F. W. GANSE.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 20, 1919.

1,419,554. Patented June 13, 1922.

Fig. 1.

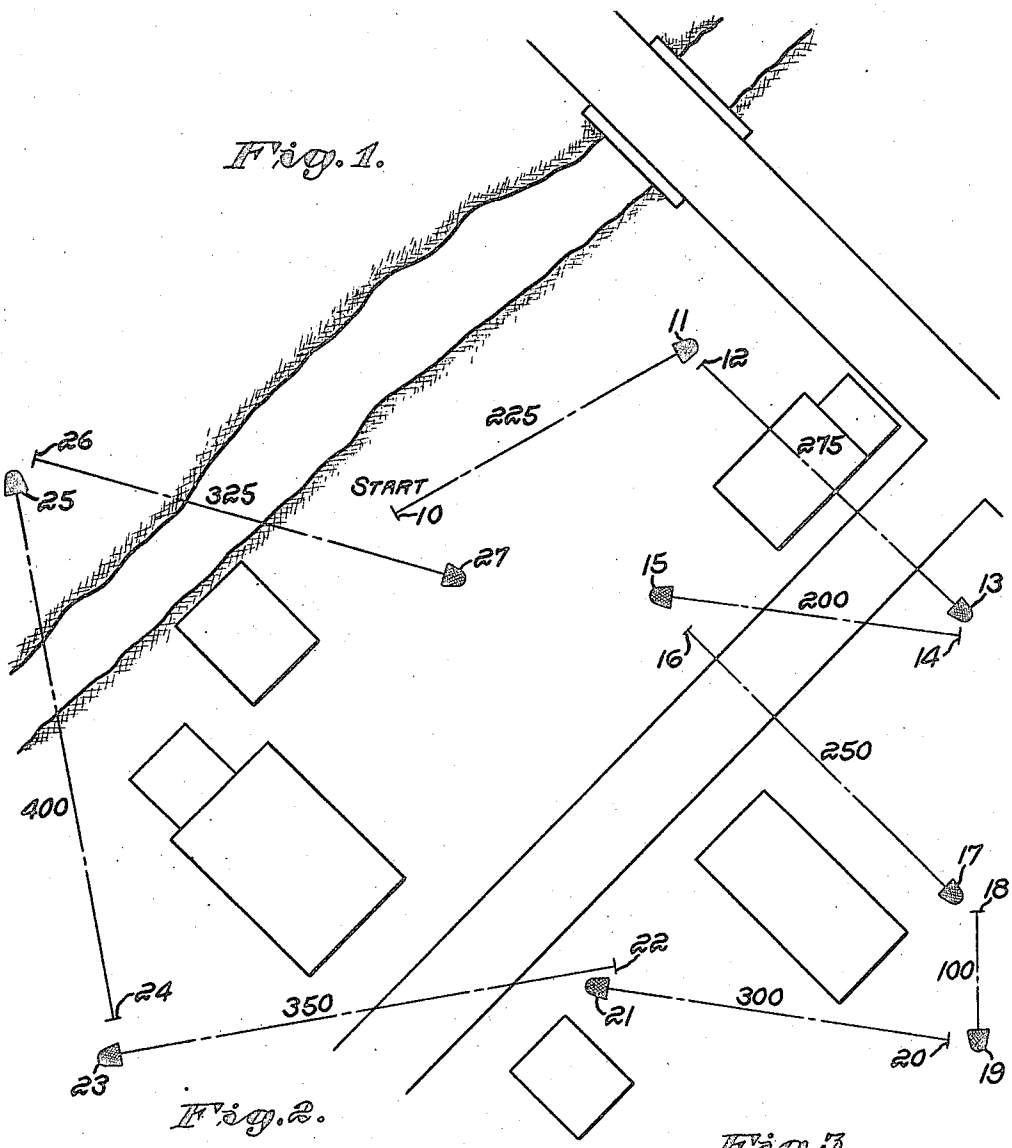


Fig. 2.

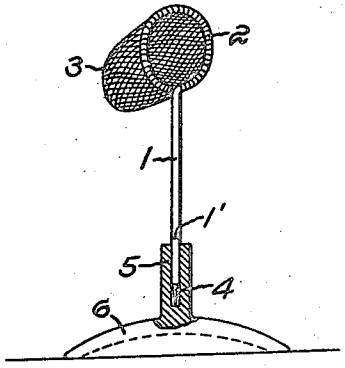
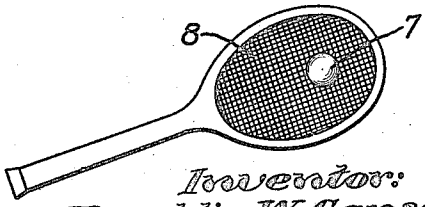


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME APPARATUS.

