J. W. DARBY.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 1, 1917.

1,272,014.

Patented July 9, 1918.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

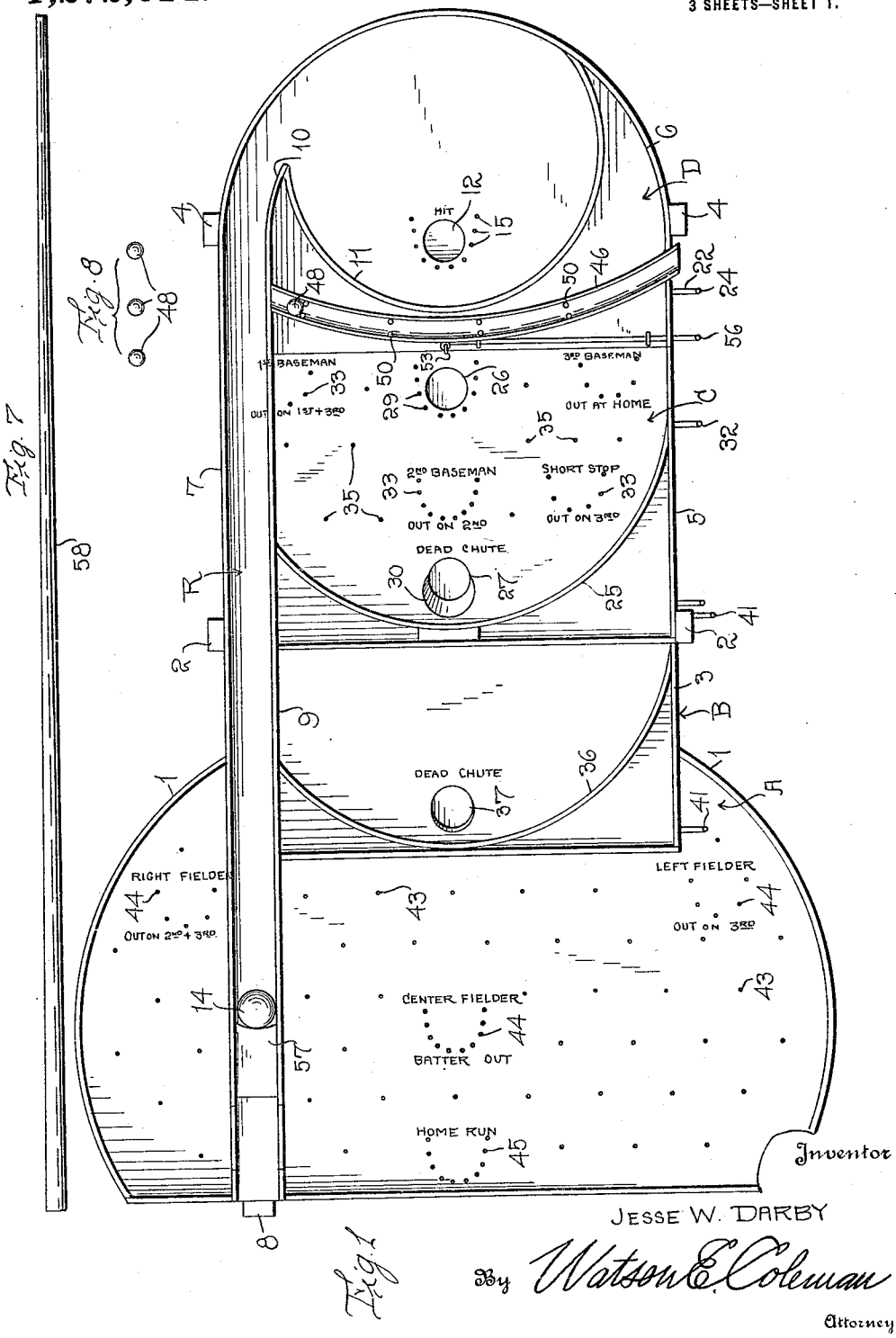


Fig. 1

Fig. 8

Fig. 7

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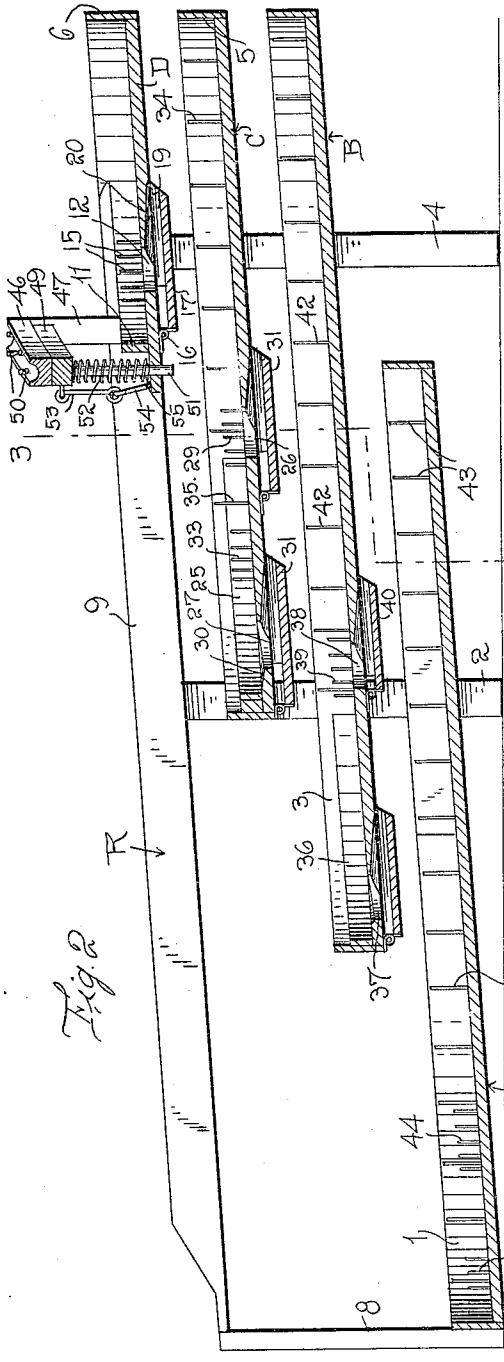


