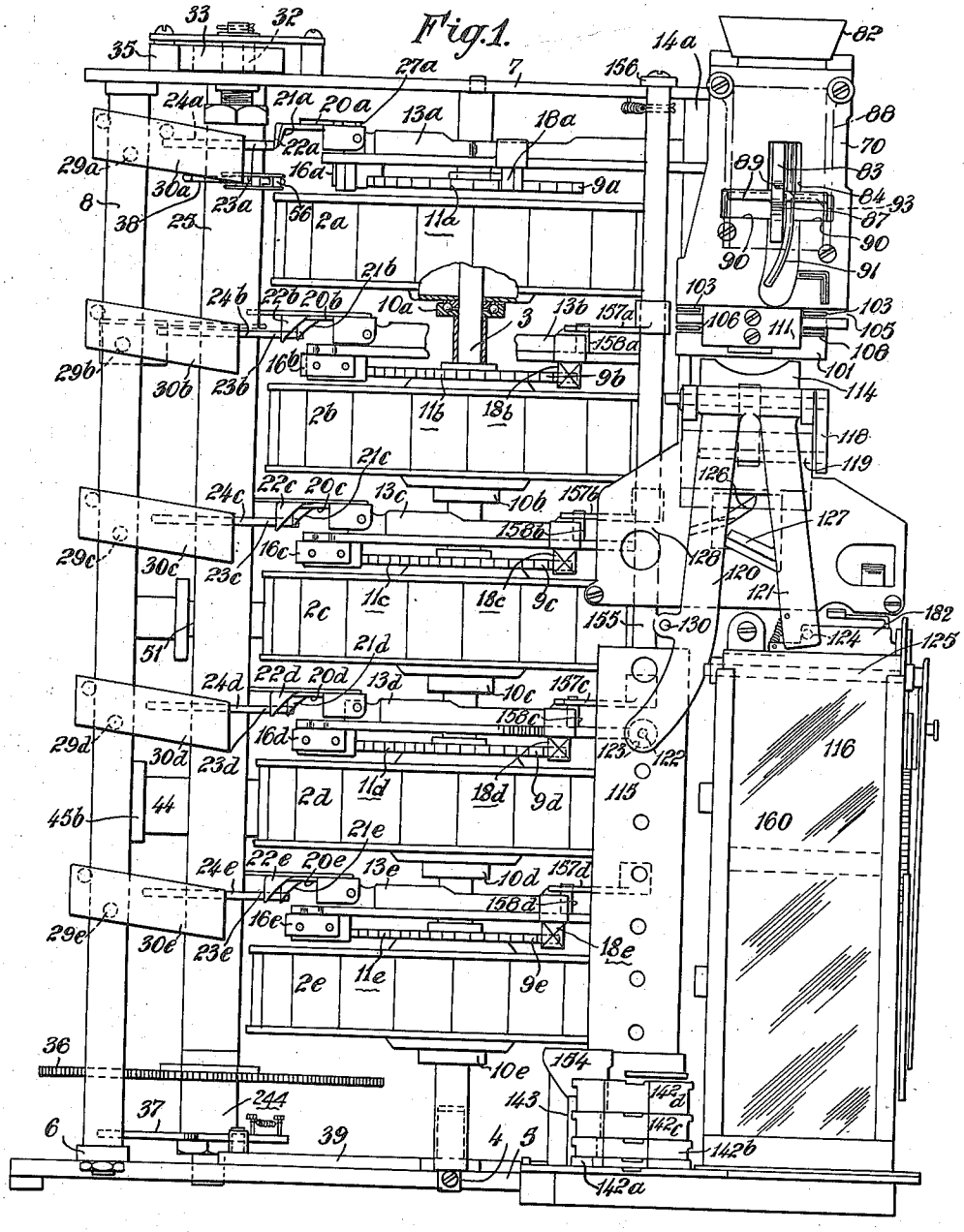
May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR

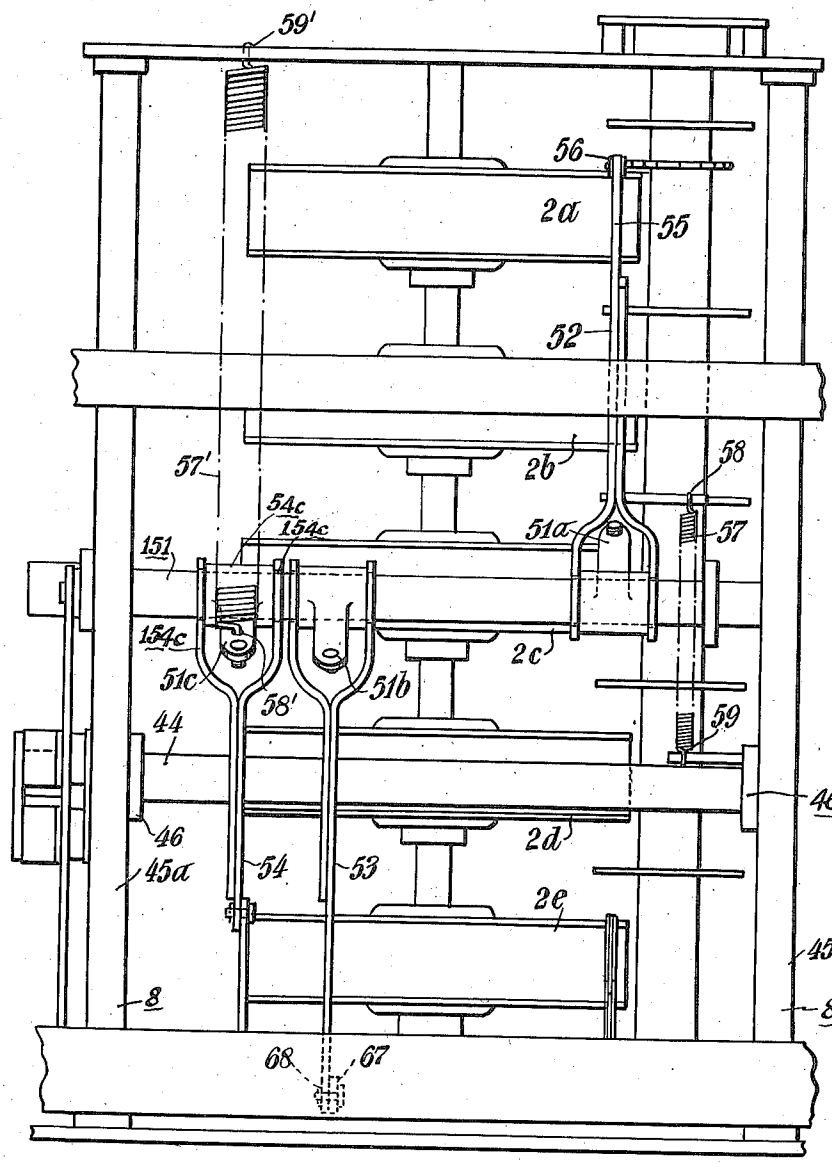
BY Ursa & Rauber
ATTORNEYS

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.



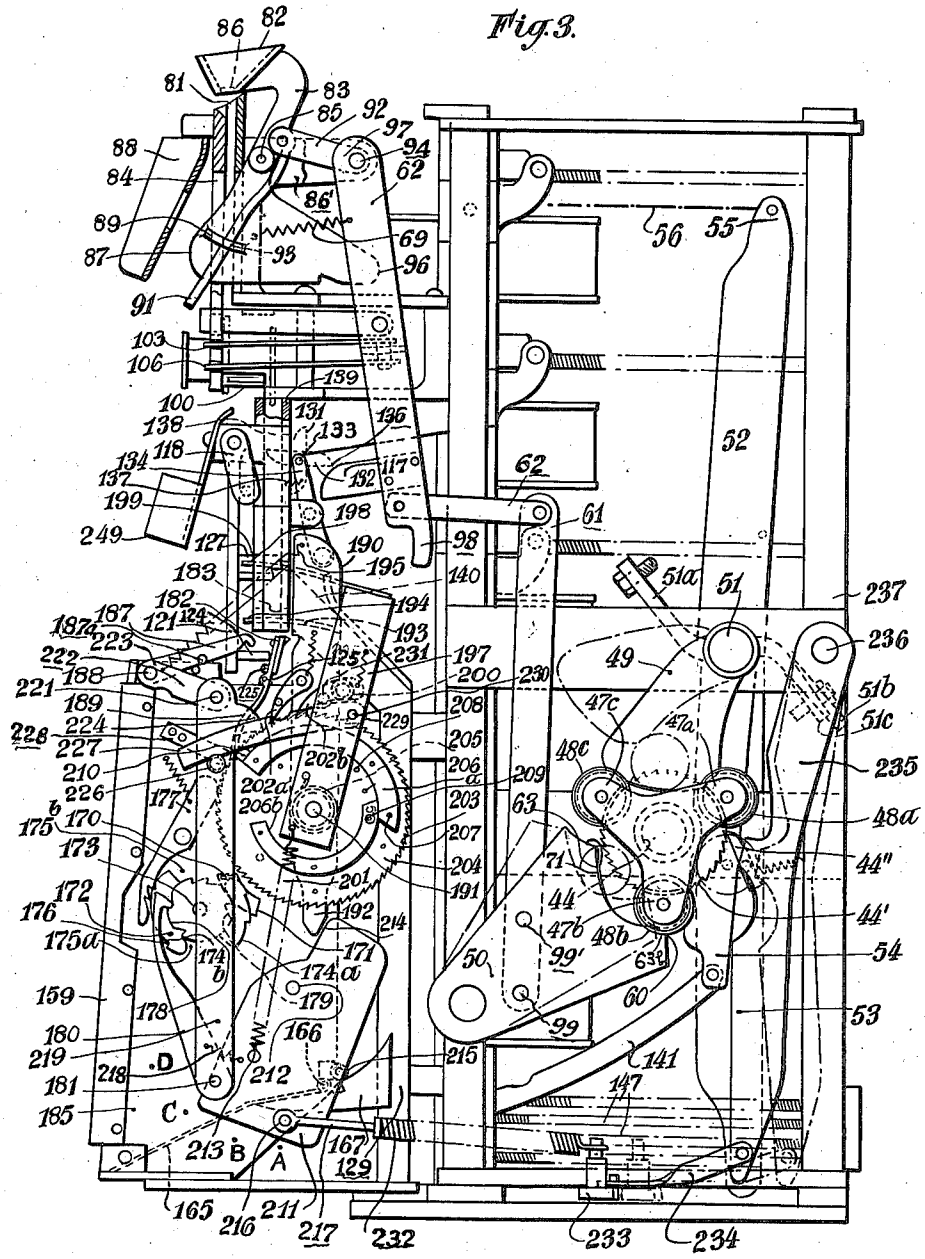
Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR
BY Ursin & Rauber
ATTORNEYS

