J. T. DICKMAN.

TARGET.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 8, 1911.

1,003,588.

Patented Sept. 19, 1911.

Fig. 1.

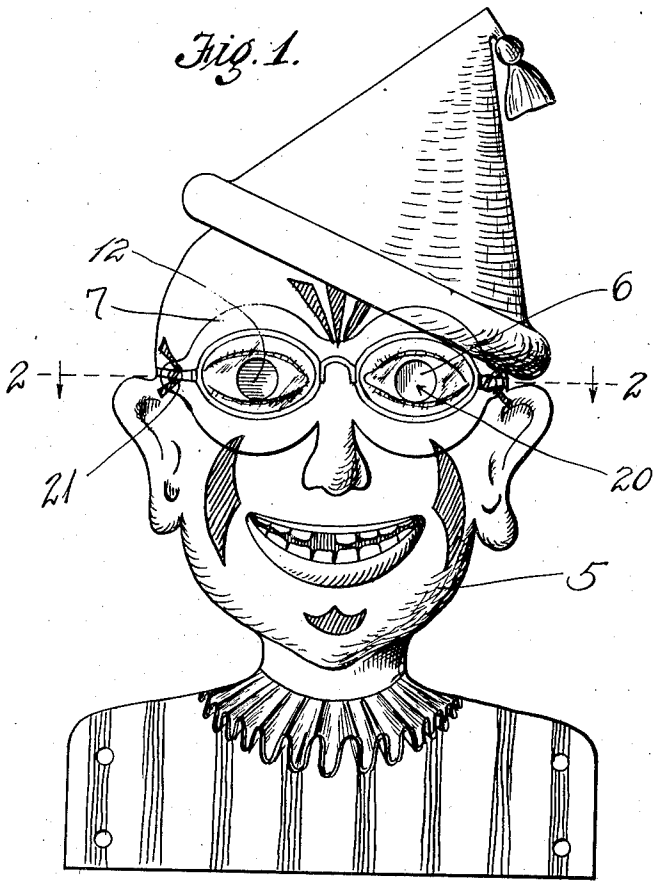


Fig. 2.

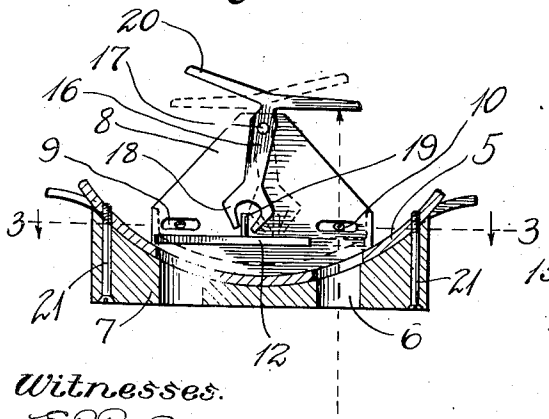
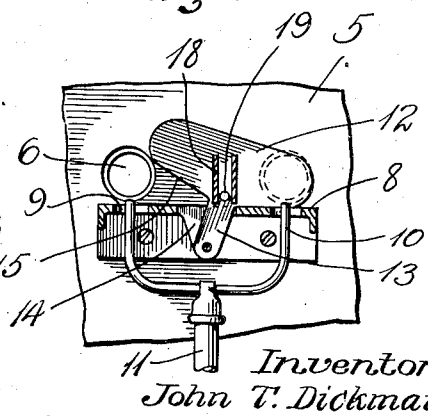


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TARGET.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN T. DICKMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Targets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in targets, and has particular relation to targets which are provided with movable parts adapted to be thrown from one position to another, when a driven part of the target has been successfully struck.

It is also the object of the invention to provide a target having openings with lights showing therethrough, the shooting of a projectile through one of said openings operating to make it appear as though the light had been put out.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a target having eyes behind which lights are adapted to shine with a mechanism adapted to hide the lights first behind one eye and then behind the other for making it appear as though the figure of the target has had its eyes put out.

