E. KRANCHER.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 1, 1911.

1,047,657.

Patented Dec. 17, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

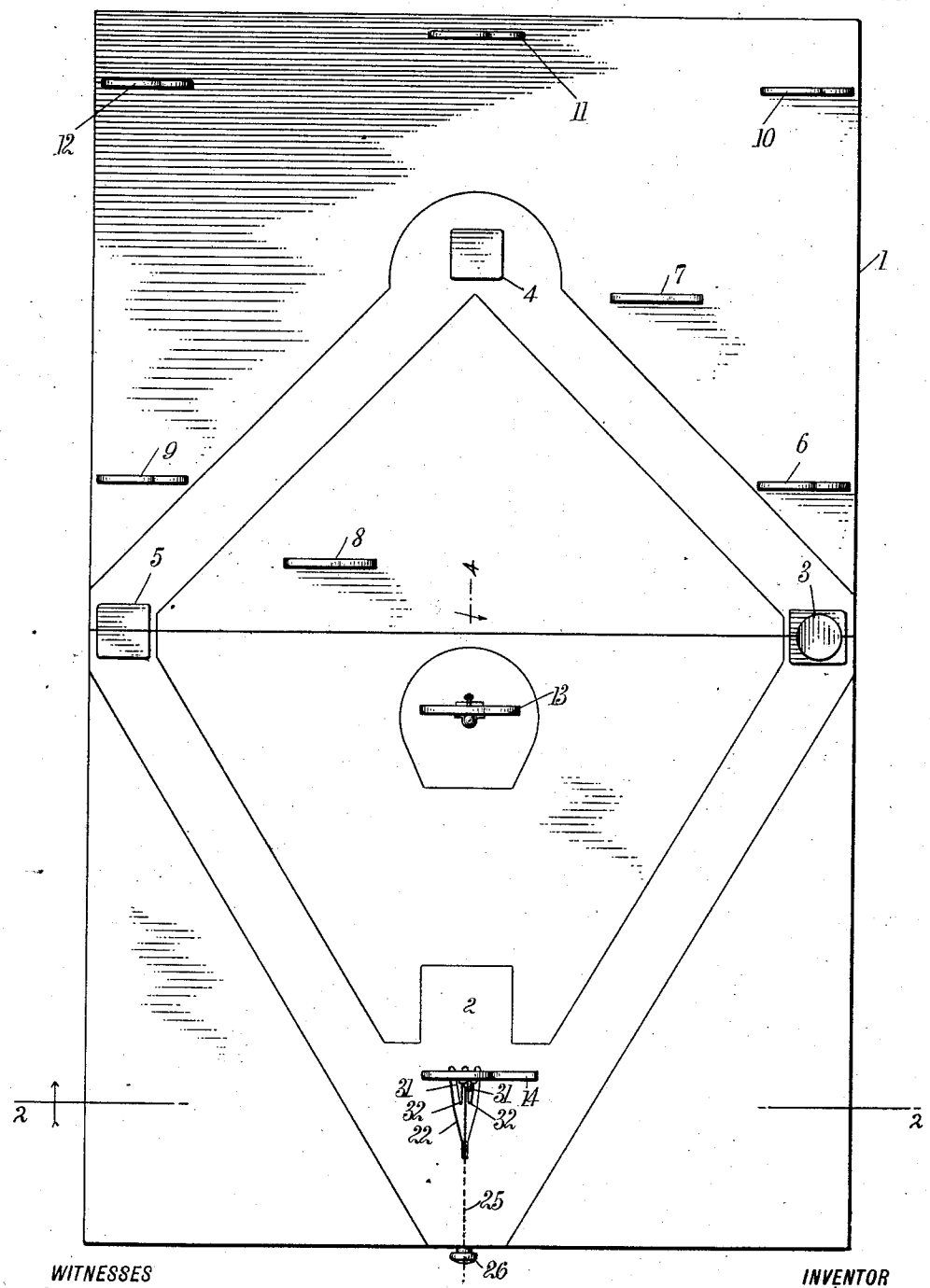

Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

George Bamby

Wm. F. Nickel

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ATTORNEYS

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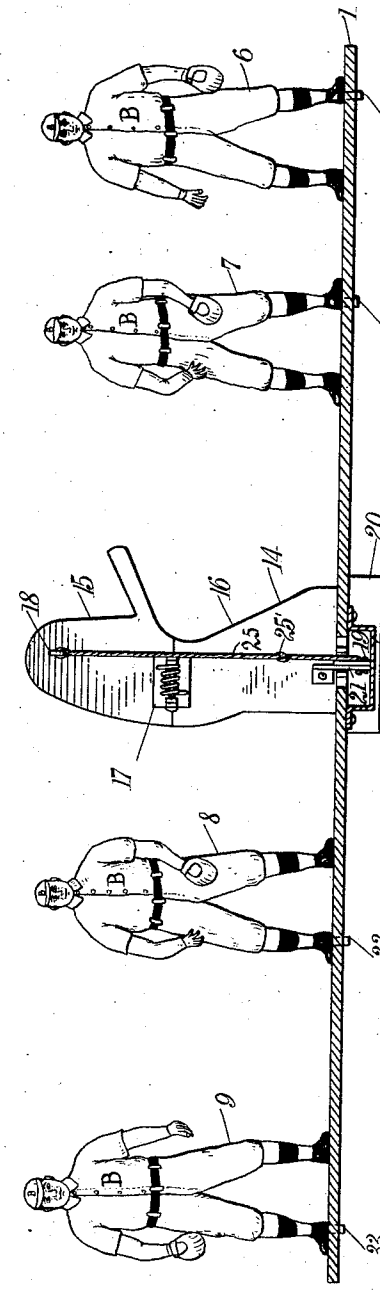

Fig. 2.

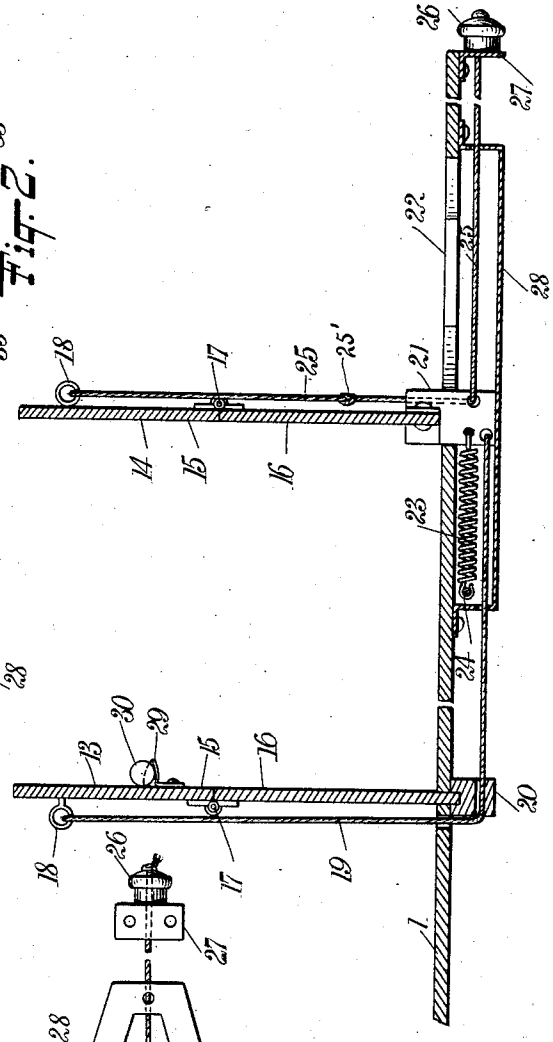

Fig. 4.

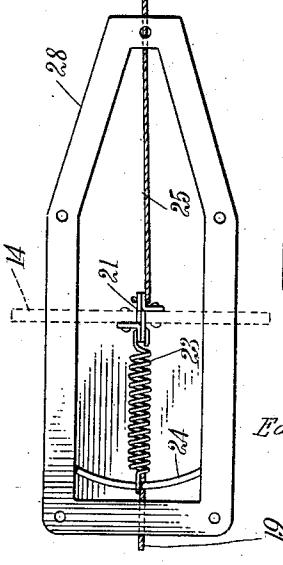

Fig. 3.

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EDWARD KRANCHER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GAME APPARATUS.

1,047,657. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 17, 1912.

Application filed December 1, 1911. Serial No. 663,226.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD KRANCHER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in games, and particularly to apparatus for mechanically playing the game of base ball upon a base or board.