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 3.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR

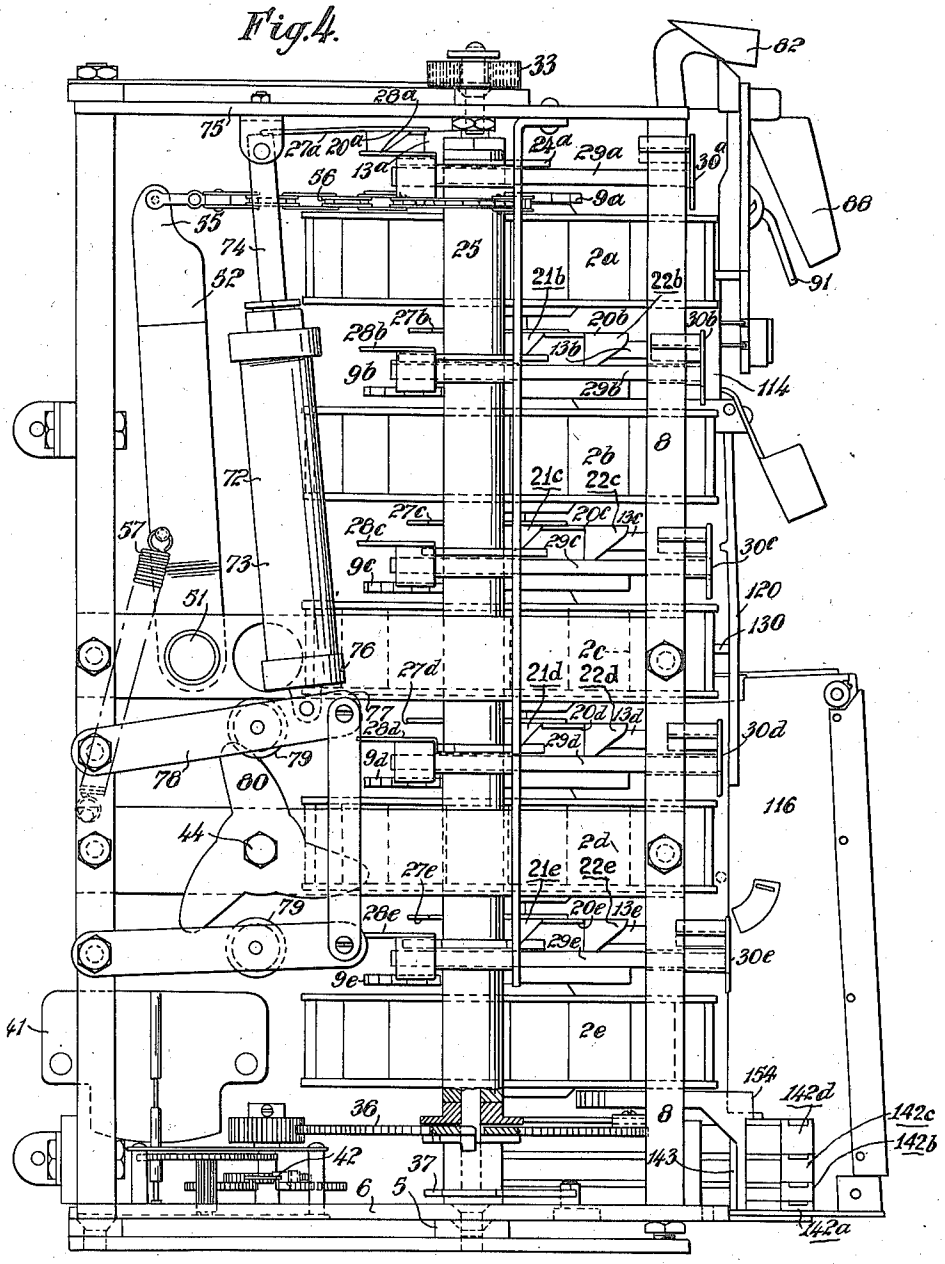
BY Fairman & Fairman
ATTORNEYS.

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 4

Fig. 4.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR
BY Towner & Rankin
ATTORNEYS.

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 5

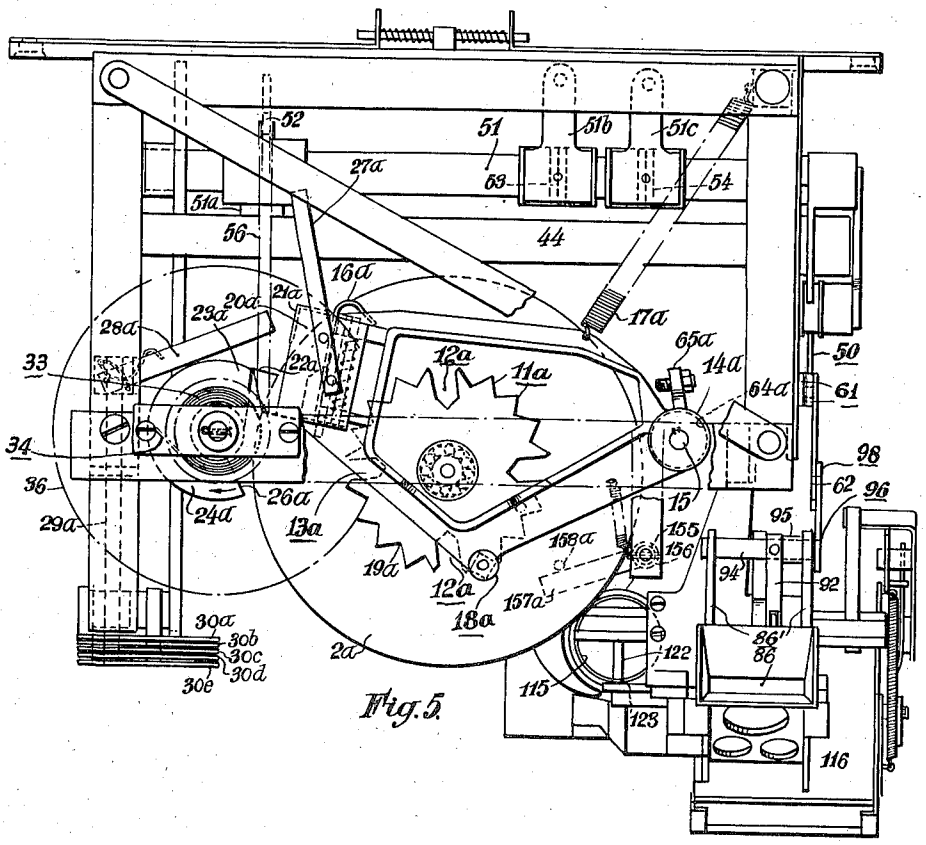
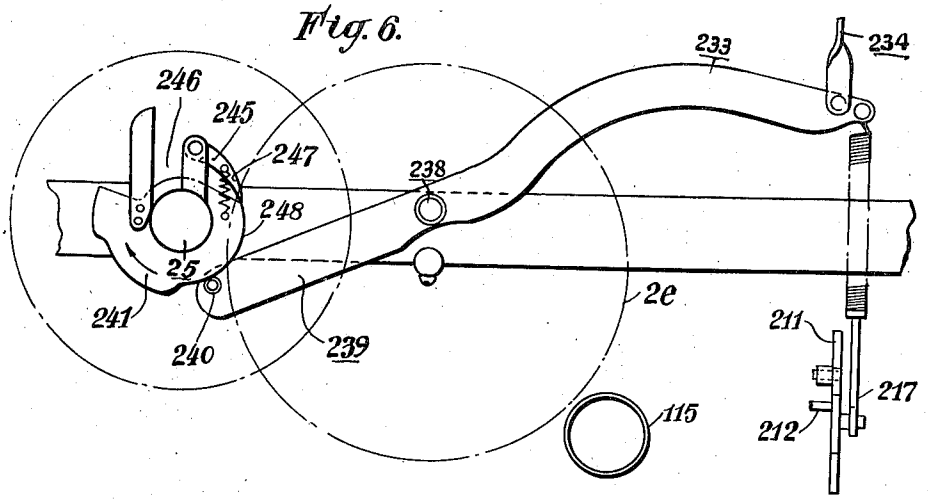


