

(No Model.)

W. P. LYLE.
GAME OR EXERCISING APPARATUS.

No. 503,379.

Patented Aug. 15, 1893.

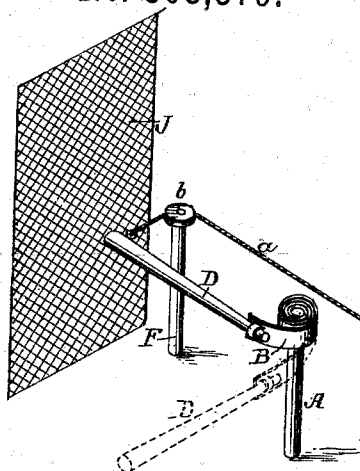


FIG. 1.

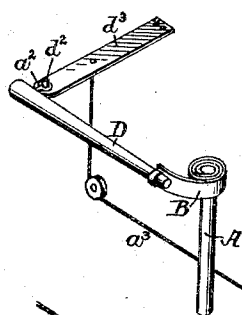


FIG. 2.

Witnesses:
Alex. Barkoff.
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Inventor:
William P. Lyle
by his Attorneys
Horton & Simon

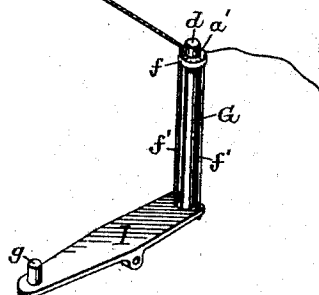
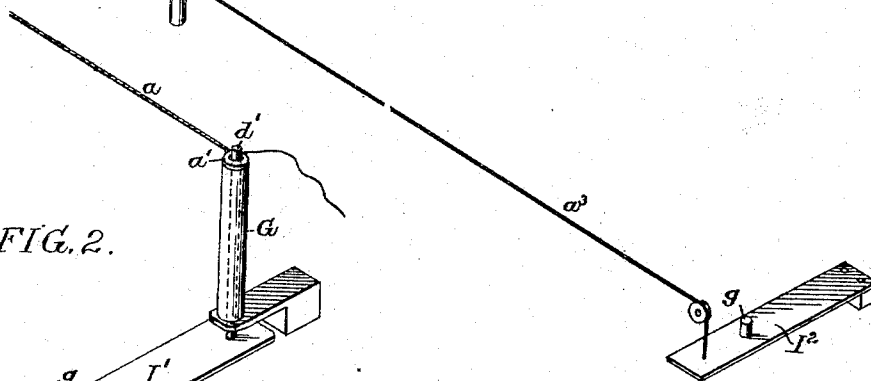


FIG. 3.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM P. LYLE, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM J. SIMPSON, OF SAME PLACE.

GAME OR EXERCISING APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 503,379, dated August 15, 1893.

Application filed August 16, 1892. Serial No. 443,198. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM P. LYLE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Game or Exercising Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a bat and ball game which may be used simply for amusement, as a test of skill and marksmanship, or may be employed as a means of practice or exercise for the pitchers of base ball clubs, the device comprising essentially a spring actuated bat, a retainer therefor, and a releasing device preferably under the control of the person pitching or throwing the ball, so that the movement of the bat may be so timed in respect to the throwing of the ball as to cause said bat to strike the ball in its course.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1, represents a perspective diagram of my improved game and exercising apparatus; and Figs. 2 and 3, are diagrams illustrating modifications of parts of the device.

A represents a post or standard upon which is mounted a spring arm B to the outer end of which is secured a bat D, and to the latter, near its outer end, is connected one end of a cord or wire *a*, which passes round a pulley *b* or other suitable guide at the top of a post F and thence extends to a point adjacent to that occupied by the person throwing the ball, which point may be as remote as desired from the bat. For instance, it may represent the distance between the pitcher's and batter's boxes of the regulation base ball field.

The cord *a* is provided with a ring *a'* which engages with a pin *d* at the top of a post G and beneath said ring and free to slide on the pin *d* is a lifter *f* also, in the present instance, in the form of a ring, which is connected by arms *f'* to one end of a lever I pivoted so as to vibrate transversely, the other end of this lever having a projecting stud or pin *g*. When the ring *a'* is hooked onto the pin *d* the bat D will be drawn back as indicated by full lines in Fig. 1.

The person throwing the ball rests the toe

of the left foot upon the pin or stud *g*, and as the ball is thrown forward, presses said stud downward so as to lift the ring *a'* clear of the pin *d* and thus permit the bat to swing around to the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, so that, if the ball has been accurately thrown and the release of the bat properly timed, the bat will strike the ball and drive the same back toward the pitcher.

Back of the bat should be arranged a net or sheet J of textile material for catching the balls which are not struck by the bat as the latter swings forward, and there may be provided also, if desired, an inclined run-way similar to those used in ordinary bowling alleys, so that the balls may be returned to the pitcher's stand by an attendant located at the net.

Various forms of mechanism for releasing the bat may be adopted without departing from the essential features of my invention. For instance, the post G may have a sliding pin *d'* connected to an arm I' which carries the stud *g* as shown for instance in Fig. 2 so that on the depression of said stud the pin *d'* will be withdrawn from the ring *a'* of the retaining cord, or a retaining pin such as shown for instance at *d*² in Fig. 3 may engage directly with an eye *a*² on the bat, this pin being carried by an arm *d*³ connected to the stud *g* by any appropriate devices, for instance, by a cord *a*³ passing over suitable guide pulleys and connected to the arm I² which carries the stud, as shown in Fig. 3. The releasing device may also be located in some position other than that occupied by the person throwing the ball, when it is desired to effect the release of the bat by a second player.

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

1. The within described bat and ball game apparatus, the same comprising a spring-mounted bat, a retaining device for said bat, and a releasing device provided with a stud adapted to be depressed by the foot of the person throwing the ball, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of the spring-mounted

bat, a retainer for said bat, a tripping stud adapted to be operated by the foot of the person throwing the ball, and a cord extending from the point at which the bat is located to
5 the point at which the pitcher stands, and serving to connect the mechanism at such separated points, substantially as specified.

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

WILLIAM P. LYLE.

Witnesses:

MURRAY C. BOYER,
HARRY SMITH.