It is also an object of the invention in this connection, to provide the means for hiding the light so that each light will be successively hid, the projectile or bullet passing through the eye upon one side shifting the light hiding mechanism first to one side and then the other.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a target constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken upon the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken upon the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 portions of the target being broken away.

It is the purpose of the invention to provide a target which may have any desired configuration upon the front thereof, and the invention is especially adapted for the use of a face of some kind, so that the eyes thereof may be employed as target points and the appearance be given thereto when an eye is struck as though it were put out. For the purpose of describing the invention, the drawing shows the target formed with the face and head of a clown as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1. Thus the body portion 5 is made up of a plate preferably of a configuration to show the head, cap, and shoulders of a clown. The figure is provided with apertures at 6 which are made of a suitable size to form proper target bull's-eyes, and the said apertures form the central portions of the eyes. About the eyes the figure is provided with an enlarged protecting plate 7, which is shaped to give the remaining appearances necessary for providing eye portions upon the figure. Spectacles may also be represented upon the said protecting plate around the eyes. The face portion of the figure is usually somewhat rounded as clearly indicated in Fig. 2 making the whole appearance more realistic. The face may of course be decorated in any desired form and provided with any marks for giving it the appearance of a clown.

Behind the figure, and just below the apertures 6 a projecting bracket or shelf 8 is mounted and projecting upwardly through slots 9 formed in the said shelf are burners 10. The said burners 10 are preferably ordinary gas jets and usually branch from a gas fed pipe as 11. The burners 10 project just far enough through the apertures 9 to bring the flames of the gas jets when they are lighted, immediately behind the eye apertures 6. In the use of the target the lights are kept continuously burning so that there is a jet behind each eye opening at all times. The effect of giving the target the appearance of having had its eye put out is accomplished by the use of a rocking baffle plate or blind 12 which is provided with a projecting arm 13 by which it is pivotally secured to a depending projection 14 formed upon the said bracket 8. The projecting arm 13 extends through a slot in the said bracket 8 so that its lower end is pivoted to the said projection 14 a short distance below the upper surface of the bracket 8. The body portion of the baffle plate 12 is provided with inclined under edges as 15 which are adapted to rest upon the said bracket 8 when the baffle plate is rocked from one side to the other, and vice-versa. The weight of the baffle plate being disposed above the pivot point thereof, will always tend to hold the said plate in one or the other extreme of its movement, so that one of the opposite ends of said plate will always come opposite one of the eye apertures 6. The said baffle plate is arranged to drop between the jets of the burners 10 and the aperture 6 so that the light can no longer be seen from the front of

the target through the eye opposite the baffle plate 12. When the baffle plate is swung to the other extreme of its movement the other end thereof will be moved over the apertures 6 opposite the light upon that side, the light at the other eye being at the same time exposed again; thus first one eye and then the other is given the appearance of being put out.

The operation of the baffle plate is automatically accomplished by the action of a lever 16, which is pivoted at 17 upon the bracket 8. The forward end of the said lever 16 is provided with bifurcated portion 18, which is adapted to loosely engage a pin 19 projecting from the rear face of the baffle plate 12. By swinging the lever 16 upon its pivot pin the baffle plate may be caused to move from one side of the target to the other and back again. The lever 16 is adapted to be operated by the bullets or other projectiles which pass through the eye apertures, the said lever being provided with laterally projecting actuating arms 20 for this purpose. The arms 20 project oppositely from the rear end of the lever 16 and from a point to the rear of its pivot point 17 as clearly shown in Fig. 2. The said arms do not extend quite at right angles to the body position of the lever 16, but at a slightly obtuse angle with respect thereto and thus one arm 20 is adapted to be swung into alinement with one aperture 6 upon one side of the target, while the other arm will be swung out of the range of the apertures on the other side of the target as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. As shown by the arrow in said Fig. 2 a projectile passing through the open eye of the target will strike one of the arms 20. In doing so it will operate to swing the lever 16 to the position indicated in dotted lines, thus throwing the baffle plate 12 over to the opposite side of the target for closing the eye through which the projectile has just come. This will hide the light upon that side giving the eye the appearance of having been put out while the light upon the other side will be exposed and the arm 20 upon that side having assumed the position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, will be brought into alinement with the aperture 6, in readiness for actuation by the next successful bullet. The eyes of the target may thus be successively put out, to all appearances, and one eye of the target will always be ready to be put out. The mechanism is absolutely automatic in its operation, and does not require any attention on the part of an attendant. The pivotal mounting of the baffle plate 12 as already intimated, is such as to cause the parts to always seek the extremities of their movement.