1,419,554. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 13, 1922.

Application filed September 20, 1919. Serial No. 325,101.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN W. GANSE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Brookline, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Game Apparatus, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to game apparatus and has for its object to provide a safe, healthful and interesting game, particularly adapted for out-of-door use upon any available tract or tracts of land and without necessitating expensive preparation or care of such land. Furthermore, the game is an inexpensive one requiring only a simple equipment and may be played by young or old and provides immediate and adequate enjoyment and exercise as well for the novice as for one more practiced or who possesses a considerable amount of skill in the playing of the game.

Although the game is of particular value as an out-of-door sport, yet it will be obvious that it may, upon a somewhat smaller scale, provide considerable exercise and enjoyment as an in-door game.

The invention consists in the combinations set forth whereby the above object and other objects hereinafter appearing may be attained as set forth in the following specification and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:—

Fig. 1 is a lay-out of a course embodying the features of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a detail view upon a somewhat enlarged scale of a ball receptacle; and

Fig. 3 is a detail of the type of racket and ball used in the game.

In the drawings, referring particularly to Fig. 2, I have illustrated a receptacle so-called herein consisting of a rod 1 having attached to its upper end a frame 2 which constitutes a support for a missile holder or a net 3, said net being attached in any suitable manner to the frame 2. Although the construction of the supporting means for the net 3 may be varied to a considerable degree, I preferably construct the same from a single rod which is bent at its upper end to form a circular loop constituting the frame 2, and the lower end of said rod is pointed at 4 to facilitate the insertion thereof into the ground when the device is to be used out of doors, or said rod 1 may be supported in a suitable standard, as shown at 5, provided with a base 6 of suitable weight to prevent the upsetting of the device when struck by a heavy blow. When used with or without the standard 5, the rod 1 is capable of being revolved for the purpose hereinafter described. When employed with said standard, the pointed end of the rod 1 is adapted to turn in said standard, and when used without said standard the rod, being preferably round, is adapted to be turned in the ground so as to present the opening of the net 3 in the proper direction, said opening, as outlined by the circular ring or loop 2, being preferably vertically disposed. I may also provide, as at 1′, suitable markings on said rod to insure the proper insertion thereof into the ground.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention a plurality of nets or missile receptacles such as hereinbefore described are employed, said receptacles being placed in a suitable course, preferably irregular and at varying distances apart. A missile of suitable construction, such as a tennis ball or other resilient ball, as shown at 7, is employed and this ball is adapted to be impelled along the course toward and into the receptacles 3 by means preferably consisting of a tennis racket 8 substantially of the usual form and construction.

In laying out the course described by the nets I preferably arrange said nets at varying distances apart, such, for instance, as from one hundred to four hundred yards and in a similar manner to the arrangement of the holes in a golf course. It will, however, be obvious that much less care and consideration will be necessary in laying out a course such as the one herein shown, for the reason that the ground does not have to be prepared or in a smooth or level condition and the missile or ball employed in the game being soft is less liable to cause damage to passers-by or to destruction of property, such as the breaking of windows and the like. Therefore the course may be laid as described by the arrangement of said nets adjacent to buildings, even to the extent of placing successive nets upon opposite sides of buildings so that the ball will have to be impelled over such building. For this reason a course may be installed in sub-

stantially any location where the buildings are not too close together.

In Fig. 1 I have illustrated one arrangement of a series of receptacles, wherein 10 indicates a serving station which we shall assume to be the starting point. From this station the ball may be served toward the net 11 which may be any suitable distance from said serving station, herein indicated as two hundred and twenty-five yards. When the ball is driven into close proximity to the net 11, said net may be turned toward the spot where the ball lies in order that the same may more easily be inserted therein, and for this reason said net is mounted as hereinbefore stated, so that the same may be readily turned to direct the opening toward the ball. Arranged adjacent to the receptacle 11 is a second serving station, as indicated at 12, from which the ball is served after being taken from the net 11 toward a second receptacle 13 disposed at any suitable distance from said station 12, preferably at a different distance, however, than that separating the station 10 and the receptacle 11. After the ball has been deposited by the player in the net of the receptacle 13 in a manner conforming to the rules of the game, the same may be removed, and from the serving station 14 said ball may be directed toward a third receptacle 15 which may likewise be placed at a different distance from its serving station than either of the former receptacles are with respect to their serving stations.