Fig. 2

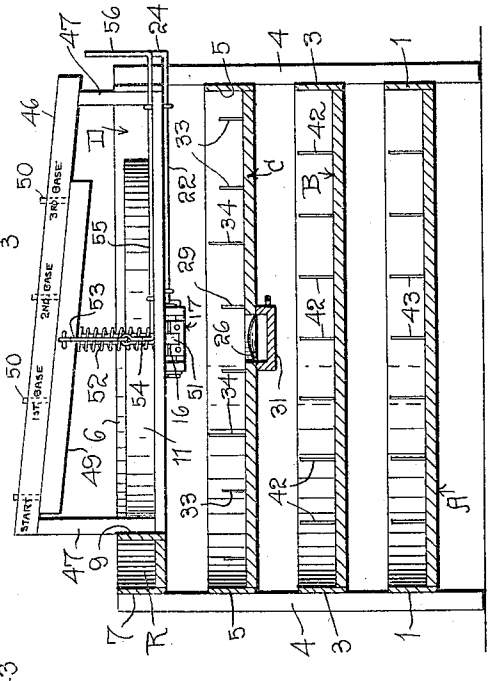


Fig. 3

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

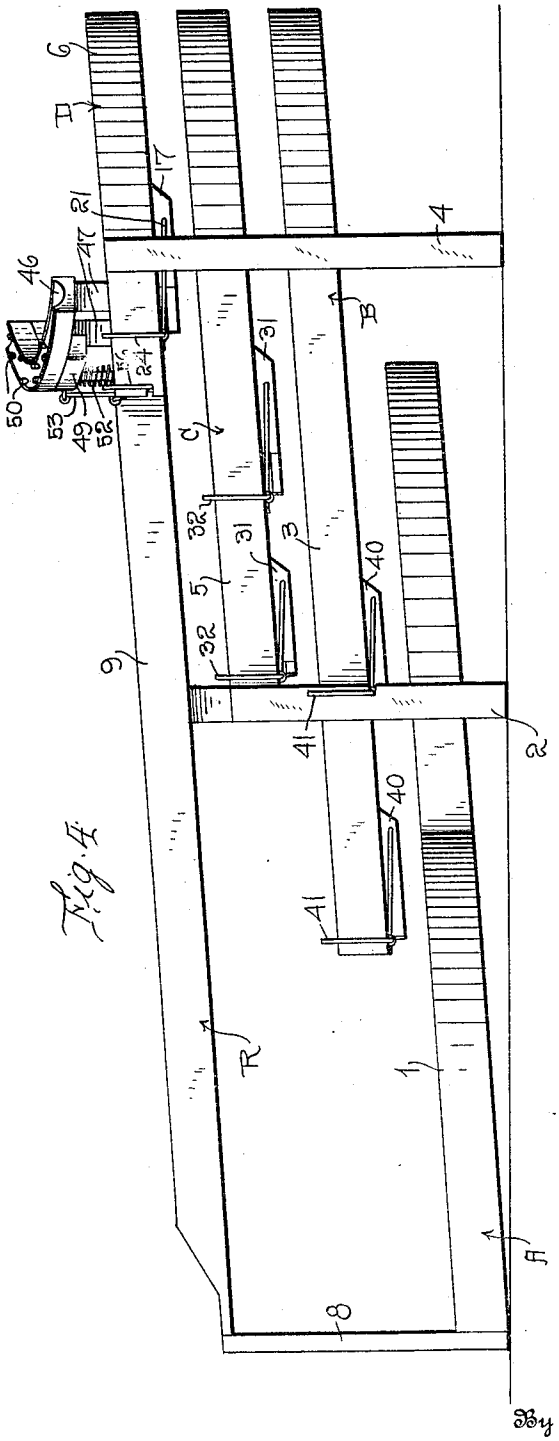


Fig. 4

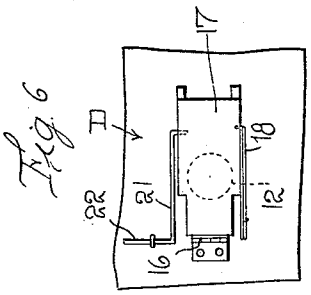


Fig. 6

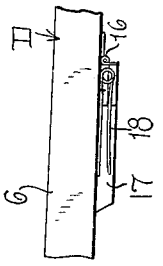


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE W. DARBY, OF LAPORTE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN LLOYD WITTER, OF LAPORTE, INDIANA.

GAME APPARATUS.

1,272,014. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 9, 1918.

Application filed September 1, 1917. Serial No. 189,312.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE WILBERT DARBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Laporte, in the county of Laporte and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain improvements in game apparatus and has relation more particularly to a device of this general character employing a surface projectile and it is an object of the invention to provide a novel and improved device of this general character employing a plurality of playing surfaces or fields arranged in superimposed relation and wherein the projectile is adapted to be delivered from an upper field to one immediately therebelow.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a device of this general character having novel and improved means whereby the delivery of a projectile from one field to another is under manual control and wherein such control embodies a flap or valve normally closing the communication between adjacent fields.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved apparatus including a runway upon which a projectile is adapted to travel together with means for controlling the extent of travel of the projectile along the trackway and wherein the extent of travel of the projectile is determined by chance and as afforded by a second projectile traveling over a playing field.

The invention also contemplates for an object to provide a novel and improved apparatus whereby the well known game of baseball may be simulated.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of my improved game wherein certain important advantages are attained and the device rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

The novel features of my invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that my invention may be the better understood I will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in top plan of a game apparatus constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken through the device as herein set forth;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view in side elevation of my improved apparatus as herein embodied;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view in side elevation illustrating one of the flaps or fields as herein embodied for controlling the delivery of a projectile from one playing field to another;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary view in bottom plan of the structure illustrated in Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a view in plan of an impelling member or cue employed in connection with my apparatus; and

Fig. 8 is a view in plan of certain of the "player" projectiles as herein included.