By the use of the strengthening plate 7 the target is reinforced and strengthened at the point where the projectiles are most likely to strike. A continued striking of the target with bullets or like projectiles soon causes a pitting of the surface which is objectionable and in fact is sometimes liable to produce harmful results since the lead of the bullets in striking a pitted plate will frequently fly great distances and wound or injure persons. After a target has become thus pitted it has to be discarded. In the target constructed as described and in accordance with the present invention, the plate 7 is the only portion which is liable to become pitted and it can be removed and replaced from time to time without having to discard or throw away the rest of the target mechanism. To facilitate the removal and replacement of the said plate, it is secured to the target by means of screws 21. In using the target the plate 7 constituting the portion about the eyes which are the bull's-eyes of the target, is usually painted in the morning and generally needs no further attention during the day. The paint however becomes knocked off so that frequent painting is generally resorted to. As soon as the plate 7 shows any evidence of becoming pitted it is removed and a new plate put in its place. The said plate 7 is generally made of cast metal which is very hard and is the only portion of the target which need to be formed of such hard substance.

It will be observed that the mechanism is simple in structure and that it can be applied to any desired target or configuration, and may be adapted to the eyes of any kind of figures.

What I claim is:

1. A target having separated apertures therein and an automatically operating blind common to said apertures and arranged adjacent thereto and capable of closing each aperture successively.

2. A target comprising a body portion having a plurality of apertures formed therein, a projectile actuated blind adjacent to said apertures so adapted to close any of the apertures through which a projectile passes.

3. A target comprising a configuration having apertures formed therein, lights arranged opposite said apertures and a screen adapted to come between said lights and apertures by a projectile passing through any of them.

4. A target mechanism comprising a figure having apertured eye portions formed thereon, a light disposed opposite the apertured portions of said eyes and a rocking screen arranged between the light and said apertures and means adapted to be struck by a projectile to cause said screen to hide the light in either eye.

5. A target comprising a figure having eyes formed thereon with central apertures, lights arranged immediately behind the said

apertures, a rocking baffle plate mounted upon the figure so as to rock between the lights and the said apertures, the said baffle covering one or the other of the apertures at the extremes of its movement, and a bullet operated lever for throwing the said baffle plate from one side to the other.

6. A target comprising a figure having eye portions formed with apertures therein, a lighting device arranged adjacent to the figure and having jets extending opposite the apertures of the eyes, a bracket mounted upon the figure, a rocking baffle plate carried thereby and adapted to rock opposite one eye or the other according to the side of its pivotal point to which it is moved, a pin projecting from the said baffle plate, a lever pivotally mounted on the bracket and having a forked end loosely engaging said pin, laterally projecting projectile engaging arms carried by the said lever and arranged to come opposite first one aperture and then the other of the eyes, the action of a projectile upon the arm opposite an open eye being such as to throw the baffle plate between that eye and the jet behind it, for indicating that the eye has been put out.

7. A target mechanism, comprising a shield portion having the configuration of a face formed thereon, and having apertures at the eyes, a removable reinforcing plate surrounding said eye apertures and projecting the target at that point, means for maintaining light behind the said apertures, a rocking light hiding plate mounted behind the apertures and arranged to rock above its pivotal points, whereby its end portions will always rest opposite one of the apertures, and a bullet actuated lever engaging said baffle plate and adapted to rock it from one side to the other when a projectile passes through one of the eyes.

In witness that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto subscribed my name this 29th day of May, 1911.

JNO. T. DICKMAN.

Witnesses:
E. A. STRAUSE,
EARLE R. POLLARD.