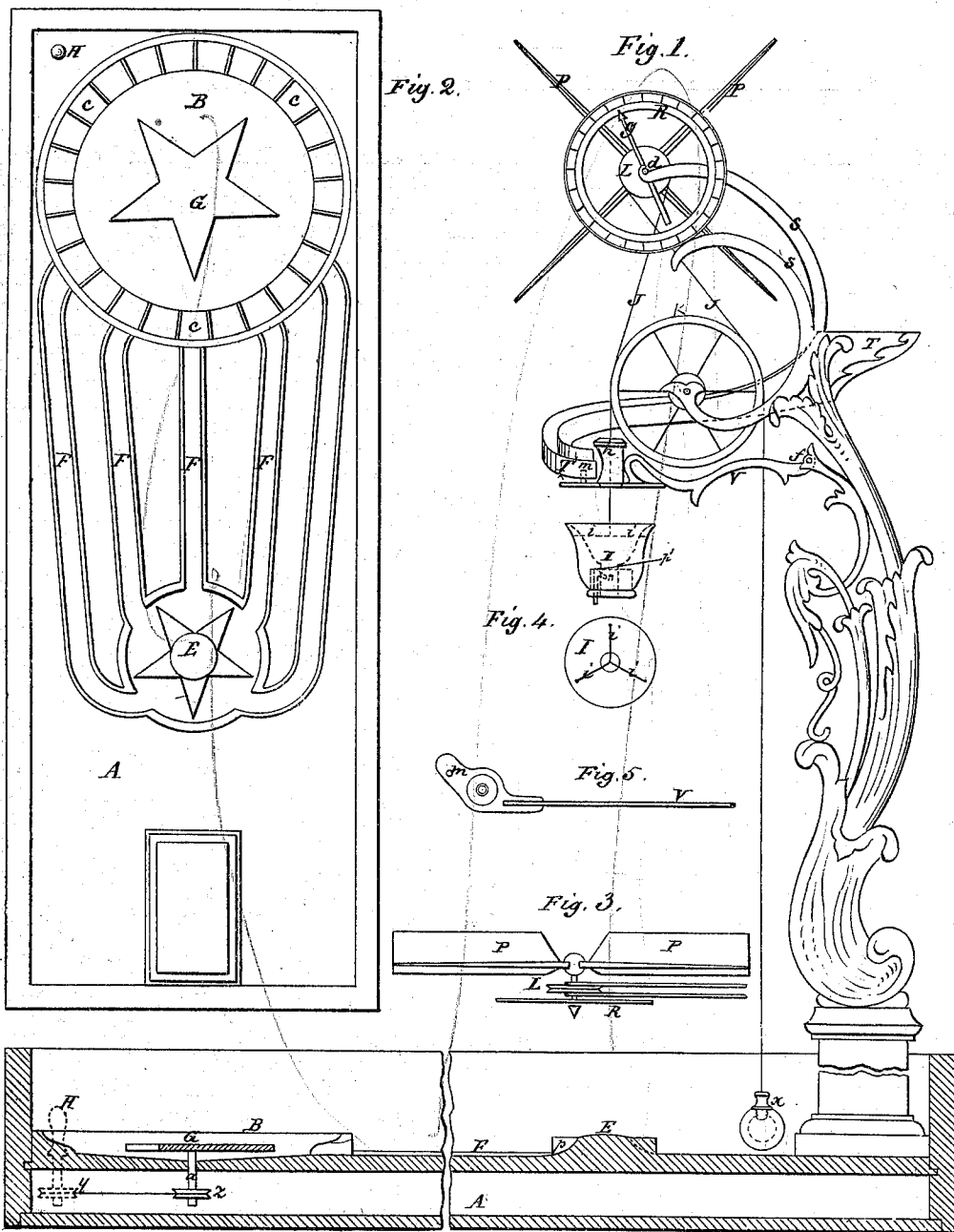


V. BAREAU.

Improvement in Games of Chance.

No. 128,941.

Patented July 16, 1872.



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

VICTOR BAREAU, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN GAMES OF CHANCE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 128,941, dated July 16, 1872.

*To whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, VICTOR BAREAU, of Paris, in the Republic of France, have invented a new Game termed "Success," of which the following is a specification:

This game possesses certain characteristics which will first be named. It is based upon philosophic principle or idea—to wit: that success in life depends upon fortune or chance as well as upon one's free will and capability. For the purpose of representing the action of these different agencies, I have devised a game, in which the needle of chance or fate registers numbers, to the obtaining of which the skill of the player can contribute nothing, while allowance is made for the exercise of all the skill of the player by means of balls, which are deposited automatically upon a table or platform, where they may be struck or impelled by the player for the purpose of driving them into differently-numbered pockets. The means for depositing the balls on the table produce the movement which actuates the needle of fate.

The manner in which my invention is or may be carried into effect will be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents an elevation of one form of apparatus in which the game is embodied. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same. Figs. 3, 4, 5 represent detached parts, which will be referred to hereafter.

