March 22, 1932. E. K. SMITH 1,850,778

BASEBALL GAME

Filed Aug. 27, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

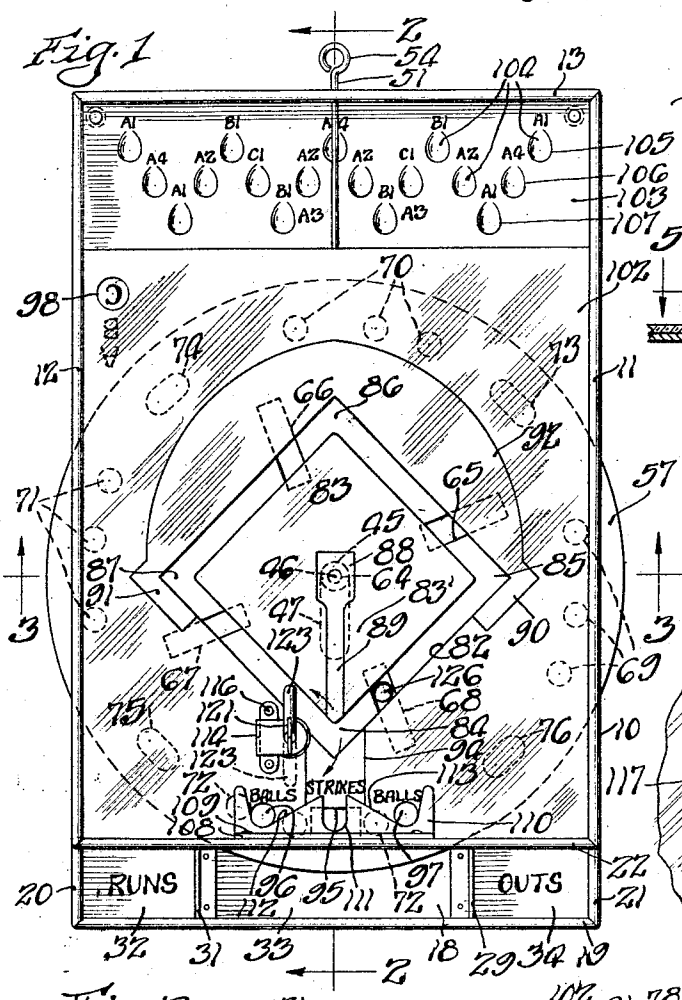


Fig. 4

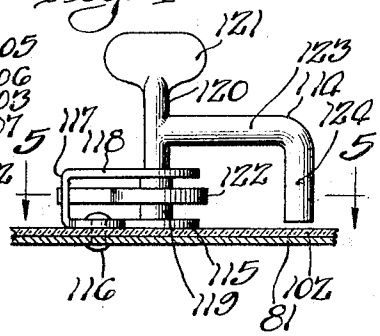


Fig. 5

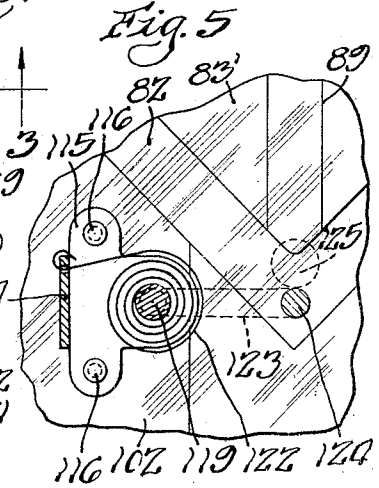


Fig. 2

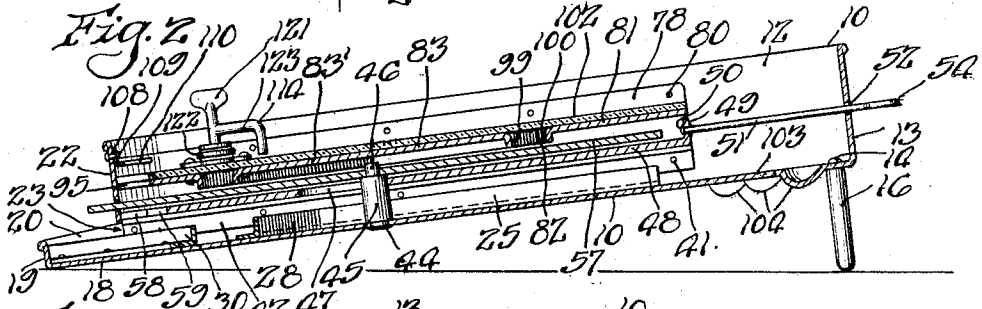
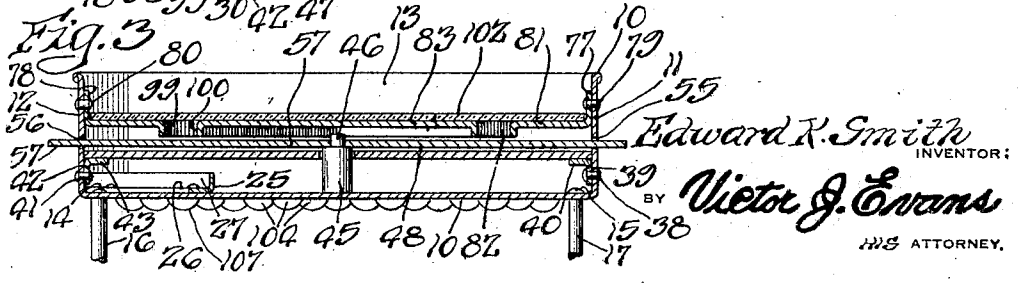