For this purpose my apparatus comprises suitable devices for throwing a movable member representing a ball, with which the game is played, and striking said member after being thrown, so as to propel it in different directions across the board; upon which is represented a base ball diamond having bases and base paths and provided with figures which represent the players.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which the same characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 represents a top plan of the board upon which the game is played; Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a top plan of the mechanism by means of which the parts which throw and bat the movable member representing the ball are actuated; and Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

On the drawings, the numeral 1 is a board which forms a suitable base, and on the top surface of this board is represented a base ball diamond having bases 2, 3, 4 and 5, connected by suitable lines forming the base paths; and the numerals 6 to 12 inclusive indicate figures representing the players of the team.

The numeral 6 indicates the first baseman, the numeral 7 the second baseman, the numeral 8 the short-stop, the numeral 9 the third baseman, and the numerals 10, 11 and 12 the right fielder, the center fielder and the left fielder, respectively. The figure which represents the pitcher is shown at 13, and the figure which represents the batter is shown at 14. When the game is played, the pitcher is actuated to throw the ball toward the batter, and at the same time the batter is actuated to strike the same and drive it toward the figures representing the in fielders and out fielders. The figures representing the pitcher and the batter each comprises two halves 15 and 16 connected together by means of a spring hinge 17. This spring hinge acts to hold the two sections in the same plane. The lower sections 16 of both the figures in question are always held in a vertical position, but the upper sections will rotate around the hinge 17 against the force of the spring thereof, when desired.

To the backs of the upper sections 15 of the figures 13 and 14 are attached eyelets or staples 18, and to the eyelet 18 on the figure 13 is attached an operating cord 19, which passes down through an aperture in the board 1, and through a perforated guide or bearing 20. The lower section 16 of the figure 13 is rigidly mounted in a slot in the board 1, and fits into a groove in the upper surface of the part 20, the parts being detachably secured in this position to the board 1 by their interfitting engagement with one another. The other end of the cord 19 is secured to a sliding member 21, which moves in a slot 22 in the board 1, and supports in its top the lower section 16 of the batter 14. This sliding member 21 is secured to a spiral spring 23, and the other end of this spring 23 is looped around a curved bar 24, located beneath the board 1. This bar is not curved on the arc of a circle, but is so bent that its ends will be a slightly greater distance from the sliding member 21 when the same is retracted by the spring 23 into one end of the slot 22, than the middle of this bar.

To the eyelet 18 of the batter 14 I secure an operating cord 25. This cord passes through an aperture in the sliding member 21, and then extends rearward to the edge of the base, terminating in a knob 26.

27 is a down-turned lug adjacent the rear edge of the board 1; and the length of the spring 23, the length of the slot 22, and the length of the string 25 are such that when the sliding member 21 is withdrawn by the spring 23, the knob 26 will be pulled against the lug 27, and the vertical portion of the string 25 will be sufficient to allow the spring hinge 17 to hold the sections 15 and 16 of the batter 14 in one and the same plane with each other.

25′ is a knot formed in the cord 25, just above the member 21.

The spring 23 and the bar 24, and the portions of the cords 19 and 25 which are connected to the member 21, are inclosed in a suitable cover or casing 28. This casing is

of course secured to the bottom of the board 1, and it extends past both ends of the aperture 22, as shown in Fig. 4.

On the upper section 15 of the pitcher 13 I arrange a hollow shelf 29, which receives a spherical member 30, representing a base ball. When the upper section 15 is bent over around the spring hinge 17 and then released, this ball is thrown forward toward the batter 14, and when the upper section 15 of the batter is bent around the spring 17, and then released, the member 30, representing the ball, will be struck and propelled toward the fielders.

By referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that the aperture 22 is narrower at the end which is nearer the knob 26 on the cord 25. At its other end it widens and terminates in a plurality of recesses 31, separated by fingers or projections 32. One of these recesses will be centrally arranged, and when the batter 14 is retracted by the spring 23, the sliding member 21 will slip into one or the other of the recesses 31, to vary the angle of impact with the ball 30, and consequently the direction in which this member 30 is driven.

