E. KRANCHER.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 1, 1911.

1,076,771.

Patented Oct. 28, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

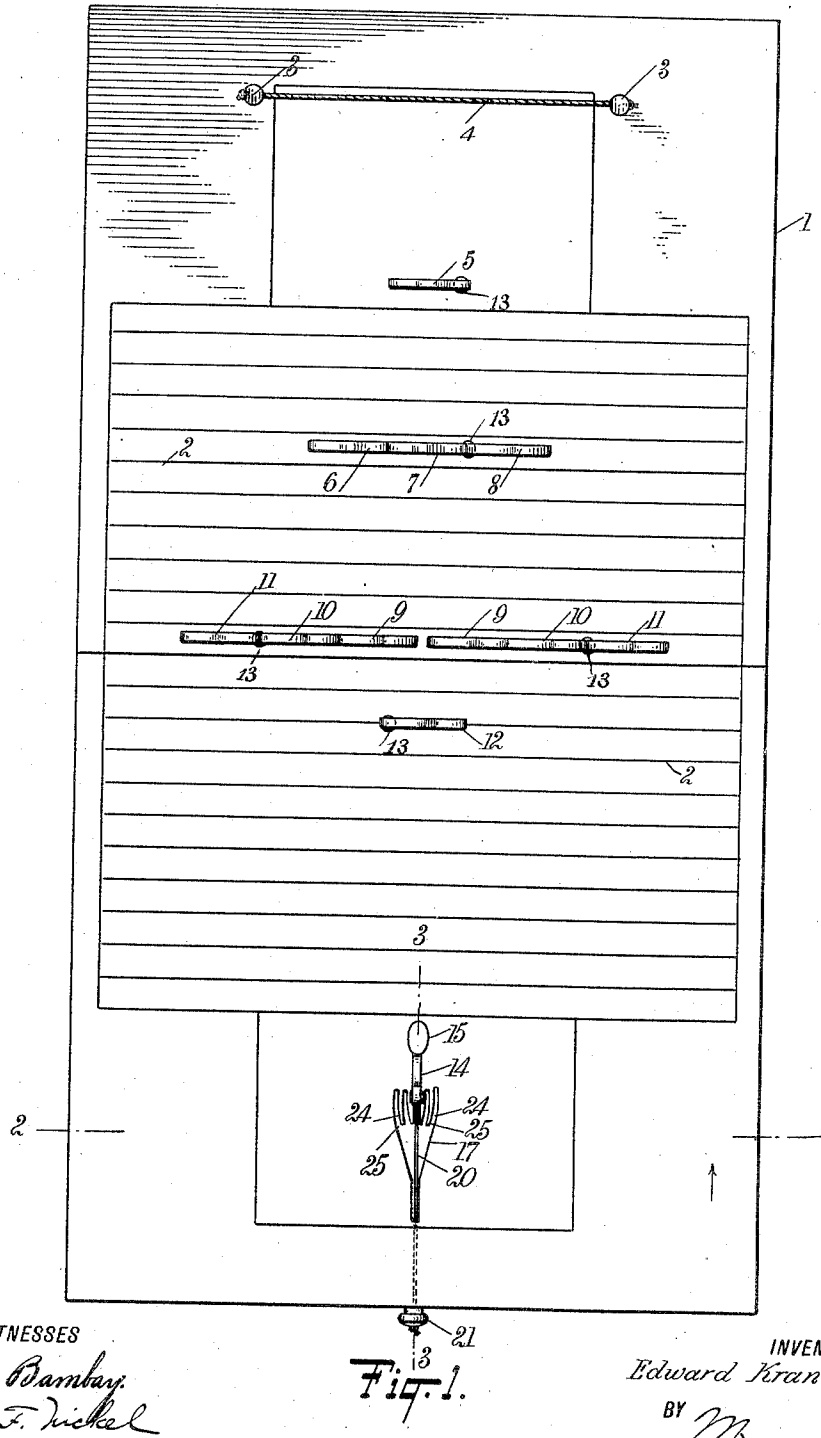


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

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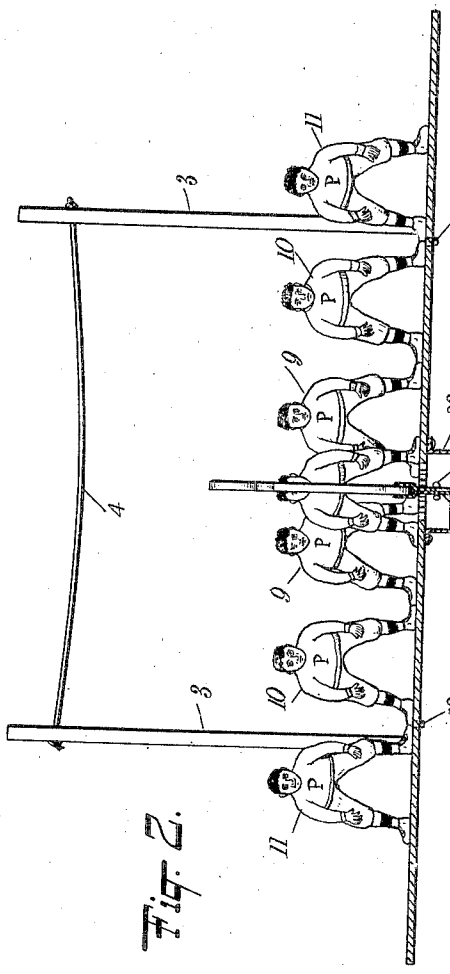


Fig. 2.

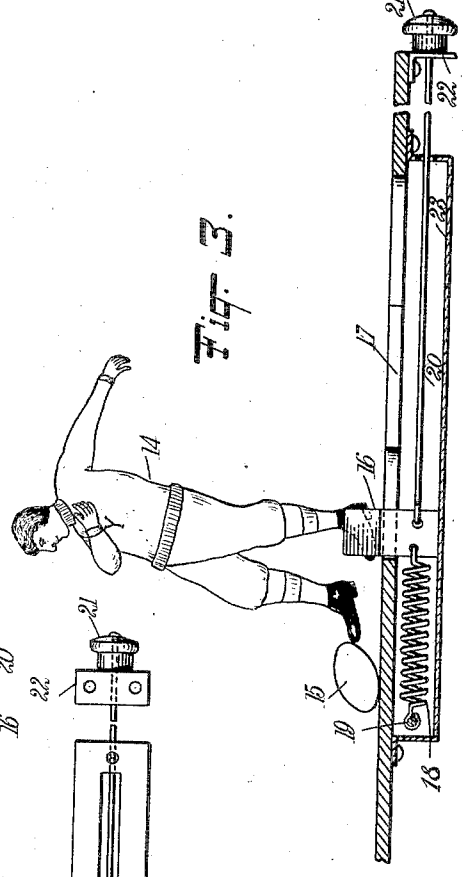


Fig. 3.

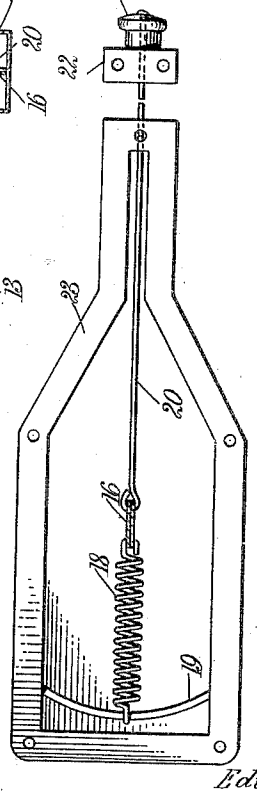


Fig. 4.

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GAME APPARATUS.

1,076,771. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 28, 1913.

Application filed December 1, 1911. Serial No. 663,225.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD KRANCHER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in games, and particularly to apparatus for mechanically playing the game of foot ball by means of a number of figures representing a team of players lined up in proper order and arranged upon a board; and the apparatus comprises a ball of suitable shape, and means for causing a figure representing another player to be spring-actuated to kick the ball across the board and through the team of players above mentioned.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which the same characters of reference indicate the same parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a top plan of the board or base upon which the game is played; Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a top plan of the actuating mechanism for causing the ball to be kicked across the field.

