No. 893,303. PATENTED JULY 14, 1908.

J. A. BOWLING.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 4, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

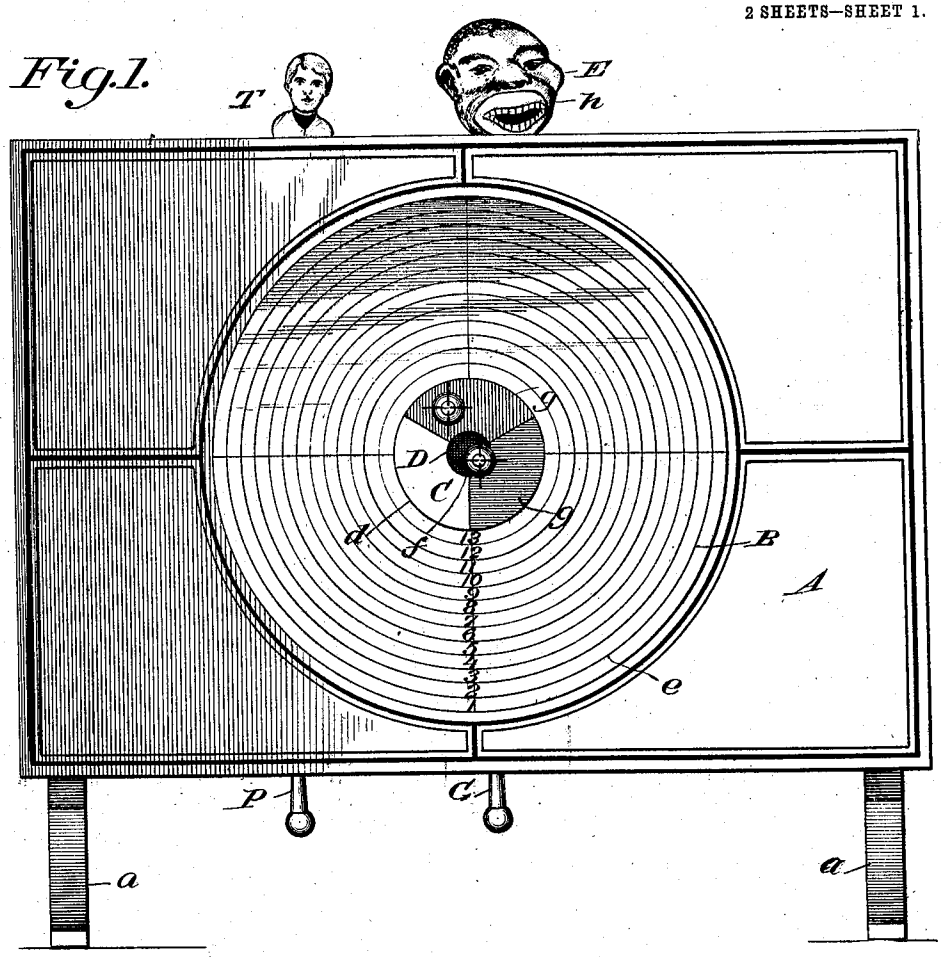
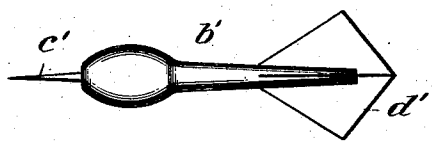


