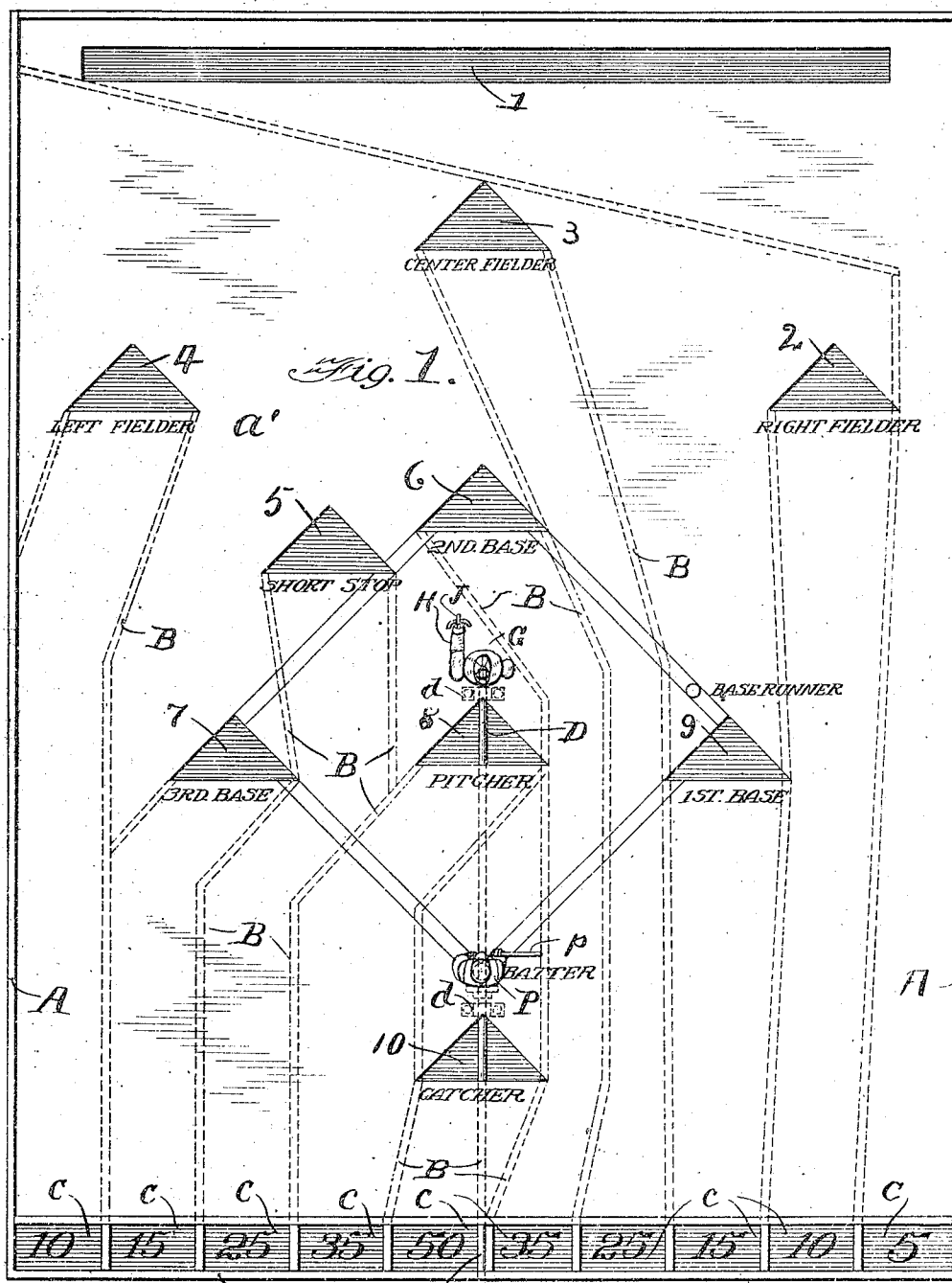


J. J. FITZSIMMONS.
 BASE BALL GAME DEVICE.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 17, 1909.

961,851.

