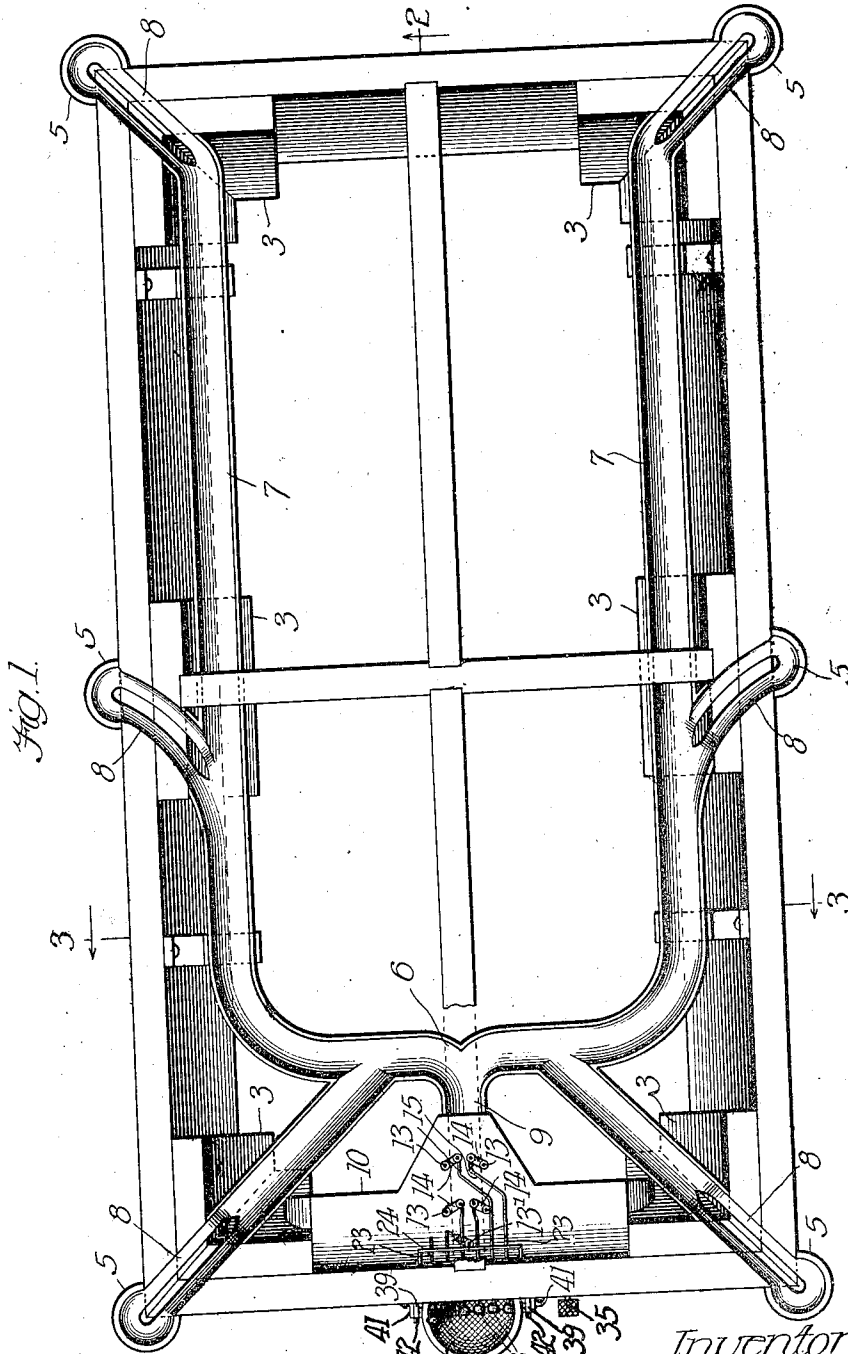


M. H. OLSEN.
 POOL TABLE.
 APPLICATION FILED FEB. 3, 1911.

Patented Dec. 10, 1912.
 5 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

1,046,845.