The apparatus by means of which my game is played comprises a base or board 1, on the face of which are ruled a number of lines 2, representing the yard lines of a foot ball field; and at one end of this board are a pair of uprights 3, representing goal posts connected by means of a cord or cross-bar 4. The players are arranged in front of the goal posts, the numeral 5 indicating the quarter-back, the numerals 6 and 8 the half-backs, the numeral 7 the full-back, the numerals 9, 10 and 11 the guards, tackles and ends, respectively, on either side of the line, and 12 representing the center. The quarter-back and center are single pieces pivotally mounted upon the board 1, but the figures representing the half-backs and the full-back are made in one piece, which is likewise mounted upon a pivot in the board 1. The figures representing the players on the rush line are made in two pieces of three players each, and each of these pieces is mounted upon a pivot which enters a recess in the board 1, so that each group of three players on the rush line will turn about a point that is between the tackle and the end. The pivots for the five pieces above mentioned are shown at 13: they fit into recesses in the board 1 with sufficient tightness to support the pieces in upright position, but the pieces can turn around on the pivots to a sufficient angle to allow the ball to pass by them or through them when the game is being played.

The figure which represents the player who kicks the ball is shown at 14, and the ball itself in the form of an oval at 15. The figure indicated at 14 is mounted upon a sliding member 16, passing through an opening 17 in the base 1, and connected below the base by means of a spiral spring 18 joined to a bar 19. This bar 19 is curved, as shown in Fig. 4, around the member 16, and this sliding member 16 is also joined to an operating cord 20, which carries on its outer end a knob or button 21. The cord 20 passes through an opening in a lug 22, projecting downward from the under side of the base; and the major portion of the length of the cord 20, as well as the spring 18, bent-bar 19 and lower part of the sliding member 16, are inclosed by a cover 23.

The aperture 17 through the base 1 is in the form of a slot adjacent the end which is nearest to the knob 21, and it flares at its opposite end, as shown in Fig. 1, terminating in a number of recesses 24, separated by means of fingers 25. The sliding member 16 is in the form of a flat plate or pair of plates joined together to clamp one of the feet of the figure 14 between them; and the combined thickness of these two plates is less than the width of one of the recesses 24, so that the sliding member 16 can move into these recesses when the apparatus is being operated.

The end of the spring 18 which is secured to the bar 19 is simply looped loosely around the bar and can move laterally thereon. If this spring move to one side or the other of central position, it will have the effect, when it is put under tension by pulling the cord 20, and then releasing the same, of drawing the sliding member 16 to a certain extent in an oblique direction toward one side or the other, and causing it to slide into one or the other of the longitudinal recesses 24. The ball 15, however, is always

in central position in front of the aperture 17. As a result, this ball will be struck by the advanced foot of the figure 14, on one side or the other, according as this player is caused by the action of the spring 18, to slip into the recesses 24 on one side or the other of central position, and the ball 15 will accordingly be propelled to the right or left, or straight through the lines of players and between the goal posts 3.

The manner in which the game is played is as follows: The oval-shaped member 15 representing the ball is put on the board or base 1 in front of the aperture 17, in position to be propelled by the advanced foot of the figure 14, toward the goal posts at the other end of the board. As the ball 15 travels toward the posts 3 it will either fly over the figures representing the opposing players or be driven through them. If it is kicked over the opposing team and between the posts 3, a number representing a touchdown will be added to the score of the operator. If, on the other hand, it strikes the figures representing the players of the team between the aperture 17 and the goal posts 3, it will cause these figures to turn upon their pivots, allowing the ball to pass through the line and a certain distance beyond it, according to the force and the angle of impact before it comes to a stop. The lines 2 will be numbered, and the particular line on which the ball comes to a stop will then determine the number of yards which has been gained against the team on any particular kick.