Patented June 21, 1910.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:-
 Wm. H. Yagle,
 May Fitzsimmons.

Inventor:-
 James J. Fitzsimmons,
 by Charles Turner Brown,
 Atty.

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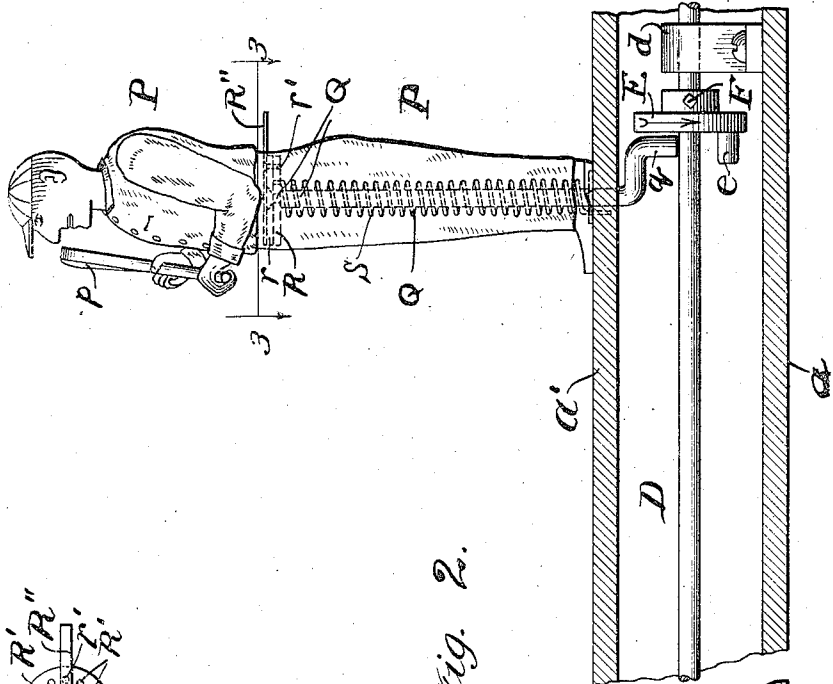


Fig. 2.

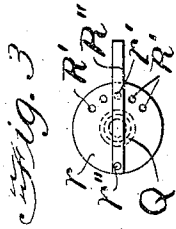
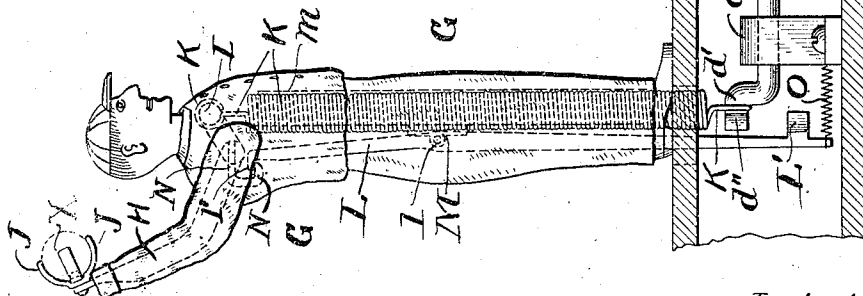


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:-
Wm. H. Yagle.
May Fitzsimmons.

