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A. M. BEINKE.

BOWLING GAME.

(Application filed Aug. 11, 1900.)

(No Model.)

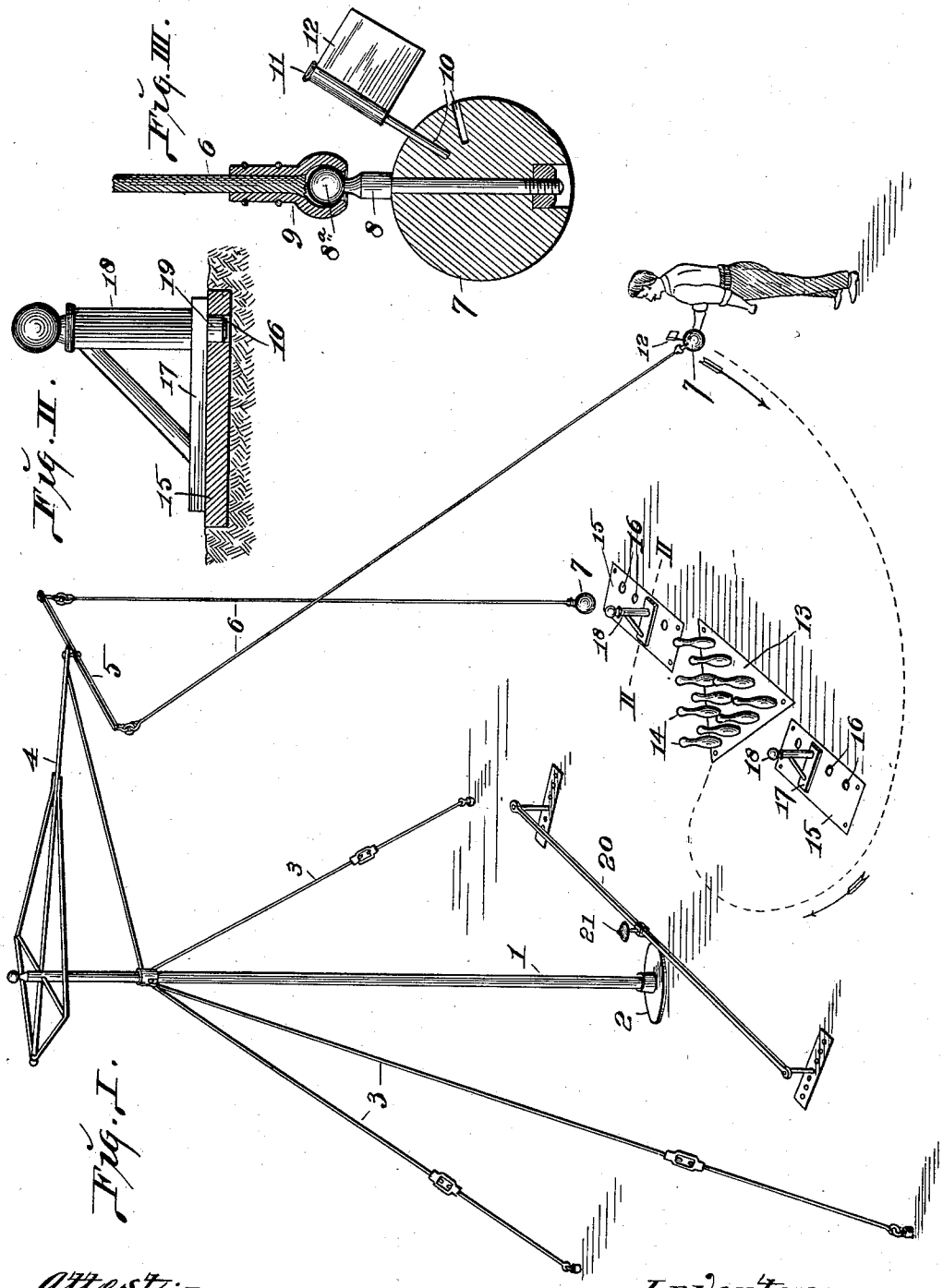


Fig. III.

Fig. II.

Fig. I.

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BOWLING GAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 661,730, dated November 13, 1900.

Application filed August 11, 1900. Serial No. 26,544. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUST M. BEINKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bowling Games, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention consists in features of novelty hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

Figure I is a perspective view of the complete apparatus of my improved game. Fig. II is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken on line II II, Fig. I. Fig. III is a vertical sectional view of one of the balls made use of in the game.

