T. J. BURKE.

WAR GAME.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 25, 1917.

1,257,069.

Patented Feb. 19, 1918.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

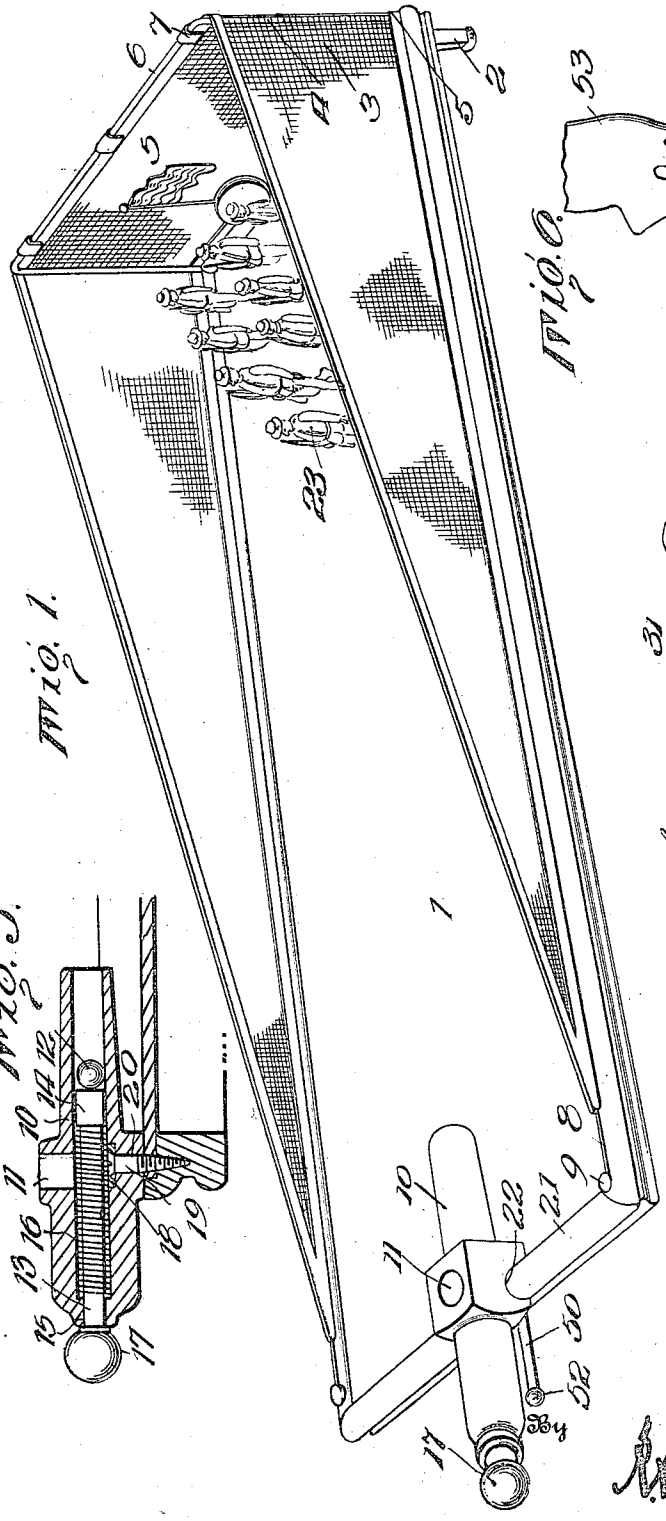


Fig. 1.

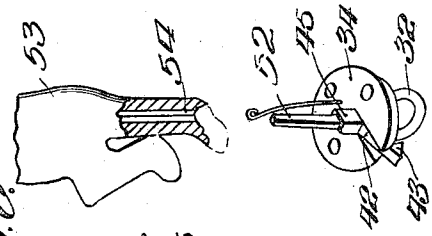


Fig. 6.

