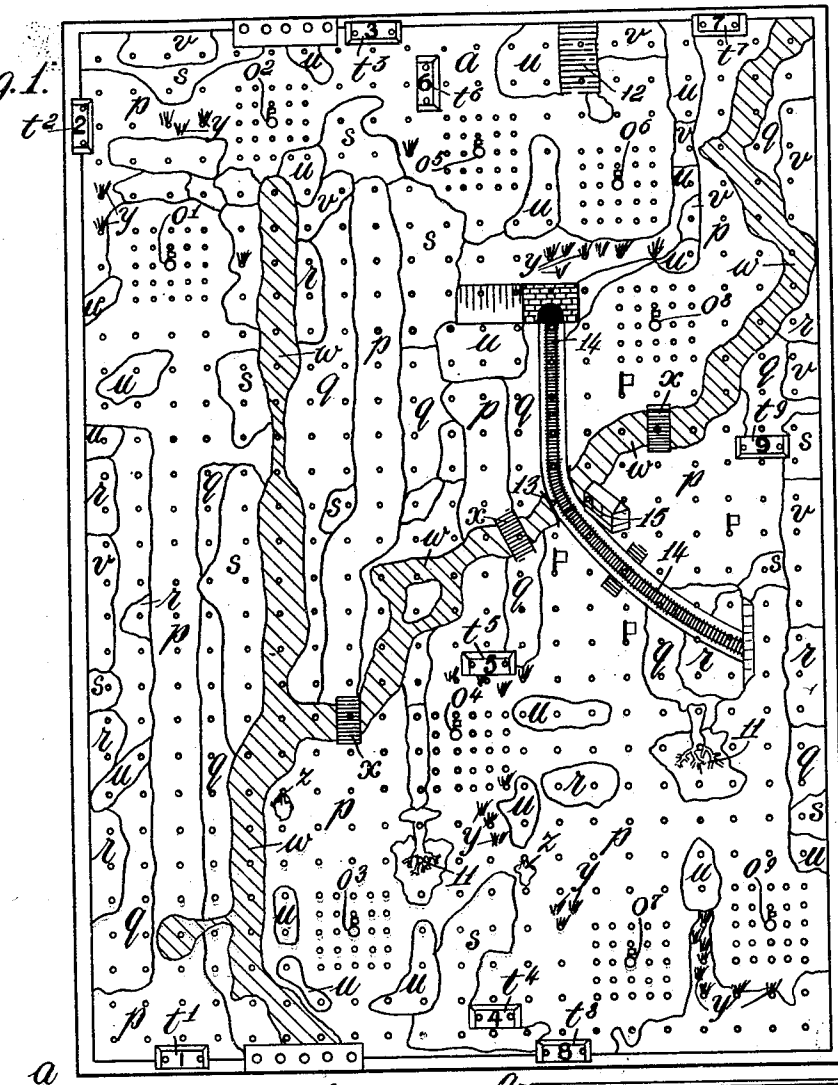
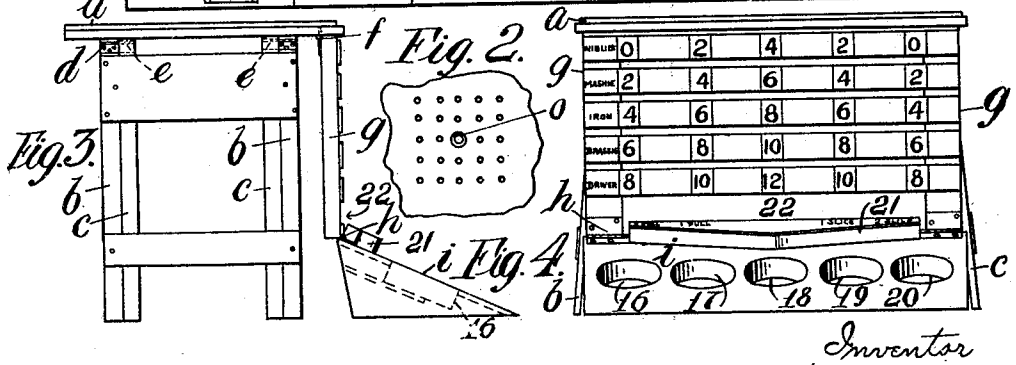
Nov. 11, 1930. H. HILL 1,781,230

APPARATUS FOR PLAYING GOLF IN RESTRICTED SPACES OR INDOORS

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Fig. 1.





