N. HUNSBERGER.

GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 16, 1916.

1,242,942.

Patented Oct. 16, 1917.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

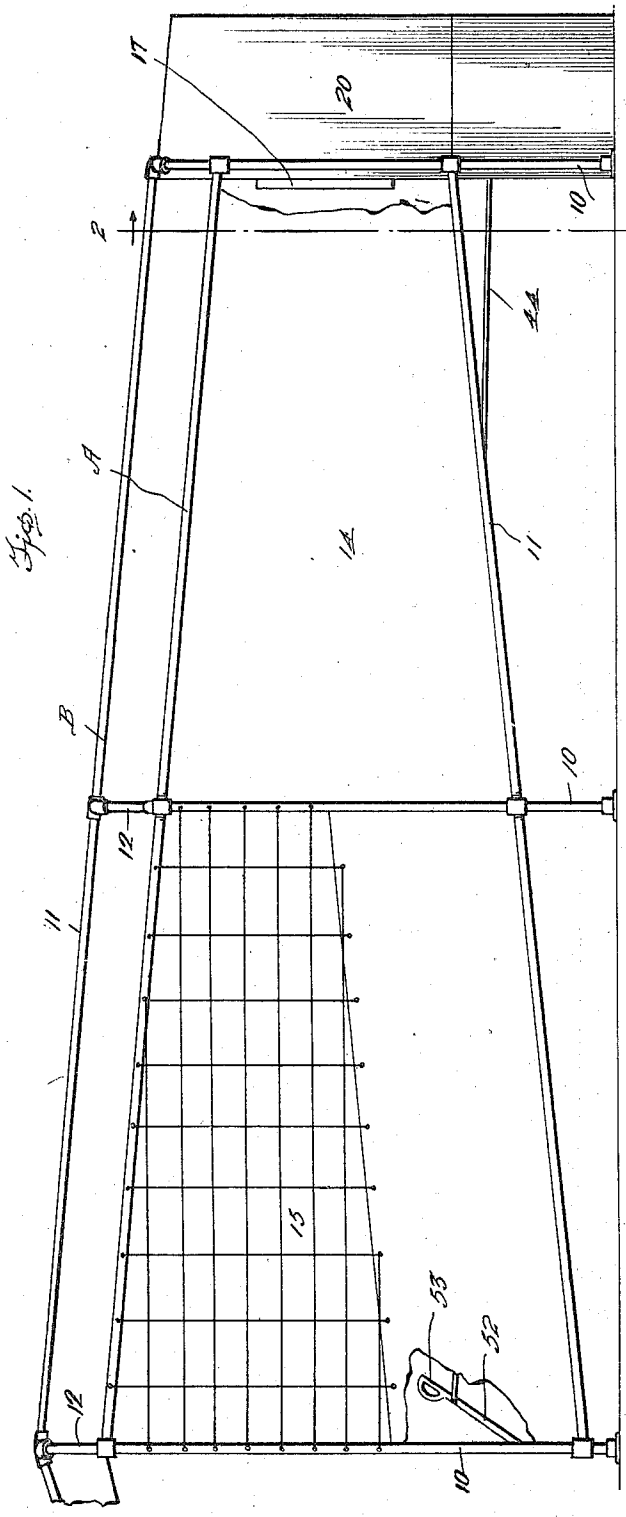
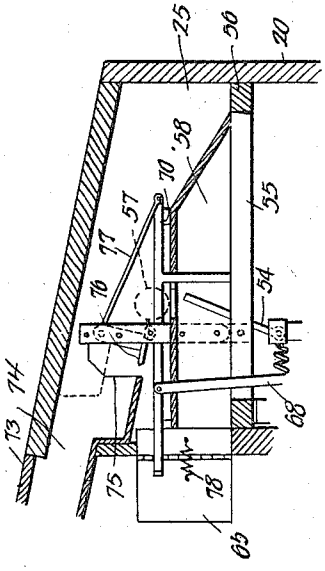