To play the game, the spherical member 30, representing the ball, is laid upon the concave shelf 29, and the knob 26 is pulled. This action will first rotate the upper section 15 of the batter 14 against the force of the spring hinge 17; but when the knot 25′ in the cord 25 engages the edge of the aperture in the member 21, through which the body of the cord 25 slides, this member will be drawn rearward, moving the batter 14 bodily with it and tensioning the spring 23 and pulling upon the cord 19. The stressing of the cord 19 rotates the upper section 15 of the pitcher 13 in the opposite direction to that of the rotation of the section 15 of the batter. The knob 26 is then released. The spring 23 then retracts the sliding member 21, easing the cord 19, and at the same time withdrawing the sliding member 21, upon which the batter is mounted, toward the end of the slot 22 having the longitudinal recesses 31. The easing of the cord 19 permits the return of the upper section 15 of the pitcher, and this results in propelling the spherical member 30 toward the upper section 15 of the batter. The bodily movement of the batter 14 to meet the ball, as well as the movement of the upper section 15, due to the force of the spring hinge 17, will be sufficient to strike the ball with sufficient force to drive it across the diamond. If the ball strikes a player it will of course mean an "out", but if it passes the players, the operator will be entitled to credit for a base hit.

The end of the spring 23 being loose around the curved bar 24, this end of the spring will be free to work along the bar 24 a slight distance to either side of the middle of the bar. If, when the string is pulled, the end of the spring engages the bar 24 in its exact center, the returning effect of the spring 23 will cause the sliding member 21 to enter the central recess 31, and the ball will be therefore met squarely and be driven straight at the pitcher or over his head past second base. If, however, the end of the spring has worked a little to one side of the center of the bar 24, the retractile effect of the spring will cause the member 21, to which the batter 14 is secured, to move to one side or the other, with the result that the member 21 will fly into one of the recesses 31, beside the central recess. In this instance the ball will not be met squarely, but will be driven toward the right or left field. Hence, by means of the apparatus which I have shown and described, the ball is not always driven in the same direction, but may travel in almost any direction inside or outside of the foul lines, much the same as in a real base ball game.

With a little practice, the operator can work the spring 23 to one side or the other, merely by manipulating the cord 25, before he actuates the parts to a sufficient extent to cause the ball to be thrown and batted. In this way the skill of the person playing the game can be exerted to drive the ball in any desired direction; that is to say, he can practice the art of place-hitting which professional players have made famous.

Ordinarily I prefer to mount the figures representing the fielders upon the board 1 so that each can turn around a pivot 33, this pivot being located to one side of the longitudinal axis of the figure. With the players mounted in this way, if the ball is batted hard enough to cause a player to turn when the number 30 strikes him, an error can be registered; but if the ball strikes a player without turning him, in other words, if the pivoted piece representing a fielder completely stops the ball, the fact will indicate a put-out.

I wish to have it understood that the apparatus shown and described is illustrative only, and that I do not care to be limited to the details thereof, except in so far as is indicated in the following claims:

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. Apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a board bearing the representation of a base ball diamond upon its surface, a plurality of figures representing players pivotally mounted upon said board, and means for propelling a movable member representing a base ball, toward said figures.

2. Apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a board having the representation of a base ball diamond upon

its upper surface, a plurality of figures pivotally mounted upon said board, said figures representing fielders, means mounted upon said board for propelling a movable member toward the corner of the diamond representing the home plate, and means representing a batter for striking said movable member for propelling the ball back toward the fielders.

3. Apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a board, a figure representing a pitcher comprising a movable section, means for supporting a member representing a base ball upon said movable section, means for moving said movable section to throw said member, a figure representing a batter mounted to be bodily movable with respect to said member, said last-named figure also having a movable section, resilient means for actuating the last-named section, and means for causing the figure representing the batter to strike the ball thrown by the figure representing the pitcher.

4. Apparatus for playing the game of baseball, comprising a board having a figure representing a pitcher mounted thereon, said figure comprising a fixed lower section and a movable upper section, the upper section having means for supporting a member representing a base ball, said sections being connected by means of a spring hinge, and flexible means connected to said upper section to move the same against the force of said spring hinge, whereby, when the said flexible means is pulled and subsequently released, the force of the spring hinge will return the upper section to propel the member representing the ball away from the figure.

5. Apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a member having an aperture or slot therein, a member slidably mounted in said slot, a figure representing a batter secured to said slidable member, said figure having a movable upper section, a spring hinge for connecting said movable upper section to the lower section, flexible means connected to said upper section and slidably engaging the said sliding member for moving said figure bodily and rotating the upper section, and resilient means connected to said sliding member for retracting said sliding member, whereby, when the said flexible means is pulled and released, the upper section of the figure will be moved by the force of said spring hinge, and the figure as a whole will be moved by said resilient means to strike a member representing the base ball and propel the same in a certain direction.

