

No. 834,707.

PATENTED OCT. 30, 1906.

C. T. BRADSHAW & O. M. THOMSON.  
AMUSEMENT OR ADVERTISING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 27, 1905.



*Fig. 1.*

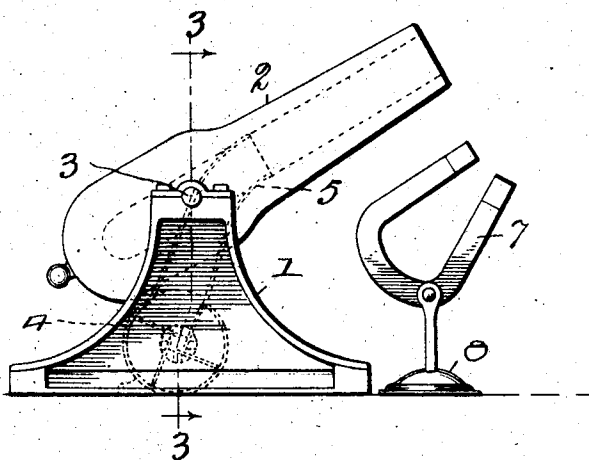
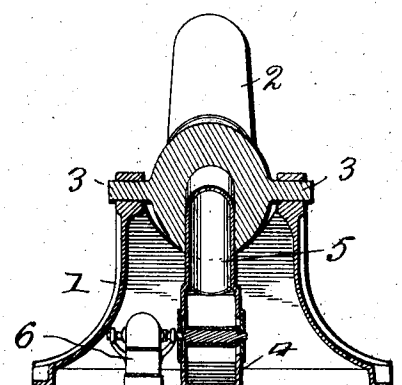
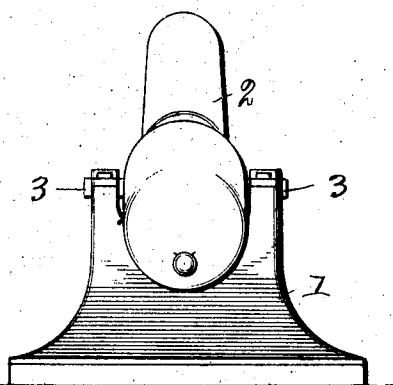


*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



WITNESSES:

*J. C. Barry*  
*Edw. W. Vaile Jr.*

INVENTORS

*Charles T. Bradshaw*  
*and Oscar M. Thomson*

*By Wm. L. Little*

ATTORNEY:

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES T. BRADSHAW AND OSCAR M. THOMSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNORS, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE ATTRACTO COMPANY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

## AMUSEMENT OR ADVERTISING DEVICE.

No. 834,707.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 30, 1906.

Application filed January 27, 1905. Serial No. 242,918.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, CHARLES T. BRADSHAW and OSCAR M. THOMSON, citizens of the United States, and residents of the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement or Advertising Devices, of which the following is a full, clear, and complete disclosure.

The object of this invention is the production of such a device that the same will have novel, interesting, and illusory features which will attract the attention of persons in the vicinity of the place where the device is located either for advertising purposes or for the purposes of amusement.

A further object of this invention is to produce a device which will simulate the appearance of a cannon or other firearm or piece of ordnance in the act of discharge, while at the same time the projectile or ball will be maintained in mid-air without any visible means of support and at a distance from the mouth of the cannon or other device.

Briefly, our invention comprises a blower or other means for producing a jet or stream of air, the delivery-tube of which is preferably made in the form of a cannon or similar piece of ordnance or firearm and which is mounted in a manner similar to those objects. A light ball composed of material which may be inflated to hold it in its normal shape or may be stiff enough to maintain its shape independently of any inflation is provided in connection with the blower above referred to, and when said blower is in operation said ball will be maintained in the jet of air in the well-known manner. In addition to the above we may provide a device in the shape of a permanent horseshoe-magnet, which may be located adjacent the mouth of the cannon and have the appearance of attracting the ball by a force acting in a direction opposite that supposed to be caused by the discharge of the cannon.