Fig. 3



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BASEBALL GAME

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Fig. 6

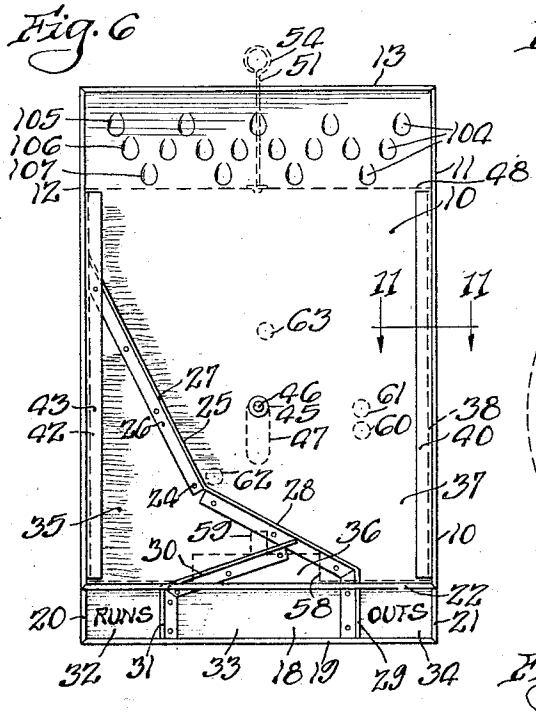


Fig. 7

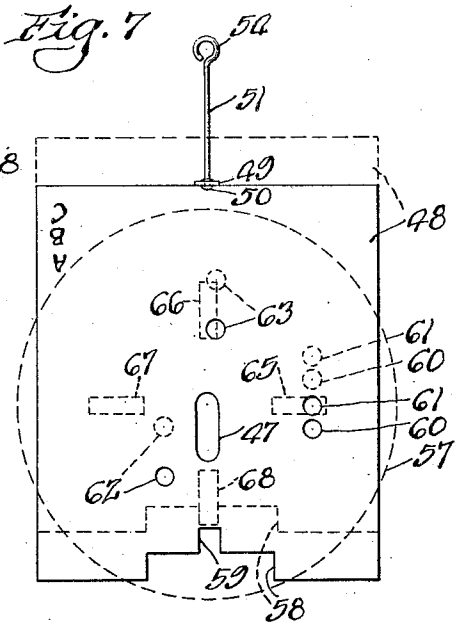


Fig. 8

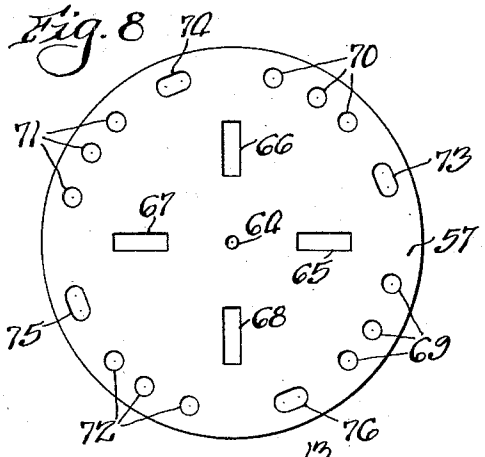


Fig. 9

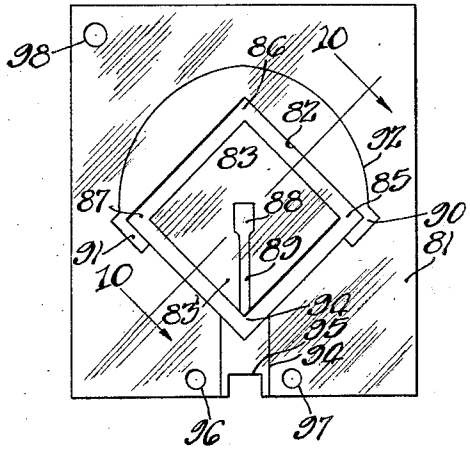


Fig. 11

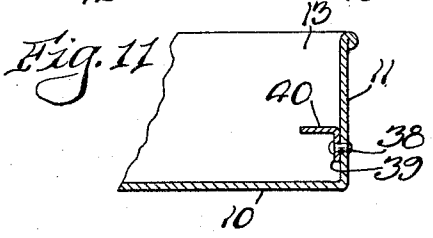
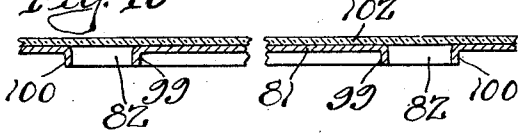


Fig. 10



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Patented Mar. 22, 1932 1,850,778

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EDWARD K. SMITH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

BASEBALL GAME

Application filed August 27, 1930. Serial No. 478,216.

This invention relates to certain novel improvements in a baseball game, and has for its principal object the provision of an improved construction of this character which will be highly efficient in use and economical in manufacture.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a novel and entertaining game embodying an improved construction which enables the players using my improved game to execute the various plays of baseball thereon.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a novel toy baseball game more closely approaching the game of out door baseball than any of the games known heretofore in the art.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, showing the preferred form of construction and in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a preferred form of construction of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary elevational view partly in section depicting a unit embodied in the invention;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of certain units embodied in the invention;

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of a unit depicted in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a top plan view of a suitable unit depicted in Fig. 1;

Fig. 9 is a top plan view of a unit depicted in Fig. 1;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 10—10 in Fig. 9; and

Fig. 11 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 11—11 in Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings wherein a preferred form of construction of my invention is illustrated, indicated at 10 is a substantially rectangular base made of any suitable material such, for example, as metal. Preferably formed integrally with the base 10 are side wall portions 11 and 12 and a rear wall portion 13. Secured to the base 10 by means of suitable connecting elements such as screws 14 and 15 are legs 16 and 17 which are disposed below the base 10 adjacent the rear wall 13 in a manner such that the base 10 when supported on any suitable flat surface, such as a table, will be inclined at an acute angle with the horizontal.

The base 10 includes a front end portion 18 which terminates in an upturned front wall 19. Defined by notches formed in the front end portions of the side walls 11 and 12 are inclined end portions 20 and 21 between the upper ends of which extends the wall 22 which is preferably formed integrally with the side walls 11 and 12 in a manner such that the wall 22 is elevated above the base 10 providing an opening 23.