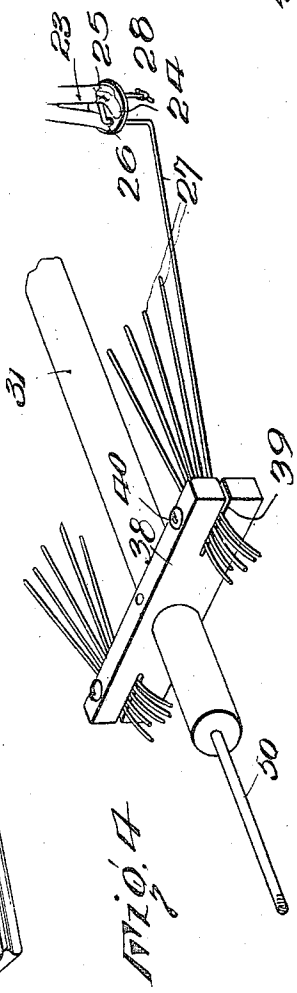


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

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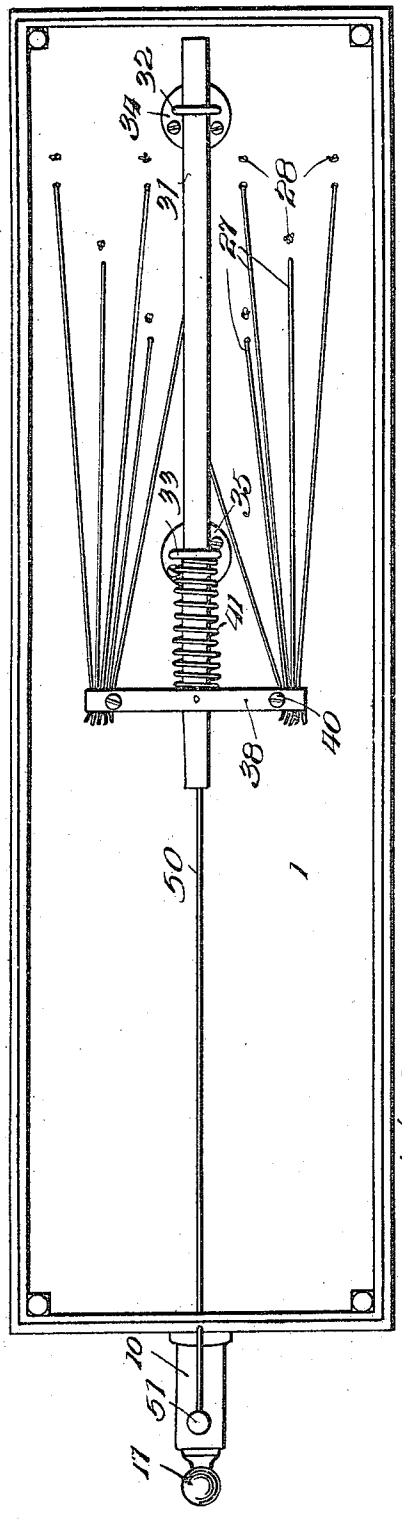


Fig. 2.

