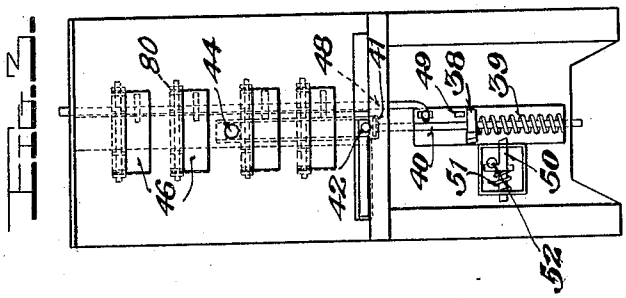
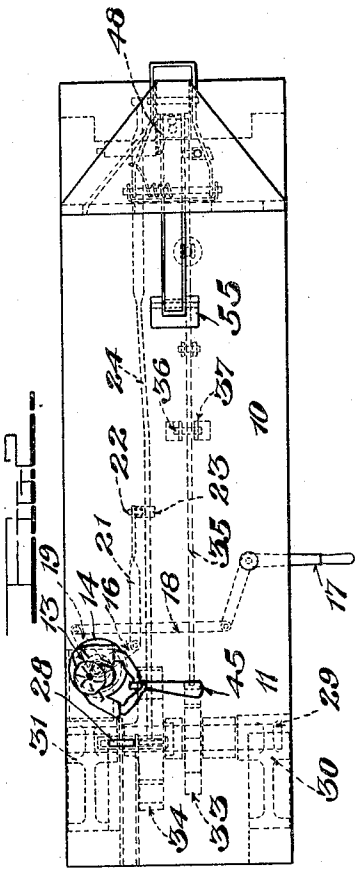
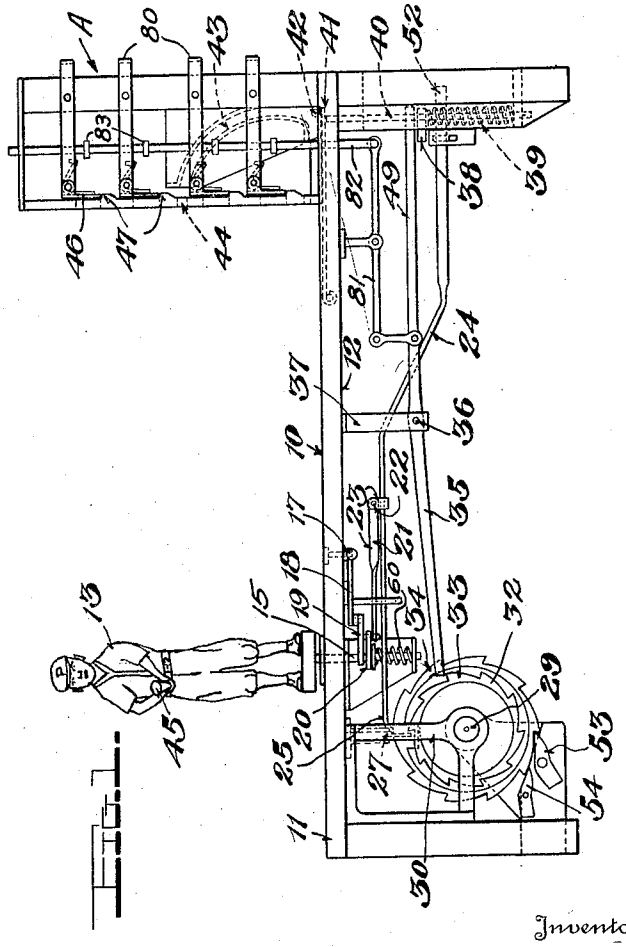
Feb. 2, 1932. F. C. ROJAHN 1,843,632

