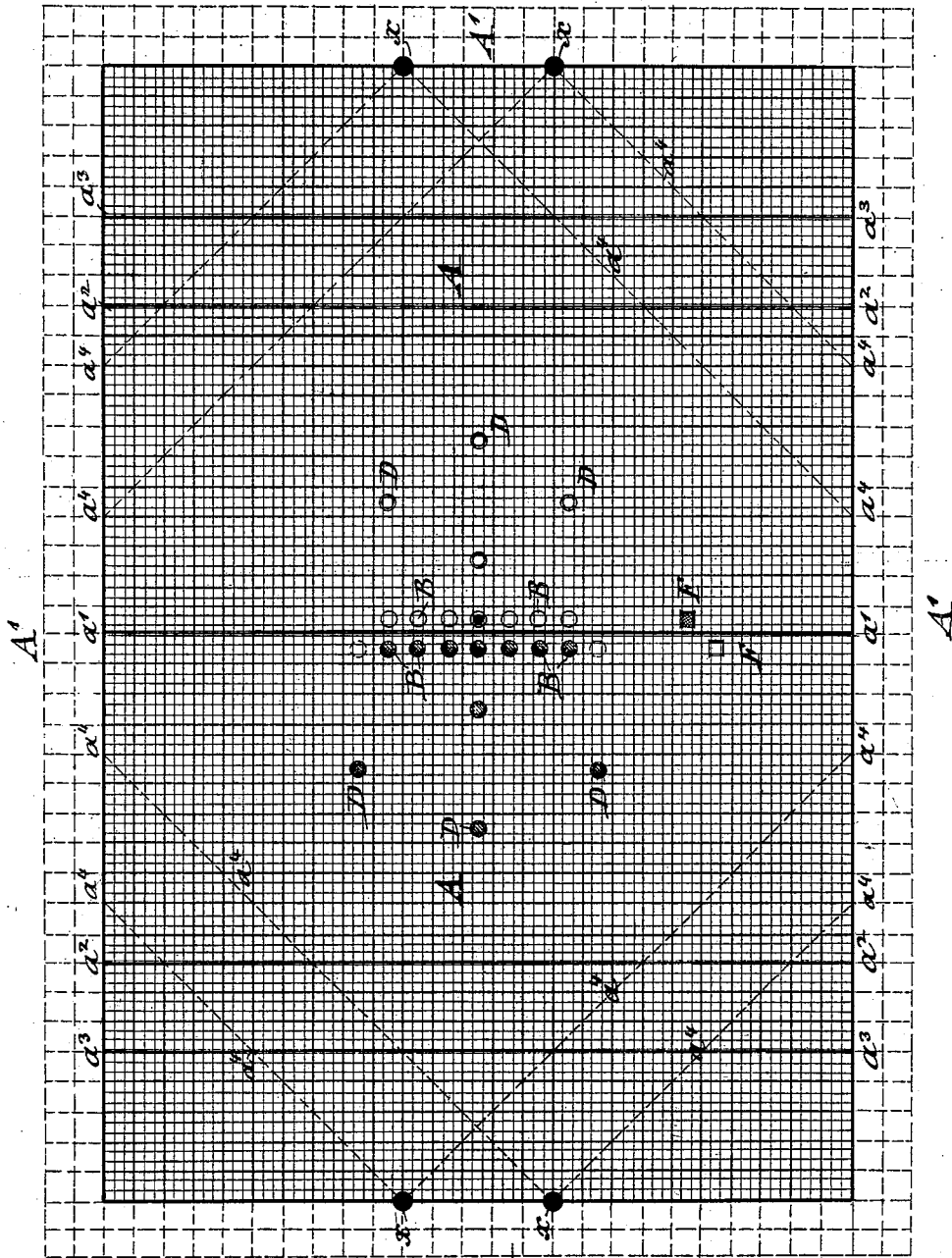


W. L. BASS.
PARLOR GAME APPARATUS.

No. 588,811.

Patented Aug. 24, 1897.