Secured to the base 10 by means of screws 24 or the like and extending angularly inward from the side wall 12 is a rail 25 which includes a foot portion 26 and an upturned flange 27. Continuous with the rail 25 and extending angularly therefrom is a rail 28 substantially similar in construction to the rail 25. A rail 29 is disposed parallel with the side walls 11 and 12 and the rail 29 is continuous with and similar to the rail 28. Extending at an angle from the rail 28 in the direction of the side wall 12 is a rail 30 continuous with which is a rail 31 that is parallel to the rail 29 and these rails 30 and 31 are similar in construction to the rails mentioned hereinbefore. The rails 29 and 31 extend across the front end portion 18 of the base 10 so as to define three areas in the end portion 18 as indicated at 32, 33 and 34.

By referring to Figs. 1 and 6 it may be seen that the area 32 communicates below the wall 22 with an area 35 while the area 33 communicates below the wall 22 with the area 36, the area 36 being defined by the intersecting rails 28 and 30 and the rails 29 and 31. The area 34 communicates, below the wall 22, with an area 37. Secured to the

side wall 11 by means of rivets 38 or the like is the foot portion 39 of a shelf 40 and secured to the side wall 12 by means of rivets 41 or the like is the foot portion 42 of a shelf 43. Mounted in the base 10 by means of a rivet 44 or the like is a block 45 on the upper end of which is provided a hub pin 46. Slidably mounted on the shelves 40 and 43 and provided with a slot 47 through which the block 45 is adapted to travel is a plate 48 at the rear end of which is provided an upstanding rim 49. Attached to the rim 49 in any suitable manner such as by peening, as indicated at 50, is a rod 51 which projects through an opening 52 provided in the rear wall 13. Formed in the outer end of the rod 51 is a hooked portion providing a handle 54.

Formed in the side walls 11 is a slot 55 and a similar slot 56 is provided in the side wall 12. Rotatably mounted on the hub pin 46 is a disc 57 portions of which project through the slots 55 and 56 and a similar slot in the front wall portion 22 to provide gripping surfaces for reasons to be made apparent presently.

A recess 58 is provided in the front end portion of the slidable plate 48 and extending rearwardly from the recess 58 is a recess 59. Openings 60 and 61 are provided in the plate 48 and these openings, as best shown in Fig. 7, are disposed to the right of the slot 47 as seen from the front of the plate 48. Rearwardly of the slot 47 an opening 63 is provided in the plate 48 and forwardly and to the left of slot 47 is an opening 62.

A centrally disposed opening 64 is provided in the disc 57 and the opening is adapted to receive the hub pin 46. Arranged at substantially 90° intervals about the opening 64 are slots 65, 66, 67 and 68 formed in the disc 57. Provided in the disc 57 at substantially 90° intervals and adjacent the periphery of the disc are four groups of openings, three openings in each group, as indicated at 69, 70, 71, and 72. Spaced between the two groups of openings 69 and 70 is a slot 73 and a similar slot 74 is provided in the disc 57 between the groups of openings 70 and 71. Between the groups of openings 71 and 72 is a slot 75, similar to the slots 73 and 74, and a similar slot 76 is provided in the disc 57 between the groups of openings 69 and 72.

Disposed above the disc 57 and including flange portions 77 and 78 which are secured to the side walls 11 and 12 by means of rivets 79 and 80 is a plate 81 in which is provided a slot 82. The slot 82 is adapted to resemble the paths between the bases of a baseball field and the slot 82 extends around and defines the diamond 83. The intersections of the slot 82 define the bases of the diamond, home base being indicated at 84, first base at 85, second base at 86, and third base at 87, while the pitcher's box is indicated at 88. The pitcher's box 88 is preferably laid out by light colored paint or the like provided on the plate 81, and the path 89 between the pitcher's box and home plate is likewise preferably indicated by light colored paint whereas the infield area 83′ is preferably green in color, though it is apparent that these colors may be varied without departing from the purview of my invention. Inscribed in any suitable manner on the plate 81 are the coaching lines 90 and 91, continuous with which is the semi-circular area 92 which extends from first to third base.

A light colored area 94 is provided for the batter's box. A recess 95 is provided in the plate 81, outwardly of the batter's box and formed in the plate 81 at opposite sides of the recess 95 are the openings 96 and 97. An opening 98 is provided in one corner of the plate 81 for reasons to be explained hereinafter.