The figure 14 is caused to drive the ball over or through the opposing team by taking hold of the knob 21 and pulling the sliding member 16 backward through the connection of the knob 21 with the sliding member 16, by means of the cord 20, this action taking place against the force of the spring 18. In the course of the game, the end of the spring 18 secured to the bar 19 will move slightly to one side or the other, with the result that the player 14 when he is drawn forward by the spring 18 to kick the ball 15, and the cord 20 is released, will slip into the central recess 24, or a recess on either side of the central recess in the far end of the aperture 17, and the direction in which the ball travels when kicked will be varied in this way.

In order to prevent the end of the spring 18 from slipping over toward either end of the bar 19, and remaining in such position, I bend this bar not upon the arc of a circle having its center in the sliding member 16, but in such a way that the ends of the bar will be located at a slightly greater distance away from the center of the sliding member 16 than the middle of the bar 19. This will cause the end of the spring 18 which is looped around the bar 19, to tend at all times to slip back to central position, owing to the fact that the cord 20 is of such a length as to cause the button or knob 21 to be drawn against the lug 22 when the spring 18 is in retracted position. At the same time, however, this construction will not prevent the end of the spring 18 from working along the bar 19 a short distance to either side of the center, as required, for the purpose of varying the direction in which the ball 15 is driven.

The end of the spring 18 can be caused to engage the middle of the bar 19, or a point on either side of the middle, by the operator manipulating the cord 20, and the direction in which the ball 15 is driven can be controlled accordingly.

I wish to have it understood that I may make certain changes in the shape, size and arrangement of the parts wherever the same fall within the scope and spirit of my invention.

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

1. Apparatus for playing the game of foot ball, comprising a board or base, a plurality of pieces representing a team of football players in line formation, each of said pieces being pivotally mounted upon said base, and means for propelling a movable member against said pieces to cause the ball to rotate the same upon their pivots and pass through said team.

2. In apparatus for playing the game of foot ball, a movably-mounted figure representing a player, means for holding said figure in a given position, and means for moving said figure against the force of said means, whereby when said means are released, the said figure will be returned to its original position with sufficient force to propel a movable member.

3. Game apparatus comprising a base or board having an aperture therethrough, said aperture being wider at one end than at the other and having a plurality of longitudinal recesses adjacent said wider end, a sliding member moving in said aperture, of a width designed to enter one of said recesses, resilient means for causing said sliding member to travel toward said recesses, means for putting said resilient means under tension and releasing the same, and a figure representing a foot ball player mounted upon said sliding member to be operated thereby.

4. Apparatus for playing the game of foot ball, comprising a base or board having an aperture therethrough, a sliding member projecting through said aperture and of less thickness than the width of said aperture, a figure representing a foot ball player carried by said sliding member, to be operated thereby, resilient means connected to said sliding member for holding the same adjacent one end of said aperture, means for

putting said resilient means under stress and releasing the same, and a bar curved around said sliding member and transversely arranged with respect thereto, said bar having said resilient means movably secured thereto and being bent so as to have its ends located a slightly greater distance from the center of said sliding member when the same is held by said spring in one end of said aperture, than the central portion of said bar, whereby the end of said resilient means can work along said bar to a certain extent on each side of the center thereof, to cause the said member to be moved obliquely on its return movement.

5. Game apparatus comprising a movably-mounted figure representing a player, and means for causing said figure to have bodily movement in a straight-line to propel a movable member thereby.

6. In game apparatus, the combination of a base, a movably-mounted figure representing a player, resilient means for holding said figure in a given position, and means to translate said figure on said base against the force of said resilient means, whereby when said resilient means is released the figure will be returned to its original position to propel a movable member across said base.

7. In game apparatus, the combination of a movably-mounted figure representing a player, means for imparting bodily movement to said figure to cause the same to propel a movable member, and means for causing said figure to move in different directions when actuated by said motion-imparting means.

8. Apparatus for playing the game of foot ball, comprising a board or base, a plurality of pieces representing a team of players arranged in line formation, each of said pieces being pivotally mounted upon said base and representing one or more players, and means for propelling a movable member against said pieces to cause the member to rotate the same upon their pivots and pass through said team.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDWARD KRANCHER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM F. NICKEL,

PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.