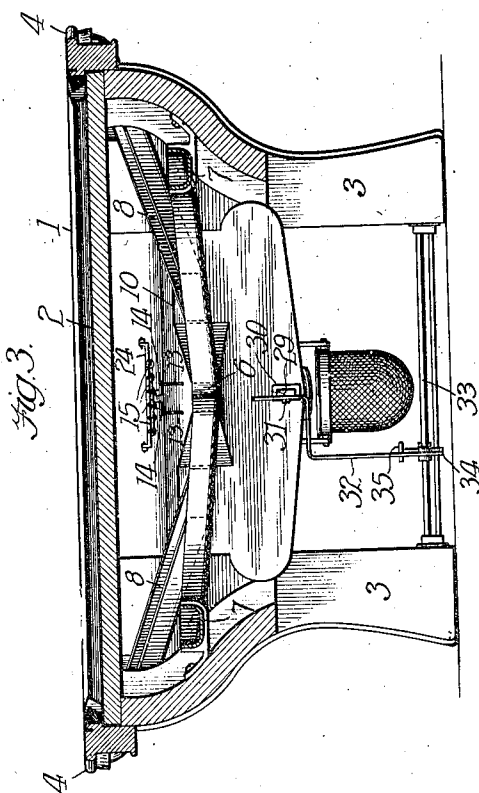
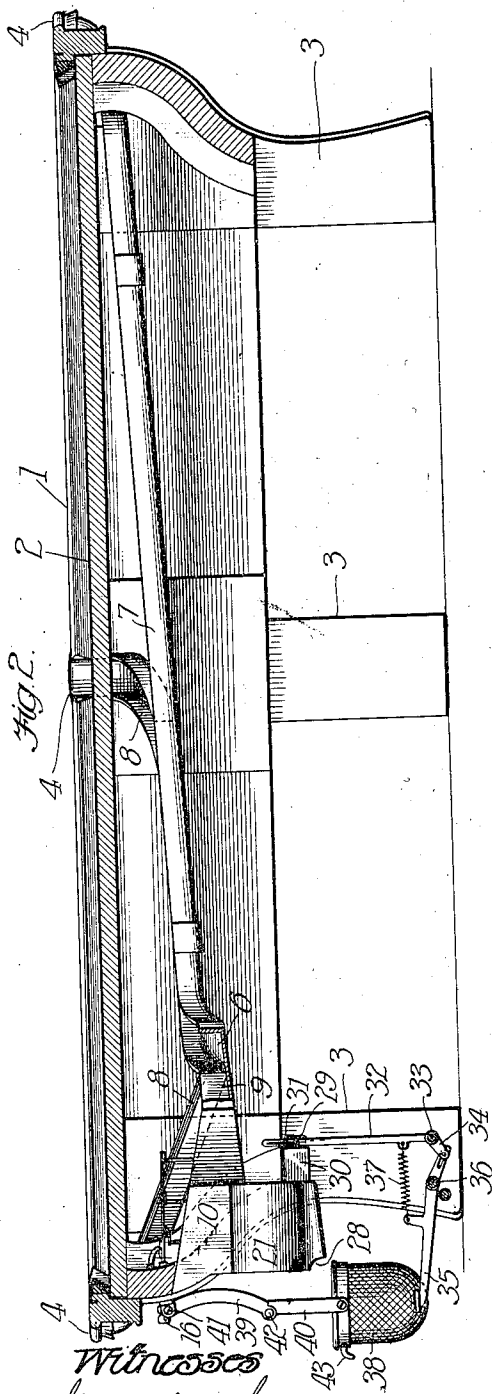
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

1,046,845.