Fig. 8.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

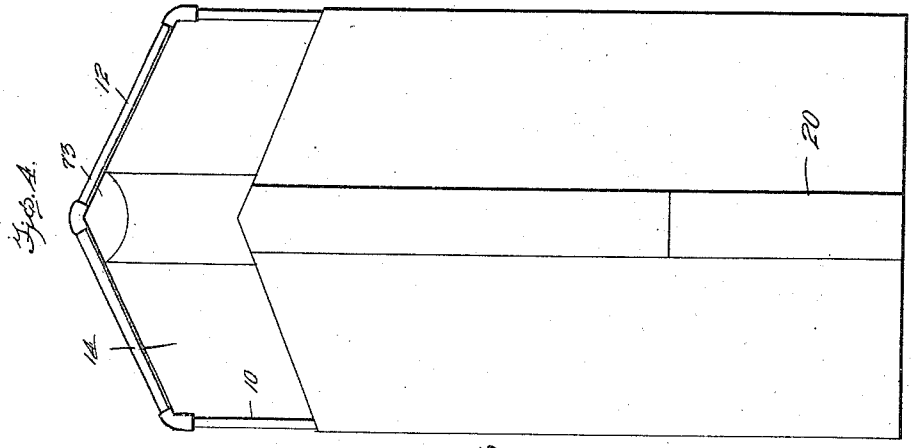


Fig. 3.

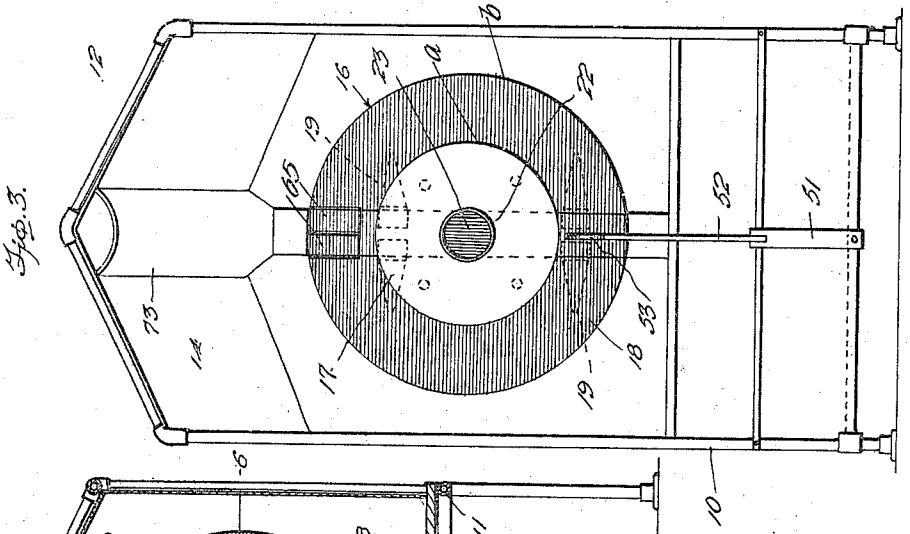
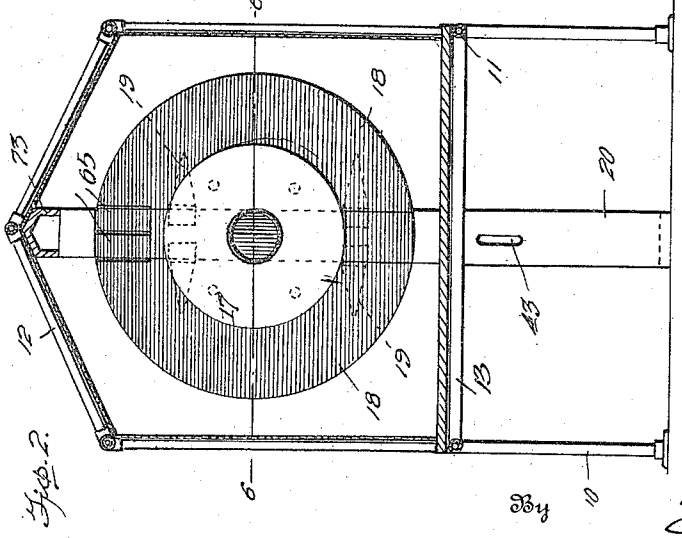


Fig. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 5.

