Feb. 24, 1925. 1,527,716

F. J. TIPPEN ET AL

APPARATUS FOR PRACTICING THE GAME OF GOLF AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

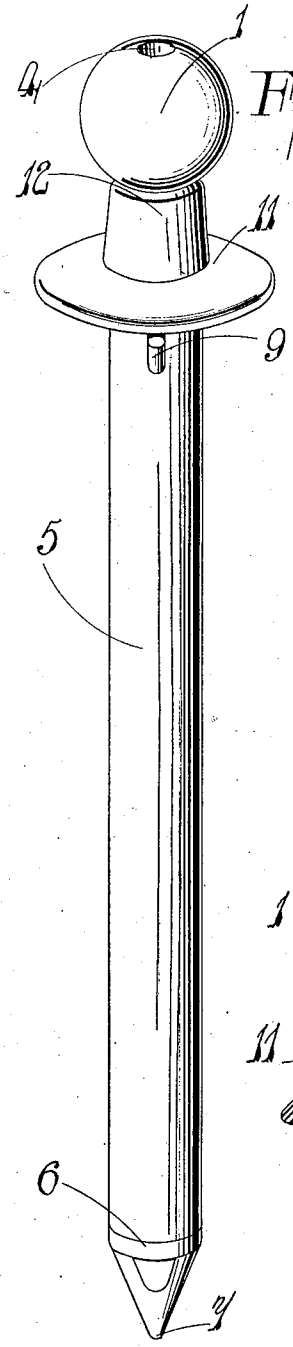


Fig. 2.

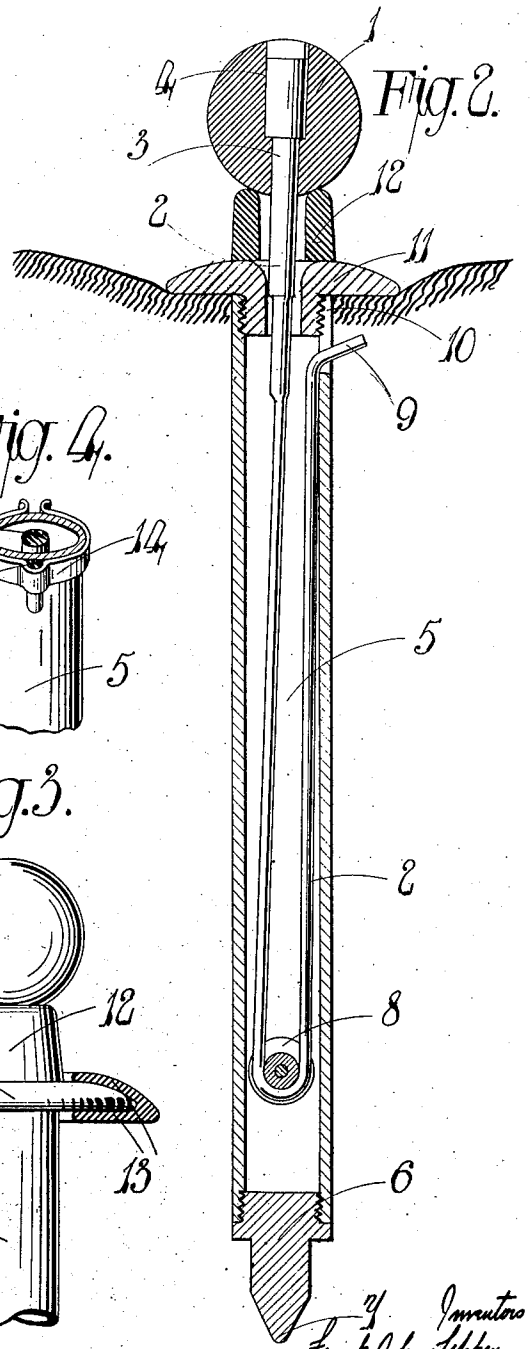
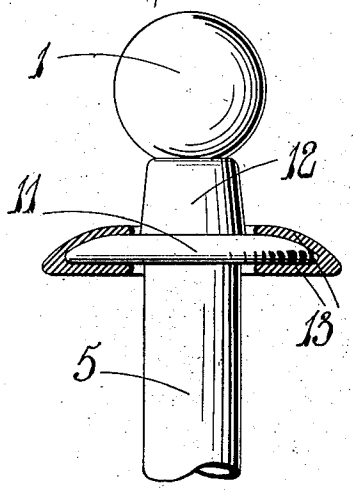


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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By B. Singer, Atty.