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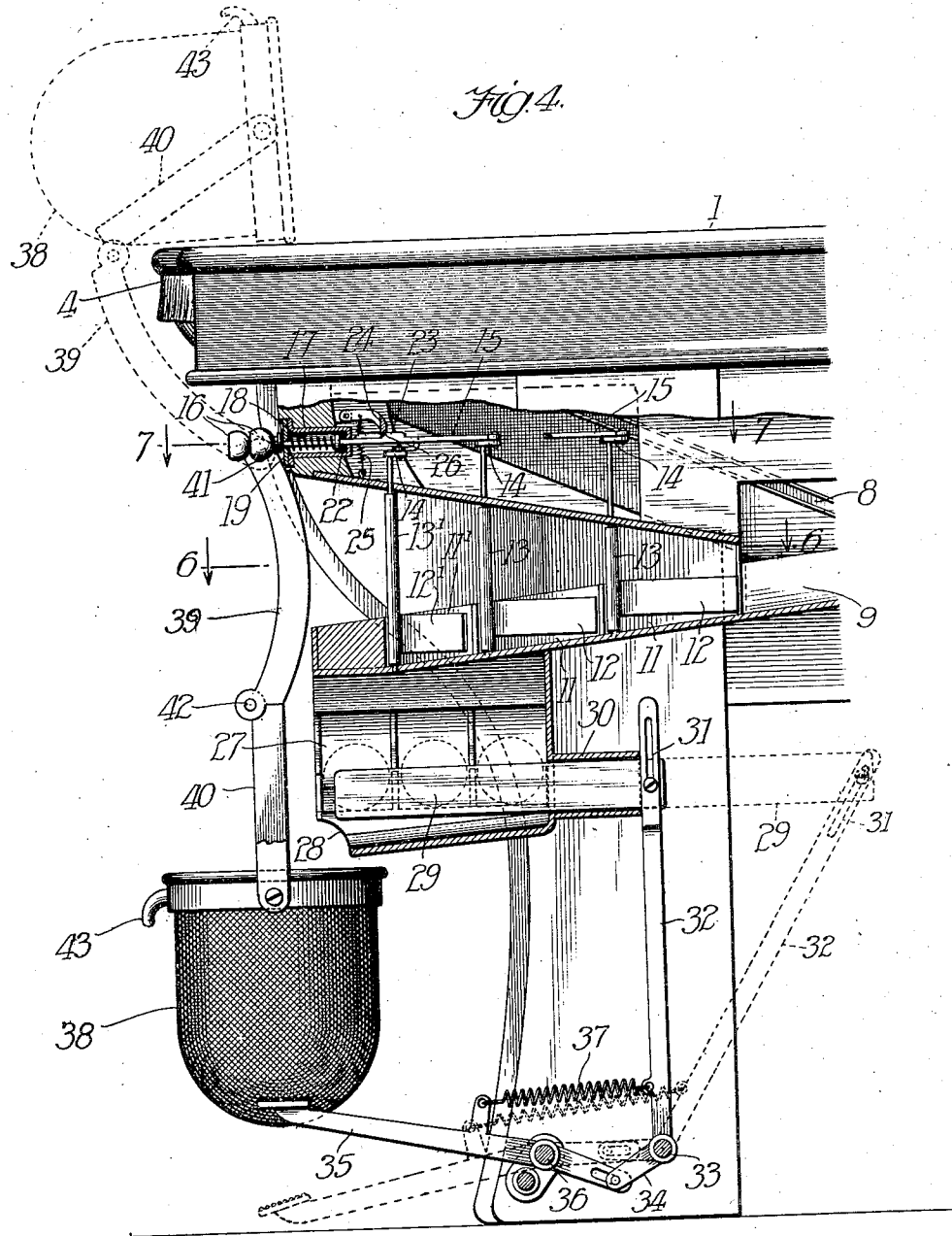
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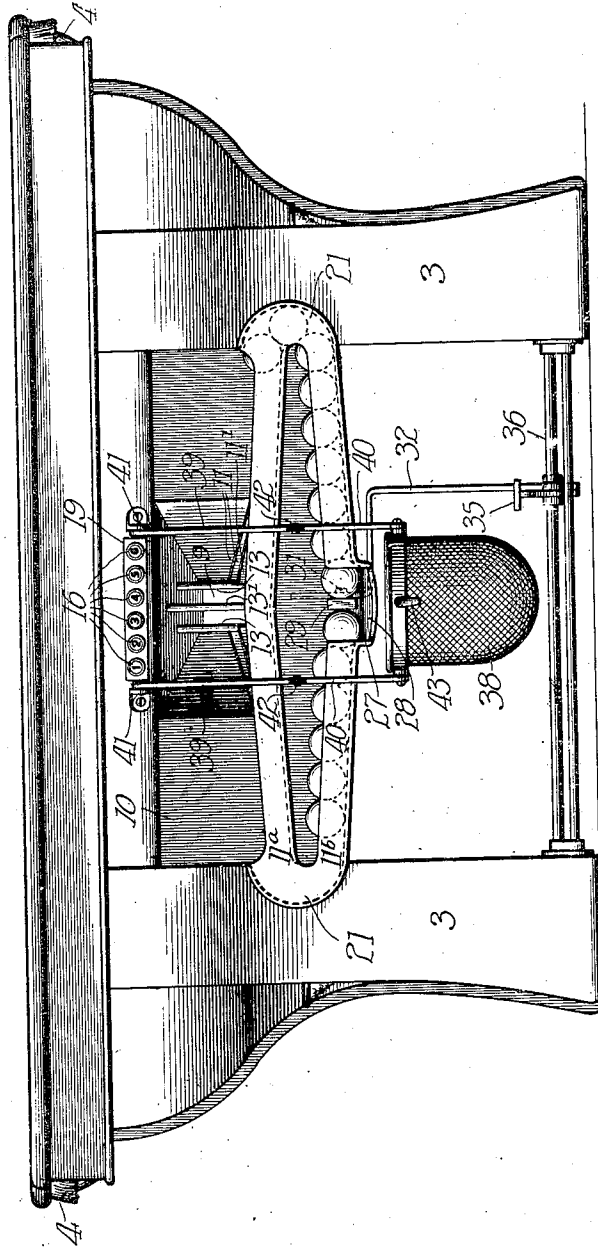


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5 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 5.