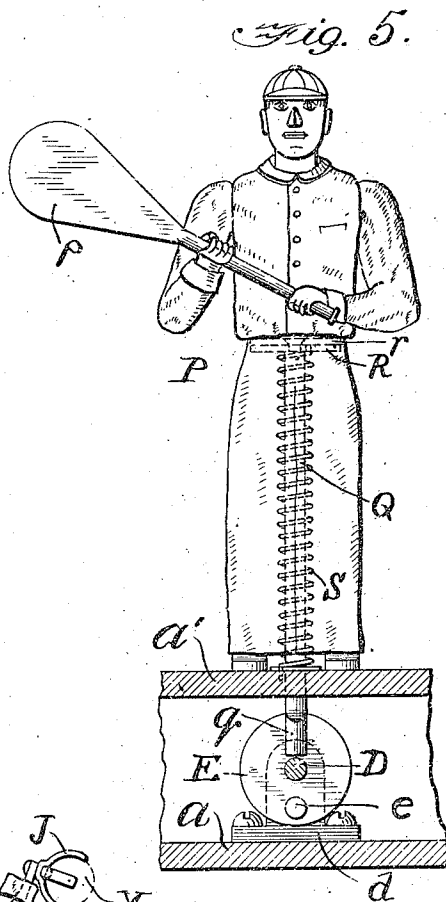
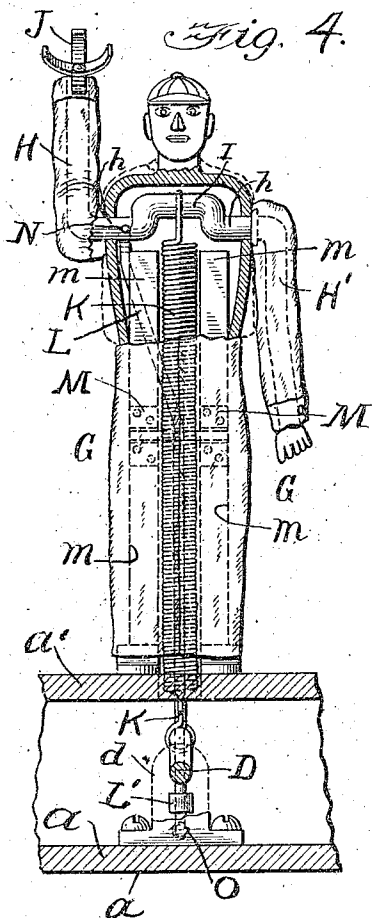
Inventor:-
James J. Fitzsimmons,
by Charles Turner Brown,
Atty.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



Witnesses:-
Wm. H. Yagle.
May Fitzsimmons.

Inventor:-
James J. Fitzsimmons,
by Charles Turner Brown,
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES J. FITZSIMMONS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

BASE-BALL-GAME DEVICE.

961,851.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 21, 1910.

Application filed May 17, 1909. Serial No. 496,633.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES J. FITZSIMMONS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Base-Ball-Game Device, of which the following, when taken in connection with the drawings accompanying and forming a part hereof, is a full and complete description, sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to which it pertains to understand, make, and use the same.

The invention relates to a device whereby a game, entitled base ball, may be played.

The object of this invention is to obtain a device by means of which a game may be played in imitation of the game of base ball.

A further object of the invention is to obtain a device whereof the mechanism required to effect the results sought will be simple, not liable to get out of order, economically made and of slightly appearance.

A further object of the invention is to obtain a device whereof some of the mechanism is adjustable, so that a variation in the results of the play may be secured.

In the drawings referred to Figure 1 is a top plan view of a device embodying the invention, showing certain runways forming elements in the device by broken lines. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of a portion of the device, showing the figures representing the pitcher and the batter of the device, and the mechanism actuating the same. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section, on line 3-3 of Fig. 2, viewed in the direction indicated by the arrow. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the figure representing the pitcher, in the position illustrated in Fig. 2, with the front of the upper portion of said figure removed to expose mechanism therein to view, and showing a portion of the base and main actuating shaft of the device. Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the figure representing the batter, in the position in which said figure is shown in Fig. 2, showing a portion of the base and main shaft of the device. Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the upper portion of the figure representing the pitcher of the device, with the movable pitching arm of the figure in substantially the position said arm moves to at the instant the ball designed to be thrown thereby leaves the pitcher's hand.

A reference letter applied to designate a

given part is used to indicate said part throughout the several figures of the drawings, wherever the same appears.

