N. W. ALLEGRETTI.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 10, 1911.

1,029,904.

Patented June 18, 1912.

Fig. 1.

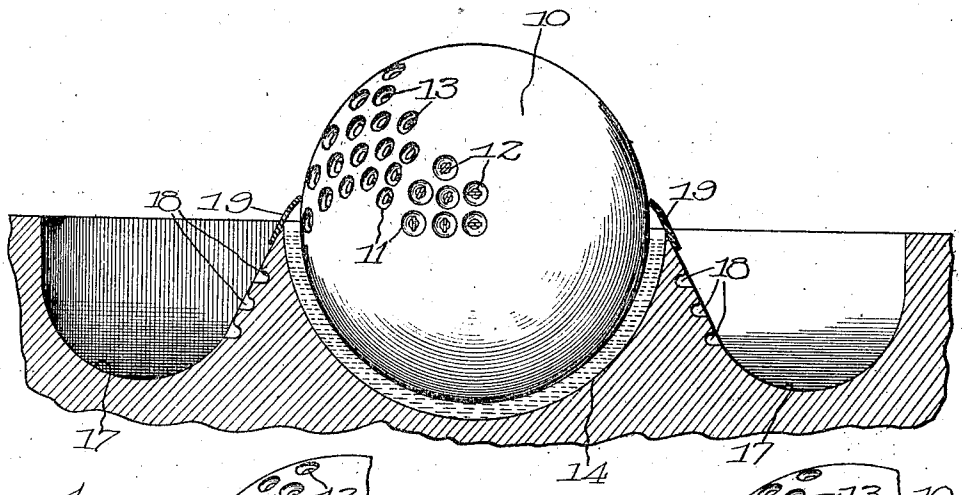


Fig. 2.

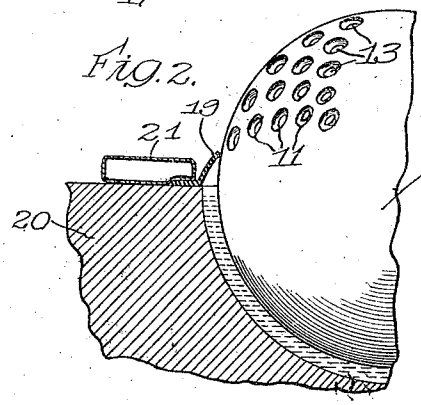


Fig. 3.

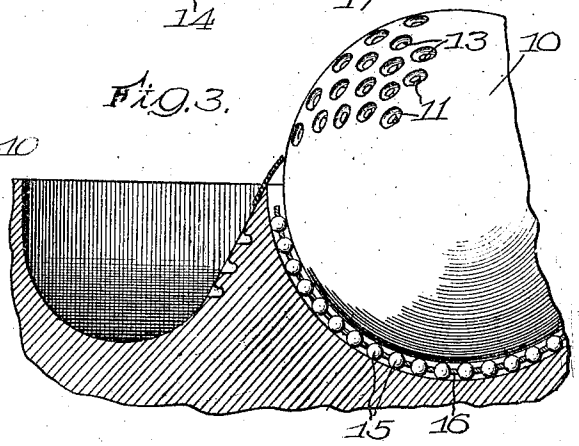


Fig. 4.

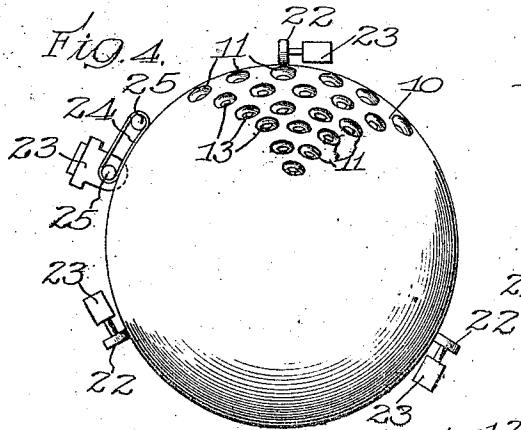


Fig. 5.

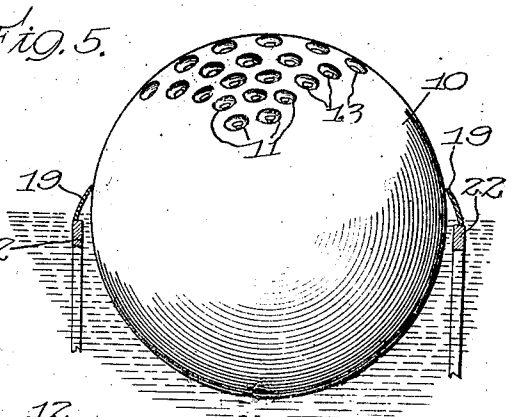
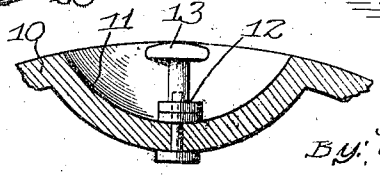


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

1,029,904. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 18, 1912.