BASEBALL GAME DEVICE

Filed Aug. 17, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1







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BASEBALL GAME DEVICE

Filed Aug. 17, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

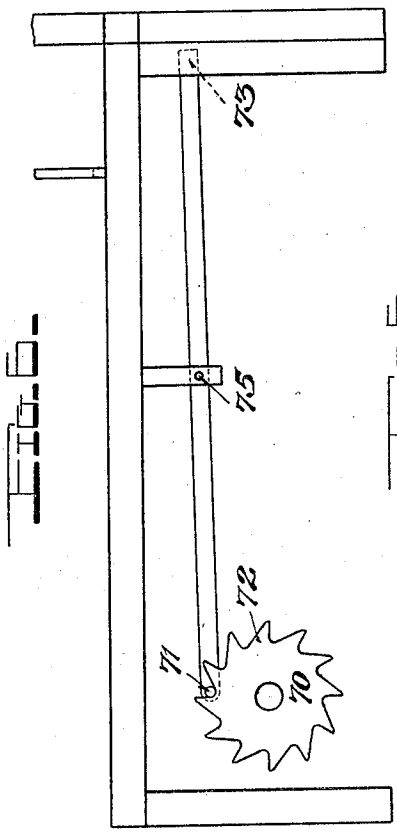


FIG. 6.

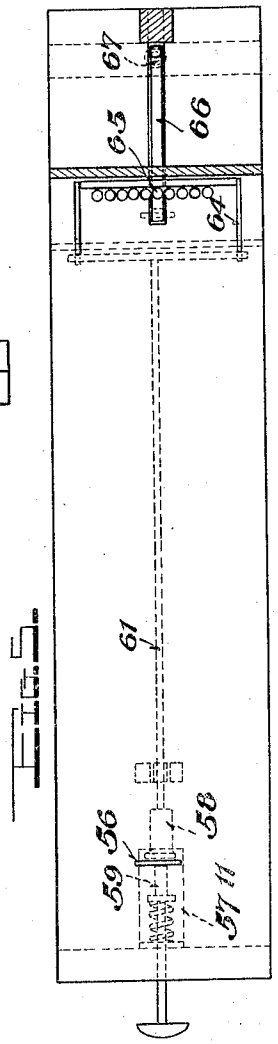


FIG. 5.

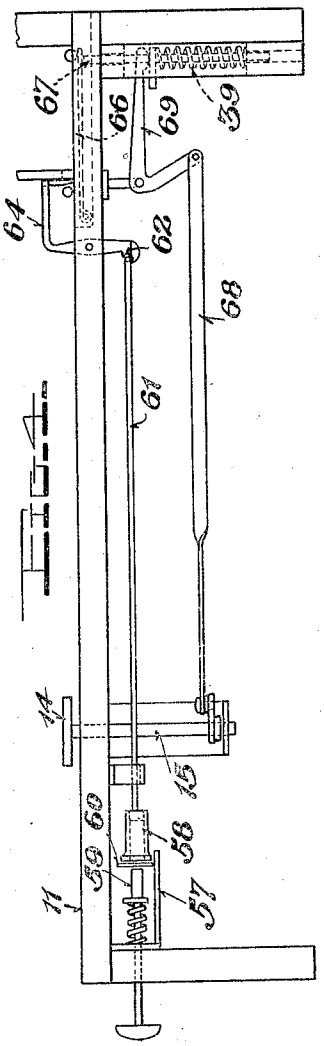


FIG. 4.

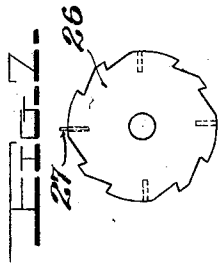


FIG. 7.

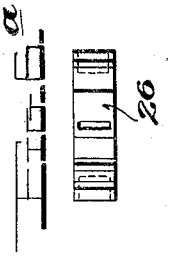


FIG. 5a.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BASEBALL GAME DEVICE

Application filed August 17, 1928. Serial No. 300,320.

This invention relates to games of skill and has for its primary object an improved base ball game device wherein a base ball batter is so actuated such as to strike a projected ball, and the value of the strike indicated on a panel for the information of the operator of the device.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a game device which is actuated by the introduction of a coin positioned such as to cause the device to function when operated by the player.

With these and many other objects in view which will become more readily apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter fully pointed out, illustrated and claimed.