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Fig. 5.

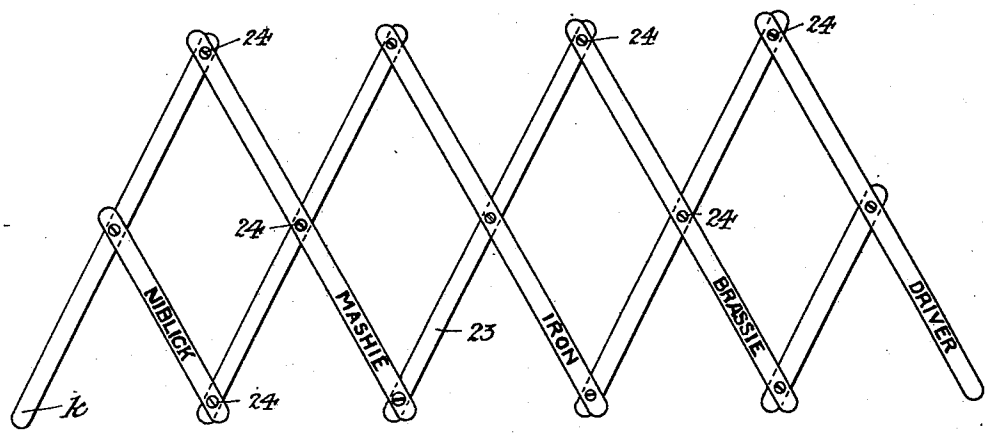


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

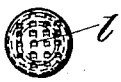


Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

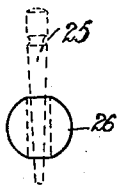


Fig. 10.

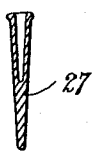


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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APPARATUS FOR PLAYING GOLF IN RESTRICTED SPACES OR INDOORS

Application filed February 27, 1929, Serial No. 343,042, and in Great Britain November 13, 1928.

This invention relates to new or improved apparatus for playing golf in a restricted area or indoors and the object is to enable the players to play the game subject to the usual characteristics or features and also to the vicissitudes inherent to real golf, such as, for example, the effects of "pull" and "slice", usually caused by imperfect play, and so that the game depends for the greater part on the skill and judgment of the players.

According to this invention, the apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space or area, such as on a small lawn or in an ordinary room, comprises a course-board, marked off to represent a golf-course with a plurality of small squares or subdivisions, dots and/or holes, principally intended to indicate units of distance and for marking or pegging the positions of the players' balls during the progress of the game, the said course-board being also coloured or marked so as to represent greens, holes, teeing grounds or tees, fairways and hazards or impediments, such as bridges, trees, "rough", heather, gorse, rushes, bunkers, water, lost ball, "out of bounds" and so on, devices such as pegs or the like to indicate or represent the positions of the golf balls on the course and adapted to be inserted in any of the said marking holes, an instrument for propelling a ball, such as a putter, (a kind of club used in playing golf), a ball, such as a golf-ball, a playing ground, such as a platform, slope or table having a plurality of receptacles, such as holes, cups or pockets, any one of which is adapted to receive the golf ball when struck by the club, a stroke-indicator, marked to indicate the distance from the holes or cups at which the ball is to be placed prior to being struck, and a score-board provided with a plurality of rows of indications or figures, each of which rows is applicable for one kind of club or other device for propelling the ball, if there be more than one such device presumed to be used, and each figure or cipher over a cup or hole representing a length of shot to be marked on the course-board in accordance with the result of the shot taken, principally on the assumption that the ball is holed in the manner desired by the player. The course-board is, conveniently, made in the form of a table, the score-board may be arranged in a more or less upright position and may be adjacent to the course-board and the platform or slope, with the cups or holes to receive a ball, such as a golf-ball, is in front of and, preferably, adjacent to the lower edge of the score-board. The stroke-indicator is conveniently marked at intervals with the names of different clubs or other ball-propelling devices, if more than one be intended, and is adapted to indicate, when placed in a determined position in relation to the platform or slope, where the ball is to be placed prior to the shot or putt being taken by the player.