WITNESSES
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R. F. Deloye

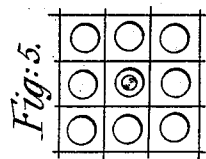
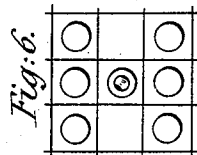
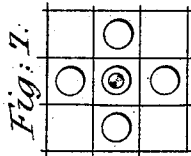
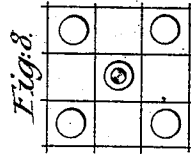
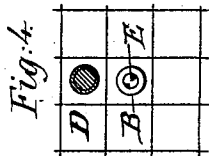
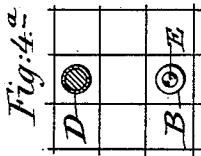
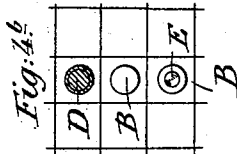
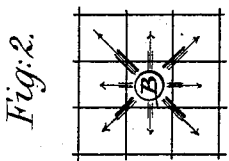
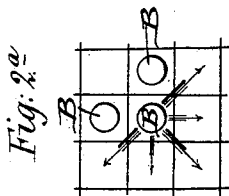
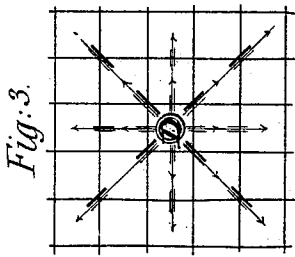
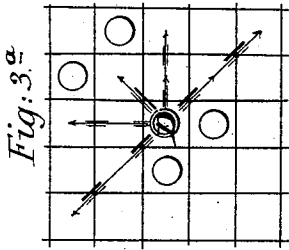
Fig. 1.
 A'

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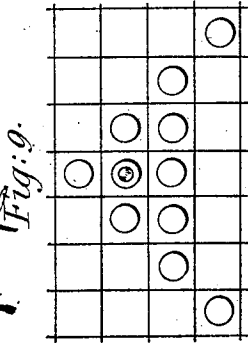
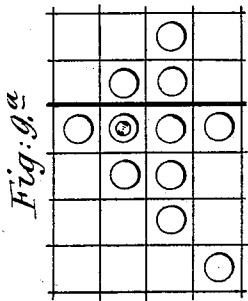
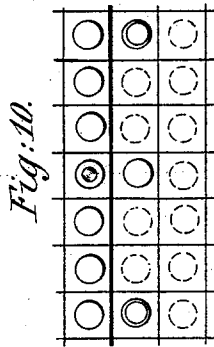
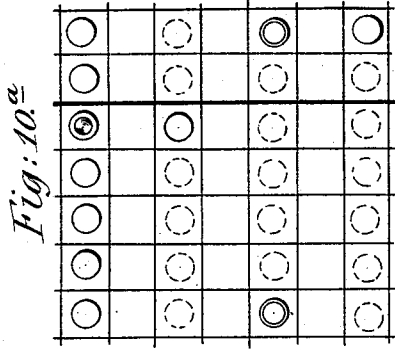
WITNESSES:
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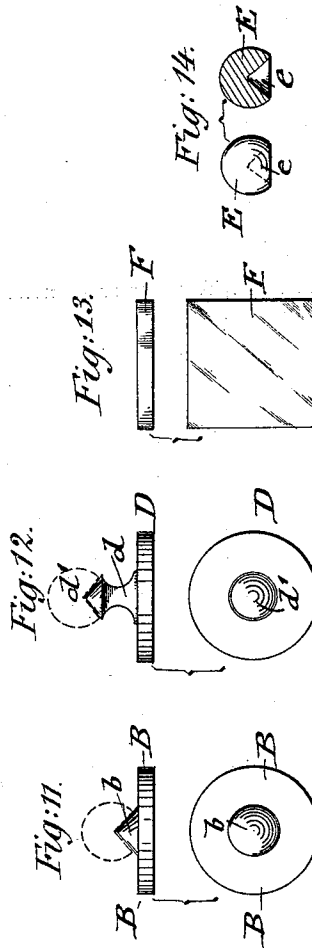
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM L. BASS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

PARLOR-GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 588,811, dated August 24, 1897.

Application filed December 24, 1896. Serial No. 616,859. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM L. BASS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Parlor-Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to furnish a game for indoor or parlor use which affords entertainment in a manner similar to checkers, chess, &c., and with the similarity and fascination of a game of foot-ball as actually played on a field.

The invention consists of an indoor or parlor game comprised of a rectangular field divided in a similar manner to the conventional foot-ball field, furnished with pieces serving to comprise sets of "rush-men," "backs," and a "referee" for each side. The "rush-men" and "backs" are provided with means for supporting a ball which is adapted to be carried by "rush-men" or "backs."