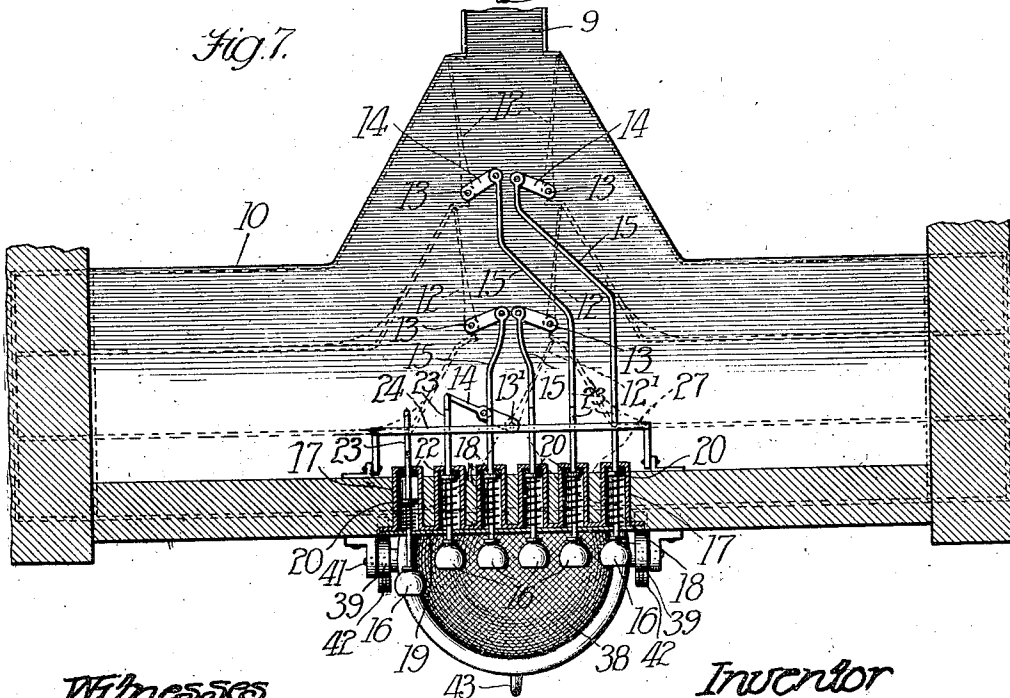
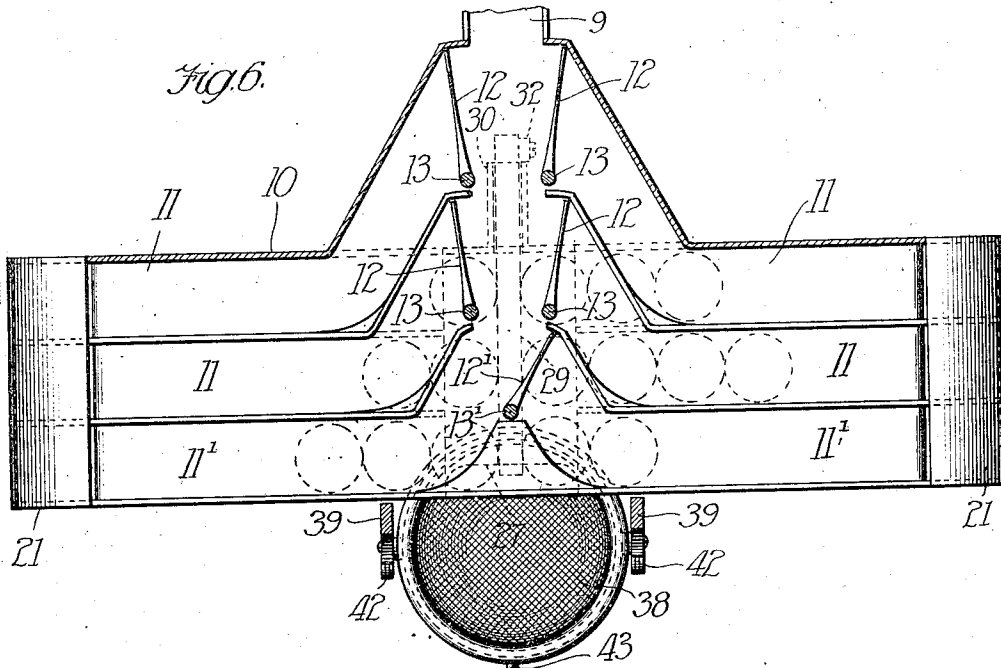
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

1,046,845.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN H. OLSEN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

POOL-TABLE.