It will be quite readily understood by those skilled in the art to which this invention belongs that the same is quite susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, but a practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of my improved base ball game device, showing the batter with his bat in position to strike the projected ball.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the parts shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the parts shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the batter being removed for simplicity in the illustration.

Fig. 4 shows a side elevational view of a slightly modified form of actuating mechanism from that shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of parts of the modified mechanism as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings.

Fig. 6 shows a modified form of ratchet mechanism as used in the operation mechanism shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Fig. 6—A shows a plan view of the coin receiving ratchet employed in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Fig. 7 shows an elevational view of one of the ratchet wheels used in the construction shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Similar reference numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings in detail, 10 designates a table provided with a top 11 to the under side 12 of which the operating mechanism necessary for functioning of the present device is secured.

Suitably mounted for rotation and extending upwardly through the table top 11, near one end thereof, is a vertical shaft 15 carrying at its upper end, above the table top, a disk 14 on which is mounted a figure 13 representative of a baseball player holding a bat 45. Secured to the shaft 15 below the table top is a pair of crank arms 16 and 19. An operating bell crank lever 17 is suitably mounted below the table top and is connected with the arm 19 by a link 18, whereby the shaft 15 is adapted to be rotated to rotate the figure 13 and to swing the bat 45 to a retracted position from which it is adapted to be spring actuated or swung to strike a thrown ball, a coil spring 60 being suitably connected at one end with said shaft 15 and at its other end with a suitable fixed element as shown so that when said shaft is rotated to retract the bat 45 said spring is energized and thereby rendered effective to swing the bat to strike a ball upon release of said operating lever 17. Mounted on a shaft 29 suitably secured in bearings 30 and 31 beneath the table top 11 is a ratchet wheel 26 provided in its periphery with a plurality of coin receiving recesses which are adapted successively to aline with a coin slot 28 formed through the table top 11 when said ratchet wheel is rotated. The arm 16 is connected by means of a link 21, a pin 22 and a bracket 23, with a slide rod 24, one end of which is disposed for engagement with the teeth of the ratchet wheel 26. Said ratchet wheel is so formed that when a coin 27 is inserted into one of the recesses therein said coin constitutes in effect a tooth of said ratchet wheel for engagement by the rod 24. Thus whenever the lever 17 is rocked to rotate the shaft 15 and thereafter to return said

shaft to its normal position shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, the ratchet wheel 26 is partially rotated, provided of course a coin has previously been engaged in one of the recesses thereof. It will be observed in this connection by reference to Figure 7 of the drawings that the wheel 26 is of such construction that unless a coin 27 is inserted into one of the recesses thereof said wheel will not be rotated by the rod 24. Two teeth are formed on said wheel between each adjacent pair of coin receiving recesses therein so that by the insertion of a coin in the slot 28, the lever 17 may be actuated to cause the figure 13 to be partially rotated and returned to its normal position shown in the drawings three distinct times, after which it is necessary to insert another coin into another of the recesses in the ratchet wheel before said figure may again be rotated by means of the actuator 17.

The shaft 29 carries a second ratchet wheel 32, the teeth 33 of which are set in reverse order from those on the ratchet wheel 26. The teeth 33 are adapted to be engaged by one end 34 of a lever 35 which is intermediately fulcrumed on a pin 36 carried by a bracket 37 secured to the underside of the table top 11. Thus whenever the ratchet wheel 26 is rotated through an arc corresponding to the length of one of its teeth the end 34 of the lever 35 is elevated and then allowed to drop to a position to be engaged by the following tooth 33 to again be elevated when the actuator 17 again is actuated. Holding dogs 53 and 54 are provided to prevent reverse rotation of the ratchet wheels 26 and 32.