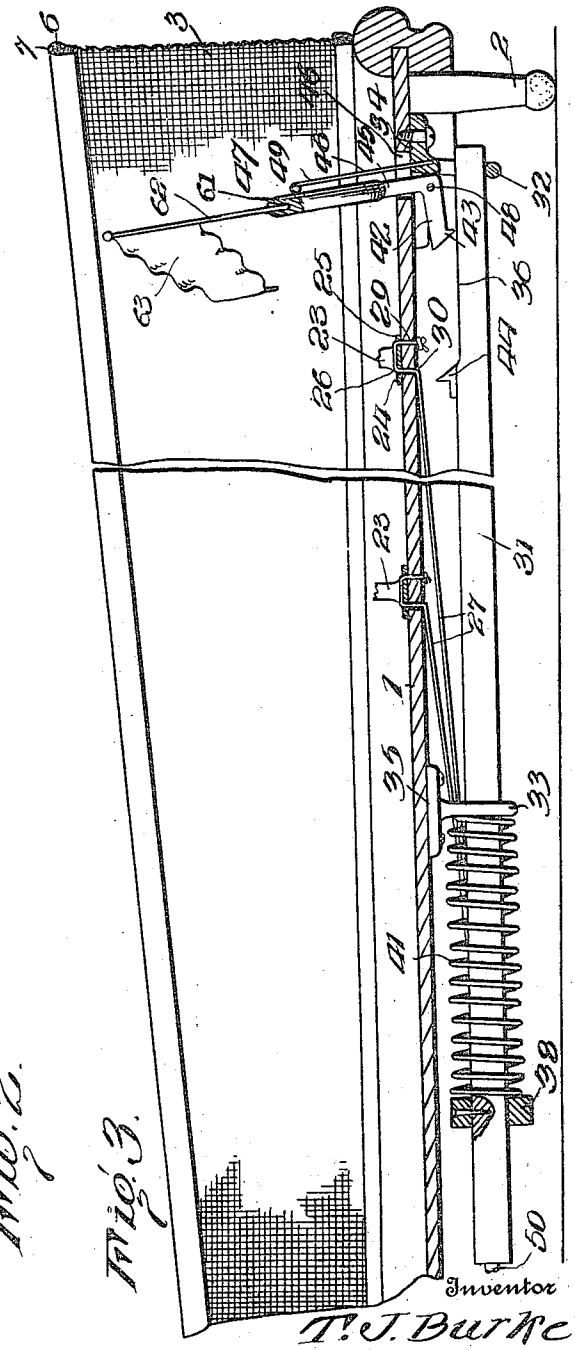


Fig. 3.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

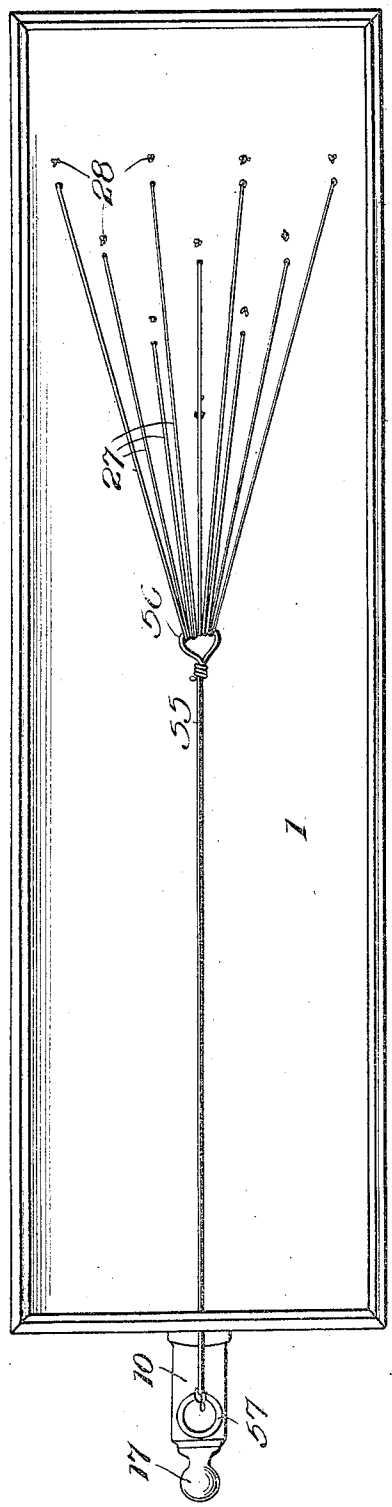


Fig. 7.