1,046,845.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 10, 1912.

Application filed February 3, 1911. Serial No: 606,391.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN H. OLSEN, of Chicago, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pool-Tables, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates more particularly to means for collecting the balls as they are driven into the pockets and segregating them in separate groups accordingly as they have been secured by one player or another, and subsequently collecting the balls of the several groups in a suitable receptacle and returning them to the table for use in a subsequent game.

In an earlier application, Serial Number 571,390, filed July 11, 1910, I have described and shown a pool table of this description in which the balls are collected in separate groups according to the players who secure them, but the means there shown provides for but a pair of groups by reason of which the use of the device is limited to two players. In the present invention, however, the balls may be segregated into a greater number of groups, it being possible to provide for as many players as can conveniently use a table during a single game and in the embodiment of my invention disclosed in the accompanying drawings and set forth in the following description, provision is made for the use of the table by six players, but it will be obvious that the table can be modified to accommodate a greater or less number of players, if it is seen fit, without departing from my invention.

Turning to the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification, Figure 1 represents a plan view of my table with the top thereof removed; Fig. 2 is a central vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, certain parts, however, being shown in elevation; Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 4 is a side elevation of an end of the table with parts shown in section; Fig. 5 is an end elevation of the table and Figs. 6 and 7 are horizontal sections of a portion of the table on the lines 6—6 and 7—7 respectively, of Fig. 4.

The same characters are used throughout the specification and drawings to designate the various parts of the device.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, the table itself is or may be of the

usual construction, having the cushions 1, top 2, legs 3 and pockets 4. Connected to the bottoms 5 of the pockets is a system of chutes or ducts branched as at 6 and each branch 7 provided with a series of chutes 8 leading to the several pockets on that side of the table. It will be understood that the ducts or channels are suitably inclined to cause the balls to roll toward the common duct 9 which leads to a casing 10 divided into a series of racks or chambers 11 within which the balls are grouped. As seen more particularly in Figs. 6 and 7, each of these racks is provided with a gate 12 except the racks of the foremost pair 11', which latter have a single gate 12' pivoted between them, as at 13', to swing to one side or the other to divert a ball into the proper channel.

The gates 12 are pivoted at 13 and adapted to swing across the central space between them to divert the ball into the proper rack or chamber, and upon their arbors outside and above the casing are fixed crank arms 14 which are connected to operating rods 15 having pull handles 16 at their outer ends. These rods extend through the wall of the end of the table, as shown more particularly in Figs. 5 and 7, and within the thickness of the wall each rod is surrounded by a thimble 17 containing a spring 18 which abuts at its outer end against the plate 19 and at its inner end against a button or flange 20 formed on or secured to the operating rod, the purpose of the spring being to normally return the rod to its inmost position and thereby close the gate. The spring on the operating rod of the gate 12' normally holds that gate in a position to close the right hand rack or chamber 11' as shown in Fig. 7 and when the pull is operated the gate closes the opposite rack. Each rack or chamber consists of two runways or legs 11^a, 11^b, connected at their outer ends by curved portions 21, the legs being superposed and suitably inclined so that the balls will roll down the upper leg, which communicates with the chute system, and into the lower leg unless the latter is already occupied by other balls. The racks are open on top as to both branches or legs so that a ball may readily be removed by hand therefrom if desired. Within the thimbles 17 are rubber or other washers 22 against which the buttons 20 are adapted to strike when the operating rods are permitted to move inward and thereby cushion the blow.

In order to provide means for retaining any or all of the gates in an open position the operating rods are provided with shoulders or offset portions 23 with which a latch bar 24 (see Figs. 4 and 7) operated by a spring 25 coöperates. The offset on each rod with which the latch engages is formed with a forward face 26 suitably inclined to trip the latch bar 24 as the rod is drawn forward. It will therefore be seen that when any of the rods is drawn outward the latch will be raised to release any other rod which it may at the time be detaining, so that except for the front compartments 11 but one compartment is open at a time. One of the front compartments is necessarily always open, but this is immaterial since when any of the other compartments or racks is open to receive a ball its gate shuts off entrance to the forward racks.