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

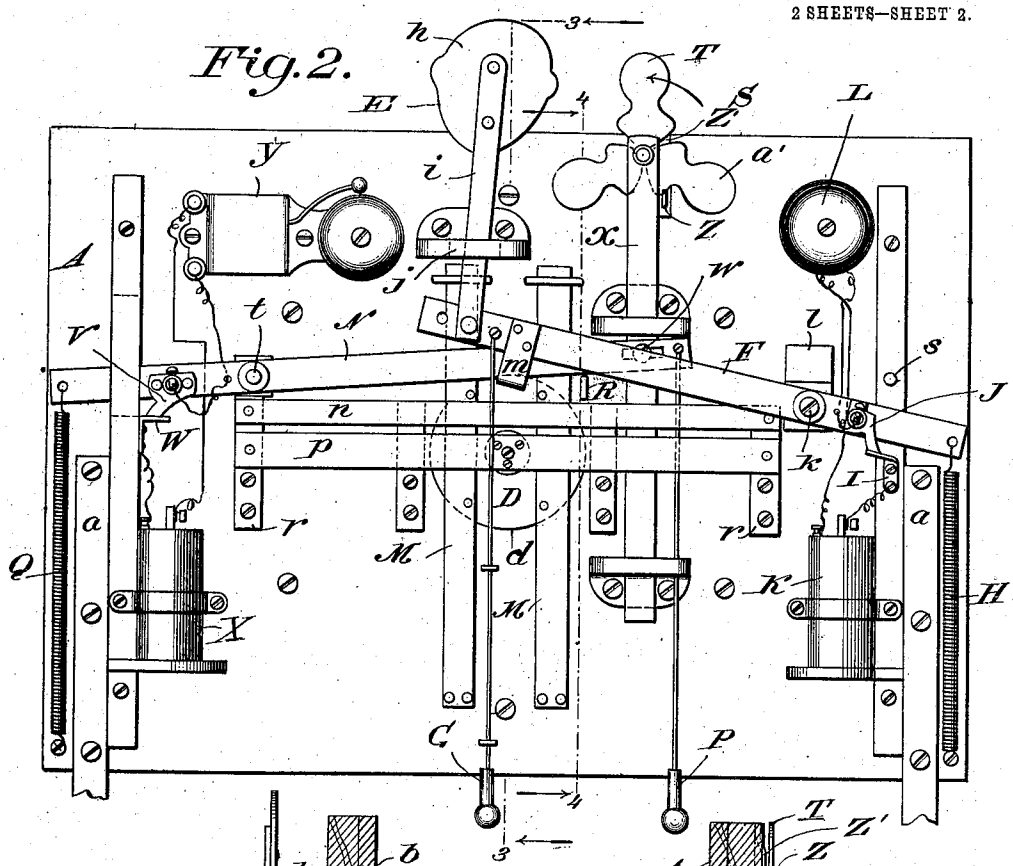


Fig. 3.

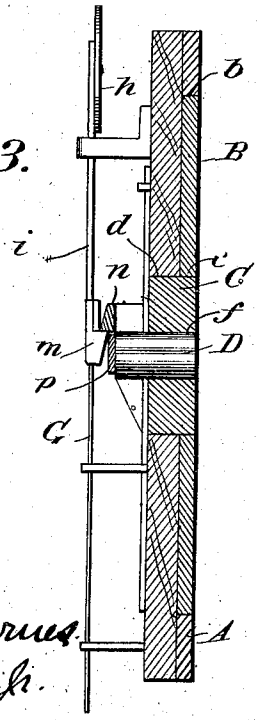


Fig. 4.

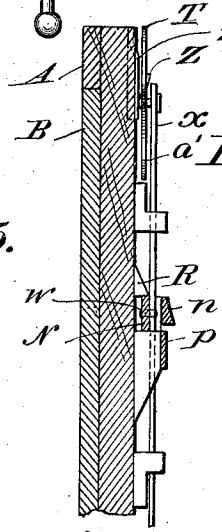
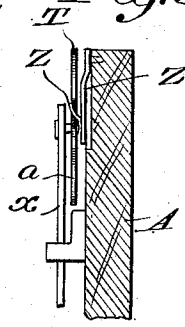


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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GAME APPARATUS.

No. 893,303. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 14, 1908.