And in order that the invention may be readily understood and carried into effect, reference will be made to the accompanying drawings of which:—

Figure 1 is a plan of a course-board arranged and marked to represent a golf course with nine holes.

Figure 2 is a detail to a larger scale showing a hole on the course-board and the arrangement of marking dots or holes for pegs surrounding it.

Figure 3 is a side elevation to a smaller scale of the apparatus comprising the course-board *a*, the score-board and platform or slope, all hinged together and

Figure 4 is an end elevation thereof.

Figure 5 is a plan of a device referred to as a stroke-indicator.

Figure 6 is a view of a putter.

Figure 7 represents a golf ball.

Figure 8 illustrates in elevation a peg for marking the supposed position of a player's ball on the course-board.

Figure 9 is an elevation of a bead for use on the course-board after making a shot and in conjunction with a second marking peg.

Figure 10 is a vertical section of a modified form of marking peg and

Figure 11 is a perspective view of a stud for marking a hole when a player has holed out.

In carrying the invention into effect and according to one suitable construction shown

in Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 the course-board *a* is, conveniently, made in the form of a table-top, provided with four legs which are in two pairs, marked *b* and *c*, respectively, each pair being rigidly connected together and hinged at one end at *d* and *e*, respectively, so as to be capable of supporting the course-board at a suitable height above the ground or floor and of being folded or collapsed against the lower side of the course-board, one pair of legs *c* being then adapted to fold within and in the same plane as the other pair *d* for convenience in transport and storage, in accordance with a common practice in connection with folding tables. To one edge of the course-board *a* is hinged at *f* the score-board *g*, comprising two vertical members and five horizontal members, suitably spaced apart and firmly connected together. To the free end of the score-board *g* is hinged at *h* a sloping platform *i* having five holes or cups 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 (of which one is indicated in dotted lines in Figure 3 and all five are shown in full lines in Figure 4). The golf-ball *l* (Figure 7) may be projected by means of the golf-club, such as a putter *m* (Figure 6) into any one of the holes 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20.

The course-board *a* (Figure 1) represents, in plan, a miniature golf-course having, say, nine holes. The marking dots or holes for the pegs are distributed uniformly all over the course-board and their distance apart in a straight line may be assumed to represent or be equal to say, twenty yards and, taken diagonally, twenty-five yards. The margins of the course-board are marked 1, 2, 3 and so on to represent units of twenty yards.

The tees t' t^2 and so on are, conveniently, marked with a rectangular device. The holes o' to o^9, inclusive, corresponding in each case to the hole on a green of the course-board, are suitably surrounded as shown in Figure 2 by a circle within two series of holes arranged in the form of squares, one within the other. The inner square may consist of eight peg-holes and the outer square of sixteen peg-holes. Fairways *p*, rough *q*, heather *r*, bracken *s*, bunkers *u* (hazards), gorse *v*, water *w*, a foot-bridge *x* (hazard), rushes *y*, bushes *z*, trees 11, upright railway sleepers 12, a railway bridge 13, railway 14 (also considered as being outside of the course) and signal box window 15 are suitably indicated pictorially or diagrammatically on the course-board. Outside of the course- or board-area and the railway are considered "out-of-bounds" and involve the penalty of one stroke.

The score-board *g* (Figures 3 and 4) has its upper horizontal member marked from left to right at a uniform distance apart with the ciphers or ordinals "0" "2" "4" "2" and "0". The left hand vertical member or both vertical members is or are provided with a label marked "Niblick" in line with the aforesaid row of ciphers. Similarly arranged rows below are marked respectively:—

"Mashie" "2", "4", "6", "4", "2".
"Iron" "4", "6", "8", "6", "4".
"Brassie" "6", "8", "10", "8", "6".
"Driver" "8", "10", "12", "10", "8".

The "Niblick" label is conveniently yellow, in colour, the "Mashie" label is green, the "Iron" label is blue, the "Brassie" label is pink and the "Driver" label is white.