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR
BY Fleming & Rambo
ATTORNEYS

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 6

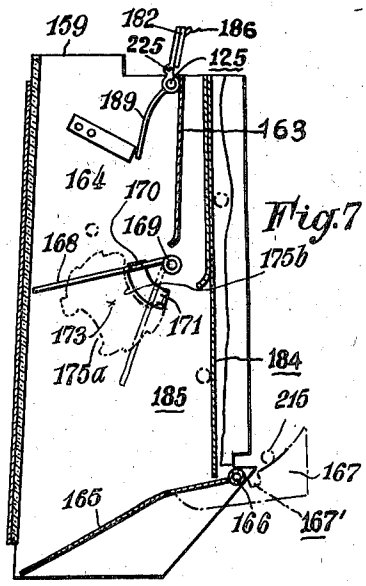


Fig. 7

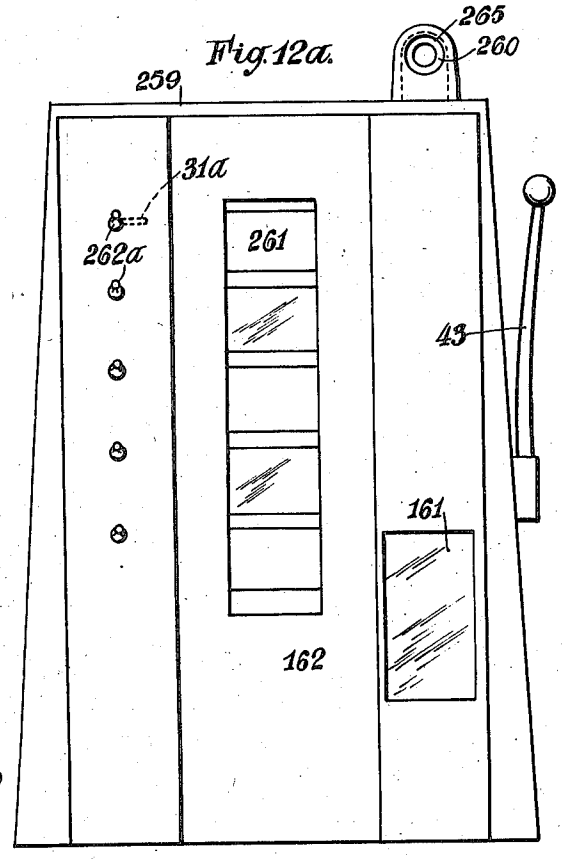


Fig. 12a.

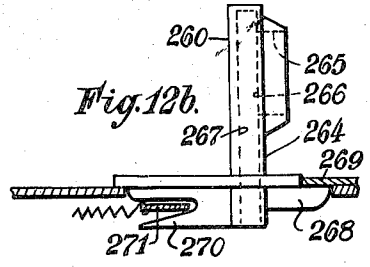


Fig. 12b.

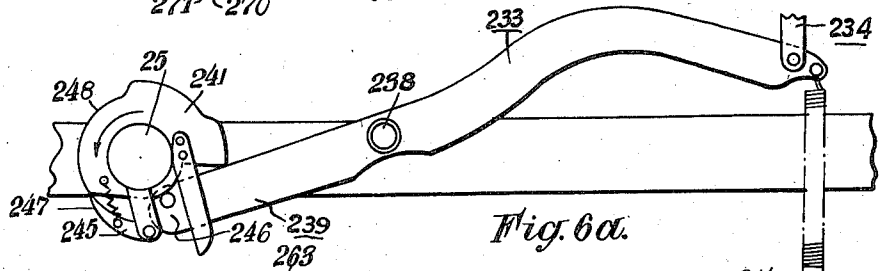


Fig. 6a.

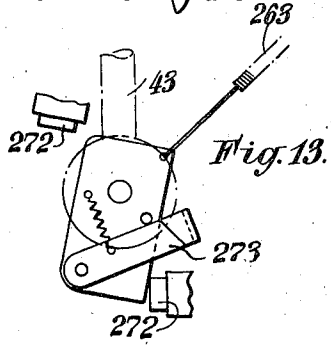
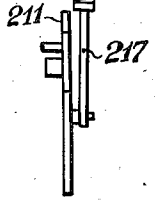


Fig. 13.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR
BY Marks & Clerk
ATTORNEYS

May 4, 1937. B. W. BRENNER 2,079,000

COIN, TOKEN, OR CHECK FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Filed April 16, 1935 7 Sheets-Sheet 7

Fig. 9.

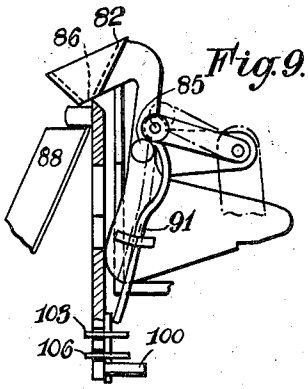


Fig. 8a.

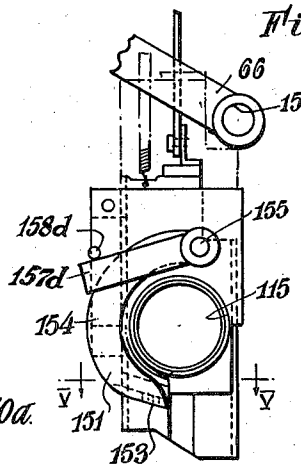


Fig. 8b.

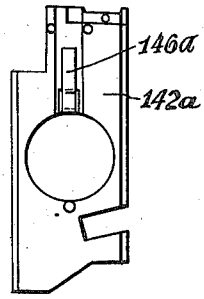


Fig. 10.

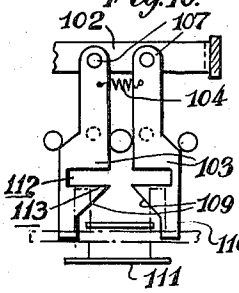
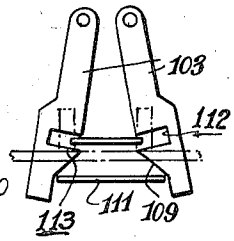


Fig. 10a.



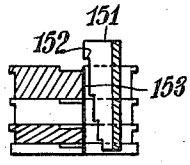


Fig. 8c.

Fig. 8d.

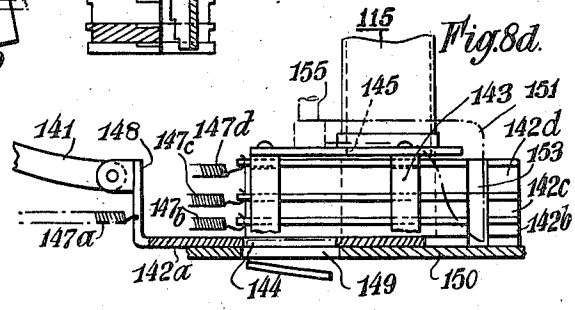


Fig. 11.

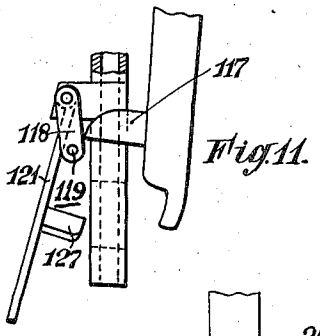
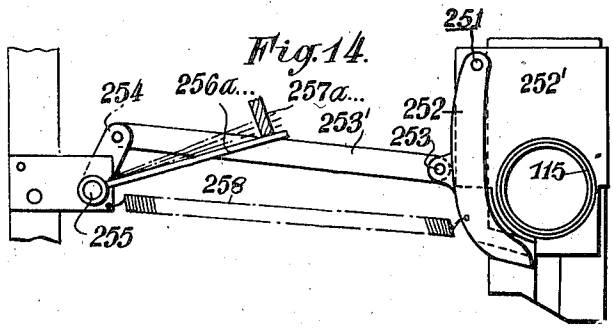


Fig. 14.



Bernard W. Brenner,
INVENTOR
BY Ursino & Rauher
ATTORNEYS.

Patented May 4, 1937

2,079,000

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,079,000

COIN-, TOKEN-, OR CHECK-FREED APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME OF SKILL

Bernard William Brenner, Croydon, England, assignor of one-half to Philip Shefras, London, England

Application April 16, 1935, Serial No. 16,563
In Great Britain April 21, 1934

13 Claims. (Cl. 194—71)

This invention relates to coin-, token- or check-freed apparatus for playing a game of skill of the kind comprising a plurality of wheels that are adapted to be spun and in which means are provided for stopping the said wheels in certain predetermined positions in which a prize-delivery mechanism is permitted to deliver a prize determined by the positions in which the said wheels stop. Heretofore the aforesaid wheels have all been spun at the same time and the operation of the prize-delivery mechanism has been controlled by the relative angular positions of all the wheels when they come to rest.