As disclosed in the accompanying drawings A denotes a lower or base playing field of predetermined configuration and disposed on an incline longitudinally, the lower end of the field contacting with the surface upon which the apparatus is positioned. The marginal portion of the field A is defined by the upstanding walls 1 and secured to the side walls adjacent the upper end of the field are the vertically disposed posts or standards 2 which serve to support said rear portion of the field A and maintain the same on a predetermined incline.

The posts or standards 2 extend a predetermined distance above the playing field A and operatively engaged with said posts or standards 2 are the side flanges 3 defining the marginal portions of the second playing field B. The field B is arranged a predetermined distance above the playing field A and has its forward end portion overlying the rear end portion of the field A. The field B is disposed on an incline substantially the same as the field A. Operatively engaged with the rear portion of the field B are the posts or standards 4 which serve to properly support said playing field B. The posts or standards 4 extend a predetermined distance above the playing field B and operatively engaged with the posts or

standards 2 and 4 above the rear portion of the playing field B is a third playing field C, the marginal portions of which being defined by the walls 5.

Supported by the posts 4 above the rear portion of the playing field C is a fourth playing field D. The fields C and D are also disposed on predetermined inclines and preferably substantially the same as the inclination of the fields A and B.

The rear portion of the playing field D is defined by an upstanding arcuate wall 6 substantially semi-circular in form and one end of said wall is continued by an upstanding side wall 7 of the elongated alley or runway R, said alley or runway being also inclined substantially the same as the playing fields hereinbefore referred to and said alley or runway is further supported by one of the posts or standards 2 and an upstanding post or standard 8 arranged at the lower end of the playing field A.

The opposite or inner marginal portion of the alley or runway R is defined by the upstanding wall 9 which extends partially within the field D with its upper end portion 10 conforming to the curvature of the adjacent portion of the wall 6. 11 denotes an upstanding arcuate wall positioned upon the field D and leading from the free end of the portion 10 of the wall 9 to the wall 6 at a point remote from the alley or runway R. The wall 11 is curved reversely to the wall 6 so that a confined playing area is afforded.

At a predetermined distance inwardly of the lowermost portion of the wall 11 the field D is provided with an opening 12 of a diameter slightly in excess of the diameter of the projectile 14 herein disclosed as a spherical body and which is preferably the size of a cue ball as employed in the game of billiards or pool.

Arranged at opposite sides and below the opening 12 are the upstanding pins 15 which serve to render more difficult the entrance of the projectile 14 within the opening 12.

Hingedly engaged as at 16 to the under surface of the playing field D and at a predetermined point below the opening 12 is the end portion of the flap or valve 17 which is of a length to underlie the opening 12. The flap or valve 17 is normally maintained in a closed position relative to the opening 12 through the medium of the spring 18. The upper face 19 of the flap or valve 17 is grooved so that when lowered the flap or valve will serve as a chute to deliver the projectile 14 at the upper portion of the playing field C; the playing field D is provided with the flared recess 20 in communication with the opening 12 as is particularly illustrated in Fig. 2. The valve or flap 17 is moved into an open position through the medium of the crank or rock arm 21 carried by the shaft 22 disposed transversely of the playing field D and extending beyond one side thereof. The outer or free end portion of the rock arm or crank 21 is operatively engaged with the free end portion of the flap or valve 17 and the outer end portion of the shaft 22 is provided with an upstanding operating lever 24. It will be self evident that upon movement of the lever 24 in one direction the rock arm or crank 21 will cause the flap or valve 17 to assume an open position.

Disposed across the lower portion of the playing field C is an upstanding wall 25 substantially semi-circular and disposed through the playing field C intermediate the lowermost portion of the wall 25 and the lower end of the field D are the longitudinally alined openings 26 and 27 arranged at substantially the transverse center of the field C. Each of the openings 26 and 27 is of such a diameter as to permit the passage therethrough of the projectile 14. The opening 27 is in close proximity to the wall 25 and the upper part of the lower wall of the opening 27 is beveled as at 30 to facilitate the entrance of the projectile 14 within the opening 27.

Co-acting with each of the openings 26 and 27 is a flap or valve 31 mounted in substantially the same manner as the flap or valve 17 hereinbefore referred to and which is thrown into an open position through the medium of an operating lever 32.