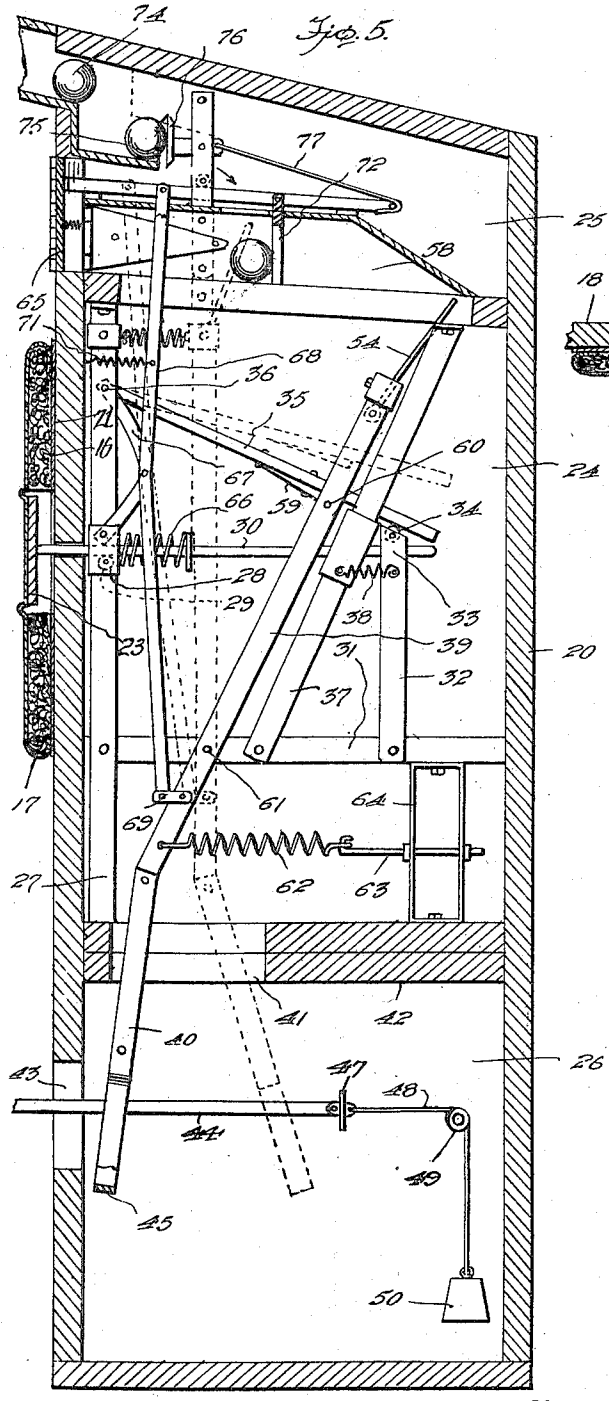


Fig. 6.

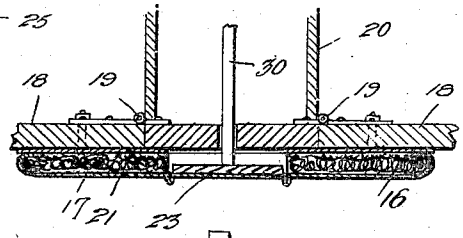
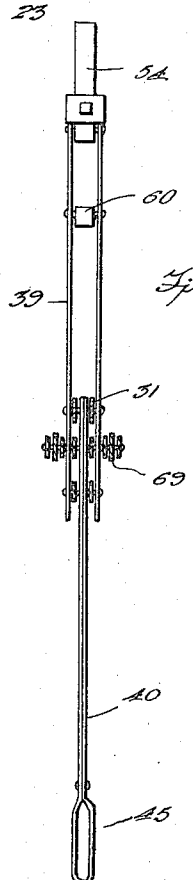


Fig. 7.



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GAME APPARATUS.

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Application filed November 16, 1916. Serial No. 131,713.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NORMAN HUNSBERGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Santa Barbara, in the county of Santa Barbara and State of California, have invented certain useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

The invention relates to a game apparatus, and more particularly to the class of ball game apparatus.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character wherein the player is enabled to master with accuracy the pitching and catching of a base ball and at the same time afforded amusement in the use of the apparatus.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character wherein the ball is thrown and when striking a mark automatically operates the mechanism so that a ball will be batted to the operator, so that in this manner said operator gains experience in both throwing and catching a ball, thus giving amusement and exercise for gaining accuracy in the pitching and catching of the ball.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character which is simple in construction, thoroughly reliable and efficient in its operation, automatic in delivering a ball on the throwing of another, neat, attractive, entertaining and inexpensive in manufacture and installation.