The present invention has for its object improvements in the coin-, token- or check-freeing mechanism of apparatus of the kind referred to and in the general construction thereof according to which each wheel is spun independently by energy stored by the operation of a lever after it has been freed by the insertion of a coin-, token- or check in a slot, as a result of which one of the said number-wheels is first spun and if it is stopped in a winning position, the second wheel is spun and so on until one of the said wheels stops in a non-winning position. Prizes may be delivered when any of the wheels stop in winning position and when the last wheel of the series stops in a winning position a pool, into which some of the coins, tokens or checks, inserted into the apparatus to free it, fall, may also be delivered to the successful player.

A further feature of the present invention consists of means for separating the coins, tokens or checks inserted into the apparatus to free it, from tokens or checks with which the prize magazine and pool are charged before it is used, in order that the former may be delivered into a cash-box and retained for the use of the apparatus and the latter may be delivered to successful players to enable them to use the apparatus longer for their amusement, without further payment until the tokens or checks, hereinafter referred to as tokens, they have won are used up.

The figures in the accompanying drawings illustrate one form of coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus made in accordance with this invention, wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation.
Fig. 2 is a part rear elevation.
Fig. 3 is a right-side elevation.
Fig. 4 is a left-side elevation.
Fig. 5 is a plan.
Fig. 6 is a plan showing the stepped cam plate 241.
Fig. 6*a* is a similar view to Fig. 6 showing an alternative position.
Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the pool.
Fig. 8*a* is a plan of the delivery mechanism.
Fig. 8*b* is an underside plan of one of the slides.
Fig. 8*c* is a section on the line V—V Fig. 8*a*.
Fig. 8*d* is a side elevation, partly in section, of the delivery mechanism.
Fig. 9 is a detail of the hopper and coin chute.
Figs. 10 and 10*a* are plan views showing different positions of the fingers 103.
Fig. 11 shows the raised position of the depending arm 121.
Fig. 12*a* is a front elevation of the casing enclosing the apparatus.
Fig. 12*b* is a side elevation of the coin slot.
Fig. 13 is a detail of the starting handle.
Fig. 14 illustrates a modification of the delivering device.

According to one mode of carrying out the present invention (Fig. 1) a plurality of number-wheels 2*a*, 2*b*, 2*c*, 2*d*, 2*e*, are freely mounted one above the other on a stationary vertical shaft 3 fixed at its lower end to a platform 4 and a cross bar 5 supported by side bars 6, 6, a suitable distance above the base of the apparatus. The upper end of this shaft is fixed to a horizontal member 7 supported by pillars 8, 8, rising from each side-bar 6.

Each of the number-wheels 2*a* . . . has a disc 9*a*, 9*b*, 9*c*, 9*d*, 9*e*, fixed to its upper-side and is supported by a shoulder or ball-race 10*a*, 10*b*, 10*c*, 10*d*, 10*e*, fixed to the wheel shaft shaft 3, so that each may rotate independently. The disc 9*a* . . . fixed to each of the said number-wheels is provided with V-shaped teeth 11*a*, 11*b*, 11*c*, 11*d*, 11*e*, and a deep substantially radial slot 12*a*, 12*b*, 12*c*, 12*d*, 12*e* at suitable intervals between its teeth, (Fig. 5).

Above each number-wheel 2*a* . . . a frame arm 13*a*, 13*b*, 13*c*, 13*d*, 13*e* curved or bent in a horizontal plane so as to extend around the shaft 3 on which the said wheels are mounted, is freely mounted by means of a boss 14*a* on another shaft 15 journalled in the aforesaid cross-bar 5 and upper horizontal member 7, between one of its supporting pillars 8 and the edge of the number-wheels 2*a* . . .

Each of the aforesaid frame arms 13*a* . . . is provided at its free end with a spring pawl 16*a*, 16*b*, 16*c*, 16*d*, 16*e*, (Fig. 5) adapted to engage the toothed disc 9*a* . . . of the number-wheel beneath it, and is acted upon by a separate spring 17*a* adapted to move said arm 13*a* . . . towards the rear of the apparatus, so as to spin that

number-wheel 2a . . . in a clockwise direction, until it is stopped by a pin 18a, 18b, 18c, 18d, 18e carried by the said frame arm 13a . . . , entering one of the V-shaped spaces 19a between the teeth 11a . . . of its disc 9a . . . , or one of the radial slots 12a . . . in it. Normally, each of these arms 13a . . . is prevented from moving under the influence of its springs 17a . . . by a detent flap 20a, 20b, 20c, 20d, 20e hinged to it. This flap 20a . . . has two detents 21a, 21b, 21c, 21d, 21e, and 22a, 22b, 22c, 22d, 22e, one of which namely 21a . . . is formed by its forward edge that engages the periphery 23a, 23b, 23c, 23d, 23e of a control-disc or cam 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d, 24e mounted on a vertical, spring-actuated, control-shaft 25 journalled in the aforesaid cross-bar 5 of the apparatus and in the aforesaid upper horizontal member 7, on the opposite side of the number-wheels 2a . . . to the shaft 15 on which the frame arms 13a . . . are mounted and adapted to be wound in a counter clockwise direction. Each of these discs 24a . . . is provided with a gap 26a at a suitable part of its periphery, say in staggered relationship to each other, which allows the forward edge 21a . . . of the detent flap 20a . . . hinged to the co-operating frame arm 13a . . . , to pass when it reaches it turning in a clockwise direction. After the frame arm 13a . . . is released in this way, it is turned by its spring 17a . . . until it is stopped by the second detent 22a . . . on its hinged flap 20a . . . , which is situated at a greater distance from the shaft 15 on which the frame arms 13a are mounted. This detent 22a . . . also engages the periphery 23a . . . of its control- disc 24a . . . and delays the further movement of its frame arm 13a . . . under the influence of its spring 17a . . . until the gap 26a . . . in its control-disc 24a . . . again releases it. When the frame arm 13a . . . was first released the number-wheel 2a . . . it controls was first spun by reason of the engagement of its spring-pawl 16a . . . with the toothed disc 9a . . . fixed to that number-wheel, which was allowed to continue its rotation during the time the movement of the frame arm 13a . . . was arrested by the second detent 22a . . . on its hinged flap 20a . . . . During this interval the number-wheel 2a . . . may be stopped in a winning position, indicated by a number or other device on its periphery, by the skill-control mechanism. To enable the number-wheels 2a . . . to be stopped in winning positions, the detent flap 20a . . . hinged to each of the frame arms 13a is provided with a finger 27a, 27b, 27c, 27d, 27e (Fig. 4) that occupies a position in the path of a skill-control arm 28a, 28b, 28c, 28d, 28e when the curved arm to which it is hinged is stopped by its first detent 21a . . . Thus a skill-control arm is provided for each detent flap and is mounted on a short spring-controlled shaft 29a, 29b, 29c, 29d, 29e that extends to the front of the apparatus where it is provided with a second arm 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 30e adapted to be engaged by a lever 31a (Fig. 12a) hinged to the case that encloses the mechanism. When the lever 31a . . . is operated to raise arm 30a . . . this through shaft 29a . . . raises arms 28a . . . , which raises the corresponding finger 27a . . . and so releases detent flap 20a . . . and allows wheel 2a . . . to stop.

After the control-disc 24a . . . has turned sufficiently in a clock-wise direction to allow the said second detent 22a . . . to enter its gap 26a . . . , the frame-arm 13a . . . again moves unless it has been previously released by the skill-control mechanism, under the influence of its spring 17a . . . until the pin 18a . . . carried by it engages the toothed disc 9a . . . If this pin 18a . . . enters one of the V-shaped spaces 19a . . . between its teeth, 11a . . . the frame arm 13a . . . is stopped in a position that will leave detent 22a in the gap 26a . . . of its control-disc 24a . . . with the result that it will stop the control-shaft 25 when the edge on the opposite side of the gap 26a . . . in the control-disc 24a . . . reaches it. If the aforesaid pin 18a . . . enters one of the radial slots 12a . . . in the toothed disc 9a . . . , the frame arm 13a . . . will move further until its detent flap 20a is clear of its control-disc 24a and thus allow the control-shaft 25 to continue to turn until the next control-disc 24b . . . mounted on it releases the frame arm 13b that spins and afterwards stops the next number-wheel 2b . . . in the same manner as the one just described. In this way one number-wheel is spun after the one above it has stopped if the pin on the frame arm that co-operates with the said number-wheel above it enters one of the radial slots in its toothed disc. If, however, this pin enters one of the V-shaped spaces between its teeth, the control-shaft is prevented from turning and the apparatus stops.

The upper end of the control-shaft 25 is connected to one end 32 of the wound spring 33 whose other end 34 is secured to a spring case 35 fixed above the horizontal member 7 in which the upper end of the said control-shaft 25 is journalled. The control-shaft 25 has a toothed wheel 36 and a stepped cam plate 37 for pool control, hereinafter described, fixed to its lower end above the platform 4 and a chain wheel 38 at the top of the shaft 25.

The toothed wheel 36 referred to is geared to a fan 41 through a one-way clutch 42 that retards the rotation of the control-shaft 25 when driven by its spring 33 but allows it to turn freely in the reverse direction to wind it.