The playing field C below the playing field D is provided with a plurality of upwardly facing pockets afforded by the upstanding pins 33 and as herein embodied are arranged in simulation of certain of the players in a ball game. The portion of the playing field C underlying the field D is provided with a plurality of upstanding pins 34 arranged in staggered relation and which serve to cause the projectile 14 to travel in a path of chance. The portion of the playing field C below the playing field D and intermediate the pockets is also provided with the upstanding pins 35 arranged for a similar purpose.

The playing field B has disposed across the lower portion thereof the arcuate upstanding wall 36 and adjacent the lower portion of the wall 36 said playing field is provided with an opening 37, arranged at substantially the transverse center of the field B. In longitudinal alinement with the opening 37 and beneath the lower portion of the field C, the field B is provided with the second opening 38. Arranged at opposite sides of the opening 38 and therebelow are the upstanding pins 39 affording an upwardly facing pocket. The passage of the projectile 14 through each of the openings 37 and 38 is controlled by a flap or valve 40 mounted in the same manner as the flaps or valves 17 and 31 hereinbefore referred to and which are adjusted into an open position in a simi-

lar manner through the medium of the levers 41. A portion of the playing field B below the playing field C as defined by the walls 6 has its surface free and unobstructed except by the opening 37 while the portion of the playing field B underlying the field C is provided with the upstanding pins 42 arranged in staggered relation and which serve to cause the projectile 14 to travel over the upper portion of the field B in an indeterminable path. The playing field A throughout its length is provided with the upstanding pins 43 also in staggered relation to cause an uncertain travel of the projectile 14 thereover. The field A below the field B is also provided with the upstanding pins 44 affording upwardly facing pockets and said pockets are positioned at the conventional location of the outfielders of a baseball game. Below the pocket identified as "center fielder" and in longitudinal alinement therewith are arranged the pins 45 affording an upwardly facing pocket for a purpose to be hereinafter more particularly referred to.

Arranged above the lower portion of the playing field D and disposed transversely thereof is a trackway 46 supported in applied position through the medium of the uprights 47 suitably engaged with the upper playing field D. The trackway 46 is preferably curved and disposed on a predetermined incline so that a projectile or pallet 48 may travel therealong by gravity. Underlying a portion of the trackway 46 is an elongated member 49 and said member 49 at predetermined points longitudinally thereof is provided with the upstanding pins 50 loosely disposed through the trackway 46 and which serves normally to obstruct the travel of a projectile or pallet 48 along the trackway. The member 40 is provided at substantially its longitudinal center with a depending rod or arm 51 loosely disposed through the lower portion of the field D and interposed between the field D and the member 49 is an expansible member 52 herein disclosed as a conventional coil spring encircling the arm or rod 51. The expansible member 52 serves to normally maintain the member 49 in contact with the under surface of the trackway 46 so that the pins 50 obstruct the line of travel along the trackway. Pivotally engaged with the member 49 at substantially its longitudinal center is the link 53 which has its lower end portion operatively engaged with the rock arm 54 extending upwardly from the transverse shaft 55 supported by the playing field D. The shaft 55 extends beyond the side of the playing field D and has the upstanding lever 56. It will be self evident that upon imparting movement to the lever 56 in one direction the member 49 will be lowered so that the pins 50 will extend below the upper surface of the trackway 46 so that a projectile or pallet 48 may travel along the trackway.