In the construction of the apparatus, as shown, 1 indicates an upright, which is preferably a tubular post, the lower end of which is seated in a suitable base 2, that rests upon the floor or ground. This post is held in a vertical position by guy rods or braces 3, the lower ends of which are suitably anchored in the ground or to the floor, and the upper ends of which are secured in any suitable manner to the post at a point near its top. To the upper end of the post 1 is rigidly fixed a forwardly-projecting arm 4, that is suitably braced, and to its forward end is secured a transversely-positioned arm 5. Secured to and hanging from the ends of the arm 5 are the flexible hangers 6, which are preferably small wire ropes, the lower ends of which terminate near the floor or ground and carry the bowling-balls 7. Seated in each ball is a shank 8, with the upper end of which is formed integral a small ball-shaped head 8^a, that enters a socket 9, rigidly secured to the lower end of each hanger 6. Thus each ball 7 is swiveled and connected to its hanger by a ball-and-socket joint. In each ball 7, adjacent the shank 8, are a number of small bores 10, any one of which is adapted to receive a pin 11, the outer end of which is provided with a small sheet-metal flag 12. By the use of this flag the ball is guided or steered during its swing when thrown or bowled.

Fixed in the ground or to the floor at a point approximately beneath the forward end of the bar 4 is a triangular plate 13, one point of which is in direct alinement with the post 1, and upon this plate are arranged or set up the objects or pins 14 made use of in the game, said pins being preferably of the same shape and positioned the same as are ordinary tenpins. Located on each side of the triangular plate is a rectangular plate 15, in the forward portion of which is formed a plurality of apertures 16. A small plate 17 is located on each of the plates 15, there being a post 18 formed integral with the forward end of each plate 17, and integral with the under side of the forward end of each plate 17 is a downwardly-projecting stud 19, which is adapted to enter any one of the apertures 16. Located a short distance in front of the post 1 and adjustable longitudinally relative thereto is a transversely-positioned rail 20, that carries a bell 21.

In playing the bowling game the objects or pins 14 are set up on the triangular plate 13 in the manner of ordinary tenpins, with the front pin at the rearmost point of the triangular plate, and the posts 18 are positioned upon the plates 15 with the studs 19 in a corresponding pair of the apertures 16. The person playing the game grasps one of the balls 7 and takes his position at a point a predetermined distance in front of the triangular plate 13. The ball is now bowled or thrown forwardly, the object being to cause said ball to swing forwardly outside one of the posts 18 and in its return toward the player to strike and knock over the objects 14 upon the plate 13. Should any of the objects 14 or the post 18 be struck by the forward swing of the ball, or should the bell 21 be rung as a result of the ball striking the rail 20, a foul is committed, which is penalized according to the rules governing the play. The course of the ball when properly thrown or bowled is illustrated by the dotted lines in Fig. I, and it will be seen that the idea of the game is to throw or bowl the ball so that it will strike nothing but the pins 14 during its entire forward and return swing. In some instances it is found desirable to make use of the flag 12 to cause the ball 7 to swing in its proper course; but the use of said flag is not desirable to those familiar and expert with the game.

By providing the ball-and-socket connection between the hanger 6 and the ball 7 I provide for the ball being so suspended that it may be turned in the player's hands without the necessity of twisting the flexible hanger, and also so that the ball will turn freely after it has left the player's hands and move in the course into which it has been swung. This feature is valuable in the sense that it prevents twisting and untwisting of the flexible hanger, which would result in detriment to the true movement of the ball in its swinging course. As will be obvious to even a casual observer, if the hanger were caused to twist and then untwist the ball would revolve in addition to its being swung and would be constantly swayed in such manner as to render its course untrue.

My improved game is intended for use in gymnasiums, pleasure-grounds, and the like, and it is also my intention to construct the apparatus for playing the game on a small scale for use as a toy. Much pleasure and moderate exercise are gained by playing the game, and much skill is required to become accurate in upsetting all of the objects in one or two tries with the balls.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a game of the class described, an upright framework, a cross-piece fixed in the upper portion of the same, a flexible cable fixed to and depending from the cross-piece a ball swiveled to the lower end of the cable, the rail 20 adjustable longitudinally with reference to and located in front of the framework, a bell secured to said rail, the triangular plate 13, the apex of which is in direct alinement with the upright framework, pins 14 adapted to be set up on said plate, a rectangular plate having a series of apertures located on each side of the triangular plate, a small plate 17 located on each of said rectangular plates, a depending lug integral with said plates adapted to engage the series of apertures in the rectangular plates, and an upwardly-extending post secured to each of the plates 17, all combined and set up as described.

2. In a game of the character described, a flexible cable, one end of which is secured firmly to a support, of a ball swiveled to the lower end of the same, bores formed in said ball and a guide-flag the standard of which is adapted to be secured in said bores, whereby the ball is guided in its movements.

3. In a game of the character described, the combination with the upright framework, a flexible cable secured to and depending from the same and a ball secured to the lower end of the cable, of a rail adjustable longitudinally with reference to and located in front of the framework, and a bell secured on said rail.

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In presence of—
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