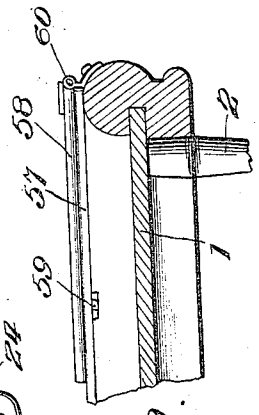


Fig. 9.

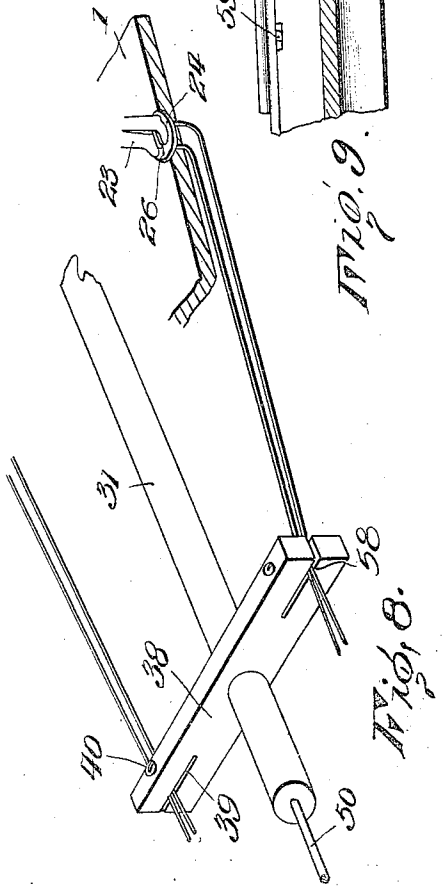


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. BURKE, OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

WAR GAME.

1,257,069. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 19, 1918.

Application filed January 25, 1917. Serial No. 144,436.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. BURKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Orleans, in the parish of Orleans and State of Louisiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in War Games, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to game apparatus and more particularly to that type embodying a base designed to support a number of objective game pieces in upright position, means for setting the game pieces, and a projectile throwing means, and it is one aim of the present invention to provide in an apparatus of this class a novel setting device which may be readily actuated to quickly automatically accurately reset all of the game pieces simultaneously and which may be also actuated to relieve the game pieces of tension so that they stand upon their bases and be otherwise unsupported so that when any one or several of the game pieces are struck by the projectile of the game apparatus they will be caused to fall.

Another aim of the invention is to provide in conjunction with the setting device for the game pieces, a target element which becomes the objective at which the projectile throwing device is aimed after all or a portion of the game pieces have been knocked down, the arrangement of parts being such that when this target element is struck by the projectile the device for resetting the game pieces will be released to automatically act for the purpose stated.

The means provided for resetting the game pieces embodies flexible elements which are connected individually to the game pieces and to a member which is moved through the influence of a compression spring and which is designed to place the flexible elements under tension so as to move the game pieces to upright position and so hold them, and it is a further aim of the invention to so construct the said member that the flexible elements connected thereto may be individually tightened or loosened so that when all of the said elements have been properly adjusted and the member is moved through the influence of the said spring the elements will be placed under an equal degree of tension.

Another aim of the invention is to so connect the flexible elements with the game pieces that when the said elements are placed under tension the game pieces in being brought upright will be caused to assume a predetermined position.

Another aim of the invention is to provide a novel means for supporting the netting which is provided for limiting the throw of the projectile and returning the same to the player, the supporting means being so constructed and mounted that it may be laid flat upon the base of the apparatus when the apparatus is not in use and so that therefore the apparatus may be packed in a comparatively small space.

The invention also aims to provide a novel means for supporting the target member so that when the apparatus is not in use this member may be dismounted and thereby permit of the apparatus being packed in a small space.