In order for the apparatus to function for the delivery of prizes it is necessary that a token be inserted in the hopper 82 and that such token shall fall as will be hereinafter described into such a position that fingers 103 will be separated when allowed to move forward, by the commencement of the movement of handle 43, the actual motive force for this being the pull of spring 69, so that they can move forward to their full extent. By doing this they allow levers 62, 96 also to move forward, lever 96 being pulled forward by spring 69, and consequently allow cam 50 to release the adjacent roller on shaft 44 when the said shaft is rotated by lever 43.

The lever 43 for starting the apparatus after a coin or token has been inserted, turns a first horizontal shaft 44 extending between the side frames 45a, 45b and journalled in bearings 46 supported by them. This shaft 44 is provided at its right-hand end with three short arms 47a, 47b, 47c at 120° having rollers 48a, 48b, 48c (Fig. 3) at their extremities one of which operates an upper cam-plate 49 pivoted above it near the rear edge of the right-hand side frame 45a, and another of which operates another cam-plate 50 pivoted beneath it to the same side frame 45a near its front edge. Ratchet wheel 44' on shaft 44 and pawl 44'' pivoted on the frame prevent counterrotation of shaft 44. The upper cam-plate 49 is secured to a second horizontal shaft 51 journalled in the side frames 45a, 45b of the

machine which shaft is secured to arms 51a, 51b, 51c (Fig. 2). Arms 51a, 51b, 51c, on rotation of the shaft make contact with and actuate three levers 52, 53, 54, loose on the shaft of which lever 52 is connected at its free end 55 to a chain 56 that drives the chain wheel 38 on the control-shaft 25 which it turns in the direction to wind its spring 33, when the upper cam-plate 49 is raised by 48a one of the aforesaid rollers, when the starting lever 43 is operated. The lever 54 (Fig. 2), after operation is returned to its normal position by spring 57', one end 58' of said spring being attached to the arm 51c, which is itself secured to sleeve 54c, which sleeve is fastened to the arm 154c of the lever and the other 59' to the frame. Spring 57, of which one end 58, (Fig. 2), is attached to the lever and the other 59 to the frame, causes lever 52 to take up the slack of the chain 56. When this roller 48a . . . is raised the next roller 48b . . . moves out of the path of a projection 60 on the lower cam-plate 50 which cam-plate 50 is connected by links 61, 62, (Fig. 3) tc a coin-controlled lever 96 which is not free to move fully until a coin has been inserted in the apparatus. In this position another roller 48c engages a portion 63 of the cam surface that is at right-angles to a line drawn from the said roller to the pivot of its cam-plate 50 which, therefore, remains stationary. The rollers 48a . . . are brought to their initial position by the upper cam plate 49 under influence of spring 57'. The limiting position of cams 49, 50 is shown in broken line.

If no coin is inserted when it is attempted to operate shaft 44 by lever 43 the adjacent arm 47c . . . meets and is stopped by cam surface 63 and is thereby held against further rotation, because fingers 103 when they attempt to move forward are stopped by plate 111.

On the contrary when a coin is inserted and as previously described separates fingers 103 when they attempt to move forward so that they can pass plate 111, lever 96 can be pulled forward by spring 69 and therefore also lever 61 can move forward and cam surface 63 moves out of the way of the adjacent roller 48c . . . by the time that arm reaches the original position of the cam surface 63.

Spring 69 pulls lever 96 over about half its full travel. The remainder of the travel of lever 96 is completed by the pressure of roller 48c . . . in cam surface 71. When lever 96 has completed the function of its forward travel it is withdrawn to its normal position of rest by the pressure of roller 48c . . . on cam surface 63b on the completion of the motion of roller 48c . . . Actually lever 43 turns arm 47c . . . through about 90° and the pressure of cam 49 forces the arm 47c . . . through another 30° making in all about 120° per arm.

In order to return the frame arms to the front of the apparatus and to store up energy in their springs 17a . . . to enable them to spin the number-wheels 2a . . . the shaft 15 on which they are freely mounted has a collar 64a fixed to it between the boss 14a . . . of each arm (Fig. 5). These fixed collars 64a have upwardly directed fingers 65a that extend into the path of the arm above each so as to move it when the said shaft 15 is turned in the appropriate direction. For this purpose a turning arm 66 (Fig. 8a) is secured to the lower end of the said shaft 15. This turning arm 66 is connected by a link 67 (Fig. 2) to the free end 68 of the second lever 53 secured to the second horizontal shaft (Fig. 2). This second lever 53 is turned when the second horizontal shaft 51 is turned by the upper cam plate 49 with the result that all the frame-arms 13a . . . are returned to their starting positions by the same operation. As the frame-arm shaft 15 under spring action moves its fingers 65a . . . away from the frame-arms 13a before the control-shaft 25 begins to turn under the influence of its spring 33, the finger 65a . . . that turned the first arm 13a counter-clockwise will have moved away from it clockwise before the arm 13a is released by its control-disc 24a and the frame-arm 13a will, therefore, be able to move sufficiently under the influence of its spring 17a to spin the first number-wheel, 2a.

After a coin has been inserted, the aforesaid coin controlled lever 96 is freed and the lower cam 50 or locking plate (Fig. 3) moves a sufficient distance under the influence of the spring 69 connecting it to the coin chute 70 hereinafter referred to, to bring cam surface 71 in a position to be engaged by the last mentioned roller, which was engaged with the locking surface 63 of said lower cam-plate 50, thereby enabling the roller to turn the said cam-plate 50 which is thus enabled to operate the coin release and distribution mechanism in the manner hereinafter described.

During the operation of the starting lever 43 considerable work has to be done to wind the spring 33 of the control-shaft 25 and to return the frame arms 13a . . . to the front of the apparatus and this varies according to the number of wheels 2a . . . that have been spun and the number of frame arms 13a . . . that have to be returned, and if the energy applied to the starting lever 43, is continued after the work to be done is finished, the apparatus is liable to receive a very considerable shock. In order to prevent this, a dash-pot 72 (Fig. 4) is operatively connected to the first horizontal shaft 44; this is the shaft turned by the starting lever. The dash-pot 72 is secured to the left hand side frame 45b.

The dash-pot employed comprises a cylinder 73 in which a loosely fitting piston is reciprocated so as to transfer oil or glycerine and water or other suitable fluid from one side of the piston to the other. The piston rod 74 of the cylinder is pivoted to the upper horizontal member 75 of the left-hand side frame 45b, and the lower end 76 of the cylinder is pivoted adjacent an upper corner 77 of a quadrilateral jointed frame 78 secured to the left-hand side 45b of the frame, the quadrilateral frame carrier rollers 79 making contact with three arms 80 (at 120°) fixed to the left-hand end of the shaft operated by the starting lever 43. With this arrangement, the piston of the cylinder is caused to transfer the fluid contents of the cylinder to the opposite side of the piston, twice for every third of a revolution of the said shaft.

The coin-chute 81 (Fig. 3) is provided with a pivoted hopper 82 at its upper end. This hopper has a downwardly-extending plate 83 which can pass freely through a slot 84 in the coin-chute when the hopper swings on its pivot 85. In its normal position a coin slit 86 in the bottom of the hopper 82 is in line with the coin chute 81 but in this position the hopper plate 83 extends through the slot 84 in the chute 81. The front edge of this plate 83 has a cam surface 87 that is engaged by an inserted coin by which the plate 83 is moved out of the slot 84 and the hopper 82 turned on its pivot 85 into a position in which its

coin slit 86 is moved from over the coin chute 81 to a return coin chute 88. With this arrangement coins inserted while the apparatus is in use are returned to the player. This downwardly extending plate 83 is also provided with side plates 89 (Fig. 1) at right-angles to it, that pass freely through other slots 90 in the coin chute 81 at right-angles to the one first referred to, so as to prevent a wire or like implement being passed down the chute 81 when the apparatus is not in use.

In order that the hopper 82 may be maintained over the return coin chute 88 after a coin inserted to free the apparatus has fallen below its downwardly extending plate 83, a rod 91 of suitable shape and length pivoted to an arm 92 operated by the coin-release lever 96, passes through a hole 93 in one of the side plates of the hopper sufficiently to lie behind the coin and by its weight positively to move the hopper into the required position. This arm 92 is fixed to a short shaft 94 (Fig. 5) supported in bearings 95 in arms 86^1 behind the coin chute 81, to which shaft 94 the depending lever 96 is fixed at one end 97, the other end of the lever 98 being pivotally connected to the lower cam-plate 50 hereinbefore described, at 99 by links 61, 62 with allowance for angular adjustment of plate 50 diagrammatically indicated at 99^1. The cam 50 being pivoted at 99 and adjustably secured in the requisite angular position at 99', the link is held in two places and therefore its motion is limited by that of cam 50.

When these levers are actuated, the aforesaid rod 91 is raised above the coin, which is supported after it falls below the hopper plate 83 and through the part of the chute 81 beneath it, by two pins 100 (Fig. 9) that extend at right-angles to the front plate 101 of the said chute, the rear side of which is cut away. Normally the centre of gravity of rod 91 is so situated that it hangs as illustrated in Fig. 3 to prevent the passage of a wire or the like as above described down chute 81. A token on passing pushes rod 91 aside as in Fig. 9, whereafter the rod swings back to the position in Fig. 3.

