J. P. COUGHLIN.

GAME.

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1,370,786. Patented Mar. 8, 1921.

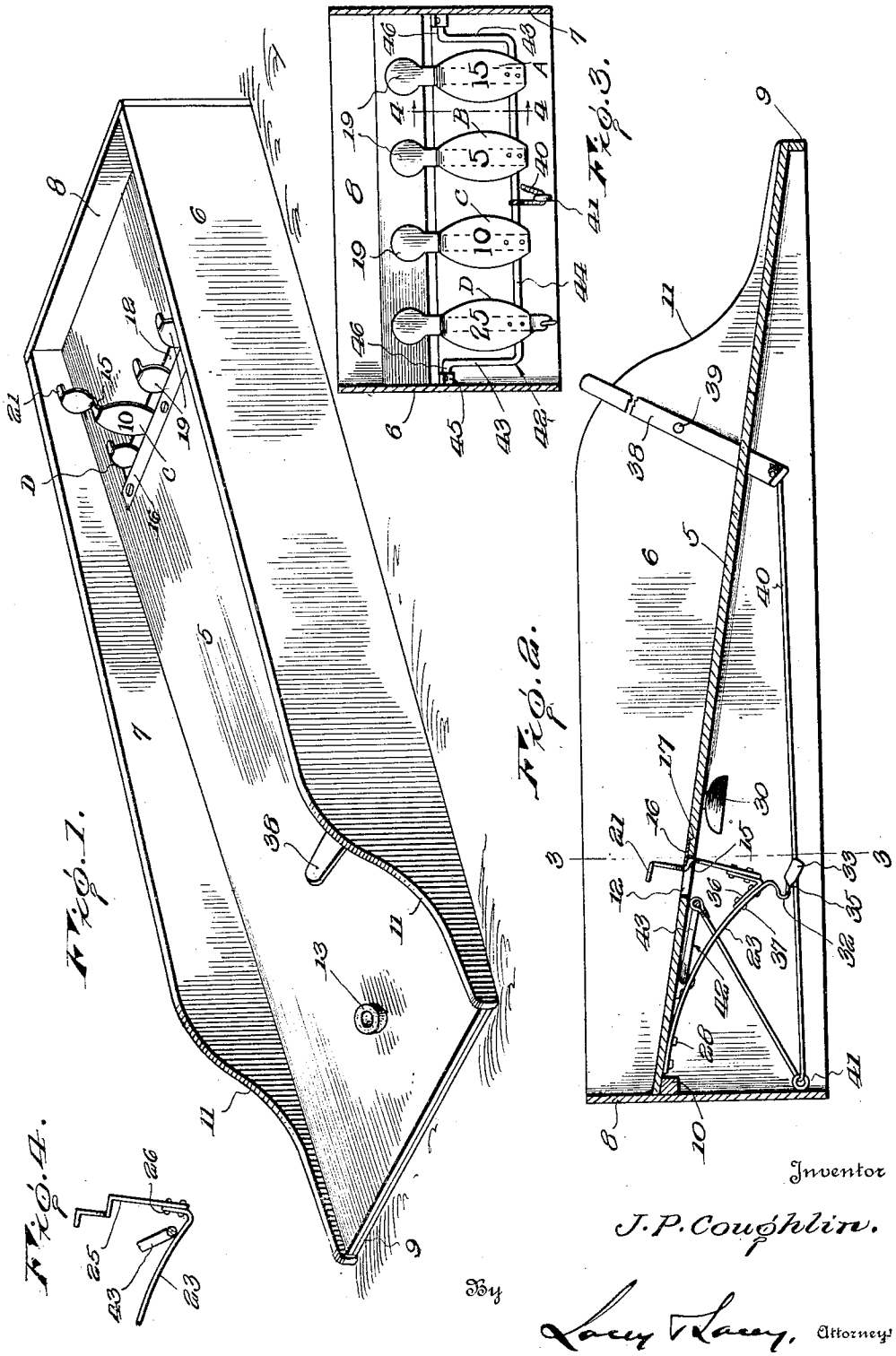


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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GAME.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES P. COUGHLIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hastings, in the county of Adams and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Games, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in games and toys and more particularly to a device especially adapted for use as a source of amusement for both young and old.

