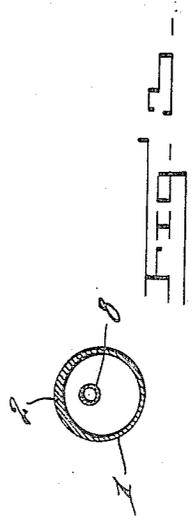
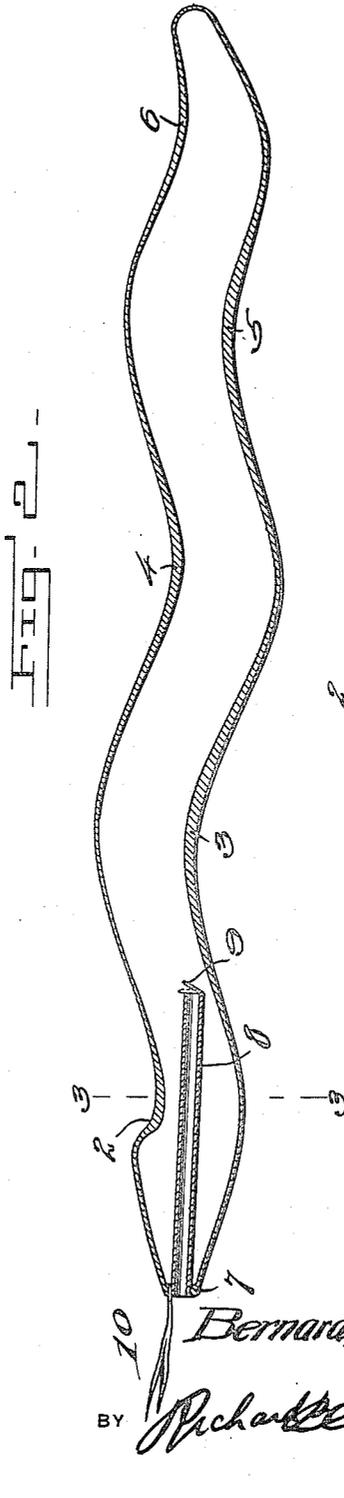
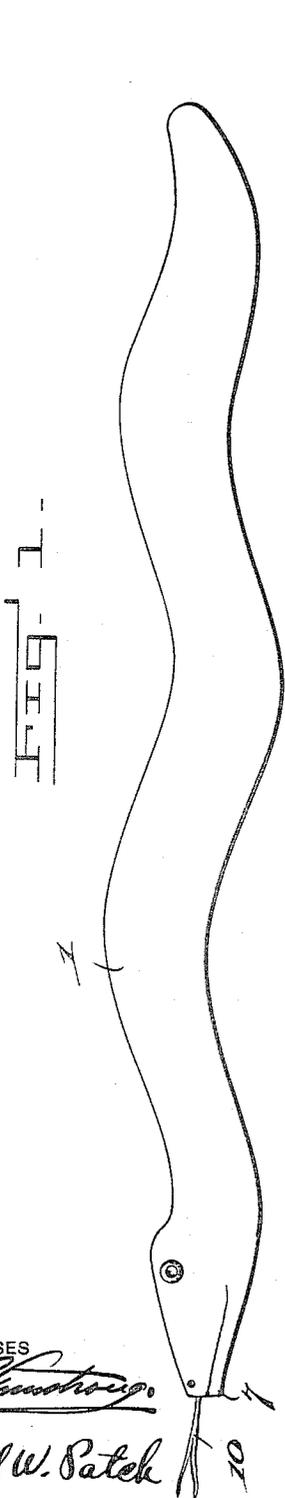


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TOY.

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1,266,296.

Patented May 14, 1918.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERNARD B. MARK, OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI.

TOY.

1,266,296.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 14, 1918.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BERNARD B. MARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Joplin, in the county of Jasper and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toys, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in toys and more particularly to toy balloons comprising a case of thin rubber which can be inflated to cause the case to be distended and take a predetermined shape.

An object of my invention is to provide a toy of this type which has the case so constructed that as it is inflated, greater expansion will take place in some parts of the case than in others and thus the balloon will take unexpected, and sometimes grotesque shape.

A further object is to provide an opening through which the case may be inflated and to also arrange means by which the opening or passage will be closed when the proper inflation has been accomplished.

A still further object is to provide a structure which is so arranged that the device may be constructed to represent animal forms, reptiles, etc., and a projection or extension, which might be made to represent the tongue or some other portion of the anatomy of the animal, etc., which may be depicted, may be given movement through a slight manual manipulation of the balloon.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter set forth in connection with the drawings and then more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation showing the balloon constructed after the manner of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the disclosure in Fig 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The case 1 is in the present instance shown as representing the head and body of a reptile, and it will of course be understood that any form of animal life or other living thing might be depicted. To give the desired length to the body of the reptile, the case 1 is made long and tubular in shape, the form of the case being such that in the uninflated or partly uninflated condition it is substan-

tially straight in its line of longitudinal extent.