The depending lever 96 above referred to has a horizontal arm 102 (Fig. 10) that extends behind the coin chute 81 and parallel to it. Two forwardly-directed fingers 103 which are normally urged towards each other by a spring 104 are pivoted to the upper side of this arm 102 a slight distance apart and extend through slots 105 above the pins 100 that support the coin, and two similar spring-controlled fingers 106 are pivoted on the same pins 107 on the underside of the same arm 102 and extend through slots 108 similar to the ones above them. The inner edges 109 of these fingers are inclined outwardly towards their free ends 110 so that the coin in falling on to the aforesaid pins 100, passes between them.

When the lower cam-plate 50 is operated by turning the starting lever 43, the short shaft 94 is turned through the spring and then through the depending lever 96 and the links that connect it to the cam-plate. When the short shaft 94 is turned in this way the depending lever 96 will be moved towards the coin chute 81. This movement will cause the inclined inner edges 109 (Figs. 10 and 10*a*) of the fingers pivoted to its arm to engage the opposite sides of the coin supported on the pins 100 with the result that their ends 110 will be separated as they pass forward through the slots 105 in the front plate 101 of the coin-chute 81 and so enable them to clear the stop-plate 111 which would arrest their forward movement if a coin had not been supported on the pins. By clearing the stop plate 111 the fingers 103 are able to move forward sufficiently far to allow the operating handle to be turned far enough for the handle to rock lever 52 far enough to pull chain 56 to wind spring 33 and rotate cam shaft 25 and arms 13*a*. . . . When handle 43 releases arm 47*a* . . . the spring 33 causes shaft 25 to rotate in the opposite direction allowing cams 24*a* . . . to rotate and permit arms 13*a* . . . to return permitting of drive of the wheels 2*a* . . . and actuation of other mechanism as previously described. At the inner end of the inclined portions of the aforesaid fingers they are provided with notches 112, the forward edges 113 of which form stops that pass in front of the coin which when the fingers are retracted owing to roller 48*b* . . . pushing cam surface 63*b* back is drawn off the ends of the supporting pins 100 and allowed to drop into a second chute 114 through which it passes either to a prize-magazine 115 (Fig. 1), or to a pool 116 or to a cash-box (not shown). The mechanism is locked until a coin is inserted. When the coin is inserted it drops between the slanting edges 109 of fingers 113 and further operation of lever 43 causes the fingers 113 to advance divergently owing to the pressure of the coin so that they can pass stop 111 and the machine operates.

During the forward movement of the depending lever 96 a nose or projection 117 (Figs. 1 and 11) on it engages a spring-controlled arm 118 that carries a rod 119 that passes behind two depending or feeler arms 120, 121 each of which is provided with a pin. The pin 122 (Fig. 5) on one normally enters a hole 123 in the prize magazine 115 and the pin 124 on the other makes contact with a plate 182 pivoted at 125 on the pool 116. The magazine 115 has the form of a vertical tube having an internal diameter equal to that of the tokens or the coins inserted to free the apparatus, into which they fall. When the coins in this tube rise above the hole 123 which the aforesaid pin 122 is intended to enter, or when the pin 124 on the other arm makes contact with the pivoted plate 125 on the pool 116 in the extreme forward position of said plate, the respective pin is prevented from resuming its normal position with the result that deflecting plates 126 or 127 carried by the arms in question are prevented from returning to their normal positions in the path of a token or coin when it falls. These deflecting plates 126, 127 occupy positions one above the other when neither the prize magazine 115 nor the pool 116 is full with the result that the uppermost one 126 diverts the falling token into a chute 128 that directs it into the tube or plate, as the case may be, that controls it. When the magazine 115 is full the lower deflecting plate 127 will divert the coins into the pool 116 and when both the prize magazine and the pool are full, the coin will fall into a chute 129 (Fig. 3) that leads it to the cash-box (not shown). The pool will be hereinafter more particularly described. A second pin 130 is provided on the magazine control depending or feeler arm 120 which prevents a coin falling into the tube until the lever is withdrawn during the next operation.

If it is desired to ensure that only tokens or checks be delivered as prizes in order to separate therefrom the coins that may be inserted, the tokens or checks may be provided with a central

hole through which the teeth 131 (Fig. 3) of a suitable star-wheel 132 hereinafter described, will freely pass. In such a case this star-wheel 132 is freely and removably mounted on a pin 133 supported at the upper end of a spring-controlled lever 134 fulcrumed on the side of the coin chute 81, which is operated by the depending lever to which the coin-engaging fingers are pivoted. This star-wheel 132 is situated above the deflector plates 126, 127 carried by the depending arms 120, 121 hereinbefore referred to and the points 136 of its teeth 131 are caused by a spring 137 on the lever 134 that supports it, to pass through a slot 138 in a plate 139 into which a token or coin falls after it has been pulled off the supporting pins 100 by the aforesaid pivoted fingers 106. When a token falls on to one of the teeth 131 of the star-wheel, its weight turns the star-wheel 132 and the next tooth enters the hole in the centre of the token whose weight again turns the wheel 132 which, therefore, allows it to pass on to one of the deflecting plates 126, 127 and thence into either the prize magazine 115 or the pool 116, or direct into the cash-box.

When a coin falls on to one of the teeth 131 (Fig. 3) of the star-wheel 132, the latter is prevented from turning sufficiently to allow it to pass by the next tooth, which is brought into contact with the centre of the coin through which the tooth cannot pass because the coin has not a hole at its centre, as the tokens have. Just before the depending lever 96 reaches the end of its forward movement but after the deflecting plates 126, 127 have been moved out of their operative positions, the depending lever 96 engages the lower end of the lever 134 that supports the pin 133 on which the star-wheel 132 is mounted and thus moves the pin 133 sufficiently away from the slotted plate to release the coin held by it, which then falls vertically into the centre part of a chute 140 that guides it into the cash-box chute 129.

The delivery mechanism includes a third lever 54 (Fig. 2) secured to the second horizontal shaft 51 and pivotally connected at its free end to a link 141 (Figs. 3 and 8a) which is also pivotally and operatively connected to a first or minimum prize delivery slide 142a running in guides 143 (Fig. 1) in the base of the machine. The prize delivery slide 142a is adapted to run to and fro under the open end of the hereinbefore mentioned prize magazine 115 (Fig. 1). The prize delivery slide 142a is provided with an orifice 144 of sufficient diameter just to contain one token horizontally and the orifice 144 is deep enough to contain two tokens superposed vertically, which represents the prize—the minimum prize—for causing the first spinning wheel 2a to release the second 2b. Above the first prize delivery slide 142a are superposed second, third and fourth prize delivery slides 142b, 142c, 142d, these prizes being in ascending order of magnitude. Each slide runs in guides 143 in the slide beneath it, is provided with an orifice of sufficient diameter to contain one token horizontally and a predetermined number—four, six, eight as the case may be—vertically superposed. All the orifices 144 normally register vertically with the open orifice 145 at the bottom of the magazine, so that all the slides 142a . . . fill up with their appropriate number of tokens or coins, springs 146a . . . (Fig. 8b) being provided under each slide to force the slides 142a . . . in to close contact with each other. Each slide is held by a control spring 147a, 147b, 147c, 147d which normally tends to pull it towards the rear of the machine. The bottom slide 142a is provided with an upstanding stop 148 (Fig. 8d) at the back whereby by operation of the spindle carrying the third lever 54 all the slides that have delivered their prizes are forced back into their normal positions. The slides 142a . . . are adapted when pulled back by their retaining spring 147a . . . to deliver their prizes into a chute through a common orifice 149 in a plate 150 in the base of the machine beneath the first prize slide. All the slides 142a . . . are held against the tension of their springs 147a . . . in their normal forward positions by a plate 151 (Fig. 8c) having staggered or stepped serrations 152 engaging in slots 153 in the slides and secured by a curved arm 154 (Fig. 8a) to the foot of a vertical shaft 155 pivoted in bearings 156 in the machine frame. The bottom or deepest step 152 corresponds to and engages with the first or minimum prize slide 142a, the next deepest step with the next or second prize slide 142b, the shallowest step with the third prize slide 142c, and the top extremity with the fourth or maximum prize slide 142d. Thus a slight rotation of the shaft 155 will release the first slide 142a, a greater one the second 142b and so on. The vertical shaft 155 to which the curved arm 154 is secured is provided with horizontal arms 157a, 157b, 157c, 157d (Fig. 1) in staggered relationship from top to bottom of the shaft, each arm 157a . . . corresponding to a slide 142a and being adapted to engage with a pin 158a, 158b, 158c, 158d secured to the appropriate frame arm 13b on suitable rotation of said arm, whereby rotation of the shaft 155 by the second number wheel-frame arm 13b release the first prize, by the third number wheel-frame arm 13c the second prize and so on. The slides 142a . . . are returned to their normal position when the operating lever is actuated on insertion of the next coin.

The pool consists of a vertical box or container having a glass front, a bottom or main pool trap door, and intermediate reserve pool trap door and means for controlling same, a divertor plate, a coin or token counting mechanism, a control plate, means for neutralizing or resetting, and means for control by the main cam control shaft of the machine and the first horizontal shaft or winding of the machine all hereinafter described.