A still further object of the invention is to mount the projectile throwing device in a novel manner and so that the same may be conveniently swung about to assume various positions thereby testing the skill of the player.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the game apparatus embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the rear end thereof;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a portion of the device for resetting the objective game pieces;

Fig. 5 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the projectile throwing gun and that portion of the base of the device upon which it is mounted;

Fig. 6 is a group perspective view illustrating the parts of a modified form of target member;

Fig. 7 is a bottom plan view of a modified form of the apparatus;

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 4 illustrating a further modification;

Fig. 9 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view illustrating a slight modification of the invention.

The game apparatus embodying the present invention includes a base 1 which at one end is supported by relatively short legs 2 and at its other end by shorter legs or at its last-mentioned end may rest directly upon the table or other support upon which it is disposed. In any event the base is inclined downwardly from its first to its

last-mentioned end and as the projectile throwing device of the apparatus is mounted at the last-mentioned end of the base and the player is stationed at this end, the projectiles after striking the net heretofore referred to and falling upon the base, will roll down the same and thereby be returned to the player. The net above referred to is indicated by the numeral 3 and at its intermediate portion is of greater height than at its ends, the net having its upper edge, as a matter of fact, inclined downwardly from its intermediate portion to meet the lower edge of the said net and as a support for the said intermediate or higher portion of the net there is provided an inverted U-shaped frame including side portions 4 which at their lower ends are removably fitted into sockets 5 located at the corners of the first-mentioned or higher end of the base. The upper portion of the frame is indicated by the numeral 6 and extends between the upper ends of the portions 4 and the net is provided at its upper edge with a plurality of loops 7 which are slipped over the portions 6 in the manner clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The intermediate portion of the net is stretched between the upright portions 4 and the side portions of the net are led in the direction of that end of the base at which the projectile throwing means are located and to the said ends of the net are connected cords or other flexible elements 8 which are tied or otherwise secured to tacks or other fastening elements 9 located at the corners of the said end of the base. At this point it will be understood that when the game apparatus is not in use the supporting frame comprising the members 4 and 6 may be dismounted and disposed flat upon the base 1, thereby occupying but little space. It will also be understood that the frame may be readily and conveniently set up without the use of tools of any sort and that as it is set up the net will automatically be stretched and caused to assume its correct position to serve as a stop for the projectile.

The projectile throwing device is in the nature of a spring gun which comprises a barrel indicated by the numeral 10 and this barrel is provided in its upper side and between its ends with an opening 11 through which the projectile may be introduced, the said projectile being indicated by the numeral 12 and being in the nature of a marble, rubber ball, or any other spherical object. The plunger of the spring gun is indicated by the numeral 13 and is provided at the other end with a head 14, and this plunger is fitted slidably at its rear end through the closed rear end of the barrel 10, as indicated at 15 and a spring 16 is arranged upon the plunger and bears at one end against the said closed end of the barrel and at its other end against the head 14, the plunger at its rear end being provided with a finger knob 17 which may be grasped for the purpose of retracting the plunger, it being understood that after the plunger has been retracted and released the spring 16 will drive the same forwardly so as to throw the projectile 12 from the barrel 10. In order that the barrel may be swung to various positions and thereby provide for the exercise of skill in using the apparatus, the lower side of the bore of the barrel immediately below the opening 11 is recessed and disposed within the recess is a washer 18, a screw 19 being fitted through the washer and through an opening 20 formed in the underside of the barrel, the screw entering the end of the base 1 and constituting a swivel about which the barrel may be swung, the underside of the barrel resting upon the upper side of the base at its said end, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 5 of the drawings. While the base is preferably provided at its lower end with a rail 21 which constitutes a stop for the projectile or projectiles rolling down said base, this rail is cut away between its ends, as at 22, so as not to interfere with the swiveling of the gun.