Application filed July 10, 1911. Serial No. 637,698.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NICHOLAS W. ALLEGRETTI, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to amusement devices such as are employed in parks, play grounds, bathing beaches, and the like, and has for its principal object to provide a novel form of entertainment in which a person attempts to attain the summit of a freely rotatable body.

Another object is to provide improved means for preventing a person from being injured when he falls from the rotatable body.

For the attainment of these ends and the accomplishment of other new and useful objects, the invention consists in the features of novelty generally shown in the accompanying drawing and described in the specification, but more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing—Figure 1 is an exemplification of my invention partly in cross section, showing the rotatable member to be supported by a liquid contained in a receiver or holder, and with inclined sides or approaches to prevent a person from being injured. Fig. 2 is a modification of my invention with a cushion or bumper to prevent persons being injured. Fig. 3 is a modification of the invention showing ball bearing structure to permit of free rotation of the rotatable member in its holder. Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic representation of the rotatable body with a number of friction drive devices in contact therewith about its surface. Fig. 5 is a view of the rotatable member as it may be confined in a free liquid, such as water. Fig. 6 is a detailed view of one of the swivel members which form a hand and foot hold in the surface of the rotatable member.

It is customary in places of amusement to provide devices of the class to which this invention belongs, in which it is an object to attain a certain position about a freely movable member. In the present invention the body is freely rotatable in all directions, and may be mounted from all sides. Means are provided whereby when a person falls or is thrown back he shall not be injured by the fall. Means are also provided for forming a hand and foot hold in the surface of the rotatable body or sphere, and a flexible flap is provided to prevent the limbs from getting caught between the rotatable member and its receiver or support.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, a spherical body or member 10 is provided with hollowed out portions 11 in its surface, in which are positioned swivel members 12 which are of a shape and form to provide a hand hold and foot hold. These swivel members 12 may be of any desired or well known construction, but preferably are of a form such as shown in Fig. 6, in which a knob 13 is freely rotatable with the swivel members so that it may be held within the grasp or moved under the foot, in accordance with the movement of the spherical body 10. This spherical body may be of any desired or suitable structure, and it is contemplated that it may be made of wood or of metal, and may be solid, but it is preferably hollow in structure and provided with means for access to the interior thereof.

Any suitable means may be employed for supporting the globe 10 in such a manner that it may be freely rotated in any direction. The preferred method, however, is shown in Fig. 1, in which a receiver or holder 14 is provided with a substantially semispherical receiver or hollowed out portion which is slightly larger than the sphere or globe 10. This receiver is filled with the necessary quantity of suitable fluid to float the body 10 therein, or if desired a space between the globe and the holder may be occupied by a number of ball bearings 15, which are movably held and spaced apart by a spacing device 16. When the latter construction is employed these ball bearings are preferably of the same material of which the globe 10 is composed, so that there will not be undue wearing of the surface of the globe 10.

The globe may be mounted from the side thereof, and in the preferred embodiment shown by Fig. 1 the receiver 14 is cut away on the outside to form a concentric groove 17. In the side of this groove 17 are provided steps 18, or other suitable means for mounting to the top edge of the receptacle 14. These steps 18 are preferably in the

form of recesses large enough to contain only the toe of the foot or shoe, so that when a person falls from the globe he will not be injured by the projections caused by the steps. Along the top edge of the receptacle and secured thereto is a flap 19, formed of some flexible material, such as rubber or the like, which extends toward the globe 10 and covers the space between the globe and the receptacle 14. The object of this flap is to prevent the limbs of a person from getting caught between the globe and the receptacle. The annular groove or hollow 17 is formed with such an inclination that when a person falls back thereon his descent will be gradually decreased, so that the chances for injury will be reduced to a minimum. If desired a floor or platform may be provided instead of the groove 17, and in such a case the platform as 20 (Fig. 2) is preferably provided with a buffer or an air cushion 21 to prevent a person from injury. If desired the globe 10 may be provided with positive driving means adjacent its edges, as shown for example in Fig. 4, in which a plurality of friction drive wheels 22 are positioned to bear against the surface of the globe and are rotated by motors 23. In order to provide direct driving means to bridge the hollowed out portions 11, and to make contact with the globe 10 at all times, a friction belt 24 may be employed, which passes about two or more pulleys 25, one of which is driven by a motor 23. With such a construction it is evident that by having three or more driving devices the globe may be rotated in any direction by simply varying the pressure of the various wheels against the globe. It is contemplated also that this globe may be floated upon the surface of the water and retained in position by a frame 22, with a flap 19, similar to that already described. In such a position it would not be necessary to provide means for mounting upon the surface of the globe. Substantially the same result might be obtained by filling the groove 17 (see Fig. 1) with water or any other suitable fluid.