Generally speaking, a game constructed in accordance with this invention is provided with a runway having a plurality of movable figures arranged at one end and detachably held in a depressed position so that when engaged by the projectiles directed toward the same, the number applied to the face of the fingers will be elevated for registering the score attained at each turn or try. In playing a game constructed in accordance with this invention, the object is to attain a predetermined score in competition with the other players of the game by directing a number of projectiles centrally along the runway in the direction of the figures for individually elevating the figures whereby the numbers upon the faces of the same will be exposed to view for allowing the player to apply the number just attained to his score. It might be added that in playing this game it is necessary to exactly attain a predetermined score in order to win. Assuming that a score of 500 completes the game, it will be seen that a player must attain exactly five additional points in case he already has a score of 495 points. On the other hand if a player of the game registers fifteen points after having already attained a score of 490 points, the fifteen points thus attained will not be applied to his score, but it will be necessary for him to continue playing in competition with the other players until he attains the necessary 500 points to win.

A further object of this invention is to provide a game of the class described which is neat in appearance, of highly simplified construction and cheap to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this application and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a perspective of a game constructed in accordance with this invention,

Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal section through the same,

Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a detail section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In the drawing wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of the invention, the numeral 5 designates a runway having vertical sides 6 and 7 and an upstanding end 8 connected to the forward ends of the side walls 6 and 7. As particularly illustrated in Fig. 2, the runway is longitudinally inclined upwardly toward its forward end and is secured at its rear end upon a transverse strip 9 and at its forward end to a transverse shoulder 10 secured to the end wall 8 by any suitable fastening means. In the manufacture of the game, the runway of the same may be secured along its longitudinal sides to the inner sides of the upstanding walls 6 and 7 by such means as screws, nails or possibly a dove tail connection, so as to prevent the projectiles in passing along the runway from falling over the sides of the same. The rear end portions of the upstanding sides 6 and 7 are cut away, as indicated at 11, so as to provide what might be termed a starting point at the rear portion of the runway.

With reference to Fig. 2, it will be observed that the forward portion of the runway is provided with a transversely extending slot 12 terminating short of the sides 6 and 7 and being of a width sufficient to permit of the vertical movement of the figures designated A, B, C, and D upon being engaged by a projectile 13 in the form of a disk which may be directed along the runway. The figures A, B, C and D have figures of various numerical values applied to their front sides or faces so that when any of the figures are elevated the number upon the face of the same may be readily viewed by the players of the game. Each figure may be formed from a flat strip of metal having its major portion oval-shaped for providing a face upon which the numbers may be applied. A laterally projecting shoulder 15 is formed integral with the body portion of each figure and is adapted to be

engaged by a transverse strip 16 secured to the upper face of the runway and extending over a portion of the slot 12 so as to form a stop element for securing the figures in a downward position. The strip 16 is seated in a transverse groove or recess 17 in the upper head of the runway so that the upper surface of the strip is flush with the surface of the runway and therefore does not interfere with the free travel of the projectile 13.

A head 19 is formed integral with each shoulder 15 and extends upwardly from the same, so that when the body of the disk is arranged beneath the runway the head will be in position to be engaged by the disk upon being directed along the runway. In other words, the head 19 of each figure is arranged slightly above the surface of the runway when the device is set for use so as to form a contact element for the projectile. An ear 21 is formed on the upper side of each head and extends rearwardly from the same and functions as a manipulating loop. Each figure is yieldably supported by a flat leaf spring 23 having its forward portion 25 extended upwardly and secured to the figure by rivets 26 or other suitable fastening devices. The rear end portions of the leaf springs 23 are anchored to the under side of the runway by such fastening devices as rivets 28.

The end figure D has a greater numerical value than any of the other figures and is associated with a bell 30 which is sounded when the figure D is elevated. When the bell is rung, the player is entitled to an additional turn so that he will have a further opportunity to increase his score. To form the striker for the bell 30, the forward portion of one of the leaf springs 23 is extended beyond the figure D and is arranged at a point spaced inwardly from its end in U-shaped formation, as indicated at 32, so as to form a spring support for the striker 33. It will be noted that the striker 33 has one of its side edges presented to the bell by reason of the fact that the leaf spring is formed with a half-twist 35 between one arm of the U-shaped member 32 and the striker. This results in the clear ringing of the bell. The leaf spring supporting the figure D is secured to the same by a V-shaped connecting strip 36 and fastening rivets 37. In playing the game, each player is provided with preferably four disks 13 and he successively directs them along the runway into contact with the heads 19 of the figures.