Other objects will be in part obvious and in part hereinafter set forth.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an apparatus constructed in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrow;

Fig. 3 is a front elevation;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevation;

Fig. 5 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view showing by full lines the set position of the mechanism and by dotted lines the automatically shifted position;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is an elevation of the batting lever showing certain adjunct parts in sectional elevation.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view showing in detail the position of the gate for the delivering of a bolt from the chute to the receiver, with the doors open to the receiver.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the apparatus comprises a frame A, the vertical supports 10, the rearwardly convergent longitudinal bars 11, the transversely disposed roof struts 12 and the transversely disposed floor supporting bars 13 constituting the frame, the longitudinal bars 11 being preferably made in section to permit the installation or the knocking down of the frame in a convenient manner, and these sections are joined to the supports 10 in any suitable manner.

Suitably fixed to the sides, top and bottom of the frame and extending throughout a major portion thereof is a covering 14 preferably made from canvas, although the same can be made from any other suitable material, while a portion of the sides of the frame near the wider end thereof carries reticulated or foraminous sections 15, preferably cord netting, for the convenience of spectators when viewing the operation of the apparatus when in use and a game is in progress. This frame, interiorly thereof, forms a way for the pitched ball and the delivered ball in the use of the apparatus, the operation being hereinafter fully described.

Arranged at the smaller end of the frame A is a target which comprises a padding 16 fastened in any suitable manner and having thereover a covering 17, preferably canvas, the padding and covering being supported upon swinging door sections 18 which are mounted upon hinges 19 fixed to the opposite sides of a casing or housing 20 which is disposed rearwardly of and against the rear end of the frame and has therein the mechanism hereinafter fully described.

The covering 17 and sectors 18 have printed or otherwise marked thereon the circles *a* and *b* of the target.

Disposed against the outer faces of the sectors 18 and detachably fastened thereto is a disk 21 which constitutes a part of the target and forms a backing for the covering 17, and this disk, when fastened upon the sectors, prevents the folding of the latter rearwardly and inwardly against opposite sides of the casing or housing 20, the sectors being folded when the apparatus is in disuse or when it is desired to transport the same from one point to another.

The disk 21 has formed centrally therein a circular hole or opening 22 at which point is located the bull's-eye 23 of the target, the covering 17 being disposed over the bull's-eye 23 and this covering at the point of the bull's-eye and concentrically thereof on its outer face bears colors or hues distinguishable from each other, the bull's-eye 23 being preferably red, the covering concentrically of the bull's-eye being preferably white and the sectors on their outer faces concentrically of the covering preferably blue. Formed within the casing or housing 20 are the compartments 24, 25 and 26, respectively, while mounted in said compartment 24 directly rearwardly of the front wall thereof is a vertical frame 27, supporting a guide bearing 28 provided with a friction roller 29 on which moves a plunger 30, the same carrying at its front end the bull's-eye 23, and secured to this frame 27 below the bearing 28 is a horizontal support 31 in which is pivoted a rocker arm 32 to which is connected at 33 the plunger 30 near its rear end, and this arm 32 supports a friction roller 34 for operation upon a trip latch arm 35 swingingly supported upon a pivot 36 at the forward end thereof, the arm being inclined rearwardly and resting upon the roller 34 of the rocker arm 32 for a purpose presently described.

Connected to the top wall of the compartment 24 and also connected to the support 31 is a forwardly inclined brace 37 which has connected thereto a coiled retractile spring 38, the same being also connected to the rocker arm 32 to move the same to normal position on the striking of the bull's-eye by a pitched ball, which depresses said bull's-eye and moves the plunger 30 in a rearward direction. Pivotally connected forwardly of the brace 37 to the support 31 is a swinging batting lever or arm 39 which is formed at its lower end with a resetting extension 40 working within an elongated slot 41 in the bottom 42 between the compartments 24 and 26, while in the front wall of said casing or housing 20 and opening into the compartment 26 is a slot 43 through which works a pull rod 44, the same extending through a loop 45 formed on the resetting extension 40, and this rod 44, at its inner end, protruded within the compartment 26, carries a tap head 47 which works against the yoke end 45 of the resetting extension 40 to move the batting arm or lever 39 to set or cocked position on pulling outwardly upon the said rod 44 which, at the head end 47 thereof, has connected thereto a weight cable 48 which is trained over a guide pulley 49 journaled within the compartment 26, the cable being also connected with a weight 50 which retracts the rod 44 after being pulled upon for the purposes hereinbefore stated.

