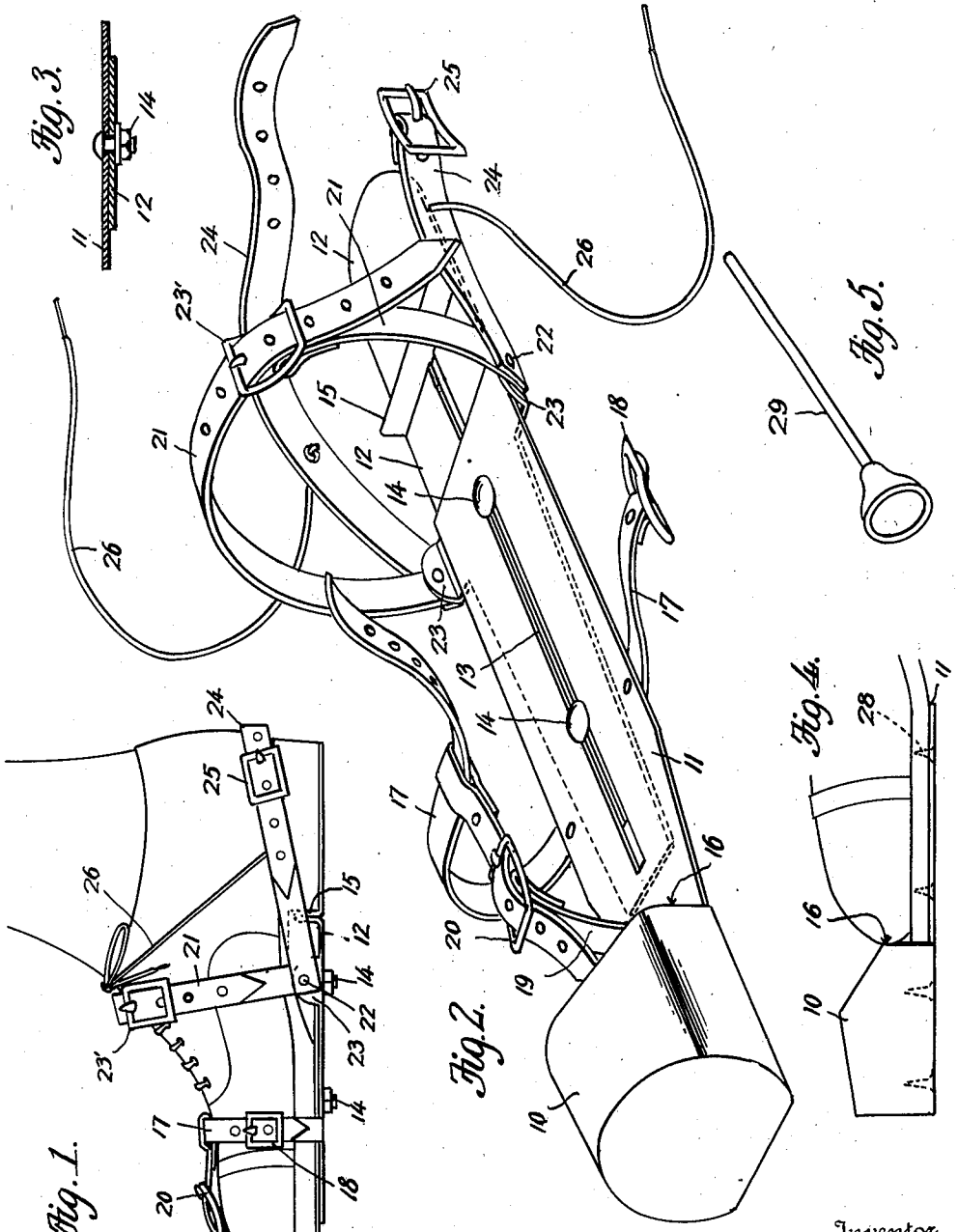
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FOOT MALLET

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FOOT MALLET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—67)

This invention relates to croquet, roque, or other games involving the propulsion of a ball in a definite direction over the ground.

Games of the type mentioned involve the use of a mallet for striking the ball to give it the proper direction and momentum to reach a definite destination, such as passing through a wicket, striking a peg, striking the ball of an opponent or in driving an opponent's ball out of position. In so doing, the participants in the game derive only such benefits as the exercise of walking produces, as well as the satisfaction of leading or out-pointing an opponent in the contest. For these reasons, the game commonly known as croquet generally loses its interest to the players after a game or two have been played.

It is the purpose of the present invention to inject into the game of croquet or roque features which will increase the exercise of the game's participants, require increased dexterity in playing the game as well as to increase the interest in the game by means of this improved method of play. Generally speaking, the invention resides in the abandonment of the ordinarily used mallet for playing the game and substituting therefor propulsion of the ball by kicking operations. It is at once apparent, therefore, that considerable dexterity must necessarily be required to properly play the game, and the use of a foot mallet in ball propulsion adds to the exercise attendant upon the play of the game. The invention resides in the foot attached mallet described and claimed hereinafter and illustrated in the drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of a foot mallet embodying the invention and illustrating the same as will appear when attached to a shoe,

Figure 2 is a perspective view, on a slightly enlarged scale, of the foot mallet detached from the shoe,

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken through the adjustable supporting plate,

Figure 4 is a side elevation showing a modified form of the invention, and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a supporting staff which may be employed in playing the game to which the present device is related.