It is preferable in the formation of the case to take the reptile form, that provision be made so that as the case is inflated it will take an undulating line to thus represent movement of the reptile, and to accomplish this result I form the case, as is better shown in Fig. 2, in such a way that the thickness of the side walls is increased at certain predetermined points. In the illustration in the drawings, the thickness is increased on the upper side as at 2, just back of that portion of the case which is to represent the head, the lower side is thickened at 3 rearwardly of the thickened portion 2, and then the upper and lower, and the upper side are thickened at other points as shown at 4, 5 and 6 at points set along the length of the body of the case. The head is preferably drawn in at the mouth portion to be constricted as shown at 7, and a tube 8 is passed through this constricted portion to have its open end within the body of the case 1, this tube being preferably so disposed that the inner end thereof is adjacent the side wall of the case. The inner open end of the tube 8 has a flap valve 9 mounted to close thereover, and thus as air or other fluid is blown through the tube 8 into the case, this flap valve 9 will prevent the escape of the fluid. The strip 10 is secured to extend forwardly from the nose of the body and is slit at its end to represent the cloven tongue of a snake or like reptile.

As the toy is manufactured and sold, the case 1 will be deflated, and consequently the rubber sheet forming the same will not be stretched, in view of which the case will take a substantially tube like form and will be substantially straight throughout its entire length and even including the head portion. As air or gaseous fluid is blown into the case through the tube 8, the rubber forming the case will be caused to stretch, and due to the fact that the thinner parts of the case have greater elasticity, those parts of the case opposite to the thickened portions represented at 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, will be puffed out whereas the case in the thickened portions thereof will hold against stretching and consequently the head of the reptile will take shape, the throat will be puffed out in a natural form and adjacent to the thickened portions 3, 4, 5 and 6, the case will stretch to one side

and will consequently take a serpentine line. When the case has been inflated, the valve 9 will hold the fluid contents against escape. The inner end of the tube 8 is disposed adjacent to or against the side wall of the case so that by stroking that portion of the wall adjacent to or against which the inner end of the tube 8 is disposed, the strip 10 which is formed to represent the tongue of the reptile will be given movement.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a toy balloon which embodies a structure adapted to permit the representation of practically any living thing in a shape somewhat closely resembling the natural form; that as the degree to which the case is inflated may be varied the movement of the same from the original form will be increased or decreased; and, that by arranging the tongue or other portion connected in conjunction with the tube to have a natural form, this part of the representation can be made to have movement in a very life like manner. It will of course be understood that the case might be painted or colored in any desired representation, that eyes, nostrils, etc., might be represented on the case, and that projections might even be molded or otherwise formed thereon at various points to indicate particular identifying characteristics of the living thing which is to be shown in representation.

While I have herein shown and described only one form of the device and have only mentioned other forms, it will of course be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the exact disclosure, but rather only to such points as may be set forth in the claims.

I claim:

1. A toy balloon having a case of stretchable elastic material formed to have greater capacity for stretching in some portions than in others as the case is inflated to thus cause the shape taken by the case to be varied upon inflation.

2. A toy balloon comprising a case of stretchable elastic material formed to have greater thickness in some portions than in others and to consequently have the capacity for stretching in various portions varied.

3. A toy balloon comprising a case of stretchable elastic material having portions thereof constructed to have lesser capacity for stretching than other portions so that the form of the case will be varied as the same

is inflated, and a tube through which fluid is supplied to inflate the case.

4. A toy balloon comprising a case of stretchable elastic material having portions thereof constructed to have lesser capacity for stretching than other portions so that the form of the case will be varied as the same is inflated, a tube through which the fluid is supplied to inflate the case, and a valve at the inner end of the tube to close the same against the escape of the inflating fluid.

5. A toy balloon comprising a case of stretchable rubber having portions thereof made of greater thickness than other portions to thus vary the stretching qualities of the material in various parts of the case and to consequently cause distortion of the shape of the case upon inflation of the same.

6. A toy balloon comprising a case adapted to be inflated, a tube through which the case may be inflated extended into the same with the inner end located adjacent the side wall of the case, and a movable member connected substantially with the tube and extended from the case in such relation that as the tube is moved by pressure against the inner end of the same through the case this member will have movement imparted thereto.

7. A toy balloon comprising a case which is to be inflated to take a predetermined form, said case being of an elastic material and made thicker in portions to vary the elasticity throughout its entirety and to thus cause inflation to stretch the case to take the desired form, a tube extended into said case to have its inner end adjacent the side wall thereof and with the outer end passed through the case in a relation that fluid may be passed therethrough to inflate the case, a valve to prevent the escape of fluid through the tube, and a movable member connected with the case substantially at the attached end of the tube and projected from the case so that as the tube is moved by pressure exerted against the inner end thereof through the case the projecting member will have movement imparted thereto.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BERNARD B. MARK.

Witnesses:

INA LEAMING,  
NORMA BALDWIN.