At the wider end of the frame A and pivoted to an upright 51 is an operating lever 52 provided with a suitable handle 53, and to this lever is connected the pull rod 44 so that the same can be actuated by the operator or user of the apparatus.

Mounted for rocking or adjustable movement on the batting lever or arm 39 near its upper end is a batting wing or plate 54 which works through a suitable slot 55 formed in the top 56 of the compartment 24 to act upon and deliver a ball 57 from a rearwardly inclined ball receiver 58 when the batting arm or lever 39 is actuated for the delivery of a ball from the receiver 58 to be caught by the operator of the apparatus at the front or larger end of the frame A when the said apparatus is actuated. The adjustment of the wing or plate 54 varies the height of throw of the ball from the receiver 58 when the apparatus is in operation.

Formed on the trip lever or arm 35 is a keeper 59 which engages a cross cock pin or member 60 carried by the batting arm or lever 39 so as to normally hold the same cocked for the batting of a ball when automatically released on the striking of the bull's-eye 23 of the target, as will be apparent.

Connected to the batting arm or lever 39 below its pivot 61 is a coiled retractile spring 62 which has connection with an adjustable member 63 mounted in a hanger 64 suitably fastened to the support 31 and the bottom 42 respectively, as shown in the drawings. This spring 62 serves to throw the batting lever or arm 39 when released from cocked position to effect the batting of the ball 57 from the receiver 58, which latter has arranged at its open front end swinging doors 65 which are normally closed and are automatically opened before the delivery of the ball therefrom in a manner presently described.

Suitably fixed to the frame 27 or supported thereby are cushioning springs 66 which are arranged in the path of movement of the batting arm or lever 39 to serve as buffers therefor when the same is released from cocked position.

Carried by the frame 27 is a hanger 67 which has pivoted thereto a rocking lever 68 which is linked at 69 to the batting arm or

lever 39 and also is pivotally connected with a door opening member 70 which acts upon the door 65 prior to the batting of the ball 57 in the receiver 58 for the opening of the doors to permit the delivery of the ball, the rocking lever 68 being acted upon through the medium of a spring 71 for the tensioning thereof, as will be apparent, and this lever 68 works through suitable slots at the top and bottom of the receiver for its proper movement.

Adjustably arranged within the receiver 58 is a ball stop 72 which is suitably slotted to permit the passing of the batting wing or plate 54 therethrough for the batting of the ball in the delivery of the same from the receiver, the ball 57 being delivered to the receiver in a manner hereinafter fully described.

Arranged within the frame A at the roof thereof, medially of the same, is a ball trough 73 which leads to a ball chute 74 above the receiver 58 within the housing or casing 20, and this trough communicates with the receiver 58 through the open end 75 which is controlled by a swinging cut-off gate 76 to which is connected a member 77, the same being also connected to the door opening member 70 at its rear end, the gate being normally closed to stop the delivery of balls from the chute 74 to the receiver, and on the actuation of the apparatus a single ball is successively delivered from the chute 74 to said receiver, as will be apparent.

It is to be understood that the resetting extension 40 can be detached from the lower end of the arm 39 and placed thereon when the occasion requires.

When the ball is batted through the frame A the operator attempts to catch the ball and when the same is recovered it is placed within the trough 73 for its delivery to the chute so that it will be fed within the apparatus for the automatic batting operation thereof. When the operator throws or pitches the ball and it strikes the bull's-eye 23 of the apparatus the batting mechanism is actuated for the delivery of a ball to be caught by said operator. Now in throwing or pitching the ball, should the latter miss the bull's-eye and strike certain zones of the target, this affords a scoring in the favor of the thrower having a predetermined valuation to be tallied upon a score card or the like, and should the operator catch the ball when batted from the apparatus this also indicates a certain scoring to be tallied. The rules and regulations in the use of the apparatus for a game of ball can be determined and any number of players can use the same. When a player arrives at a marking of a determined valuation above any other player this designates the winning of the game. Connected with the doors 75 and with the front of the casing or housing 20 are springs 78 which act upon the doors to normally hold the same closed, which are automatically opened on the forward movement of the member 70 which is actuated automatically, as hereinbefore set forth.