Application filed January 4, 1908. Serial No. 409,290.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ALBERT BOWLING, citizen of the United States, residing at Emmitsburg, in the county of Frederick and State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention pertains to game apparatus; and it has for its object to provide a game apparatus which without being unduly expensive is calculated to test the skill and afford considerable amusement to both adults and children.

The invention will be fully understood from the following description and claims when the same are read in connection with the drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification, in which:

Figure 1 is a view illustrating the target comprised in my novel apparatus and also illustrating the annunciators of the target in the positions they assume when the bull's eye and one of the segmental divisions adjacent to the bull's eye have been struck by a player or marksman. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the target with the parts in the same positions as in Fig. 1. Figs. 3 and 4 are vertical sections taken in the planes indicated by the lines 3—3 and 4—4, respectively, of Fig. 2, looking in the directions indicated by the arrows. Fig. 5 is a detail section illustrating the rotary annunciator member of the target and the parts coöperating therewith. Fig. 6 is an elevation of one of the darts which I prefer to employ in connection with the target of the apparatus.

Similar letters designate corresponding parts in all of the views of the drawings, referring to which:

A is the body of the target comprised in my improvements. The said body is designed to be supported in an upright position by legs *a* or other suitable means, and is provided in its face, as illustrated in Figs. 1, 3 and 4, with a recess *b* designed to receive a removable and reversible target disk B; the said disk being provided with a central opening *c*, preferably circular in form, and the body A being provided with a corresponding opening *d*. The disk B is preferably made removable and reversible as stated, in order that when one of its sides is indented and otherwise marred to a considerable extent by the darts, presently described, its other side may be exposed. The said disk B is perferably, though not essentially, provided with the conventional concentric circles *e*, and these latter are preferably numbered in regular sequence so that the scores of the players of a game may be determined with facility.

In the openings *c* and *d* of the disk B and body A, respectively, is arranged and adapted to move a target member C having a central opening *f*, and in the said opening *f* is arranged and adapted to move a target member D, the outer or forward end of which constitutes a bull's eye as shown in Fig. 1. The face of the target member C is preferably divided into three segmental parts, and these parts are differently colored; the member C illustrated having red, white and blue divisions conventionally represented in Fig. 1, for a purpose which will presently be pointed out.

E is the bull's eye annunciator of the target, which preferably comprises a head *h* and a stem *i* connected to and depending from the head and disposed in a fixed guide *j* on the back of the body A. At its lower end the stem *i* of the annunciator E is pivotally connected to a lever F, preferably of wood and possessed of resiliency or springiness; the said lever being fulcrumed at *k* on a block *l*, fixed to the back of the body A, and being provided at *m* with a latch designed to engage a keeper bar *n*, Figs. 2 and 3, and to normally rest back of a resilient bar *p*, preferably of wood, which bar *p* is connected at its middle to the rear end of the bull's eye target member D, and at its ends to blocks *r* on the back of the body A. The lever F is designed to be drawn downward through the medium of a handle G suitably connected with the long arm of the lever, and the said movement of the lever is limited by a fixed stop *s*, Fig. 2, so as to assure the latch *m* engaging the keeper bar *n* in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3. A coiled spring H is connected at one end to the short arm of the lever F, and at its opposite end to the body A, and has for its office to swing the lever and raise the annunciator E to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 subsequent to the disengagement of the latch *m* from the keeper bar *n*.

Arranged on the body A and the short

arm of the lever F, respectively, are terminals I and J which are arranged as shown in Fig. 2 in a normally open electric circuit with a source of electric energy K and an electric bell L.