The objective game pieces of the apparatus may, as well as the target member, be representative of various personages, animals, objects, or images and they are here shown as representing soldiers, the game pieces being indicated in general by the numeral 23 and being each provided with a base 24 having a flat underside adapting it to rest firmly upon the base 1 in such a manner as to support the game pieces in upright position. Each base 24 is formed with two openings, one indicated by the numeral 25, and the other by the numeral 26, and these openings are located in alinement parallel to the front to rear median line of the base. The flexible actuating element for each game piece heretofore referred to is in the nature of a cord, indicated by the numeral 27 and each cord is provided at one end with a knot 28 or other suitable stop and the said cord is threaded upwardly through an opening 29 formed in the base 1 and thence through the opening 25 in the respective game piece after which the cord is led forwardly and then threaded downwardly in the opening 26 in the base of the game piece and through an opening 30 formed in the base 1 in advance of the respective opening 29, it being understood, of course, that there are a plurality of sets of openings 29 and 30 corresponding in number to the number of game pieces. It will also be understood that when any one of the flexible elements 27 is slack the respective game piece, while supported in upright position upon its base, may be readily knocked

down when struck a blow, as, for example, by the projectile of the apparatus. On the other hand, when a pull is exerted upon any one of the flexible elements 27 the respective game piece will be immediately brought to upright position and as the openings 25 and 26 and the corresponding openings 29 and 30 are located in front to rear alinement with regard to the apparatus as a whole, the game pieces will assume a predetermined position, which in the present instance is such that all of the game pieces will face the player, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. It will be understood that the flexible elements 27 constitute parts of the device provided for resetting the game pieces and the said device further includes a reciprocatory member in the nature of a rod 31 which is slidably mounted in eyes 32 and 33 upon the underside of the base 1, the eye 32 being carried by a base plate 34 which constitutes a part of the support for the target member as will be presently described, and the eye 33 being carried by an attaching base 35 which is secured to the underside of the base 1. The eyes 32 and 33 are arranged in front to rear alinement with relation to the base 1 and for a purpose to be presently explained, the said rod at that end located next adjacent the upper end of the said base is flattened upon its upperside, as indicated by the numeral 36. A cross head 38 is secured in any suitable manner upon the rod 31 near the other end thereof and the said cross head is preferably of wood or some other suitable yieldable or resilient material and is formed in each end with a kerf 39 of such dimensions as to more or less snugly and frictionally receive the ends of a number of flexible elements 27, the elements connected with the game pieces at one side of the middle of the base being engaged in the kerf 39 formed in the respective end of the cross head 38. It will be understood that by pressing together the jaws which result from the formation of each kerf, the flexible elements engaged between the jaws will be so frictionally gripped as to connect the said elements for positive movement with the cross head and in order that the jaws may be so moved or in other words in order that the kerfs may be closed or partly closed screws 40 are threaded through the upper edge of the cross head near each end thereof and extend through the upper jaw and into the lower jaw, it being understood that when these screws are tightened the jaws will be closed and when the screws are loosened the jaws may, due to the inherent resiliency of the material from which the cross head is formed, slightly spread so as to relieve the pressure previously exerted against the flexible elements 27. Thus should any one or more of the flexible elements 27 become loosened through any cause whatsoever they may be readily tightened by slightly loosening the corresponding screw 40 and then grasping the free end of the said flexible element or elements and pulling upon the same until taut in the same degree as the associated elements. In order to provide means for so moving the rod 31 in the eyes 32 and 33 as to tension all of the flexible elements 27 and cause the game pieces to assume an upright position, a spring 41 is fitted upon the rod 31 and bears at one end against the eye 33 and at its other end against the cross head 38. It will be understood that when the rod 31 is slid to the right in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the spring 41 will be placed under tension and at the same time the flexible elements 27 will be permitted to become slack. In order that after the rod has been so moved, it may be held against movement in the opposite direction through the action of the spring 41, the target member includes a dog 42 having a tooth 43 designed to engage a keeper 44 upon the upper side of the rod 31 at the end of the flattened portion 36. The dog 42 constitutes one arm of an angle lever, the other arm of which, indicated by the numeral 45, extends upwardly through a slot 46 formed in the base 1 and supports the target member proper which member is indicated by the numeral 47 and in that form of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, is in the nature of a disk which may be plain or ornamental or which may bear any desired image either as desired. The target member 47 is located rearwardly of the group of objective game pieces, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings and at the angle between the arms 45 and 42 the said angle member is pivoted, as at 48, upon the attaching base 34. In order to normally hold the target member 47 in a forward direction and therefore in order that the dog 42 may be yieldably held in position for engagement with the keeper 44, a spring 49 is mounted upon the base 34 and extends upwardly therefrom in rear of the target member 47 and bears at its upper end against the rear side of the said member. It will now be understood that when the tooth of the dog is in engagement with the keeper 44 the rod 31 will be held against forward movement under the influence of the spring 41. However, should the projectile be fired at the target member and should the said projectile hit the said member, the member will be rocked rearwardly and as a result the tooth 43 will be disengaged from the keeper 44 whereupon the spring 41 will act to immediately slide the rod 31 forwardly, thereby correspondingly moving the cross head 38 and simultaneously tensioning all of the flexible elements 27. As the said elements 27 are drawn taut the game pieces