In the operation of the apparatus, it will be assumed that a ball 57 has been delivered to the receiver 58 and is in resting position against the stop 72 interiorly of said receiver, and also that another ball is within the chute 74. The ball is held therein from delivery into the receiver by the gate 76 which is in closed position as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings. The operator at the front of the frame A, when holding a ball, tosses the same by the pitching thereof to strike the target, and when this ball hits the bull's-eye 23 the impact of the blow causes the stem 30 to move inwardly within the housing or casing, and in this movement of the stem 30 the arm 32 is rocked in a direction to trip the latch arm 35 which frees the batting lever or arm 39 and under the action of the tension of the spring 62 said batting lever or arm 39 moves forwardly within the housing or casing, and the batting wing 54 acts upon the ball 57 within the receiver 58, forcing said ball outwardly therefrom, and in the forward movement of the batting lever or arm 39 the rocking lever 68 is moved in a direction to actuate the door opening member 70 which moves forwardly, and the front end thereof acts upon the doors 65, causing the same to open for the free passage of the ball from the receiver into the frame A of the apparatus, and this ball can be caught by the operator at the front end of said apparatus. On the movement of the door opening member 70 the connection 77 with the gate 76 moves said gate to a lowered position so that the chute 74 will be opened for the passage of the ball therein on to the top of the receiver 58 which is formed with a suitable opening to permit the delivery of said ball into the receiver against the stop 72 therein. In resetting the batting arm or lever 39 the operator actuates the throw lever 52 which pulls upon the rod 44 and the head 47 thereon plays against the extension 40 of said arm so that on the movement of the rod 44 in one direction the arm or lever 39 is moved to normal position for engagement of the latch arm 35 therewith, and in this position of the batting arm or lever the spring 62 is tensioned to automatically actuate the same when it is released from the latch arm. On the resetting of the batting arm or lever 39 the rocking lever 68 is moved thereby and in the movement of said rocking lever the door opening member 70 is retracted within the compartment 25 and through the connection 77 therewith from the gate 76 the latter is automatically moved to closing

position to prevent the discharge of a ball from the chute 74 until the batting arm or lever 39 has delivered a ball from the receiver 58 in a manner hereinbefore set forth.

It is to be understood of course that changes, variations and modifications may be made as come properly within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages. The housing 20 is of box-like form and the walled compartment 26 therein can be separable therefrom if desired.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and manner of use of the herein described game apparatus will be readily apparent and, therefore, a more extended explanation has been omitted.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, and a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver.

2. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, and a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver.

3. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, and an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism.

4. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, and means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism.

5. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism, and buffers for the batting mechanism.

6. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism, buffers for the batting mechanism, and means having connection with the setting mechanism to return the same to normal position.

7. A game apparatus comprising a frame, forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting

mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism, buffers for the batting mechanism, means having connection with the setting mechanism to return the same to normal position, doors at the delivery end of the receiver for opening and closing movements, and means for opening the doors prior to the batting of the ball therefrom.

8. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism, buffers for the batting mechanism, means having connection with the setting mechanism to return the same to normal position, doors at the delivery end of the receiver for opening and closing movements, means for opening the doors prior to the batting of the ball therefrom, and means for normally holding the doors closed.

9. A game apparatus comprising a frame forming a way therethrough, a target at one end of the frame and having a movable bull's-eye, a ball receiver above the target, batting mechanism for automatically delivering a ball from the receiver through the way, mechanism for setting the batting mechanism, means for releasing the set batting mechanism when the bull's-eye has been displaced, a ball return trough in the frame, a chute communicating with the trough for delivering balls to the receiver, a gate automatically controlled by the batting mechanism for effecting the discharge singly of balls from the chute to the receiver, an adjustable batting wing coöperative with the batting mechanism, means for regulating the tension on the batting mechanism, buffers for the batting mechanism, means having connection with the said mechanism to return the same to normal position, doors at the delivery end of the receiver for opening and closing movements, means for opening the doors prior to the batting of the ball therefrom, means for normally holding the doors closed, and an adjustable stop within the receiver.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

NORMAN HUNSBERGER.

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