The vertical box or pool container 159 is disposed underneath the orifice of the pool side of the main coin chute in the forepart of the machine so that the glass front 160 is visible through a window 161 on the front of the outer case 162 of the machine (Fig. 12a). In one or both sides of the pool container are journalled all the pivoting points of the component parts. The container 159 is enclosed at the back, and has a further partition or false back 163 in the higher or reserve part 164 (Fig. 7).

The main pool trap door 165 at the bottom of the pool container 159 is pivoted at the rear with pivoting points 166 in the two sides of the pool container. It has an arcuate extension plate 167, slotted at 167', extending behind the pool container 159 near to and parallel to the right hand or main working side of the container.

The intermediate or reserve pool trap door 168 (Fig. 7) divides the top half of the container from the bottom half and is pivoted at 169 a short distance away from the back of the container to allow the free passage of tokens or coins passing

between the partition or false back 163 into the lower part of the pool. On the right hand or main working side of the trap door 168 is an extension lug 170 situated a short distance from the pivoting centre and projecting outside the container through an arcuate slot 171 cut in the container side.

Means for controlling the reserve pool trap door consist of a toothed wheel 172 (Fig. 3), freely pivoted at 173 outside the container below the arcuate slot 171 so that the extension lug 170 of the trap door 168 rests on the periphery 174a of it. A pair of large openings 175a, 175b are cut into the periphery 174 of this wheel so that on rotation of a half revolution the aforesaid extension lug 170 is first allowed to fall into an opening and then is lifted back again to the outside periphery 174. Small ratchet teeth 176 are also cut on the periphery of this wheel and a pawl 177 suitably spring tensioned at 220 engages these to allow free movement in an anti-clockwise direction only.

The rotation of this toothed wheel 172 is effected by means of a further small ratchet wheel 178 having suitably shaped teeth 179 with which an actuating pawl 180 spring tensioned at 218 and pivoted at 181 on the control plate, hereinafter described, engages.

The divertor plate 182 (Fig. 7) is pivoted at the top of the container 159 a short distance from the back and is directed substantially upwards to the orifice 183 of the pool side of the main coin chute. In one or the first position of this plate 182, tokens or coins issuing from the coin chute are guided forward into the high or reserve part 164 of the container and in another or second position coins are directed towards the back of the container and pass between the false back 163 and the back proper 184 down to the lower or main part 185 of the container. In a third position the outer edge 186 of this plate 182 is moved forward sufficient to hold the depending or feeler arm 121 (Fig. 3) controlling the pool diversion previously described away from the coin chute, so withdrawing its deflector plate 127 so that no coins are deflected to the pool side of the coin chute at all. When in the third position a suitable locking pawl 187 pivoting at 188 on the side of the container holds it in place. The positions of this divertor 182 are controlled by an extension tail 189 fixed to it and extending outside the container downwards to a counting mechanism hereinafter described.

The counting mechanism consists of a main bar 190 (Fig. 3) freely pivoted at 191 on the side of the container with an actuating end 192 extending downwards into the path of a tooth on the control plate hereinafter described, and a coin arresting end 193 extending upwards to the orifice of the coin chute, having a forwardly directed finger 194 fixed to its extremity upon which coins are arrested before issuing from the coin chute. This main bar 190 is spring tensioned at 195 to rotate it in an anti-clockwise direction so that the forwardly directed finger 194 normally lies underneath the coin chute orifice. Pivoted on the same axis at 191 is a feeler bar 197, extending upwards towards the coin chute with a forward directed feeler finger 198 fixed to its extremity, which finger 198 passes through holes 199 in the coin chute channel. Movement of this feeler bar 197 is limited by a stop or stops 200 engaging the main bar 190, and spring tension 201 directs it in an anti-clockwise direction.

Pivotally secured to each of these two bars 190, 197 (Fig. 3) is a spring tensioned ratchet pawl 202a, 202b engaging with the ratchet teeth 203 of a spring controlled counting wheel 204. This counting wheel 204 is freely pivoted to the same axis as the two bars 190, 197 and is spring-tensioned at 205 to rotate it in a clockwise direction. Upon the side face of this wheel 204 are carried two arcuate cam plates 206a, 206b adjustable in position by means of pins or screws 207 and holes 208, one plate 206a being of larger radius than the other 206b. The cam plates 206a, 206b and counting wheel 204 may be provided with indicating means 209 to show the number of coins which will be counted into the pool. Each of these cam plates 206a, 206b subtends an angle equal to a predetermined number of ratchet teeth 203 on the periphery of the wheel. The downwardly extending tail 189 of the divertor plate 182 previously described presses on the periphery of the arcuate cam plates. Stop means 210 may be provided to limit its motion in this respect.

A control plate 211 is pivotally secured at 212 to the side of the pool container and is spring-tensioned at 213 to turn it in a clockwise direction. An upwardly extending tooth 214 engages with the actuating end 192 of the counting mechanism main bar 190 previously described. A pin 215 carried by the lower part of the control plate 211 comes into contact with the slotted arcuate extension plate 167 of the main trap door 165 previously described. A further pivot pin 216 carries a spindle 217 of a spring connection-link 232 to the main mechanism of the machine. Freely pivoted on the same pin 181 is a neutralizing or resetting bar 219.

The neutralizer or resetting bar 219 (Fig. 3) extends vertically from the pivot 181 on the control plate 211. At its higher end the resetter bar 219 is pivotally connected at 221 to the free end 222 of a short lever arm 223 which lever arm is pivoted to the same point on the side of the container as the diverter plate locking pawl 197 previously described.

Near the higher end of the resetter bar 219 is a tooth 224 which engages with a projection 225 on the divertor plate 182 to reset it. Also near the top of the resetter bar 219 is a peg 226 upon which rests the free end 227 of a pawl lifting lever 228, the other end 229 of which is pivotally secured at 230 to the feeler counting bar 197 and lying so that its top edge is underneath lateral projections 231 from the counting pawls.

The control of the pool mechanism is through the connecting link 232 pivoted from the control plate 211 to the free end of a cam lever 233 and also by a further link 234 connected to a depending lever 235 pivoted at 236 on the upright 237 of the frame, and actuated by the rollers 48a on the first horizontal or winding shaft 44. Said cam lever 233 is pivoted at 238 (Figs. 6 and 6a) to the cross bar of the machine, and has at its other free end 239 a pin 240 engaging with the periphery of a stepped cam 241 fixed at the lower end 244 of the main control cam shaft 25 of the machine.

The stepped cam 241 on the cam control shaft 25 has a spring controlled pawl 245 positioned over an opening 246 in the cam so that its outer edge 247 constitutes a continuation of the radial periphery 248 of the cam.

The action of the pool is as follows:—When the first horizontal or winding shaft 44 is rotated one of the rollers 48a moves the depending lever 235 pivoted to an upright of the frame and

by means of the two links rotates the control plate 211 in an anti-clockwise direction. The tooth 214 on the control plate 211 engages with the actuating end 192 of the counting main arm 190 moving it in a clockwise direction, so moving the forwardly directed finger 194 at its top extremity away from the coin chute 81, taking with it the counting feeler lever 197 and so also withdrawing the feeler finger 198 at its extremity from the coin chute 81. This is called position A. When part of the travel of the roller 48a on the first horizontal shaft 44 is completed the depending lever 235 is released. The control plate 211 thus is free to move to a position called B and held in that position through the link and cam lever 233 with pin 240 at the end pressing against the periphery of the stepped cam plate 241 on the main control shaft 25.

Through the action of the control plate 211 the finger 194 on the counting main arm 190 is allowed to move forward under the coin chute orifice 81. The counting arm 190 moves with it, and the point of its feeler finger 198 remains just outside the coin chute channel.

When the travel of the rollers 48a on the winding shaft 44 is completed, the token or coin used to free the mechanism will have been drawn back by the fingers and dropped into the main coin chute. If the token or coin passes to the pool 116 of the coin chute by means of the deflector plate 127 on the depending arm 121 controlling this side it falls on to the finger of the counting main lever and so is arrested.

The winding action being completed the main control or cam shaft 25 of the machine now rotates through the action of its spring 33 and other mechanism to allow the first frame arm 13a to spin the first number wheel 2a. During this rotation, and before the first stopping point is reached, the pin 240 on the cam lever 233 is allowed to move down a step on the edge of the stepped cam 241. The control plate 211 now moves to a position called C. The counting main arm 190 thus moves its finger 194 further, still supporting the coin, but the feeler finger 198 on the feeler arm 197 is prevented from further movement by the coin or token in the chute, thus the ratchet pawl 202a carried by main arm 190 is moved away from the ratchet pawl 202b on the feeler arm 197, a distance equal to 1 tooth of the counting wheel.

If the main control shaft 25 stops by reason of the frame arm pins 18a . . . entering between the teeth in the toothed discs 9a . . . and not in a radial slot 12a . . . (no win) no further movement of the pool mechanism occurs, it remains at position C.

On the next winding operation of the machine the same operations occur; the pool control plate 211 is first moved to position A, when the token or coin previously arrested is allowed to issue from the coin chute by reason of the finger of the counting main arm 190 being withdrawn from under it, the coin strikes the divertor plate 182 which is in its first position i. e. its tail 189 resting on the larger diameter arcuate cam plate 206a on the counting wheel 204 and is diverted forward into the reserve pool 164.

