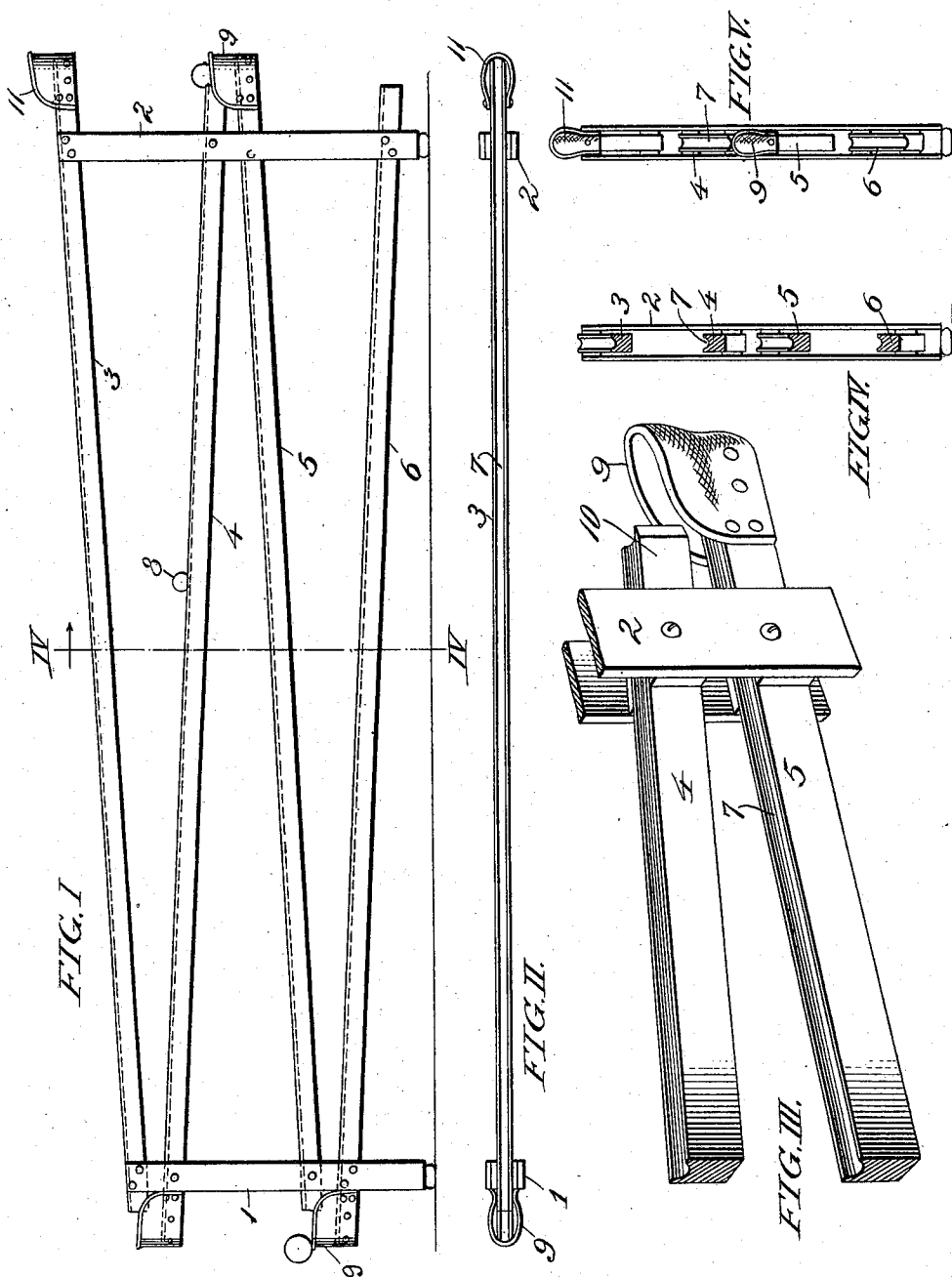


No. 867,652.

PATENTED OCT. 8, 1907.

J. B. FRY.
GAME APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 18, 1906.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME APPARATUS.

No. 867,652.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 8, 1907.

Application filed October 18, 1906. Serial No. 339,561.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. FRY, of Bloomington, in the county of McLean, State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to produce a game apparatus by the use of which entertaining amusement for young children may be provided.