A is the base of the device. Base A is provided with two floors, *a*, *a'*. The several figures of the device are mounted on floor. The only figures shown in the drawings are those intended to represent the pitcher and the batter, and apertures, (hereinafter described) are shown in place of figures to show the remaining players necessary to make nine.

Between floors *a*, *a'* a number of runways are provided by means of partitions. *B*, *B*, represent, (by broken lines) partitions to obtain the required number of runways.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are apertures in floor *a'*. Apertures 2 to 10, both inclusive, are positioned substantially the same as players in the game of base ball are positioned, and said apertures are arranged so that a ball falling through any one thereof is delivered into a runway and rolls in said runway to a pocket (*C*), at the delivery end of said runway. The count or score made by a ball falling through one of said apertures is determined by the number placed adjacent to the pocket into which the ball is delivered.

D is a shaft rotatably mounted in journal bearings *d*, *d'*, between floors *a*, *a'*. Shaft *D* is provided with crank *D'* at one end, and with crank *d'*, at the other end thereof. When the game is played with this device the shaft *D* is rotated by means of crank *D'*.

E is a disk.

e is a projection on disk *E*.

Disk *E* is adjusted on shaft *D* and secured by set screw *F* to release crank *g* (hereinafter described), at a given time relative to the release of latch *L*, (also hereinafter described) by end *d''* of crank *d'*.

G is a figure representing a pitcher, and said figure is designed to throw or pitch ball *X* at a determined time when shaft *D* is turned.

H, *H'* are the arms of figure *G*. Arms *H*, *H'* are made of wire bent into shape to obtain horizontal part *h* and crank *I*. The arms are swung by the turning of part *h* in the bearings thereof in said figure.

J are spring fingers at the end of arm *H*. Fingers *J* are arranged to hold ball *X*. The ball *X* is designed to be pitched or thrown from the fingers *J* at the time said fingers (and arm *H*) are stopped by the crank *I*.

coming in contact with the top of posts *m* as said fingers and arm are moved by the resilience of spring *K*.

To effect the movement of arm *H* at the determined time relative to a corresponding movement of Fig. P, one end of spring *K* is attached to crank *I* and the other end to crank *d'*, and the latch *L* is arranged to hold said arm stationary until, by the revolution of crank *d'*, the spring *K* is at its greatest tension, and to then release said arm, permitting the spring to move the same. Latch *L* is pivotally mounted at *l* in bearings *M* on posts *m*, *m*, and end *l'* of said latch is arranged to engage with abutment *N*, (said abutment is positioned on part *h* of the arms *H*, *H'*) when said arms *H*, *H'*, are in the position illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawings. The end *l'* of latch *L* is arranged so that the shaft *D* may be turned to move the latch by end *d''* of crank *d'* coming in contact therewith, and said movement of the latch moves end *l'* thereof out of engagement with the abutment *N*. The release of the latch *L* from abutment *N* is effected at about the time the shaft *D* has been turned one half around from the position thereof illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4, and at said time spring *K* is at its greatest tension by reason of the lower end thereof being drawn down by crank *d'*. When the shaft *D* has been turned one half around from the position thereof illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4 and the latch *L* has been released from abutment *N*, the arms *H*, *H'*, are suddenly forced by the spring into the position illustrated in Fig. 6, and the continued rotation of said shaft, back to its initial position moves the lower end of the spring *K* upward, closing the spring and returning the arms to their initial position. Spring *O*, (Fig. 2), is provided to return latch *L* to its initial position and yieldingly hold it in engagement with the abutment *N*, and as the arms *H*, *H'*, are returned to their initial position, as above described, said latch *L* will automatically engage with said abutment *N* and maintain said arms in their initial position until the latch *L* is again moved by end *d''* of crank *d'*.