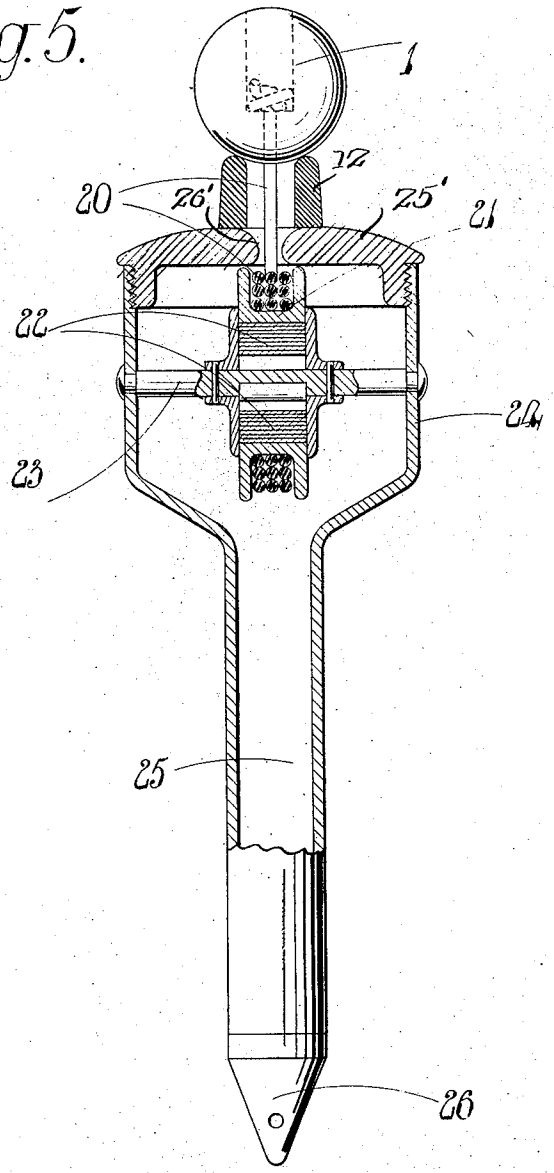
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Filed May 21, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5.



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Patented Feb. 24, 1925. 1,527,716

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK J. TIPPEN AND HUGH K. PROSSER, OF BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND, ASSIGNORS TO WILFRID HILL.

APPARATUS FOR PRACTICING THE GAME OF GOLF AND THE LIKE.

Application filed May 21, 1923. Serial No. 640,421.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANK JOHN TIPPEN and HUGH KENNEITH PROSSER, subjects of the King of Great Britain, residing at 15 Lottie Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, England, and Woodstock, Poplar Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, aforesaid, respectively, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Apparatus for Practicing the Game of Golf and the like; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to apparatus for practicing golf and like games and the object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive apparatus for restraining the flight of a golf ball so as to enable practice strokes to be made in a relatively confined space such as the garden of a dwelling house, and for returning the ball automatically to its original position, thereby enabling successive practice strokes to be made without the necessity of replacing the ball by hand.

Apparatus according to the present invention comprises a ball adapted to rest on or above a base member and secured by an elastic or other flexible member adapted to be placed in tension by movement of the ball. It is preferred that when the ball is at rest on or above the base, the elastic or other flexible member shall be under some comparatively slight initial tension and when the ball is struck this tension is considerably increased so that the ball is brought back automatically to a definite position.

It is also preferred to employ a base member of hollow construction so that it may form a housing for the elastic or flexible member and any apparatus associated therewith.