At or near the bottom of the box A is placed a circular platform, B, the surface of which rises slightly from the center to the circumference, where are placed variously-numbered pockets C, the bottoms of which are slightly inclined in an opposite direction. At the center of the platform B is arranged a stirrer or agitator, G, fixed on a vertical axis, *a*, which can be revolved by turning the button H, which acts on the agitator through intermediary pulleys *y z*, and an endless belt or cord connecting the same. The balls which descend from the star E, and pass through one of the conduits F upon the platform B, can there be driven, by means of the agitator G, toward the pocket which carries the number preferred by the player. Each ball is deposited upon the star E by a small distributing-cup or bucket, I, which is arranged and

operates as follows: It is suspended by a cord, J, which is attached to the center point of three radial cords, *i*, which are fastened at their outer ends to the upper edge of the cup, as shown in plan in Fig. 4. The cord J runs against a guide-pulley, K, and, extending up around the pulley L, as shown in Fig. 1, passes down again on the other side of guide-pulley K; and it carries at this end a counter-weight, *x*, of suitable form, weighing one-half ball more than the distributor I. A long vertical bracket or standard, M, is secured to the bottom of the box A; it is made preferably in one piece, and may have any suitable form. The bracket M carries the axis *b* of the guide-pulley, and also the axis *d* of the driving-pulley L, which latter axis also carries a fly-wheel, P, shown in plan in Fig. 3, and a needle, *g*, which turns freely on the said axis. The needle *g* is designed to mark one of the numbers, which are arranged in any desired order on the dial R. This dial is fixed to branches S, attached to or forming part of the bracket M. The receiver T, in which the balls are placed, is also fixed to the bracket M, and adjoining it is an arm, V, capable of a slight oscillatory movement on the axis *f*. This arm is provided at its outer end with an upright hollow post or box, with an opening in its side adjoining the mouth of the receiver or trough T and this box is of such height that when the oscillating arm drops its upper end *h* will hold back the ball at the mouth of the receiver T, and prevent it from entering the hollow box. If, however, the player draws on the cord J and elevates the cup I, so that it will press from below against the arm V, the latter will thereby be raised until the part *h* is removed above the ball, which, when thus released, falls through the orifice *l* into the cup I, while the other balls in the receiver T are prevented from advancing by means of a stop-pin, *m*, at the extremity of arm V, which plays up or down, according to the movement of the arm, through a hole in the bottom of trough T, as indicated in the drawing.

When the first ball has fallen into the distributing-cup the latter at once descends, as it has become heavier than the counter-weight *x*. In descending it leaves the arm V, which, consequently, again drops of its own weight; and the stop-pin *m* also drops, thus allowing

another ball to take the place just quitted by the ball in the descending-cup I.

But one ball can fall at a time, and this is received, as above described, by the cup I, which descends and deposits it gently on the star E by means of a very simple mechanism. There is an opening in the bottom of the cup of a diameter greater than that of the ball. This opening is partially closed, during the descent of the cup, by a hooked pin, *n*, arranged to have a slight movement up and down within the cup in such manner that when in its lowest position, into which it drops by its own weight, its beak or hook will project into the opening in the bottom of the cup to bar the passage of the ball, as indicated in the drawing, the lower end of the pin extending some distance below the bottom of the cup. The head of the pin is inclined upward from the point of the hook, and works against a similarly-inclined surface, *p'*, in the cup, so that when the said pin is raised by pressing upward on its projecting lower end the inclined face of the head will work against the incline on the cup in such manner as to retract the hook or beak of the pin and thus open the passage for the ball. This upward movement of the pin *n* is caused by its lower end being brought in contact with the star E as the cup descends, which causes the hook to be lifted, thus releasing the ball, which falls through the cup onto the star E, and thence through one of the downwardly-slanting conduits F to the platform B. During this time the cup I, freed from the ball, is lifted by the counter-weight *x*, which now weighs more than the cup, and it again operates upon the arm V to effect the delivery of another ball, which, falling into the cup, causes the latter to re-descend, and thus the movement is kept up until the supply of balls in the trough T is exhausted. During these movements the needle *g*, actuated by the movement of shaft or axis *d*, which carries it, indicates a different

number at each pause in the movement. The needle is accurately balanced, and is actuated only by frictional contact with the axis *d*, while the latter turns alternately in the one direction and the other, according to the movement of the cup I.

It will be seen that under the above arrangement many varied combinations of the game may be made by deducting the numbers marked on the dial of fate from those on the pockets, into which the player has knocked the balls, or by adding together the two, or by other variations, which will readily suggest themselves.

Other means than those herein described by which the player drives the balls into the pockets may be employed, as these are susceptible of considerable variation without departure from my invention.

The apparatus may be of various forms, dimensions, and proportions, according as it is intended for garden or country use, or to be used in a parlor or other apartment.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of a freely-moving needle or pointer and a dial, over which the same vibrates, a ball-distributing device, by the ascent and descent of which said needle is actuated, and a platform upon which the balls from said distributing device are received, and subjected to the intelligent action of the player, substantially as herein shown and set forth.

2. The herein-described apparatus for playing the game of "success," constructed and arranged substantially in the manner shown and set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

V. BAREAU.

Witnesses:

EMILE BARRAULT,  
AUG. VINOTT.