Referring now to the drawing, the foot mallet includes a head 10 which may be likened to the striking part of the ordinary hand mallet, firmly attached to the foot of the player so as to be brought into contact with the ball to propel the latter in a desired direction and with the proper momentum. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the head 10 is affixed firmly to the end of a section 11 of a supporting plate detachably engaged with the foot of the player. In order that the foot mallet may be adaptable to feet varying in size, the supporting plate is capable of extension or contraction; the said plate constituting the sections 11—12 having their inner ends superposed one upon the other and having registering longitudinally disposed slots 13 to receive adjusting bolts 14. These plates are preferably straight throughout their lengths, and may be made of a substantially rigid or semi-flexible material in order that the plate as a unit may conform generally to the shape of the shoe sole. The plate 12 is bent upon itself near its rear end to provide an upstanding shoulder 15 for engagement with the forward face of the heel of the wearer. It will be understood that in adjusting the plate to the proper length, the foot of the wearer will be placed upon the plate with the toe of his shoe engaged with the upright face 16 at the rear end of the mallet head 10, whereupon the sections 11—12 are moved apart until the upstanding shoulder 15 engages with the forward face of the shoe heel. When thus adjusted, the bolts 14 are tightened so as to hold the two sections rigidly together.

The section 11 has secured thereto and at opposite sides rearwardly of the head 10 strap members 17 with a buckle 18 and of such length as to pass over the forward part of the shoe of the wearer preferably immediately in the rear of the tip portion or toe cap thereof. The straps 17 are maintained in proper position with relation to the foot by a stay-strap 19 secured to the head 10 at one end and looped around the strap 17 at its opposite end. This stay-strap may be adjustable also by means of the buckle 20.

The section 12 of the plate is also equipped with retaining straps to hold the rear part of the plate firmly upon the foot of the user. This retaining means includes straps 21 secured by rivets 22 to ears 23 extending outwardly and upwardly from the lateral edges of the plate 12 in advance of the upstanding rib 15, the said straps being equipped with a buckle 23' and positioned so as to be capable of passing over the instep of the user. A rear retaining strap 24 has its sections also secured to the upstanding ears 23, and is equipped with a buckle 25 to permit of adjustments. The strap 24 passes around the heel portion of the shoe and when tightened maintains the toe of the shoe in proper abutting contact with the head 10. If desired, the rear

retaining strap 24 may be maintained in proper elevated position by means of ties 26 as shown.

A foot mallet constructed in this manner is capable of being readily adjusted to the size or style of shoe of the user, and when properly applied and tightened will be held firmly upon the bottom of the shoe. The mallet may be quickly and easily applied to or removed from the shoe of the user and its simplicity of construction and adjustment enables it to be readily applied and removed by children or others usually lacking in skill.

The foot mallet may also take another form as shown in Figure 4 of the drawing. This form includes the plate section 11 having the mallet head 10 attached thereto in any desired manner. This plate is only sufficiently long to pass well back under the ball of the foot and is equipped with openings to permit of screws 28 being passed through the plate and embedded in the sole of the shoe. This form of the invention will be used only where the mallet is to form a permanent part of the shoe, and may be readily attached to an old shoe to be used solely for playing the game.

Players having their more dextrous foot equipped with a mallet as outlined in the foregoing will deliver to the ball by kicking operation the necessary power to reach an objective. It is obvious that a greater degree of dexterity will be required of a mallet of this type than that of the hand mallet, which dexterity will include necessarily the degree of power delivered to the ball by this kicking action. The game, of course, will be played in the same manner as the ordinary game of croquet or roque, except that all propulsion of the ball will be carried out by means of the foot mallet. When it is desired to drive the ball of an opponent out of position, as is frequently advisable in playing the game, the balls being in contact, the ball of the player is held firmly in position and against movement by means of a staff or holder 29 when impelling force is delivered to the ball by means of the foot mallet. This holder includes a staff as shown with a pocketed engaging head 29 conforming generally upon its lower surface to the shape of the ball. It will be understood that the staff of the holder 29 will be held firmly in the hand and pressing downward upon the ball during the striking operation. When so held, a vigorous kick delivered by the foot mallet will send the opponent's ball away at a brisk rate without disturbing the position of the held ball.

It may be found desirable in playing the game with a foot mallet to modify the game in some respects. For instance, it may be found desirable to shorten or lengthen the distance between wickets, or between the wickets and the stakes, or it may be found advantageous to entirely change the wicket arrangement. The invention has been disclosed in connection with the games of croquet or roque, but it will be understood that the device may be used with equal facility and dexterity in other games where it is desired or required that a ball be projected over the ground surface. Each player, of course, will be equipped with a foot mallet, and the arrangement of the preferred embodiment of the device is such that one size or type of foot mallet may be readily adaptable to all sizes or styles of shoes. It will be understood, however, that the foregoing is explanatory of the general arrangement of the foot mallet and that variations in the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is:

1. A foot mallet, a pair of sections constituting a plate adapted to underlie the sole of a shoe with one end projecting beyond the toe of the shoe, said sections having alined longitudinally disposed slots, bolts engaged in said slots to hold the sections against relative movement, a shoulder on one of said sections to engage the shoe heel to limit the rearward movement of said plate, straps to hold said plate upon the shoe, and a mallet head secured to the forward projecting portion of said plate.

2. In a foot mallet, a pair of plate sections adapted to underlie the sole and heel of a shoe and adjustable longitudinally relative to each other, a mallet head secured to the forward end of one of said plates and adapted to engage with the toe of the shoe, a shoulder affixed to the other plate and projecting upwardly therefrom to abut the forward face of the shoe heel, and means for holding said plates rigidly together with said mallet head and said shoulder engaged with said shoe parts.

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