From the foregoing description it will be understood that the annunciator E and the lever F normally rest as shown in Fig. 3, and it will also be understood that when the bull's eye target member D is struck and forced rearwardly, the bar *p* will move the latch *m* rearwardly out of engagement with the keeper bar *n*, whereupon the spring H will draw the short arm of the lever F downward and raise the long arm of said lever F and the annunciator E to the positions shown in Fig. 2, this to apprise the marksman or player of the fact that the highest score has been made. It will also be understood that when the spring H moves the lever F as stated, the terminal J on the lever will contact with the terminal I on the body A so as to close the electric circuit and ring the bell L, and thereby attract the attention of the parties playing the game. Subsequent to the raising of the long arm of the lever F with the annunciator E, a player or attendant draws down on the handle G so as to lower the long arm of the lever F and enable the latch *m* to engage the keeper bar *n*, after the manner illustrated in Fig. 3, and it will be seen that when the lever F is thus manipulated the terminal J will be moved away from the terminal I to break the electric circuit and stop the ringing of the bell L. It will also be observed that subsequent to the before described rearward movement of the target member D and the disengagement of the latch *m* from the keeper bar *n*, the resilient bar *p* will return the target member D to its normal position shown in Fig. 3 so as to enable the latch *m* to engage the keeper bar *n* on the subsequent lowering of the annunciator E.

Connected at their ends to the back of the body A are resilient strips M, preferably of wood, which extend across the back of the target member C at opposite sides of the target member D and are connected to said member C by screws or other suitable means. These strips M have for their office to press or spring rearwardly the long arm of a resilient or springy lever N, also preferably of wood, which is fulcrumed at *t* to the back of the body A and has its long arm connected with a handle P and its short arm connected with a spring Q which, in turn, is connected to the body A. The said lever N is normally held against upward movement by a beveled keeper R fixed on the back of the body A, and the long arm of the said lever is pivotally connected at *w* to the stem *x* of an annunciator S, which annunciator in addition to the stem *x* comprises a rotary member T mounted on the stem *x* and arranged to coöperate with a tappet Z in the manner hereinafter pointed out in detail. On the short arm of the lever N is arranged a terminal V, and on the back of the body A is arranged a complementary terminal W. These terminals V and W are arranged in a normally open electric circuit with a source of electric energy X and an electric bell Y.

From the foregoing it will be understood that when any one of the divisions *q* of the target member C is struck, and said target member C is pressed rearward, the spring strips M will also be pressed rearwardly and will spring the long arm of the lever N laterally out of engagement with the beveled keeper R, whereupon the spring Q will operate to draw the short arm of the lever N down and throw the long arm of said lever, together with the annunciator S, upward. At the same time the terminal V will contact with the terminal W so as to attract the attention of the marksmen or players to the fact that the annunciator S is raised, indicating that a hit has been made on the target member C. It will also be understood from the foregoing that when the long arm of the lever N is lowered through the medium of the handle P, the said long arm will ride over and spring under the beveled keeper R and thereby lower the annunciator S and move the terminal V away from the terminal W and break the electric circuit so as to stop the ringing of the electric bell Y. At this point I desire to state that in the preferred embodiment of my invention, the bells L and Y will be pitched in different keys so as to enable the marksmen or players to tell by the sound of the bell the character of the hit made.

An important feature of my invention resides in the rotary member T of the annunciator S in combination with the means for turning the said member T through a part of a revolution incident to the downward movement of the member. The said means comprises a tappet Z which is beveled, as shown in Fig. 5, and is carried by a spring strip Z′ connected to the back of the body A. By virtue of this construction it will be seen that on downward movement of the annunciator S one of the arms *a′* of the rotary member T will be engaged by the tappet Z with the result that the member T will be turned sufficiently far to place the arm *a′* that is engaged by the tappet in an upright position, so that on the subsequent upward movement of the annunciator S the mentioned arm *a′* will appear above the body A. Because of the tappet Z being beveled as shown and described and arranged on the spring strip Z′, it will be seen that on upward movement of the annunciator S, the arm *a′* opposed to the tappet Z will ride idly over the tappet so that on the upward movement of the annunciator the position of the rotary member T will not be changed. The de-

scribed step by step rotation of the member T is in the direction indicated by arrow in Fig. 2, and the arms a' are preferably shaped and embellished to represent the bust of a boy, and in the preferred embodiment of my invention I prefer to provide each bust with a coat of a color different from the colors of the coats of the other busts, and I also prefer to have the said colors correspond to the colors of the divisions g of the target member C.