When all of the figures have been released or elevated, the same may be returned to their original position by a lever 38 pivoted intermediate its ends to the side wall 6, as indicated at 39, and having a flexible element 40 operatively connected to its lower end. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the flexible element 40, which may be a cord or cable, is passed through an eyelet or loop 41 secured to the rear wall 8 and is then connected to a U-shaped adjusting device 42 having parallel side arms 43 and a transverse connecting portion 44 adapted to engage the upper sides of the leaf springs 23.

With particular reference to Fig. 3 it will be noted that a pair of bearings 45 carried by the under side of the runway receive a pair of spindles 46 formed by bending the outer ends of the arms 43 outwardly. When it is desired to lock all of the figures in the position illustrated in Fig. 2, the outer end of the lever is pushed forwardly for bringing the adjusting device downwardly whereby the shoulders 15 are engaged with the transverse retaining strip 16. The curved forward end portions 26 of the leaf springs and the connecting member 36 serve to direct the figures forwardly whereby the shoulders are securely held in engagement with the transverse strip 16.

In playing the game herein described, the disk 13 is positioned at the rear portion of the runway and is directed forwardly by a quick snappy movement of the second finger of the hand upon being released by the thumb.

In view of the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be observed that a game constructed in accordance with this invention will provide pleasant pastime and form a very interesting source of amusement.

It is to be understood that the form of the invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred embodiment of the same and that such minor changes in construction and arrangement of parts may be made as will remain within the spirit of the invention and the scope of what is claimed.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A game including an inclined runway having a transverse slot adjacent its forward end, a plurality of figures movable through said slot and having heads arranged above the runway, spring means to urge said figures upwardly, and means to detachably lock the major portions of said figures below said runway.

2. A game of the class described including an inclined runway having a transverse slot adjacent one end and terminating short of the sides thereof, a plurality of spaced vertically arranged figures movable through said slot and having offset rearwardly extending shoulders, a retaining strip secured along one edge portion of said slot and adapted to be engaged by said shoulders whereby the figures are detachably locked in a downward position, and side walls secured to said runway and extending above the same.

3. A game including a runway having a transverse slot adjacent one end thereof, a plurality of vertically arranged spaced parallel figures movable through said slot and provided with rearwardly extending shoulders at their upper ends, a retaining strip overhanging a portion of said slot and adapted to be engaged by said rearwardly extending shoulders, said figures being provided with heads extending upwardly from said shoulders, and means to normally urge said figures upwardly and forwardly.

4. A game including an inclined runway having side and end walls provided adjacent one end with a transverse slot terminating short of said sides, a plurality of bodies movable through said transverse slot and having rearwardly extending shoulders at their upper ends, an elongated retaining member overhanging a portion of said slot and adapted to engage said shoulders for normally securing said bodies in a downward position, and a plurality of leaf springs having their forward end portions extending upwardly and secured to the lower portions of said bodies for urging the same upwardly and forwardly, said bodies being provided with heads formed integral with said shoulders.

5. A game including a runway having a transverse slot adjacent one end, a figure movable vertically through said slot and provided with a rearwardly extending shoulder, a retaining element overhanging said slot and adapted to be engaged by said shoulder, said body being provided with a head formed integral with said shoulder, a leaf spring secured at one end portion to the under side of the runway and having its other end portion arranged in U-shaped formation and provided with a gong, means connecting said leaf spring rearwardly of the U-shaped portion of the same to the lower portion of said figure, and a bell adapted to be engaged by said gong.

6. A game including a runway having a slot, a plurality of figures movable vertically through said slot and provided with shoulders, a transverse strip extending across the runway and partly overhanging said slot and adapted to be engaged by said shoulders, a plurality of leaf springs secured to the under side of said runway and to the lower end portions of said figures, a U-shaped adjusting device having a transversely extending connecting portion and arms provided with pivot elements, bearings carried by the under side of said runway and rotatably receiving the pivot elements of said arms, a lever carried by one side of said runway, and a flexible element connecting the lever to the connecting portion of said attaching device.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAMES P. COUGHLIN. [L. S.]