The slot 82 which defines the base lines, is preferably defined by depending flanges 99 and 100. Removably supported on the plate 81 is a transparent plate 102 which may be made of any suitable material such, for example, as celluloid. Secured to the plate 102 at the underside thereof and by any suitable means such as adhesive is the plate 83 which defines the infield area 83′.

A plurality of concave depressions 104 are provided in the rear portion 103 of the base 10 and these depressions, in the present instance, are arranged in three rows 105, 106, and 107, which extend at right angles to the side walls 11 and 12.

As best shown in Fig. 1, certain of these depressions 104 are marked A—1, A—2, A—3, and A—4, others are marked B—1, and still others are marked C—1, for reasons to be explained hereinafter. The word "Runs" is suitably indicated on the area 32 while the word "Outs" is marked on the area 34. Marked in any suitable manner on the plate 48, in the left rear corner thereof, as seen from the front, and so as to be visible through the opening 98 in the plate 81, are the letters "A", "B", and "C" which indicate the several positions to which the slidable plate 48 may be moved in playing my novel game as will be explained hereinafter. Indicated in any suitable manner on the plate 81 inwardly of the openings 96 and 97 is the word "Balls", as seen in Fig. 1, while indicated on the plate 81 rearwardly of the batter's box 94 is the word "Strikes".

Including a flange portion 108 which is attached to the wall portion 22 by means of suitable connecting elements 109 is a protruding ledge 110 which projects over the lower end portion of the transparent plate 102. Provided in the ledge 110 and in alignment with the path 89 from the pitcher's box to home plate, is a U-shaped recess 111. Pro-

vided in the ledge 110 at opposite sides of the recess 111 are similar but oppositely directed recesses 112 and 113.

Best illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 is a novel batting device embodied in my invention and generically indicated at 114. The device 114 includes a bracket 115 which is secured to the transparent plate 102 and to the plate 81 by means of rivets 116 or the like. Integral with the bracket 115 is an upstanding portion 117 and extending from the portion 117 parallel with the bracket 115 is an arm 118. Rotatably mounted in the bracket 115 is a portion 119 which provides a bearing surface and integral with this bearing 119 is the stem portion 120 of a handle 121. Secured to the bearing portion 119 in any approved manner is one end portion of a coil spring 122 and the other end portion of this spring 122 is secured to the upstanding portion 117. A batting arm 123 projects out from the stem 120 and this arm 123 includes a depending portion 124.

My improved game is preferably played by and between two players using small balls, indicated at 125, made of steel or other suitable material. In commencing play the sliding plate 48 is moved by grasping the handle 54 until the letter "C" appears through the opening 98. The player who is to pitch first then takes a ball and, holding the ball on the transparent plate 102 so that the ball is above the pitcher's box 88, releases the ball, letting the ball run down plate 102 over the path 89 in an attempt to cause the ball to enter the recess 111 thereby to count a strike against the batter who, meantime, grasps the handle 121 and turns the arm 123 until it is disposed in the position shown in dotted line in Fig. 1. The batter then releases the batting arm 123 and the spring 122 rotates the arm 123 which rotates toward the ball approaching from the pitcher's box. In the event the batting arm 123 fails to strike the oncoming ball and the ball enters the recess 111 a strike is counted against the batter while if the batter decides not to strike at the ball pitched and the ball rolls into either of the recesses 112 or 113 a "ball" is counted. Pitching is continued, therefore, until the batter hits a ball and drives the same over into the area 103. In case the ball is struck by the batting arm 123 but not driven into the area 103 a foul strike is counted against the batter. If the pitched balls enter the recesses 111, 112, and 113, and thereby count as "strikes" or "balls" they fall either into the recess 95 which is aligned with the recess 111, or into the opening 97 which is aligned with the recess 112, or into the opening 96 which is aligned with the recess 113 and the disc 57 is then rotated until one of the groups of openings 69, 70, 71, or 72 comes into alignment with these openings 96 and 97 and the recess 95 which causes the balls to fall therethrough into the area 36 from which the balls roll into the area 33 where they are retained by the wall 19. The pitched balls are in this manner returned to the front end portion 18 of the base 10 and they may then be picked up and used again, it being understood that, as in baseball, any number of balls needed may be used. In case two or more balls are accumulated in one or both of the openings 96 and 97 or in the recess 95, rotation of the disc 57 will cause one of the slots 73, 74, 75 or 76 to be aligned thereunder and the balls thus accumulated will fall therethrough and be returned to the area 33 in the manner described above.