The invention consists, further, of certain details of construction, such as the arrangement of the field and the construction of "rush-men," "backs," and ball, as will be fully described hereinafter, and finally pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a plan view of a field for my improved indoor game of "parlor foot-ball," showing both parties in "line-up" at "center-line." Figs. 2 and 2^a represent diagrams illustrating the moves of a "rush-man." Figs. 3 and 3^a are diagrams representing the moves of a "back." Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating control of "rush-man" or "back" over piece with ball. Figs. 4^a and 4^b are diagrams illustrating the relative control of a "back" over a piece with ball. Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8 are diagrams illustrating the defense of the ball by eight (5), six (6), and four (7) (8). Figs. 9 and 9^a are diagrams representing, respectively, the formation of a "wedge" on the free field (9) and a "wedge" on the "touch-line" (9^a). Figs. 10 and 10^a are diagrams representing the "line-up" when the ball is hard pressed on the "goal-line" (10) or hard pressed on the "touch-line" (10^a). Figs. 11, 12, and 13 are respectively side and top views of pieces adapted as a "rush-man" (11), a "back" (12), and a "referee" (13). Fig. 14 is a side view and

a central section of the ball adaptable in connection with the "rush-men" and "backs."

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents a rectangular field, which is formed on a piece of paper, pasteboard, wood, or other suitable material, and made in the relative proportion of seventy-five by one hundred and fifteen, so as to correspond to the number of yards in the field of the outdoor game of foot-ball. The field is made rectangular and divided into single, double, and treble or more spaces, tending to abbreviate the game. The shorter ends of the rectangular field A are the "goal-lines," on which the "goal-posts" xx are located, which are indicated by black characters. The longer sides of the rectangular field A are the "touch-lines." The distinguishing-line a' across the center of the field represents the "center-line," while the number of pronounced lines $a^2 a^3$ on either side of the "center-line" and parallel therewith are respectively the "twenty-five-yard line" and "fifteen-yard line." The dotted lines A' , arranged parallel with the outside of the rectangular field A, represent spaces for play when hard pressed on which pieces without the ball are privileged to move. The dotted lines a^4 , arranged diagonally in relation to the "goal-posts," are for guidance for attempting a "goal."

In connection with the representation of the field A my improved game is played with a set of eight pieces B, representing "rush-men," one of which is available as a so-called "quarter-back," and a set of three "backs" D for each side, said "rush-men" and "backs" all being entitled to carry the ball. The "rush-men" are represented by disks B, Fig. 11, provided with conically-tapering center portions b , the "backs" by disks D, provided with shanks of greater height d than the center portions b of the "rush-men" B, said shanks having conically-tapering heads d' , as shown in Fig. 12, while the ball is represented by a spherical body E, flattened at one side and provided with a conically-tapering recess e , extending from the flat side inwardly, as shown in Fig. 14. The "rush-men," "backs," and ball may be represented by pieces in any other form and material,

provided, however, that each side has its special distinguishing color—one side, for instance, having black and the other white. The “referee” for each side is represented by a square or other piece F, as shown in Fig. 13. The “rush-men” and “quarter-back” are entitled to move one space in either direction to a vacant square, while the “half” and “full” “backs” are entitled to move two spaces in a square or diagonal direction, but not over any men, to a vacant square. No piece can move diagonally between two men, as shown, respectively, in Figs. 2^a and 3^a, which indicate by arrows the permissible motion of the “rush-men” and “backs.”

The “rush-men” command a “held” when directly opposite the ball, Fig. 4, and “backs” when directly in front, Fig. 4, or within two spaces in front, Fig. 4^a. The ball is permitted to be passed when “held” or “free” to one of the pieces of the same side one or two spaces straight or diagonally back, or backward, like a knight in chess, but the ball cannot be passed to a piece already confronted as “held.” When an opponent squarely in front of the ball calls “held,” the man carrying the ball cannot be moved, and when the ball cannot be properly “passed” in any direction it is “down.” The “backs” can command a “held” for a distance of one or two spaces, and if a man can be placed to interfere after a “back” calls “held” the ball is still “free,” Fig. 4^b. After every “down” the ball must win or lose three spaces in reference to the last “line-up,” as indicated by last location, as per “referee,” or the ball has to change hands. This three-space rule dominates over all questions when regarded from the “referee’s” position. When the ball changes hands after a “down,” the other side takes possession of the ball wherever it happens to be. After every “down” a “line-up” is in vogue, and the scattered men are reassembled about the ball. From a “line-up” the side having the ball moves first by “passing” the ball.

The “referees” have to be maintained at each “down” in proper location by the respective parties. The “referee” of each side is located in line with the opponent’s “rush-line,” leaving three spaces or more intervening, and the party failing to promptly locate his “referee” yields three spaces and the ball, if he has it, immediately upon discovery of such neglect, where the ball happens to be. The duty of the “referees” is to indicate the last “line-up,” they remaining perfectly still until a fresh “line-up” is to be made.