The slope or platform *i* (Figures 3 and 4) slopes up at an angle of about twenty-five degrees towards the bottom of the score-board *g* and has the five cups marked, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 arranged in a row, each cup being under a figure in the horizontal superposed rows of figures on the score board. If desired, there is a low wall 21 at the back of the slope or platform *i* shaped so as to come quite close to the central cup 18 and tapering towards each end extending on each side to the vicinity of the upright members of the score-board *g* and a gap 22 is left between the low wall and the lower horizontal member of the score-board, wide enough vertically to allow the ball (Figure 7) to pass through, if too violently struck with the club *m* (Figure 6) by the player. The two cups 16 and 17 on the left are, conveniently, marked "2 pull" and "1 pull" respectively, the middle cup 18 is unmarked and the two cups 19 and 20 on the right thereof are marked, respectively "1 slice" and "2 slice".

A convenient construction of stroke-indicator adapted to be collapsed or folded when not in use, consists, as shown in Figure 5, of ten strips 23 of wood or other suitable material pivoted or hinged together at 24 in lazy-tongs fashion. The projecting end of the rear member is marked "Driver" and coloured white, the next parallel thereto, is marked "Brassie" and coloured pink, the next, "Iron", coloured blue, the next "Mashie", coloured green, and the last is marked "Niblick" and coloured yellow. The projecting end of the front member is coloured white.

A chart of play suitably accompanies apparatus for playing the game and contains, for instance, the following information, together with small illustrations of the ground corresponding to the different colouring and devices on the course board and the names of clubs adapted to be used in different circumstances, such as:—"Tee-driver"; "Fairway-brassie"; "Rough-iron"; "Heather-mashie"; "Bracken-niblick"; "Bunker (hazard)-niblick". (Note:—Putter must not touch the ground when addressing the ball. Otherwise penalty 1 stroke); "Gorse-niblick (Note:—Play diagonal shot and add pull or slice diagonally)"; "Water-brassie" (Note:—Place ball on any dot not nearer the hole, penalty 1 stroke"); "Foot-bridge (hazard)-iron (Note:—Putter must not touch the

ground when addressing the ball, otherwise penalty 1 stroke)"; "Rushes-niblick (Note:—Half niblick score, add pull or slice)"; "Bush-mashie (Note:—Play cross-shot, add pull or slice)"; "Tree-mashie (Note:—A shot passing through tree in flight or hitting tree, place on dot at stump, play cross-shot, add pull or slice)"; "Upright rail sleepers-niblick (Note:—The ball is assumed to drop back into bunker, place in bunker)"; "Railway (also outside course)—(Note:—Out of bounds, play shot from original position, penalty 1 stroke)"; "Signal-box window—(Note:—It is assumed that player breaks window, pay donation to charity, out of bounds—penalty 1 stroke)"; "The green and the hole, (Note:—Putt from front white indicator if shot lands in a dot next to hole proper and putt from rear white (driver) indicator if shot lands in a dot next but one to the hole proper)"; "Note:—A diagonal shot is played through the dots diagonally. A cross shot is played through the dots at right angles to the direct line".

Two pegs, such as marked 25 and shown in Figure 8, are used for marking by each player, each player having pegs differing as to colour from those of his opponent. A marking ball 26 (Figure 9), consisting of a bead, may also be used by each player and the marking ball is slipped off the peg from where the shot commenced and placed on the peg which marks where the shot finishes. The peg 25 is shown in dotted lines in Figure 9. If desired, all the pegs are hollow except near the point as shown in Figure 10 so that, if a hole is halved, a peg 2 belonging to each player may be used in one hole or dot, that is, one peg 27 is placed in the other peg and both pegs mark the same hole. The two balls 26 may be used, or not, as desired. Small blue and yellow discs or studs 28, Figure 11, are conveniently employed to mark the holes won by the different players and the discs or studs, being of different colours or marked in a distinguishing manner, indicate to which player they belong.