The hand and foot-hold devices are located all about the surface of the globe 10, and it is evident that the globe is freely rotatable in all directions, and that it may be mounted from any side by any number of persons and at the same time. It is also adapted for use in the water, or supported by a fluid, or it may be provided with bearings to permit of its rotation in any direction. The construction is such that there is no danger of any of the participants being injured either in grasping the handhold devices on the globe or in falling from the globe.

While I have thus described the preferred construction, combination and arrangement of my invention, it is evident that those familiar with the art to which this relates may make various changes without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What I claim as new is:

1. An amusement device comprising a freely rotatable member provided with means to rotate it in any direction.

2. An amusement device comprising a body free to rotate in any direction and provided with means whereby it may be rotated in any direction.

3. An amusement device comprising a body confined as to location and free to rotate in any direction, and provided with means to rotate it in any direction.

4. An amusement device of the class described, comprising a spherical body, and confining means therefor, the said body being freely rotatable in all directions in said confining means.

5. An amusement device of the class described comprising a spherical body provided with engaging devices, and confining means to retain the body in a given location and at the same time to permit it to be freely rotated in any direction.

6. An amusement device of the class described comprising a spherical body provided with means to engage it upon the surface thereof, and confining means to retain the body therein, and at the same time to permit the body to be engaged and freely rotated in all directions.

7. An amusement device of the class described comprising a ball shaped body provided on its surface with means to afford a hand and foot-hold, and confining means to retain the body in a given position at the same time permitting the body to rotate freely in all directions.

8. An amusement device comprising a spherical body provided with hand and foot-hold devices in the surface thereof, and a receiver for the said body to retain the body in a given position and to permit the body to rotate in any direction in the receiver.

9. An amusement device comprising a spherical body provided with hand and foot-hold devices in the surface thereof, a hollowed out receiver to contain the said body and means interposed between the body and the receiver to permit the free rotation of the body in all directions.

10. An amusement device comprising a spherical body provided with hand and foot-hold devices for mounting thereon, a hollowed out receiver to contain and retain the body and a liquid to float the said body in the receiver and to permit it to rotate freely therein in all directions.

11. An amusement device of the class described, comprising a ball, means for floating the ball and means to retain the ball in a

given place, the retaining and floating means being adapted to permit the free rotation of the body in any direction.

12. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver to contain and retain the same in position, means to permit the free rotation of the body in the receiver, the surface of the body being provided with hollowed out portions, and swivel members positioned in the hollowed out portions comprising hand and foot-hold devices for mounting the said body.

13. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver substantially semi-spherical in form to contain the said body therein, means to support the said body freely in the receiver, hand and foot-hold devices in the surface of the body, and means to mount to the edge of the receiver substantially at the horizontal circumference of the said body.

14. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver to contain the same and extending substantially half way about the body, hand and foot-hold devices in the surface of the body and means to mount to the top of the receiver.

15. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver formed with a hollowed-out portion to contain the body and means on the outside of the receiver to mount to the top edge thereof, and hand and foot-hold devices on the surface of the body to mount thereon, the body being freely rotatable in the receiver.

16. In a device of the class described, the combination with a ball, of a semi-spherical holder, the holder being formed with steps on the outside to mount to the top thereof, hand and foot-hold devices in the said ball, the holder being slightly larger than the ball to permit the free rotation of the ball therein.

17. In a device of the class described, the combination with a spherical member, of a holder extending about the member substantially at its horizontal circumference, the member being freely rotatable in the holder, and flexible means extending from the edge of the holder toward the member.

18. The combination with a spherical body, of a holder to contain the same, means to permit the free rotation of the body in the holder, the body being spaced from the holder, and a flap attached to the holder inclined upwardly toward the body to cover the space between the body and the holder.

19. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver with a hollowed out portion to contain the body, means to permit the free rotation of the body in all directions, hand and foot-hold devices in the surface of the body, and means to mount the side of the receiver to the upper edge thereof, the outside of the said receiver being sloping in form to form a sliding surface, to check the fall of persons thereon.

20. The combination with a spherical body, of a receiver with a hollowed out portion to contain the body, means to permit the free rotation of the body in all directions, hand and foot-hold devices in the surface of the body, and a wall sloping away from the edge of the receiver and provided in its surface with openings to permit the insertion of the foot whereby the said surface may be mounted.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, on this 7th day of July A. D. 1911.

NICHOLAS W. ALLEGRETTI.

Witnesses:
NINA J. HALSNE,
FRANCIS A. HOPKINS.