(No Model.)

J. G. A. KITCHEN.

TOY.

No. 559,293. Patented Apr. 28, 1896.

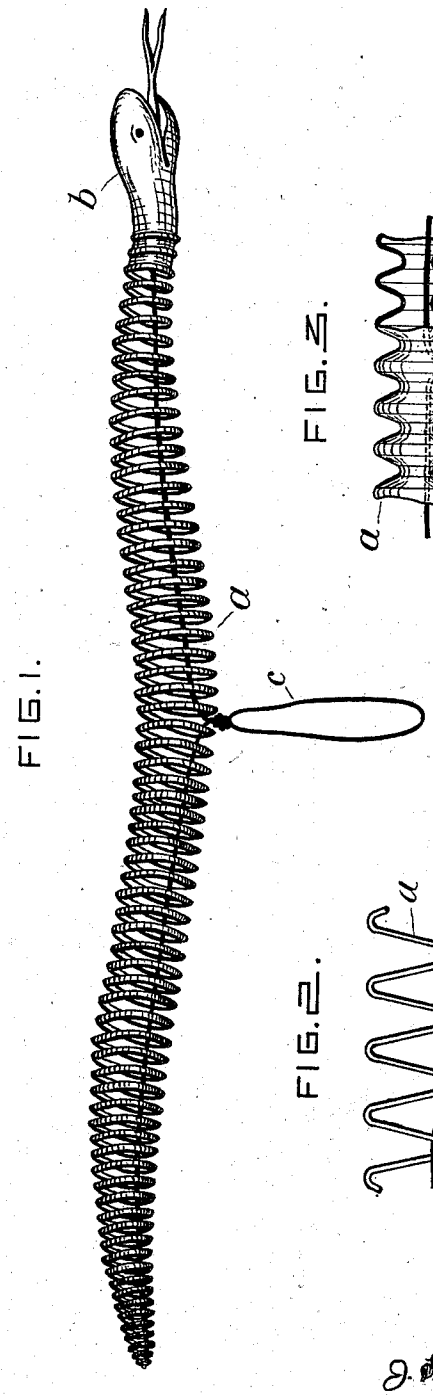

FIG. 1.

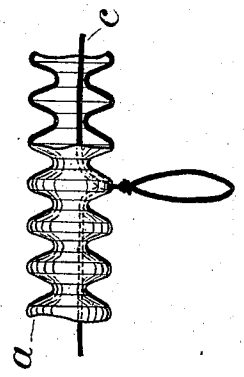

FIG. 3.

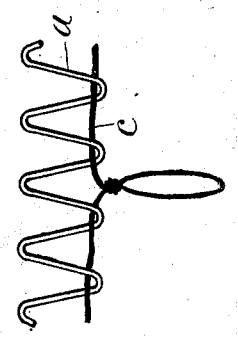

FIG. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,293, dated April 28, 1896.

Application filed July 20, 1895. Serial No. 556,656. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN GEORGE AULSEBROOK KITCHEN, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toys, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toys, especially such as represent reptiles, animals, and birds, in which the bodies, limbs, or other parts are made to move; and it consists in an improved construction of such moving toys or parts thereof.

The invention is specially applicable to toys representing snakes and to parts of other toys representing animals—for instance, to trunks of elephants, necks of birds, tails of reptiles, tentacles of crustacea and insects, also to the arms and legs of toys representing acrobats or contortionists.

The improvements consist in making the bodies, limbs, or other members of the bodies of representations of living creatures of a laterally-flexible and longitudinally-contractible spring, and so arranging and attaching a cord or cords or their equivalents thereto that when these are pulled the body or limb shall contract, writhe, or curl, according to the manner of construction and temper or nature of the spring, and straighten itself out again and resume its original form when the cord is released. The springs may be formed of helically-coiled wire or of wire bent into a flat serpentine spring or of corrugated india-rubber tubes.

On the drawings appended hereunto, Figure 1 shows a toy snake formed of helically-coiled wire; Fig. 2, a portion of serpentine flat wire; Fig. 3, a longitudinal section of corrugated india-rubber tubing.

Referring first to Fig. 1, the body *a* of the snake is formed of steel wire coiled helically and tapering toward each end, a head *b* formed of any suitable material being inserted into one end. The wire may be tempered. A cord *c* is fixed internally to the head and tail and passes out of the coil at the middle part. By placing the snake upon the hand and allowing the cord to pass through between two fingers and pulling and releasing the same, amusing and lifelike contortions of the snake are produced. The wire coil may be colored or covered with a colored or painted skin of india-rubber or elastic fabric. In a similar way parts of toys representing living creatures, such as the trunks of elephants and other parts enumerated hereinbefore, may be formed, with the cord or cords for contracting them attached to any suitable part of the coil and joined together outside of the toy or left separate, so that by pulling them the bodies or limbs shall move, writhe, or curl, according to the arrangement of the parts and form and temper of the wire coil. The section of the wire coil may be circular, oval, or of any other form suitable for representing the parts of the animal formed therewith. Instead of a wire coil or helical spring, a wire spring of flat serpentine form, as shown by Fig. 2, or a corrugated tube of vulcanized india-rubber, as shown by Fig. 3, may be used, which will be longitudinally contractible by means of the cord and straighten and expand itself again when released.

I claim as my invention—

1. A toy animal, consisting of a laterally-flexible and longitudinally-contractible spring, a cord whose ends are immovably secured respectively to opposite ends of the said spring, and means for laterally pulling and releasing the cord.

2. A toy animal, consisting of the combination of a helical coil of wire forming a spring, a cord extending through the spring and immovably secured to opposite ends thereof and a branch cord attached centrally to the first cord and passing to the outside of the coil between convolutions thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN GEORGE AULSEBROOK KITCHEN.

Witnesses:
CARL BOLLÈ,
R. J. URQUHART.