Assuming now that the sliding plate 48 is disposed so that the letter "C" thereon is visible through the opening 98 and that the batter has hit the ball 125 before having been counted "out", as "strikes" and "balls" are counted on a batter in baseball, it will be further assumed that the batter has hit a "fair" ball into the area 103. If the "fair" ball hit into the area 103 enters none of the depressions 104 but rolls back over the base 10 through the area 37 and into the area 34, the batter is counted "out" as indicated on that portion of the base 10 defining the area 34.

In the event, however, that the batter hits the ball 125 into the area 103 and the ball comes to rest in one of the three rows of depressions 104, hereinafter to be called "cups", the play is continued as follows: It will be assumed, for illustration, that the batter's ball has come to rest in one of the cups marked "A—1". The batter then moves the slidable plate 48 until the letter "A" appears through the opening 98, the plate 48 being moved into the "A" position whenever the batter's ball comes to rest in any one of the "A" cups. Similarly, if the batter's ball comes to rest in one of the "B" cups the plate 48 is moved into "B" position, while if the batted ball comes to rest in a "C" cup the batter moves the plate 48 into "C" position.

Assuming now, however, that the batter's ball has come to rest in an A—1 cup. After having moved the plate 48 into "A" position, the batter then takes the ball out of the A—1 cup and drops it through the opening 126, which is provided in the transparent plate 102, and the disc 57 is then rotated until one of the four slots 65, 66, 67 or 68 comes into alignment with the opening 126, or the opening 126 and one of the four slots 65, 66, 67 and 68 may be aligned previous to dropping the ball through the opening 126. The batter then proceeds to bat again until three men are "out". If the batter drives a ball into the area 103 and it comes to rest in an A—2 cup it counts it as a two base hit; if into an A—3 cup, a three base hit; if into an A—4 cup, a four base hit. Assuming now that the batter has hit a pitched ball and has made a "single", that is, has driven a

batted ball into an A—1 cup. He then drops a ball through the opening 126 and then moves the disc 57 so as to place a man on first base. If the batter then makes a two base hit he drops a ball into opening 126 and rotates the disc 57 so as to move the man at first to third base while putting the batter on second base. Manifestly, therefore, if the batter then makes a three base hit he drops a ball through the opening 126 and then rotates the disc 57 until the two men on the bases are scored, the balls being carried around the slot 82 and dropped through the opening 62 into the area 35 from which the balls roll down the base 10 into the area 32 marked "Runs", thus scoring two men and leaving a man on third base. A batted ball coming to rest in an A—4 cup counts as a home run and if the batter at the time of making such hit has "men" on bases he drops a ball into the opening 126 and then rotates the disc 57, scoring the men on bases and the batter likewise in the manner described above.

If the batter has a "man" on first base and hits a ball into a B—1 cup he then moves the plate 48 into "B" position and rotates the disc so that the ball travels from the position of slot 65 to the position of slot 66, that is from first to second base. In this instance it will be found that the man going from first to second will be out at second and the batter will be "out" at first since the opening 63 in the plate 48 will then be disposed below the position of slot 66 in Fig. 7, causing the ball at second base to drop through the opening 63 into the area 37 and thence down into the area 34 marked "Outs", thus counting one man retired on the batter's side, while the opening 60 will then be disposed below the position of slot 65 in Fig. 7 causing the "batter" to fall therethrough into the area 37 and thence to area 34 thus registering a double play against the batter's side.

If the batter has a man on first and a man on second and hits into a B—1 cup the disc 57 is rotated, after the plate 48 has been moved to "B" position, and it will then be found that a double play will be made at first and second bases, as in the manner described above, but the man on second will advance safely to third. If the batter has men on all three bases and hits into a B—1 cup it will be found that, after having moved the plate into "B" position, it being understood that plate 48 is always returned to "C" position for batting, there will be a double play again at first and second while the man on third base will advance safely to home and score and the man on second will move safely to third.