6. Game apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a board, a figure representing a batter, slidably mounted with respect to the said board, means for moving said figure in one direction, resilient means for moving said figure in another direction, and means for anchoring said resilient means loosely engaging the same to permit said means to move laterally to a slight extent and thus cause the figure representing the batter to move obliquely to one side or the other when returned by said resilient means.

7. Game apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a board having a slot therein, said slot having a widened end with longitudinal recesses separated by longitudinal fingers, a sliding member mounted in said slot, said sliding member supporting a figure representing a batter, means for pulling said sliding member in one direction in said slot and resilient means for pulling said sliding member in another direction in said slot toward said recesses in the widened end, a curved bar to which one end of said resilient means is loosely secured, the ends of said bar being farther from the center of the recessed end of the slot than the middle thereof, to permit said resilient means to work along the bar to either side of the center, whereby when the figure representing the batter is pulled away from the the recessed end of the slot against the force of the resilient means, and released, the said resilient means will cause the figure representing the batter to be returned in either a straight or in an oblique direction, according to whether the end of the resilient means engages said bar centrally or on either side of the center of the same.

8. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, a figure representing a player, said figure comprising an upper section and a lower section, a spring hinge for connecting said sections, and flexible means connected to said upper section to move the same against the force of the hinge, whereby, when said means is pulled and released, the force of the spring will move the upper section to propel a member representing a base ball away from the figure.

9. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, a figure representing a player, a base upon which said figure is mounted, means for slidably mounting said base to enable the same to be moved, flexible means connected to said base to move the same, and resilient means for returning said base and the figure carried thereby to its original position.

10. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, the combination of a figure representing a player, said figure comprising an upper section and a lower section, a spring hinge for connecting the same, a base carrying said figure, means for slidably mounting said base, resilient means for maintaining said base in one position, and means connected to said base and to said upper section for moving the base and said figure and simultaneously rotating the upper section

against the force of the hinge, whereby when the said moving means is released, the upper section and the base will be returned to their original positions.

11. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, the combination of a figure representing a pitcher, said figure comprising an upper section and a lower section, a spring hinge connecting said sections, a second figure representing a batter, said batter likewise comprising a movable section and resilient means for moving the same, and opwise comprising a movable section, and operating means for simultaneously actuating the movable sections of the pitcher and batter, said operating means when released allowing the movable sections to return to their original positions.

12. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, the combination of a figure representing a pitcher, said figure comprising a lower section and an upper section, a spring hinge for connecting said sections, a second figure representing a batter, means for movably mounting said batter, resilient means for maintaining said batter in one position, and means connected to said batter and the movable section of the pitcher for operating the same, said means when released permitting the batter and the movable section of the pitcher to return to their original positions.

13. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, the combination of a figure representing a pitcher, said figure comprising a lower section and a movable upper section, a spring hinge connecting said sections, a second figure representing a batter, said batter likewise comprising a lower section and an upper section and a spring hinge connecting the same, means for mounting said batter to enable the same to be bodily movable, resilient means connected to said mounting means to keep the batter in one position, and operating means connected to the mounting means and to the movable sections of the batter and pitcher for operating the same simultaneously, said operating means when released permitting the batter and the movable section thereof and of the pitcher to return to their original positions.

14. Game apparatus for playing the game of base ball, comprising a figure representing a batter slidably mounted, means for moving said figure in one direction, resilient means for moving said figure in another direction, and a curved bar to which said means is loosely secured, the bar being so bent that its ends will be farther from the center of the batter than the center thereof when the figure is at the limit of its movement due to the action of the resilient means, whereby the end of said resilient means secured to the bar can move laterally to a slight extent and cause the figure to move obliquely to one side or the other when returned by said resilient means.

15. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, the combination of a base, a figure representing a batter, means for movably mounting said figure so as to make the same bodily movable, and resilient means for returning said figure, said base having guiding means to enable said figure to move in different directions when moved by said means for returning the same.

16. In apparatus for playing the game of base ball, a base, a figure representing a batter, and means for mounting said figure to enable the same to be bodily movable, said base having a slot with a plurality of notches in one end to guide said figure in different directions.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDWARD KRANCHER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM F. NICKEL,

PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.