In playing and, for example, when commencing, the "honour" is decided, as usual, by lot. The player takes the first shot by placing the golf ball l (Figure 7) opposite the point of the stroke-indicator 23 (Figure 5), marked "Driver", and on striking it with his club m (Figure 6) endeavours, of course, to make the ball fall into the central cup 18 (Figure 4). If that occurs, he is entitled to place one of his pegs in the twelfth hole or dot up the fairway towards the first hole o' (Figure 1) because the ball has fallen in the central cup under the central figure "12" on the score-board in line with the word "Driver" and that indicates his score. Should the ball drop into one of the cups 17 or 19 he scores 10 because "10" is the figure above that cup on the score board. If the ball drops into either of the cups 16 or 20, he scores 8 but if the ball should miss and not drop into any cup, the player only scores half the outside number, that is 4. The next point to decide is whether a penalty for "pull" or "slice" is to be imposed. Assuming the player wishes to avoid "pull and slice", he plays the golf ball from the same place as before and endeavours to cause it to drop into the central cup and, if successful, the shot is assumed to be straight and neither "pull" nor "slice" is imposed. Should, however, the ball drop into the left inside hole 17 marked above "Pull 1", he places his marking peg 25 or 27 in the peg hole or dot to the left of the peg hole or dot indicating his score for his shot. If the ball drops into the left outside-hole 16 marked above "Pull 2", he places his peg two dots (or peg holes) to the left of the score on the course-board. Similarly, if the ball drops into the right hand inside hole 19 marked above "Slice 1", he places his peg in the peg-hole or dot to the right of peg-hole indicating his score and so on. This method causes the effect to be imposed of either "pull", that is, a deviation to the left hand side of the line of the intended stroke, or "slice", that is, a deviation to the right hand side of the line of the intended stroke, as before explained, and is subject to modification in skill or otherwise of producing the effect of swerve in the flight or direction of a golf-ball.

A diagonal shot shall be played from within six inches of the angle or point of the score-indicator if from the "slice" side of the green (on the course-board) or from six inches on the opposite boundary if from the "pull" side. "Pull" or "slice" is then added diagonally.

The remaining shots to "The green" on the course are played strictly in accordance with the "chart of play" that is to say, the "club" represented in colours must correspond on the stroke-indicator, score-board and chart. Then "pull" or "slice" is added, if to be imposed, to each shot as hereinbefore explained. The following are the clubs presumed to be used and their colours and the latter tally on the stroke-indicator 23, the score-board g and the chart:—

Driver, white; brassie, pink; iron, blue; mashie, green; and niblick, yellow.

When the green is ultimately reached by either player, the shot may have been pegged into either the outside or inside square of peg-holes or dots surrounding the hole, see Figure 2. If on the outside square, then the player must putt from the back or rear "white" (driver) mark of the stroke indicator 23. If on the inside square, he must putt from the front white mark k. The central or real hole (o', o^2 and so on) on the green on the course-board must be holed to constitute holing out, that is to say the golf ball must be

putted into the central hole 18 (Figure 4) to constitute holing out in the central or real hole on the green on the course-board. If the golf ball does not reach any of the holes in the slope *i* (Figures 3 and 4), the player on his next turn should putt from where it lies. This constitutes a stymie for the opponent's next shot, if on his line. If the ball over-runs the cups and passes through the gap 22 (Figure 4), the shot shall be pegged in a direct line past the hole on the course to a dot over the green.

If the golf-ball enters any cup except the central cup 18 (Figure 4), it shall be putted at the next turn from the front white mark *k* on the stroke-indicator (Figure 5).

Diagonal putts are taken in the same manner as diagonal shots as hereinbefore explained. This constitutes the effect of an undulation on a real golf-course, due to slight mounds, hollows or slopes, and gives the golfer more difficulty in determining the line to take to hole-out a putt. A similar effect is produced with this apparatus by playing up to the central cup from any direction except directly in front owing to the slope being in two directions, that is, in the direction towards the hole and laterally thereto. Neither "pull" nor "slice" is reckoned when putting on the green.

The players thus win or lose a hole or halve it and count so many holes up or down as the game continues and mark them on the course-board *a* with the yellow or blue studs 28 to distinguish them.

The "honour," that is, the first shot, is decided, as previously indicated by lot and the winner of a hole takes the honour on the next tee. The white pegs take the honour at every hole on the course, but the player with the red pegs always has the final shot at every hole to equalize the strokes.