At the end of the table 11 opposite the end thereof carrying the figure 13 and the aforesaid ratchet wheels there is provided a framework A having a plurality of superimposed arms 80 pivoted thereto each pivotally carrying a plate 46 which normally rests on a ledge 47 of said framework whereby the plate and its related arm is maintained normally in an elevated position. These plates are adapted to be struck by a ball projected by the bat 45 and when any plate is struck it is adapted to swing inward relative to its related arm 80 so as to be released from its supporting ledge 47 and to swing with its arm 80 under the influence of gravity to a lower position. The lever 35 has pivotally connected therewith one end of an intermediately pivoted lever 81 which is pivotally connected at its other end with a resetting rod 82 having a plurality of stops 83 for engagement with the arms 80 to return the same and the plates 46 to their normal positions when said rod is elevated. Thus, each time the lever 35 is rocked on its pivot by a tooth 33 of the ratchet wheel 32 a resetting of the target plates 46 occurs.

A base plate 48 is hinged to the table top 11, as at 55 for vertical swinging movement and this plate has connected therewith a rod 40 which is rotatable and carries a disk 38. An end portion 49 of the lever 35 opposite to the end portion 34 thereof overlies said disk 38 so that when the end 34 of said lever is elevated the end 49 thereof presses downward against said disk and compresses a spring 39 located between said disk and a suitable fixed abutment. Upon compression of the disk 38 the same is engaged and held compressed by a spring pressed latch 50 until an end portion 52 of the link 24 rotates said disk to disengage it from the latch 50 to allow the rod 40 and consequently the base plate 48 to be projected upward by the spring 39. It will be observed in this connection that the end 52 of the link 24 is arranged to engage and rotate the disk when the latter is held by the latch 50. The plate 48 underlies a curved race 43 having an outlet orifice 44 so positioned as to project a ball for engagement by the bat 45. A ball to be projected through the race 43 is adapted to be placed on the base plate 48 and this plate is adapted to be projected suddenly upwardly by the spring 39 to deliver the ball with sufficient force into the race 43 to cause it to be delivered to the bat 45 as aforesaid. The ball upon being struck by the bat 45 is intended to be returned against one or the other of the plates 46, these plates having different scoring values which may be indicated in any suitable manner.

It will be understood of course that the parts of the mechanism described are so connected and timed with respect to one another that the disk 38 will be released and the ball projected simultaneously with rotation of the figure 13 to swing the bat 45 to strike the ball.

In the alternative structure shown in Figures 4 and 5 of the drawings the actuator is in the form of a spring retracted plunger 59 disposed in alinement with a cylinder 58 on the end of a rod 61 and overlying a shelf 57. A coin 60 is adapted to be dropped through a slot 56 in the table top between the cylinder 58 and the plunger 59 whereby projection of the plunger engages said coin and imparts longitudinal movement to the rod 61. If no coin is disposed between the plunger 59 and the cylinder 58 the plunger merely enters the cylinder without moving the rod 61. The rod 61 is adapted for connection with the shaft 15 in any suitable manner to rotate same upon projection of said rod and said rod further controls means illustrated generally at 62 and 64 in Figure 4 of the drawings to control the delivery of balls to the plate 48. The shaft 15 is connected by a link 48 with a bell crank 69 which operates in any suitable manner to compress the spring 39 to store energy for the elevation of the plate 48 when the plunger 59 is projected.

In lieu of either of the means previously described for compressing the spring 39 an arrangement illustrated in Figure 6 may be provided consisting of a ratchet wheel 70 which may be mounted on a shaft 29 and which includes teeth 72 cooperating with a pin 71 on an adjacent end of a lever intermediately pivoted as at 75 so that its other end 73 is adapted for cooperation with the spring 39 in any suitable manner.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A ball game device comprising means for throwing a ball, means operatively connected with said ball throwing means for striking a thrown ball, an indicator device against which the ball is adapted to be projected by said striking means, said device including a plate having a normal position and adapted to fall by gravity from its normal position when struck by a ball, and means connected with said ball throwing means and operable by the latter to return said plate to its normal position prior to operation of said ball striking means to project the ball.

2. A ball game device comprising means for throwing a ball, means operatively connected with said ball throwing means for striking a thrown ball, an indicator device against which the ball is adapted to be projected by said striking means, said device including a plate having a normal position from which it is adapted to be moved upon being struck by a projected ball, and means operatively connected with said ball throwing means and said ball striking means to return said plate to its normal position prior to operation of said ball striking means to project the ball.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

FREDERICK C. ROJAHN.