If the batter has a man on first base and hits into a C—1 cup he then leaves the plate 48 in "C" position and rotates the disc 57. In this case it will be found that the man on first will advance safely to second while the batter will be out at first, thus registering a "sacrifice". If the batter has men on first and second and hits into a C—1 cup it will be found that the runners advance to second and third but that the batter is out at first, thus again registering a "sacrifice" while if the batter has men on first, second, and third and hits into a "C" cup it will be found that the man on third will be out at "home" while the batter will likewise be out at first thus registering a double play while the runner on first will advance safely to second and the runner on second will advance safely to third.

From the foregoing description of my invention it is manifest that I have provided a novel, interesting and entertaining game which more closely approaches the real game of baseball in plays and moves and general character than any of the so-called baseball games known heretofore in the art. It is likewise apparent that while being simple and economical in construction and simple and positive in operation my improved game will be highly entertaining in use for both children and adults.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification, without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a game apparatus including a member defining a playing surface having a pitcher's position and a batter's position indicated thereon, said member having a path indicated thereon connecting said positions and having an opening therein disposed rearwardly of said batter's position and in alignment with said path and indicated on said member as "strikes", said member having other openings adjacent said first mentioned opening and at opposite sides of said path, said last mentioned openings being designated as "balls", a member contiguous said openings and having cutaway portions providing guideways to receive pellets from said pitcher's position, a rotatable disc disposed below said member and having openings therein adapted for registration with said first-named openings, and a structure providing receiving boxes disposed below said disc and adapted to receive pellets from said openings.

2. A game apparatus comprising a structure defining a playing surface, a member beneath said surface providing a raceway having communication with said surface, a

movable member below said racewey having slots therein partially registering with the raceway, a second movable member below the first-named movable member having openings therein, and means for moving said second-named member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway for the passage therethrough of an article played upon said surface.

3. A game apparatus comprising a structure defining a playing surface having an opening formed therein, a member beneath said surface and a raceway coinciding with said transparent portion and adapted to receive pellets introduced through said opening, a movable member having slots formed therein partially registering with the raceway, a second movable member having openings therein, means for moving said last mentioned member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway, and a structure arranged beneath said second-named movable member and providing guideways and receiving boxes whereby to receive pellets from said raceway and said slots.

4. A game apparatus comprising a structure defining a playing surface having a portion thereof transparent, a member beneath said field and having a raceway below said transparent portion, a movable member having slots formed therein partially registering with the raceway and said slots being adapted to receive pellets from the raceway and move said pellets around said raceway, a second movable member having openings therein, means for moving said last mentionad member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway, and a structure arranged beneath said last-mentioned movable member and providing guideways and receiving boxes whereby to receive said pellets from said raceway and said slots, said transparent portion permitting the movement of the pellets about the raceway to be seen.

5. In a game apparatus, a structure defining a playing surface, a member beneath said surface providing a raceway, a rotative member having slots formed therein partially registering with the raceway, a slidable member below said rotative member having openings therein, means for moving said slidable member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway, and a structure arranged beneath said slidable member providing guideways and receiving boxes to receive pellets from said raceway and said slots.

6. In a game apparatus, a structure defining a playing surface having a portion thereof transparent, a stationary member beneath said surface providing a raceway having communication with the playing surface, a rotative member below said stationary member having slots formed therein adapted to register with the raceway and carry a pellet from the playing surface around the raceway, a slidable member having openings therein, means for moving said slidable member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway, and a structure arranged beneath said slidable member providing guideways and receiving boxes whereby to receive a pellet from said raceway and said slots.

7. In a game apparatus, a structure defining a playing surface, a member beneath said surface providing a raceway having communication with said surface, a movable member having slots therein adapted to register with the raceway and carry pellets from the playing surface around the raceway, a second movable member having openings therein, means for moving said second-named movable member whereby certain of said openings may be disposed from or into registration with said slots and said raceway, and a batting mechanism for propelling pellets over said playing surface.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EDWARD K. SMITH.