In the accompanying drawing, which constitutes a part of this application, Figure I is a side elevation of my apparatus, complete, in its preferred form of embodiment. Fig. II is a top plan view of the same. Fig. III is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of the contiguous ends of two of the track-rails of my apparatus, and an intermediate pocket. Fig. IV is a section on the line IV—IV of Fig. I. Fig. V is an end view of the apparatus shown in Fig. I, taken from the starting end thereof.

Referring to the numerals on the drawing, 1 and 2 indicate the uprights, and 3, 4, 5, and 6 the track-rails of my apparatus. The uprights are preferably arranged in pairs upon opposite sides of the track-rails, and there may be as many pairs of uprights as the length of the track-rails renders desirable, each pair being preferably supported by a suitable base.

In its general contour, my apparatus constitutes a fence panel of any desired longitudinal extent, which may be employed advantageously as such in a nursery or portion of a room set apart for the use of small children to confine them within fixed bounds.

The track-rails may be of any preferred number, four being selected for illustration as a convenient number and one considered preferable. The track-rails are inclined one towards another, successively, from top to bottom, and each track-rail is provided in its upper surface with a longitudinally disposed groove 7, within which a spherical member, ball or marble, 8 may travel freely.

The several track-members are so disposed between the uprights to which they are fixed respectively, as to afford an open groove in the several track-members from the highest to the lowest. The adjacent ends of the track-members are free and unconnected, and the lower end of each track-member is elevated above the higher end of the next succeeding track-member. The said higher end of each track-member is provided with a pocket 9, which guards the end of the track-member to which it is secured without obstructing the groove of said member below it, and is disposed in close juxtaposition to the unobstructed lower end of the track-member next above it. The details of the pocket and of the two track-members are shown with special clearness in Fig. III of the drawing, in which the unobstructed end of the track-member which com-

municates with the pocket is, for convenience of reference, indicated by the numeral 10.

The uppermost track-rail is provided at its higher end with that which I designate for the purpose of distinction, as a taw pocket 11, which may be constructed, like the pockets 9, or in any other preferred manner to accommodate it to its function hereinafter described.

In operation, each player is provided with one or more marbles, the marbles of each player being distinguished by peculiar colors or other mark of identification. The game may consist in starting the marbles one by one from the pocket 11 and allowing them to descend along the grooved track-rails by gravity. In passing down each inclined rail, they acquire momentum, which will suffice to carry them from one rail to another. That momentum, depending in part upon the size and weight of the marbles which may, for that reason, be varied, may cause them in some instances to over-leap the pocket 9, into which ordinarily, however, they drop and continue their descent. Moreover, a plurality of marbles descending in close succession from one track-rail to another, become interchanged in relative position in passing through the pockets. In this way and by the possibility of some of the marbles over-leaping the tracks, a sufficient element of chance is introduced into the game to enhance its value as a source of amusement to children.

The taw pocket may be employed as a pocket towards which the players may shoot the marbles, by the aid of the thumb or a finger, one by one, from a distance. The object of the game may be to determine which one of a series of marbles will pass out at the end of the lowermost track-rail 6.

In Fig. I of the drawing, one of the marbles 8 is shown as passing down the track-rail 4. Another is shown at the end of said track-rail as dropping into a pocket, and a third is shown at the end of the track-rail 5 as striking upon the edge and leaping out of the pocket provided at the end of the rail 5.

The pockets 9 and 11 are preferably made of felt or other soft material preferred for the purpose, and comprise barriers surrounding and carried by the ends of their respective track-rails.

What I claim is:

1. In a game apparatus, the combination with a plurality of successively communicating track-rails, disposed in the same vertical plane and having their adjacent ends free and unconnected, of means for assembling said track-rails, and a pocket carried at the end of one rail of each pair of track-rails in such a position as to permit a body traveling on the rails to pass from one to the other, or to escape therefrom, according to its momentum.
2. In a game apparatus, the combination with a plu-

5 rality of successively communicating inclined track-rails disposed in the same vertical plane and adapted to carry a spherical body, of means for assembling said track-rails, and a pocket upon the upper end of each track-rail, disposed below the unobstructed lower end of the next higher track-rail, whereby passage of the spherical body from one track-rail to the other is rendered uncertain.

10 3. In a game apparatus, the combination with a plurality of successively communicating inclined track-rails disposed in the same vertical plane, of means for assem-

bling said track-rails, and a pocket comprising a barrier surrounding and carried by the upper end of each track-rail, said pocket being disposed below the plane of the next higher track-rail.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN B. FRY.

Witnesses:

R. A. Fry,

J. C. PRASLEY.