As heretofore stated, the lower legs or runways of the racks communicate with a common discharge passage 27 which is inclined forwardly and provided with a suitable opening 28. A stop bar 29 is reciprocable in a horizontal direction between the opposite rows of racks and is of sufficient size to intercept and prevent the passage of any ball from any rack when in its forward position. It extends rearwardly through a guide opening 30 and is connected by pin and slot connections 31 to the upright arm 32 of a bell crank lever which is pivoted to a horizontal rod 33 as shown more particularly in Fig. 4. The other arm of the bell crank lever is connected by pin and slot connection to a treadle 35 pivoted at 36, and the pedal and bell crank levers are connected by a spring 37 which tends to thrust forward the stop bar 29 and to raise the pedal lever 35. It will be obvious that by depressing the pedal the stop bar 29 will be withdrawn and the balls in the several racks permitted to escape into the outlet channel 27. Beneath the outlet opening 28 is suspended a basket 38 by means of pairs of links 39 and 40, the upper pair pivoted to the table as at 41 and the members of the upper pair connected to the members of the lower pair by rule joints 42. Upon the upper edge of the basket is provided a finger-piece 43 by which it may be raised and the balls discharged upon the table, as best shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 4.

The operation of my table will now be obvious. With the parts in the position shown more particularly in Figs. 4, 6 and 7 when play is begun, the first player opens the particular rack or chamber in which he purposes storing the balls secured by him by pulling outward the knob or handle controlling the corresponding gate which is held open by the latch until the player fails. At the conclusion of his play the next player in order pulls out a second knob, whereby

the first is released thereby closing the first player's rack, and the second player's rack is held open. Each player in turn, before beginning play, operates a different knob or handle to open an individual rack which may be assigned him in advance. After the game is finished, in order to restore the balls which have been pocketed to the table, it is only necessary to depress the treadle 35, thereby withdrawing the stop bar 29, when the balls will be deposited in the basket and may be thence returned to the table.

It will be obvious that a number of minor modifications may be made without departing from my invention, which is defined in the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks communicating with said chutes, each rack comprising an outwardly inclined upper runway and an inwardly inclined lower runway communicating with each other at their outer ends and both open at the top, the lower runways communicating with a common discharge.

2. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets to a common space, a series of racks extending laterally of and communicating with the common space into which such chutes lead, each rack comprising an outwardly inclined upper and an inwardly inclined lower runway, the runways connected at their outer ends, the lower runways communicating with the common discharge, and means for closing the entrances to the racks and their communication with the discharge.

3. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks having their entrances arranged on a common inclined plane in the direction of the incline or slope and communicating with such chutes, a plurality of gates normally closing the entrances to said racks, and independent means for opening the gates at will.

4. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks having their entrances arranged on a common inclined plane in the direction of the incline and communicating with such chutes, a plurality of gates normally closing the entrances to said racks, separate rods for opening the gates at will, and means for retaining the gates open.

5. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks communicating with such chutes, a plurality of gates normally closing the entrances to said racks, separate rods for opening the gates at will, springs on the rods normally tending to close the gates, and a catch bar common to all the rods.

6. A pool table having the usual pockets,

chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks communicating with such chutes, each rack comprising an upper outwardly inclined and a lower inwardly inclined runway connected at their outer ends, the lower runway communicating with a common discharge, and a stop plate common to all the racks.

7. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks each comprising an upper outwardly inclined and a lower inwardly inclined runway open at the top and communicating with such chutes, a stop plate common to all the chutes for retaining the balls therein and a treadle connected with a stop plate for throwing the same to permit the balls to leave the chutes.

8. A pool table having the usual pockets, chutes leading from the pockets, a series of racks each comprising an outwardly inclined upper and an inwardly inclined lower

runway open at the top and communicating with such chutes, and having a common discharge, a stop plate arranged to move into the path of the balls to retain them in the chutes, a bell crank connected to the stop plate, a treadle suitably pivoted and connected to the lever, and a spring connection between the treadle and the lever for normally elevating the treadle and holding the stop plate in position to intercept balls in the racks.

9. In a pool table, the combination of a stationary receptacle for the balls having a common discharge and a basket suspended from the table by pairs of links pivoted to each other and to the basket and table respectively whereby the basket may be raised above the table and discharged thereon.

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