will be brought to upright position in the manner heretofore described. In order that the rod 31 may be manually moved against the tension of the spring 41 so that when it is desired to use the game apparatus and prior to operation of the projectile throwing gun, so as to leave the objective game pieces supported solely upon their respective bases, the rod 31 is provided at its end at which the spring 41 is located with an extension 50 which projects beyond that end of the base 1 at which the projectile gun is located and beneath the said gun, the extension having a finger knob 51 which permits of its being conveniently grasped for the purpose of moving the rod 31.

In that form of the target member shown in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, the member proper is fixed upon or integral with the upstanding arm 45 of the angle lever. In that form of the invention shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings, however, the arm 45 is tapered, as indicated by the numeral 52 and the target member which may be in the image of a man and which is indicated in general by the numeral 53, is formed with a socket 54 to receive the said arm 52, it being understood that the said target member may be removed from the arm when the apparatus is not in use, whereby to shorten the height of the apparatus as a whole and thereby permit of the same being packed in a small space.

While in the previously described form of the invention the objective game pieces are automatically reset when a target element is struck by the projectile of the apparatus, it will be apparent by reference to Fig. 7 of the drawings that the flexible elements which are connected with the said game pieces may in turn be connected with an element designed to be manually actuated to place the said flexible elements under tension and in the said figure the numeral 55 indicates a cord or other flexible element to which the flexible elements 27 are connected, as indicated by the numeral 56. The cord 55 is led through an opening in that end of the base 1 at which the projectile throwing device is located and if desired the said cord may be provided with a ring or other similar element 57 whereby it may be conveniently grasped for the purpose of exerting a pull thereon for tensioning the flexible elements 27 and thereby reset the game pieces.

In the previously described forms of the invention the flexible elements 27 are, as stated, provided with knots or other stop elements 28 which engage the underside of the base 1. However, the said elements may be threaded through the registering openings in the bases of the respective game pieces, and in the base 1 and then have their two ends engaged between the gripped jaws of the cross head 38, as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings, and as indicated by the numeral 58. It will be understood that in any event the essential idea involved so far as this particular feature of the invention is concerned is that of having the game pieces assume a predetermined position as they are brought upright, the desired result being accomplished by having the flexible elements 27 passed through two registering openings in the base of each respective game piece and the base 1.

In that form of the invention shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings the netting 3 is replaced by relatively rigid sides 57 and an end 58 which may be of wire mesh or of sheet material, such, for example, as metal or wood and the said sides and end are hingedly mounted upon the base, as at 59, and 60, respectively, so as to adapt them to lie down flat from the base when the apparatus is not in use

It is preferable that the target member 47 be formed in its upper edge with a socket 61 into which may be fitted the lower end of a small flag staff 62 bearing a flag 63 it being understood that any desired number of these flags may be provided representing the flags of the different nations and that their staffs may be interchangeably fitted into the socket 61.