P is a figure representing a batter, and is arranged so that the ball *X* comes in contact, or near thereto, with bat *p* as said ball is thrown or pitched by figure *G*. To obtain movement of the figure *P* and bat *p* at a determined time relative to the throwing or pitching of ball *X*, and also to provide for an adjustment of the waist and the parts mounted thereon relative to the part of the figure below the waist, the about to be described mechanisms are provided.

Q is a vertical wire arranged to turn in its bearings in floor *a'*, and provided with the crank *q* at the lower end thereof.

R is a table attached to the upper end of

wire *Q* to turn with said wire, as said wire is turned.

S is a spring which is attached to floor *a'* at its lower end and to the table *R* at its upper end.

Table *R* is provided with apertures *R'* and *r* is a table resting on table *R* and held in a determined position to table *R* by spring arm *R''* having pin *r'* fitting into any one of the apertures *R'*. Spring arm *R''* is attached to the table *R* by the rivet or bolt *r''*. (See Fig. 3.) Said figure is divided at the waist and the portion of the figure above said waist is attached to table *r*, and the waist band of the trousers are attached to table *R*. Changing pin *r'* from one of the apertures *R'* into a different one of said apertures changes the position of the portion of the figure above the waist, (including the bat), relative to the lower portion of the figure. By this construction, after the tables *R*, *r*, are adjusted and secured together, (by pin *r'* in aperture *R'*), the waist and portion of said figure above the waist is turned by the turning of the vertical wire (or shaft) *Q*.

Wire or shaft *Q* is turned by the projection *e* on disk *E* coming in contact with crank *q*, as shaft *D* is turned in the direction indicated by the arrow on the periphery of said disk. The turning of the wire *Q* places the spring *S* under tension, and as the crank *q* passes out from under said crank *q* the resilience of the spring returns the spring, (and tables *R*, *r*), to its initial position. The disk *E* is adjusted on the shaft *D* so that the release of crank *q* from abutment *e* occurs at about the time the ball *X* comes in contact with bat *p*; thereby giving the effect of the figure *P* striking at said ball.

When ball *X* and bat *p* contact said ball is deflected from its course, and when said ball falls to the floor *a'* it will, at times, fall through an aperture in said floor and roll along the runway of said aperture to the pocket corresponding thereto.

A game is played by this device by a determined number of rotations of shaft *D* being made by each party to the game, or by a determined number of hits by the bat on the ball. The added numbers on the pockets of the device into which the ball rolls during a game makes the score, and the one with the highest score is the winner of the game.

It will be evident that the device may be placed in a conspicuous place and the game played as an advertisement.

The ball *X* must be replaced in the hand *J* of the pitcher after each throwing thereof, and the manner in which it is so placed may determine, to a limited extent, the throw or pitch of the ball, and the consequent batting and count therefrom; as may also the adjustment of the tables *R*, *r*.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A figure provided with a movable arm, an abutment to the arm, means to hold a ball at the end of the arm, a latch, said latch engageable with the abutment, and arranged to hold said arm stationary when in engagement, a spring connected with the arm and means for placing said spring under tension and automatically releasing the latch while the spring is under such tension.

2. A figure provided with a movable arm, an abutment to the arm, means to hold a ball at the end of the arm, a latch, said latch engageable with the abutment and arranged to hold the arm in its initial position when in engagement with said abutment, means to automatically engage the latch on the abutment when said latch and abutment are in a determined relative position, a spring, a connection between said spring and said arm, means to place said spring under tension and said means for placing said spring under tension also arranged to return the spring and arm to their initial positions.

3. A figure provided with a movable arm, an abutment to the arm, spring fingers at one end of the arm, a latch arranged to engage with the abutment and retain the arm in its initial position, a spring arranged to yieldingly hold the latch in an engageable position, in combination with a shaft, means to turn the shaft, a crank on the shaft, an additional spring attached at one end to the crank and at the other end connected with the arm, and one end of said latch positioned in the path of said crank.