For a full, clear, and exact description of one embodiment of our invention reference may be had to the following specification and to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the parts of

the device composing our invention. Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof; and Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially upon the line 3 3, Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 indicates a suitable standard, upon which is mounted a tube—in this case in the form of a siege gun or howitzer, as indicated at 2. Said gun or cannon is supported in any well-known manner upon the frame 1, as by trunnions 3. The base 1 of the cannon or howitzer is made hollow and contains a suitable air-forcing device, such as the centrifugal blower 4, which is operated in any suitable manner, as by being directly connected to an electric motor 6. The outlet of the blower 4 is connected with the interior of the cannon 2 by means of a curved or inclined tube, as indicated at 5.

As a device to simulate a projectile to be used in connection with the cannon above described we preferably form a spherical body of light flexible material, preferably of tissue-paper, which is stiffened sufficiently to cause the sphere to maintain its shape. This sphere or ball should have its surface smooth and even and should be made as light as possible consistent with strength. Such a sphere or ball is indicated by 9 in the drawings.

Adjacent the mouth of the cannon we may place an object in the shape of a horseshoe-magnet 7, supported on a suitable standard 8, the poles of said magnet being directed in the same general direction as the mouth of the cannon. The utilization of this magnet, however, is not an essential part of our invention.

Having the above-mentioned parts in mind, the operation of our device comprises the causing of a blast of air to pass through the interior of the tube or cannon 2, which is of sufficient strength to maintain the ball or sphere 6 substantially in one position in said blast. When the parts are placed in this relation to each other, the ball 6 will have the appearance of a projectile just discharged from the cannon, and the magnet 7 will have the appearance of creating a force to prevent the ball from moving away from the mouth of the cannon for a greater distance. Owing to the slight variations in the blast of air

caused by the blower 4 the ball will have an irregular oscillatory movement, giving it the appearance of tending to escape from the influence of the imitation-magnet 7. It will thus be seen that we have produced a device which has many features of interest, attraction, and a very apparent illusory effect.

An important feature of our invention resides in the use or employment of a ball made of tissue-paper. It has been found in practice that although a ball made of some elastic substance, such as rubber, will serve for a time the purpose of this device, yet after a certain period the air or gas used to inflate such a rubber ball escapes and causes the ball to contract in size. On the other hand, should the gas or air within such a ball become heated the same is liable to expand the ball to such an extent as to burst the same. A ball made according to our improvement of tissue-paper or other similar fibrous material not only requires no inflation, but may be easily caused to assume its original shape should the same become dented or otherwise collapse. A further important feature of our invention is the use of an inclined jet.

Having thus described our invention, it will be obvious that certain changes may be made in the form, arrangement, and proportion of parts and the embodiment of the blower may be varied to simulate different objects or articles, according to the use to which the de-

vice is to be put as an advertising means or as an object of amusement; but

What we claim, and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In an advertising or amusement device, the combination with means for forcing air in an inclined stream, of a light spherical body adapted to be supported on said stream.

2. In an advertising or amusement device, the combination with means for forcing air in an inclined stream, of a light spherical body comprising a paper shell adapted to be supported on said stream.

3. In an advertising or amusement device, the combination with means for forcing air in an inclined stream, of a light body adapted to be supported on said stream.

4. Mechanism for supporting a ball in space, consisting of an inclined nozzle, and means for forcing air through the same.

5. Mechanism for supporting a ball in space, consisting of an inclined nozzle, a fan-blower, and means for conveying air from said blower to the base of the nozzle.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 26th day of January, 1905.

CHARLES T. BRADSHAW.  
OSCAR M. THOMSON.

Witnesses:

JOHN F. GRADY,  
EDW. W. VAILL, Jr.