By reference to Fig. 3 of the drawings it will be observed that the tooth 43 of the trigger device does not contact the rod 31 due to the fact that the said rod is flattened upon its upper side, as at 36, as heretofore explained, and, consequently, there is no friction between these parts as the rod is moved backwardly and forwardly. It will also be apparent that when the tooth 43 is in engagement with the keeper 44 the fulcrum of the trigger is raised to a level with the point of pressure and as a result the trigger is rendered sensitive so that a light blow struck the target member 47 will be sufficient to trip the said trigger.

It is preferable that the spring 49 have its lower end flattened and embedded in the base 34 when the latter is being cast at the time of its manufacture.

It will further be understood that the openings 25 and 26 and 29 and 30 may be disposed transversely of the board if desired so long as respective ones of the openings register when the game pieces are in upright position and facing in the proper direction.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted upon the base, a reciprocatory rod mounted beneath the base, a cross head carried thereby and provided with spaced jaw portions, flexible elements connected with the said game pieces and led through the

said base and frictionally gripped between the said jaw portions of the said cross head, and means tending to move the rod in one direction.

2. In game apparatus of the class described, objective game pieces mounted upon the base, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the said base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, means operable to hold the rod against movement through the influence of the spring, a cross head carried by the arm and having spaced jaw portions, means for closing the said jaw portions, and flexible elements connected with the game pieces and led through the base and engaged between the said jaw portions of the cross head.

3. In game apparatus of the class described, a base having spaced openings therein, an objective game piece disposed upon the base and having its supporting base portion provided with spaced openings designed to register with the openings in the base, a flexible element passed through the openings in the said base and base portion, and means connected with the flexible element for exerting a pull thereon.

4. In a game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted thereon, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, flexible elements connected with the rod and with the objective game pieces and led through the base, an oscillatory target member mounted upon the base, a dog carried by the target member and located beneath the base, and a keeper upon the said rod engageable by the said dog.

5. In game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted thereon, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, flexible elements connected with the rod and with the objective game pieces and led through the base, an oscillatory target member mounted upon the base, a dog carried by the target member and located beneath the base, a keeper upon the said rod engageable by the said dog, the target member including a target element proper and an oscillatory supporting element, the said target element proper being removable from the supporting element.

6. In game apparatus of the class described, a base having spaced openings therein, an objective game piece disposed upon the base and having its supporting base portion provided with spaced openings designed to register with the openings in the base, and a flexible pull element passed through the openings in the said base and the base portion of the game piece.

7. In game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted thereon, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, connections between the rod and game pieces, an oscillatory target member mounted upon the base, a dog carried by the target member and located beneath the base, a keeper upon the said rod engageable by the said dog, the mounting for the oscillatory target member including an attaching base portion and a spring embedded at its lower end in the said base portion and at its upper end bearing against the rear side of the target member.

8. In game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted thereon, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, connections between the rod and game pieces, an oscillatory target member mounted upon the base, a dog carried by the target member and located beneath the base, a keeper upon the said rod engageable by the said dog, the mounting for the oscillatory target member including an attaching base portion, and a spring embedded at its lower end in the said base portion and at its upper end bearing against the rear side of the target member, the said base portion of the mounting having a portion constituting a guide for the said rod.

9. In game apparatus of the class described, a base, objective game pieces mounted thereon, a rod mounted for reciprocation beneath the base, a spring tending to move the rod in one direction, flexible elements connected with the rod and with the objective game pieces and led through the base, an oscillatory target member mounted upon the base, a dog carried by the target member and located beneath the base, and a keeper upon the said rod engageable by the said dog, the target member having a socket, and an emblem having a staff removably fitted in said socket.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

THOMAS J. BURKE. [L. S.]

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."