4. A figure provided with a movable arm, spring fingers at the end of the movable arm arranged to hold a ball, an abutment to the movable arm, in combination with a base, a shaft rotatably mounted on the base, cranks at the ends of the shaft, a pivoted latch having one end in position to engage the abutment on the arm, and the other end projecting into the path of one of the cranks, a spring having one end connected with the arm and the other end attached to said crank, said crank and latch arranged so that the crank engages with the latch to release the latch from the abutment at a determined time, and the spring arranged to return the arm to its initial position as said spring is moved by the crank to which it is attached subsequent to the release and movement of the arm.

5. A base and a floor, a figure on the floor said figure provided with a movable arm, spring fingers at the end of the arm arranged to hold a ball, an abutment to the movable arm, in combination with a shaft rotatably mounted on the base, cranks at the ends of the shaft, and a pivotally mounted latch having one end arranged to

in a determined position, and the other end projecting into the path of one of said cranks, a spring, a connection between one end of the spring and the movable arm and said spring attached at its other end to one of the cranks, said crank, latch and spring arranged so that turning of the crank produces tension on the spring, and releases the latch from the abutment when the spring is under tension, and continued turning of the crank returns the arm to its initial position.

6. A base, a floor above the base, a shaft rotatably mounted between the base and the floor, a crank on the shaft, a figure on the floor, said figure provided with a movable arm, spring fingers at the end of the arm arranged to hold a ball, an abutment to the movable arm and a pivotally mounted latch having one end held in position to engage with the abutment to hold the arm in a determined position and the other end projecting into the path of the crank, a crank wrist between the ends of said shaft, a spring having one end connected with the arm and the other end attached to the crank, said crank, latch and spring arranged so that the turning of the shaft on which the crank is mounted produces tension of the spring and releases the latch from the abutment at the time when the spring is under tension, in combination with an additional figure on said floor, said additional figure provided with a waist and with arms, and with a bat in said arms, a vertical shaft and a spring thereon in the additional figure, said waist mounted to turn with said shaft, and said spring connected at one end to said shaft and attached at its other end to said base, a crank at the lower end of said vertical shaft, the crank wrist between the ends of the shaft arranged to engage with the crank on the vertical shaft.

7. The combination of a base, a floor above the base, a shaft rotatably mounted between the base and the floor, a crank on the shaft, a figure on the floor, said figure provided with a movable arm, spring fingers at the end of the arm arranged to hold a ball, an abutment to the movable arm and a pivotally mounted latch having one end held in position to engage with the abutment to hold the arm in a determined position and the other end projecting into the path of the crank, a crank wrist, a spring having one end connected to the movable arm and at the other end attached to the crank, an additional figure on the floor, said additional figure provided with arms, and with a bat in the arms, and with a waist, a vertical shaft rotatably mounted in said additional figure, a table mounted on said shaft, said table connected to said waist, and a spring on said shaft in the additional figure, said spring connected at one end to the table and

at the other end to the floor, a crank at the lower end of said vertical shaft, the crank wrist arranged to engage with the crank on the vertical shaft.

- 5 8. The combination of a shaft, a crank on the shaft, a figure provided with a movable arm, spring fingers on the end of the movable arm, a latch having one end arranged to engage with the abutment and the other
10 end projecting into the path of the crank, a disk on said shaft, an abutment on said disk, means to secure the disk to the shaft in a determined position, a spring attached at one end to said crank and having the other
15 end connected with the arm, a spring ar-

ranged to yieldingly hold the latch in position to engage with the abutment on the arm, an additional figure, arms on said figure, a bat held in said arms, a vertical shaft rotatably mounted within the additional figure and a spring on said vertical shaft, a crank on the lower end of said vertical shaft in the path of the abutment, a table on the upper end of the vertical shaft, one end of said spring attached to the table, and means 25 to hold the other end of said spring.

JAMES J. FITZSIMMONS.

In the presence of—

CHARLES TURNER BROWN,
MAY FITZSIMMONS.