It is also preferred to interpose between the top of the base member and the ball, a sleeve-like tee upon which the ball is adapted to rest, this tee preferably being made of a material such as rubber so that the clubs will run less risk of damage.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one form of the apparatus.

Figure 2 is a sectional side elevation thereof.

Figure 3 is a sectional view showing a modification.

Figure 4 is a sectional perspective view showing a further modification.

Figure 5 is a sectional view in side elevation showing a modified form of the apparatus.

In the construction illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the apparatus comprises a suitable ball 1 which may either be an ordinary golf ball or may be a specially constructed ball of gutta-percha, vulcanized rubber, wood or the like and to this ball is attached an elastic member 2. The elastic member 2 may be made of india rubber or other elastic material such as spring steel suitably coiled and it is provided with an enlarged head 3 which fits into a shouldered hole 4 in the ball 1. Adjacent the ball, the member 2 is preferably of increased diameter as shown.

The base member 5 shown in the drawings is of tubular form and constitutes a housing for the elastic member 2.

The lower end of the tube 5 is closed by a removable screwed plug 6 having a pointed end 7 which facilitates the thrusting of the tube 5 in the ground. Within the lower part of the tube 5 is provided a pulley 8 around which passes the elastic member 2. The pulley 8 is not essential and is provided for the purpose of obtaining a greater length of elastic material. If required the length of the member 2 may be still further increased by providing one or more additional pulleys and extending the member 2 to pass around same. There may be one or more pulleys at either end of the tube or housing 5.

The end 9 of the elastic cord 2 is passed through a comparatively narrow slot 10 in the upper end of the tube 5, the sides of the slot gripping the elastic member so that it will not pull out.

At the top of the tube 5 is provided a flange 11 which screws into the tube. If required the screwed portion of the flange 11 may be extended so as to nip the end 9 of the flexible member 2. The upper surface of this flange is of general convex form whilst the mouth of the hole through its centre is flattened or rounded off to give a good lead for the flexible member 2 which passes therethrough.

Interposed between the flange 11 and the

ball 1 is a sleeve-like tee or distance tube 12 preferably made of rubber or other comparatively soft material so as to reduce the risk of injury to the clubs.

For the same purpose the flange 11 may if required be covered with a rubber covering member 13 as shown in Figure 3.

In Figure 4 is shown a clip 14 for securing the end 9 of the elastic member 2. If required instead of securing the end of the elastic 9 in the manner shown in Figures 2 or 4, the end 9 may be passed around the exterior of the tube 5 and the extreme end may be tucked under the encircling band.

Instead of employing a member 2 which is elastic or capable of expansion and contraction by virtue of its own elastic properties, we may employ an inelastic flexible member 20 (see Figure 5) the inner end of which is wound upon a spring controlled drum 21 mounted on the fixed spindle 23, so that if the ball is moved, the member 20 will be automatically placed in tension by the spring 22 and the flexible member 20 automatically rewinding itself on the drum 21, will bring the ball back to its original position. The spring 22 has one end fixed to the spindle 23 and the other end fixed to the hollow drum 21.

The drum 21 is mounted in an upper cylindrical casing 24 which is secured to a tubular spike 25 having a pointed end 26 which is similar to the member 7 shown in Figure 2.

The upper end of the casing 24 is provided with a flanged cover 25′ having an opening 26′ therethrough for the flexible member 20. The flexible member 20 is anchored to the ball 1 and an intermediate sleeve like tee 12 is provided similar to the tee shown in Figure 2. The other end of the flexible member 20 is anchored to the spring controlled drum.

In use the tube or casing is pushed into the ground until the flange is slightly below ground level as shown in Figure 2. Practice strokes may then be made at the ball and the player should develop the habit of continuing to look at the appartus until the ball is returned to its original position. By this means the common faults of moving the head or taking the eye off the ball just before the stroke can be permanently cured. In practice the ball makes only a short flight and quickly returns to its original position. During the stroke the tee is of course, frequently disturbed but this also is automatically returned to the position shown in Figure 2.

What we claim then is:—

1. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground; a flexible member connected at one end to the ball and anchored at its opposite end to the base member, and a tee located between the ball and the upper end of the base member.

2. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a hollow base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground; a flexible member connected at one end to the ball, anchored at the other end to the base member and being normally enclosed in said base member; said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck; and a tee located between the ball and the upper end of the base member.

3. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground; an elastic flexible member connected at one end to the ball, anchored at the other end to the base member and maintained in an initial state of tension to hold the ball correctly positioned on the base member; said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck; and a tee located between the ball and the upper end of the base member.

4. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a hollow base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground; an elastic flexible member normally enclosed in said base member, connected at one end to the ball, anchored at the other end to the base member and maintained in an initial state of tension to hold the ball correctly positioned on the base; said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck; and a tee located between the ball and the upper end of the base member.

5. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a hollow base member adapted to be thrust into the ground; an elastic flexible member connected at one end to the ball, passing within the base member and being anchored at its opposite end to the base member; said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck; and a pulley mounted for rotation in the lower part of the base member, said pulley engaging the elastic flexible member between its ends and providing with the anchorage for the end, spaced anchors around which the flexible member is passed so as to increase its effective length.

6. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball, a tubular base member adapted to be thrust into the ground, a flange forming a partial closure for the top of said tube, said flange having a hole therethrough, a sleeve like tee intermediate the base and the ball and serving to

support the ball, and a flexible member connected to the ball, passing through the tee and having its other end associated with the base, said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck.

7. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball, a tubular base member adapted to be thrust into the ground, a flange forming a partial closure for the top of said tube, said flange having a hole therethrough, a sleeve like tee intermediate the base and the ball and serving to support the ball, an elastic flexible member connected at one end to the ball, passing within the base member and being anchored at its opposite end to the base member, said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck; and a pulley mounted for rotation in the lower part of the base member, said pulley engaging the elastic flexible member between its ends and providing with the anchorage for the end, spaced anchors around which the flexible member is passed so as to increase its effective length.

8. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a flexible member connected at one end to the ball, constituting means acting upon the ball to return it after it has been struck; a hollow base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground, said base member having a slot in its upper part forming an anchorage for the end of the flexible member; and a pulley mounted for rotation in the lower part of the base member, said pulley engaging the elastic flexible member between its ends and providing with the anchorage for the end, spaced anchors around which the flexible member is passed so as to increase its effective length.

9. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball; a flexible member connected at one end to the ball, constituting means acting upon the ball to return it after it has been struck; a hollow base member substantially the whole of which is adapted to be thrust into the ground, said base member having a slot in its upper part forming an anchorage for the end of the flexible member; an external clip on the base engaging with the free end of the flexible member; and a pulley mounted for rotation in the lower part of the base member, said pulley engaging the elastic flexible member between its ends and providing with the anchorage for the end, spaced anchors around which the flexible member is passed so as to increase its effective length.

10. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball, a tubular base member adapted to be thrust into the ground, a flange forming a partial closure for the top of said tube, said flange having a hole therethrough, a cover on said flange, a sleeve like tee intermediate the base and the ball and serving to support the ball, and a flexible member connected to the ball, passing through the tee and having its other end associated with the base, said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck.

11. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprising a ball, a tubular base member adapted to thrust into the ground, a spike at the lower end of said base, and a flexible member connected to the ball and associated with the base member, said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck.

12. Apparatus for practicing golf or like games comprisng a ball, a tubular base member adapted to be thrust into the ground, a spike at the lower end of said base, a flange forming a partial closure for the top of said tube, said flange having a hole therethrough, a sleeve like tee intermediate the base and the ball and serving to support the ball, an elastic flexible member connected at one end to the ball and passing within the base means for anchoring the end of said flexible member to the base, said flexible member constituting means acting upon the ball to draw it back to the base after it has been struck and a pulley mounted for rotation in the lower part of the base member, said pulley engaging the elastic flexible member between its ends and providing with the anchorage for the end, spaced anchors around which the flexible member is passed so as to increase its effective length.

In witness wherof we affix or signatures.

F. J. TIPPEN.
H. K. PROSSER.