In this manner a large number of ball receptacles may be arranged in any suitable or irregular course, according to the size of the tract of land on which the game is to be played. The preferred number of such receptacles is nine and, as shown, these receptacles follow from the receptacle 15 from a serving station 16 arranged adjacent thereto to a receptacle 17 therefore, thence from a serving station 18 adjacent to said receptacle 17 to a receptacle 19, thence from a serving station 20 to a receptacle 21 adjacent to which is a serving station 22 for directing a ball to a receptacle 23, and this receptacle is arranged adjacent to a serving station 24 from which the ball is served toward a receptacle 25. From the locality of the receptacle 25, the ball is next impelled from the serving station 26 thereof to a receptacle 27 lying adjacent to the starting station 10.

Although nine nets or receptacles have been shown in the arrangement herein, it will be obvious that any number of receptacles may be employed within the scope and purpose of the invention, and these receptacles may be placed nearer together or farther apart than those herein shown, depending upon the nature of the country and the size of the tract of land on which the game is to be played. Furthermore, when the game is to be played within doors it will, of course, be necessary to substantially reduce the distances between the serving stations and the missile receptacles, and also it will be necessary to support the receptacles in a different manner than they are supported out of doors, and in such a case the base or standard 5 may be employed to support the rod 2 of the net.

Many variations in the arrangement of successive stations in the course may be inaugurated to render the game more difficult so as to require more skill in depositing the ball in the various nets, and if desired the sizes of the openings of the various nets may be varied, one being smaller than another, so that the insertion of the ball in said nets will be in certain cases more difficult than in others. It will also be obvious that the receptacles may, by varying the length of the rod 1, be placed at different distances from the ground, and this in order to avoid certain obstructions that may occur in the spot where the receptacle is to be set up.

It will likewise be obvious that although a tennis racket is preferably employed to impel the tennis ball which I desire to use as a missile, that other types of impelling instruments and likewise other types of missiles may be employed within the scope and purpose of the invention.

The game preferably consists in driving the ball by means of the impelling instrument from a serving station or tee, as it is sometimes called, into each of the nets in the fewest possible number of strokes and continuing until each net in the course has been played. The contest may be either for nets won or for the lowest total score for all nets on the course, and various rules may be established for governing the manner in which the ball is held and the manner of stroke employed at certain stages of the game. For instance, it may be a rule that the ball is to be held in the hand before each stroke, tossed into the air, as in serving in tennis, and driven with any sort of a stroke which the player chooses to use, and that the player shall stand on the line or at the serving station when making the first stroke for each net, with no part of either foot overstepping the tee, so-called. Again, it may be desirable to make a rule that before lifting the ball from any position or lie between the tee and net, the player shall take his stance for the next stroke so that he can lift the ball with his hand, and thereafter he shall not move either foot until he has made the stroke. The penalty for changing the stance after touching the ball may be the loss of one stroke. Other rules may be inaugurated to govern loss of the ball, etc.

If desired, a specified area about each receptacle may be designated as the "green"

and different rules adopted for impelling the ball from any lie within this area. For instance, it may be decreed that when the ball falls upon the green it is to be played from the ground with the racket or impelling instrument only; that it must not be touched by the hand or by any part of the player's body, but that it may be tossed or touched by the racket in any way which the player chooses; and that it must not be pushed or carried upon the racket.

Rules such as these and many others may within the scope and purpose of the invention be made to render the game more difficult and interesting and thereby require more skill to negotiate the various receptacles.

Having thus described one illustrative embodiment of my invention I desire it to be understood that although specific terms are employed they are used in a generic and descriptive sense and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims:

1. In a game apparatus, the combination of a ball, a series of elevated ball receptacles adapted to be supported in spaced relation, a serving station for each of said receptacles arranged adjacent to a preceding receptacle of the series, and racket like means to impel the ball toward and into said receptacles.

2. In a game apparatus, the combination of a ball, a plurality of elevated ball receptacles positioned at varying distances apart, a serving station for each of said receptacles arranged adjacent to a preceding receptacle of the plurality thereof, and a racket to impel the ball toward and into said receptacles.

3. In a game apparatus, the combination of a ball, a series of ball receptacles supported in elevated position at substantially different distances apart and manually rotatable so that each receptacle may be turned into the direction of approach of the ball, a serving station for each of said receptacles arranged adjacent to a preceding receptacle of said series, and a racket to impel the ball toward and into said receptacles.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

FRANKLIN W. GANSE.