The game is played as follows :

60 I. *The start.*—The game is started by tossing up for possession of the ball with all men lined up on both sides of the “center-line” of the field. The “line-up” must consist of seven men at least on the “rush-line,” one “rush-man” serving as “quarter-back” two spaces back of the “rush-line.” The “half-backs” are always located on the fourth

spaces back of the “rush-line,” and the “full-back” on the sixth spaces back. No “back” can extend farther to the right or left than a straight back protection of the “rush-line.” This rule is always to be preserved, except when hard pressed near the “goal-line,” in which case the “full-back” first crowds toward the “half-backs.” When the space is still more limited, the “half-backs” crowd toward the “quarter-backs,” and with still more limited space the “quarter-backs” crowd toward the “rush-line.” The spaces outside of the “goal-lines” and outside of the “touch-lines” are to be made use of when opportunity offers itself in the formation of a “line-up.” The side not possessing the ball can play without having any one on the “quarter-back” line and can have eight “line-men,” if desired.

II. *Advancing the ball.*—The ball can be advanced by carrying, by the fault of opponent’s “referee” to be properly located, or by “kicks,” which are “punts” or “drop-kicks” acquired by the following formations: A “punt” is a ball chosen to be sent straight forward and which cannot cross, but can go as far as the “goal-line.” A “drop-kick” advances the ball diagonally, extends as far as the “touch-line” allows, and can cross the “goal-line.” The act of “kicking” the ball counts a move, the opposing side to have one move between the last move which completed the kick formation and the sending of the ball forward, which counts as a move. After a “kick” the ball is free to be acquired and taken up by any man unless it lands on a space occupied by a man. Formation entitling to “kicks” must be taken immediately upon the completion of such formation and for the full distance allotted or the opportunity is lost. “Kicks” are not compulsory when the ball is not “held” and cannot be “passed.” The party that brings all his men into the scrimmage first gets the ball for a new “line-up.”

“Kicks” are acquired under the following conditions and prospective valuations: A man with a ball, defended by eight of his men, as shown in Fig. 5, is entitled to an optional “kick” of twelve spaces, “drop” or “punt.” When the ball is defended by three men in front and three men behind, as shown in Fig. 6, the player is entitled to an optional “kick” of nine spaces. When the ball is defended at right angles by four men squarely, as shown in Fig. 7, the player is entitled to an optional “kick” of six spaces. When the ball is defended and not “held” by four men diagonally, as shown in Fig. 8, the player is entitled to an optional “kick” of three spaces. When the ball is defended by a “wedge” formation, as shown in Fig. 9, the player is entitled to an optional “kick” of fifteen spaces. A “wedge” is formed when the ball is exclusively surrounded by its defenders, the forward portion of the defenders forming a “wedge,” with four men on each side, the

head man included when in the free field. When the "touch-line" interferes with the equilateral formation, the long side must count four men and the balance be "bunched" toward the "touch-line" and the ball, as shown in Fig. 9^a, and in all "wedges" the ball must be immediately behind the most forward man. The "wedge," however, cannot be formed on the defensive with the ball back of the "fifteen-yard line."

III. *Scores.*—When the ball is played through opponents' "goal-posts" by a "drop-kick" or "carried," a "goal" is obtained, which scores six points. When the ball is played across opponents' "goal-line" elsewhere than through the "goal-posts" by a "drop-kick" or by being "carried," it is a "touch-down," scoring four points. When the ball is carried back by the party over its own "goal-line," between the "goal-posts" or not, it is called a "safety," scoring two points for the opponents. After scoring a "goal" a new "line-up" is in vogue in the center of the field, the ball passing to the opposing party. After a "safety" the party can play a new "line-up" on the "fifteen-yard line" straight out. After scoring a "touch-down," the party scoring can bring the ball out as far as desired and have one "line-up" to try for a "goal," and if made the "touch-down" is turned into a "goal." If it is not made, only the "touch-down" is scored and the ball is in possession of the

opposing side and it is played back of their "twenty-five-yard line," straight out from the immediate location of the ball.

My improved game of indoor foot-ball may be played in connection with the foregoing rules for governing the movements of "rushmen," "backs," "referees," and ball, also the formation of the "line-ups," "wedges," &c., and the "score;" but it may also be played with different rules, or with a number of accessory rules, which may be devised and laid down for instructions, whereby the interest of the game might be increased, preserving more closely the various phases of the game of foot-ball as played upon the actual field.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A game apparatus, consisting of a rectangular field laid out with the usual lines of a foot-ball field, an additional subdivided emergency space on each side of said field, two sets of differently-colored pieces representing two foot-ball teams, and a ball adapted to be carried by any piece of either team, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WM. L. BASS.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
GEO. W. JAEKEL.