No. 779,423. PATENTED JAN. 10, 1905.

W. H. NICHOLS.

PUZZLE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 5, 1904.

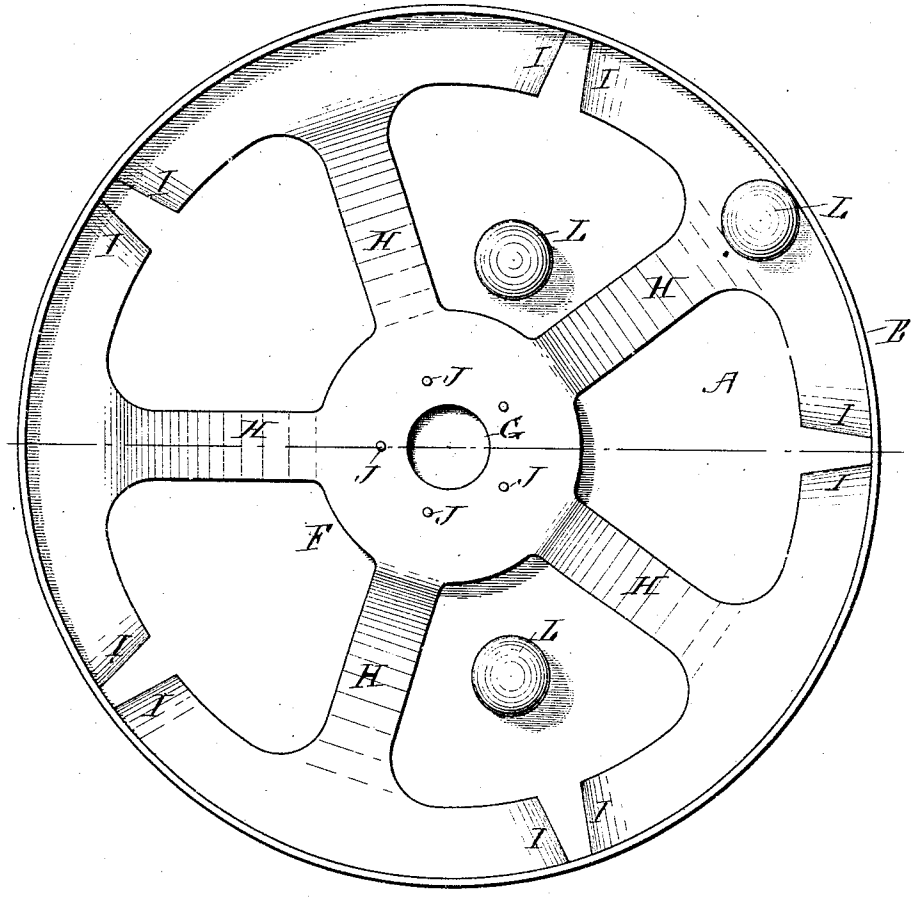


Fig. 1.

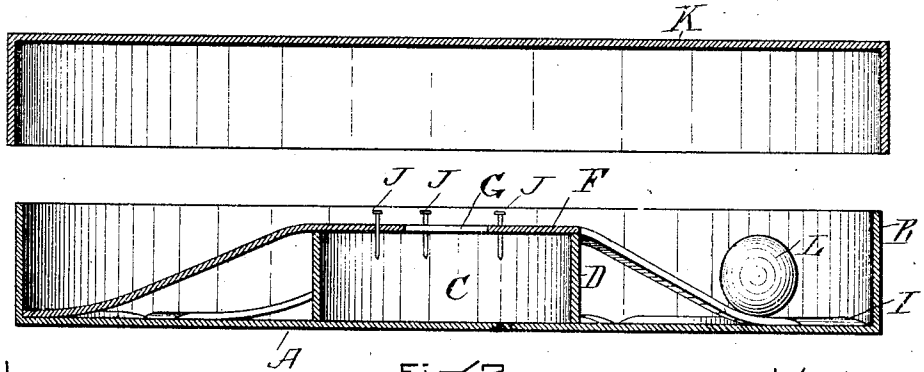


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES.

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No. 779,438. Patented January 10, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

PUZZLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 779,438, dated January 10, 1905.

Application filed July 5, 1904. Serial No. 215,241.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Puzzle, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, in explaining its nature.

My invention is of that class of puzzles wherein it is required to make one or more balls roll into a trap past or over various obstacles and will be readily understood by reference to the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 shows a plan view of a puzzle embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same which is adapted to show the inclined arms hereinafter more fully described.

Referring to the drawings, A is the bottom, and B is the side, of a round shallow box formed, preferably, of cardboard or similar material. In the center of this box is a trap C, composed of a ring D of cardboard concentrically placed with relation to the side of the box. This ring D is preferably constructed with a less height than the box in order that the cover K may be readily slipped on without interfering with the trap. Placed over this ring and forming the top of the trap is a spider having a circular hub F, perforated at the center by a hole G, which forms the entrance to the trap. The arms H of the spider form unguarded runs and extend radially outwardly and downwardly to meet the bottom A, their ends being extended laterally to form a flat broken ring. The ends of these lateral extensions are beveled off, as at I, to meet the bottom in order that the balls may readily roll onto them.

Fixed to the hub F in front of the hole G and in line with the center of the arms or runs H are the pins or obstructions J, which are adapted to prevent the balls from rolling directly along the arms into the entrance to the trap. These obstructions J also have a tendency to cause the balls to bounce to one side off the hub to the bottom of the box.

L represents small balls of such a size as to readily pass through the entrance G.

The operation of my invention is as follows: One or more of the small balls having been placed on the bottom A of the box, the operator endeavors by tipping and jiggling the puzzle to make the balls run up the runs or arms H past the pins J through the entrance G into the trap.

I have shown my puzzle in the best form known to me; but it is evident that the making of the part F circular is a mere matter of convenience of manufacture and that the form of the puzzle may be varied by having but one inclined radial run instead of a plurality of runs, although the puzzle in its present form is, I believe, the most satisfactory.

Having described my invention, what I desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A puzzle of the kind described, comprising a box, a trap having a top located in said box, an unguarded inclined radial run extending to the top of said trap, and an obstruction in said run closing direct passage to said top.

2. A puzzle of the kind described, comprising a box, a trap having a top located in said box, said top having an opening therein, unguarded inclined radial runs extending to the top of said trap and obstructions in said runs closing direct passage to said top.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS.

Witnesses:

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