In use my improved apparatus is supported at a predetermined elevation relative to the player and the projectile 14 is positioned at the lower end of the alley or runway R and maintained in such position through the medium of the block 57. A projectile 48 is also positioned at the upper end of the trackway 46 and held against movement downwardly of the trackway by the adjacent pins 50. A player strikes the projectile 14, in a conventional manner, with the impelling member or cue 58 with an endeavor to cause the projectile 14 to enter within the opening 12 in the playing field D. Each time the projectile 14 fails to enter the opening 12 constitutes a "strike" and three "strikes" constitutes an "out." When three "outs" have occurred a second player tries his skill. When the projectile 14 enters within the opening 12 a "hit" occurs whereupon the lever 56 is moved to depress the pins 50 so that the projectile 48 may move in contact with the next set of pins which are identified as "first base." A second projectile 48 is then placed at the upper end of the trackway 46 and which upper end constitutes the "start." The player then lowers a flap or valve 17 so that the projectile 14 may be discharged upon the upper portion of the playing field C. As the projectile 14 rolls down the playing field C, the upstanding pins 34 cause the projectile 14 to travel in an indeterminable course and should the projectile 14 be received in one of the pockets afforded by the upstanding pins 33 a "play" occurs as is recorded immediately below each of such pockets, it being understood of course that in order to effect certain of the "plays" a certain number of projectiles 48 must be positioned upon the trackway 46. Should the projectile 14 seat within the opening 27 the play of the projectile 14 comes to an end. In order to readily remove the projectile 14 for further play the flap or valve 31 co-acting with the opening 27 is depressed through the medium of the lever 32. Should the projectile 14 seat within the opening 26 the projectile is still in play and the operator depresses the co-acting flap or valve 31 so that the projectile will be delivered upon the upper portion of the playing field B. The upstanding pins 42 carried by the playing field B will also cause the projectile 14 to travel in an uncertain path and should the projectile 14 enter within the opening 37 the same is out of play. However, should the projectile 14 seat within the opening 38 the adjacent flap or valve 40 is lowered so that the projectile will be discharged upon the upper portion of the playing field A. The upstanding pins 43 will cause the projectile 14 to roll downwardly on the playing

field A in an indeterminable path and should the projectile 14 be received in any one of the pockets afforded by the pins 44 or 45 a "play" will be made in accordance with the instructions printed or otherwise indicated adjacent each of such pockets. It will also be understood that as a "player" as represented by a projectile 48 is to be advanced the member 49 will be depressed so that no obstruction to the trackway 46 will be offered by the pins 50.

From the foregoing description, it is thought to be obvious that a game apparatus constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without materially departing from the principle and spirit thereof and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, each of the upper fields being provided with an opening arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, and a swinging valve underlying each of said openings and having its free end disposed rearwardly.

2. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, and means for normally closing said openings.

3. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, a valve normally closing each of said openings, and means for moving said valves into an open position.

4. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, valves coacting with each of the openings of the playing fields and underlying the openings, the upper faces of said valves being grooved, and means for adjusting each of said valves into an open position.

5. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, and upstanding pins carried by each of the playing fields.

6. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, and upstanding pins carried by each of the playing fields, certain of said pins affording pockets.

7. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, and upstanding pins carried by each of the playing fields, certain of said pins affording pockets partially surrounding certain of the openings in the playing fields.

8. A game apparatus comprising a playing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined track way, and vertically movable means positioned at different points along the track way for obstructing travel thereover.

9. A game apparatus comprising a plurality of playing fields in superimposed relation and over which a projectile is adapted to travel, the upper fields being provided with openings arranged above the fields immediately therebeneath, a trackway over which a projectile is adapted to travel by gravity, and means for obstructing the travel over the trackway.

10. A game apparatus comprising a playing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined trackway, a member arranged beneath the trackway and provided with pins extending loosely through the trackway, and means for normally maintaining the member substantially in contact with the trackway, said pins being of such a length as to obstruct the travel over the trackway when the member is substantially in contact with the trackway.

11. A game apparatus comprising a playing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined trackway, a member arranged beneath the trackway and provided with pins extending loosely through the trackway, means for normally maintaining the member substantially in contact with the trackway, and means for moving the member away from the trackway.

12. A game apparatus comprising a playing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined track way over which a projectile is adapted to travel by gravity, and movable means for obstructing the travel over the track way.

13. A game apparatus comprising a play-

ing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined track way, a member normally obstructing the track way, and means for moving said member in a position to free the track way.

14. A game apparatus comprising a playing field over which a projectile is adapted to traverse, an inclined track way, a member normally obstructing the track way, means for moving said member in a position to free the track way, and automatic means for maintaining the movable member in its normal position.

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

JESSE W. DARBY.

Witnesses:
H. C. HOOVER,
A. B. WICKIZER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."