Providing the busts of the rotary member T with coats of different colors is advantageous because it appears to a party in front of the target that during the time that the annunciator S is depressed, the boy has changed his coat, and providing the busts with colors corresponding to the colors of the divisions g of the target member C is advantageous, because in playing some games an increased score may be made by the player striking a division g of the target member C corresponding in color to the color of the arm or bust a' that appears above the body A on upward movement of the annunciator S.

In Fig. 6 of the drawings, I have illustrated a dart embodying the construction I prefer to employ in using the target. The said dart preferably comprises a body b' of wood, a metallic point c' and a tail or vane d'. I desire it understood, however, that while I prefer to use darts for the reason that they stick in the target and show where they strike, I do not desire to be understood as confining myself to the use of darts, inasmuch as projectiles of various kinds may be used with the target without affecting my invention.

The construction herein illustrated and described constitutes the best practical embodiment of my invention known to me, but it is obvious that in the future practice of the invention such changes or modifications may be made as fairly fall within the scope of my invention as defined in the claims appended.

Having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is:

1. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body, a target member carried by and movable with respect to the body, a resilient lever fulcrumed and arranged to swing vertically on the body and also arranged to be sprung rearwardly by rearward movement of the target member, means for holding said lever against vertical swinging movement until the same is released by rearward movement of the target member, means for swinging the lever vertically on the release thereof, an annunciator connected and movable with the lever, and terminals arranged in a normally open electric circuit with a source of electric energy and an electric bell; one of said terminals being carried by the body and the other being carried and movable with the lever.

2. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body, a target member carried by and movable with respect to the body, a second target member carried by and movable with respect to the body and surrounding the first mentioned target member, a resilient lever fulcrumed and arranged to swing vertically on the body and also arranged to be sprung rearwardly by rearward movement of the first mentioned target member, means for holding said lever against vertical swinging movement until the same is released by rearward movement of said target member, means for swinging the lever vertically on the release thereof, an annunciator connected and movable with the lever, a second resilient lever fulcrumed and arranged to swing vertically on the body and also arranged to be sprung rearwardly by rearward movement of the second mentioned target member, means for holding said lever against swinging movement until the same is released by rearward movement of said target member, means for swinging the lever vertically on the release thereof, and an annunciator connected and movable with the lever.

3. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body having a recess in its face, a target member extending through and movable with respect to the body, a second target member surrounding the first mentioned target member and carried by and movable with respect to the body, a reversible target disk removably arranged in the said recess of the body and surrounding the second mentioned target member and signals complementary to the first and second mentioned target members and arranged to be actuated on movement thereof.

4. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body, an annunciator movable rectilinearly on the body and having a rotary portion, and means on the body for turning said rotary portion through a part of a revolution during rectilinear movement of the annunciator with respect to the body.

5. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body, an annunciator movable on the body and comprising a rotary member having arms, and a tappet on the body for engaging one of said arms and turning the rotary member through a part of a revolution on movement of the annunciator in one direction and for permitting the rotary member to remain idle on movement of the annunciator in the opposite direction.

6. In an apparatus for the purpose described, the combination of a body, a target member carried by and movable with respect to the body and having divisions each differentiated from the other, an annunciator movable on the body and comprising a rotary member having arms each of which is

differentiated from the others in the same manner as the divisions of the target member are differentiated, means on the body for turning said rotary member through a part of a revolution on movement of the annunciator in one direction, means for moving the annunciator arranged to be put into action by movement of the target member, and means for holding the annunciator moving means against movement until the same is released by movement of the target member.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES ALBERT BOWLING.

Witnesses:

VINCENT SEBOLD,

WILLIAM H. TROXELL.