On movement of the counting main arm 190 from position C to position B it takes up the free movement between it and the feeler arm 197 and in moving from position B to position A carries the feeler arm 197 with it. The two ratchets on the counting main arm 190, on the feeler arm 197 will have now closed together again the distance equal to one tooth of the counting wheel, thus having accomplished a net movement of one tooth of the counting wheel 204. This net movement of one tooth of the counting wheel 204 occurs every time a coin is directed to the pool side of the coin chute. When a predetermined number of tokens or coins have been diverted to the reserve pool, the counting wheel 204 will have rotated sufficiently to allow the tail 189 of the divertor plate 182 to fall off the first arcuate cam plate 206a on to the second or smaller diameter arcuate plate 206b. This is the second position of the divertor plate 182. Coins are now directed down the back of the pool container 159 into the lower or main pool 165b. Again when a predetermined number of coins have been directed this way, the counting wheel 204 will be rotated to a point where the tail 189 of the divertor plate 182 falls off the end of the second arcuate cam plate 206b and is thus free to move to its third or locked position, thus preventing any further coins being directed to the pool side of the main coin chute as previously described.

To pay out the pool it is necessary for the machine to successively spin all the number wheels 2a . . . i. e. frame arm pins 18a . . . drop into radial slots 12a . . . of all toothed discs of number wheels 2a . . . Then the main control cam shaft 25 will have rotated sufficiently to allow the pin 240 on the cam lever 233 to fall into an opening 246 in the stepped cam 241. This moves the control plate to a position D. The pin 215 on the control plate 211 which engages the slotted arcuate extension plate 167 of the bottom trap door 165 now moves to a position over the slot 171 in the arcuate surface thus allowing the arcuate plate 167 to rise and consequently the main trap door 165 to fall and also the contents of the main pool which fall into a collecting trough directed to deliver the coins to outside the machine.

The neutralizing or resetting bar 219 is lifted, thus rotating the short lever arm 223, which in turn lifts the divertor plate locking pawl 187 by reason of a stop peg 187a on this pawl, thus unlocking the divertor plate 182 if it has been in the locked position. The tooth 224 on the resetting bar 219 presses against the lateral projection 225 of the tail 189 of the divertor plate 182 thus moving the divertor plate back to its first position. At the same time the peg 226 on the resetting lever 219 lifts the free end 227 of the pawl lifting lever 228, lifting the two counting pawls 202a, 202b, and thus releasing the counting wheel 204, which turns under tension of its spring 205 in a clockwise direction back to its initial or neutral position until stopped by stop 210.

On the next winding action of the machine the control plate 211 is moved from position D to position A. During the movement D to C the pin 215 re-engages the arcuate extension 167 of the main trap door 165 thus closing it. The resetting lever 219 withdrawn releases the pawls 202a, 202b and so forth. The ratchet pawl 189 controlling the reserve trap door wheels 178, 172 is at position D high enough to engage a tooth 179 in the ratchet wheel 178, and on movement D to A rotates the ratchet wheel 178, to bring the opening 175a, 175b in the periphery of the larger wheel 172 to allow the reserve pool trap door 168 to fall and release its contents into the main pool.

Further action of the machine moving the con-

trol plate 211 between positions A and C allows the aforesaid reserve ratchet pawl 180 to engage further near spaced teeth 179 in the ratchet wheel 178, thus rotating in successive stages the pool control wheels 178, 172 closing the reserve pool trap door 168. When the trap door 168 is closed, half a revolution has been completed, and a wide space on the small ratchet wheel 178 prevents the ratchet pawl connecting again until a further pool release occurs i. e. movement to D.

In order to divert small discs or coins inserted into the apparatus to free it, a chute 249 is provided beneath the hereinbefore mentioned pins that support tokens or coins of the proper size preparatory to their being engaged by the freeing mechanism. If the token or coin inserted is too small it will fall between the pins into said chute 249 and then into a suitable receptacle not shown so that the freeing mechanism cannot be operated by it.

In a modified form of device as illustrated in Fig. 14 the stepped plate 151 is secured to a lever 252 pivoted at 251 to the prize delivery slide casing 252' and this lever 252 is pivotally attached at 253 through a link 253' to an arm 254 on a post 255 on the opposite side of the frame 45*b*, which post 255 is provided with arms 256*a* actuated by downwardly projecting lug 257*a* on the frame arms 13*a* . . . to rotate said post 255 to actuate said arm. The plate 151 is controlled by a spring 258 attached to said post 255.

The mechanism is enclosed in a case 259 (Fig. 12*a*) provided with a coin slot 260, one or more windows 261 through which the numbers on the wheels 2*a* . . . can be seen, windows through which the pool coins can be seen, skill-control levers 262*a* . . . and the starter lever 43 controlled by spring 263 (Fig. 13).

The coin slot 260 consists of a hollow chute casting 264 (Fig. 12*b*) having a selecting ring 265 rigidly fixed to it. The hollow chute 264 is rectangular of a size amply large enough for coins to pass down it. The selecting ring 265 has an internal bore of a size to pass the correct size of coin but to prevent insertion of an oversize or damaged coin. The distance between the edge 266 of the selecting ring inside the hollow chute and the back face 267 of the chute is just sufficent to allow the normal thickness of coin to pass, but to prevent bent or damaged coins passing.

For easy removal the coin slot casting 260 is fastened to its place on the outside of the case by a forward lug 268 or projection which engages under a fixed part 269 of the case and a further wedge-shaped lug 270 projecting towards the rear of the case. A spring tensioned locking lever 271 is pivoted horizontally inside the case to engage with the wedge shaped lug 270 of the coin slot and by its engagement locks the coin slot flat into position.

The starting lever 43 is provided with buffers 272 (Fig. 13) that limit the angle through which it may be operated, and a pivoted driving part 273 engages one of the rollers 48*a* . . . on the operating shaft when the starting lever is moved in one direction and is tripped out of its path when the lever 43 is returned to its starting position.

In some cases it may be desired to employ coins and in others tokens or checks to operate the machine. This is a matter of choice for the owner of the machine. When tokens or checks are employed, by providing them with an orifice as hereinbefore described, the use of a star-wheel as hereinbefore described ensures the employment of the proper tokens or checks. By removal of the star-wheel the machine is rendered available for use with coins or unorificed tokens or checks.

Where tokens or checks are employed they may if desired be exchanged for a certain value in cash or goods.

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

1. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus for playing a game of skill comprising in combination a plurality of wheels, lever actuating means for spinning said wheels independently and consecutively and means whereby when a wheel spins and stops in a winning position the wheel underneath is spun, but in any other position the first mentioned wheel prevents the spinning of all the wheels below it, means for freeing said lever actuating means by the insertion of a coin, token or check in the apparatus, skill-control means for stopping said wheels, and means for delivering a prize determined by the positions in which the wheels are stopped.

2. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising means for spinning the wheels consecutively and paying out prizes consecutively whilst the machine is in operation.

3. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising means for delivering a pool to the successful player when a predetermined wheel of the series is stopped in a winning position.

4. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising spring actuated lever means for spinning the wheels independently and consecutively.

5. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising lever means for freeing said lever actuating means.

6. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 with rotatable discs carrying shallow and deep radial recesses coacting with projections on rotatable arms for stopping said wheels.

7. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising means controlled by a movable stepped plate for delivering a prize determined by the positions in which the wheels stop.

8. In coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1, a coin-chute, a return coin-chute, a pivoted hopper above said coin-chute, a downwardly extending plate to said hopper, which can pass freely through said coin chute, having side plates to prevent an implement being passed down the chute, a gravity device for moving said hopper whereby the hopper is maintained over the return coin chute after a coin inserted to free the apparatus has fallen below its downwardly extending plate and a star wheel for separating orificed tokens from unorificed tokens or coins inserted in the apparatus.

9. In coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1, delivery mechanism comprising delivery slides and having a stepped plate controlling the delivery slides, a prize magazine above said delivery slides, and mechanism for selectively delivering a predetermined prize by said slides.

10. In coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a main pool, a reserve pool, means for releasing said pools, a stepped cam for controlling said means, setting gear for said pools, trap doors to said pools, a

divertor plate, means for controlling said divertor plate for diverting tokens selectively into said pools, a counting wheel, and a resetting bar for moving said divertor plate to its initial position and said counting wheel to its neutral or initial position.

11. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1, comprising an operating shaft, a casing provided with coin slot means, a window for inspecting the pool, skill control means for stopping the wheels, a starting lever having a pivoted driving part that operatively engages said operating shaft when moving in one direction and means for tripping said driving part when the lever is returned to its starting position.

12. Coin-, token-, or check-freed mechanism according to claim 1 comprising spring actuated means for stopping the wheels independently.

13. Coin-, token-, or check-freed apparatus according to claim 1 comprising means for separating inserted coins from orificed tokens or checks similar to those with which the prize magazine and pool are charged before they are used, said means including a chute into which star-wheel teeth can enter and a star wheel so situated that its successive teeth enter the chute and the orifices of successive tokens or checks, whereby the star-wheel is rotated and the orificed token or check allowed to pass further down the chute.

BERNARD WILLIAM BRENNER.