The players conveniently use cards on which to mark their scores as usual.

Whilst the above description sets forth a suitable method of using the apparatus for playing the game of golf, modifications may be introduced in the method of playing and also in the apparatus without necessarily departing from the invention.

I claim:—

1. Apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space comprising a course-board, marked off to represent a golf-course, marked at intervals to indicate units of distance for determining the positions of the players' balls during the progress of the game, the said course-board also marked to represent greens, tees, fairways, holes and hazards, devices to indicate the positions of the golf balls on the course-board, a ball, an instrument for propelling the ball, a playing ground having a plurality of holes therein, each hole adapted to receive the said ball when struck by the player, a stroke-indicator marked to indicate different distances from the said holes at which the ball is to be placed prior to being struck by the said instrument, a score-board, a plurality of horizontal rows of indications on the said score-board, also forming vertical columns above the said holes in the playing ground for determining the distance the ball shall travel on the course-board, each of the said rows being applicable for one kind of instrument arbitrarily selected by the player and the indication in each column to be taken into account being dependent on the particular hole, if any, in the playing ground into which the player succeeds in driving the ball, substantially as set forth.

2. Apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space comprising a course-board, marked off to represent a golf-course with tees, fairways, holes and hazards and also marked uniformly at intervals to indicate units of distance longitudinally and transversely for determining the positions of the players' balls on the course-board during the progress of the game, means for supporting the said course-board at a convenient level above the ground and in a substantially horizontal position, a ball, an instrument for propelling the ball, a score-board mounted at one end of the said course-board in a substantially upright position, a slope located at the lower end of the said score-board and resting on the ground, holes, each adapted to receive the ball in front of the lower edge of the said scoring-board, and a stroke-indicator—for showing different distances from the said holes at which the ball is to be placed prior to being struck by the said instrument, substantially as set forth.

3. Apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space comprising a course-board, marked off to represent a golf-course, marked at intervals to indicate units of distance longitudinally and transversely for determining the positions of the players' balls on the course-board during the progress of the game, legs for supporting the said course-board at a convenient level above the ground and in a substantially horizontal position, a ball, an instrument for propelling the ball, a score-board, a plurality of horizontal rows of uniformly spaced indications of distance on the said score-board, the said indications also forming a plurality of vertical columns, hinges for connecting the upper edge of the said score-board to the course-board, a slope, a plurality of horizontally located holes in said slope, each hole being located under a column of indications in the said score-board, a low wall at the upper end of the said slope, hinges for connecting the upper end of the said slope to the lower end of the score-board, and a stroke-indicator for showing different distances from the said holes at which the ball

is to be placed prior to being struck by the said instrument, substantially as set forth.

4. In apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space, the combination with a substantially horizontally disposed course-board of a substantially vertically disposed score-board comprising two vertical members and a plurality of horizontal members, each provided with a row of uniformly spaced numerals indicating distances, the said superposed numerals also forming vertical columns of numerals, a slope. a plurality of spaced holes located in the said slope and each hole located substantially below a column of numerals, a low wall at the upper end of the said slope bent so that it is nearest to the hole in the middle of the row of holes and more remote from the terminal holes and is of such a height as will leave sufficient space between it and the lowermost horizontal member of the score-board for a ball to pass through, substantially as described.

5. In apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space, the combination with a substantially horizontally disposed course-board, marked to represent a golf-course, a substantially vertically disposed score-board provided with a plurality of spaced numerals forming a plurality of horizontal rows and vertical columns of numerals, a slope provided with a plurality of holes, each hole located below a vertical column of ciphers, a ball, and an instrument for propelling the ball, of a stroke-indicator marked at intervals along its length with the names of different instruments and adapted to indicate when placed in a determined position in relation to the slope, the position in which the ball is to be placed prior to being struck by the instrument, substantially as described.

6. In apparatus for playing golf in a restricted space, the combination with a substantially horizontally disposed course-board, a substantially vertically disposed score-board provided with a plurality of rows of spaced numerals forming also vertical columns of numerals, each horizontal row of numerals referring to a different imaginary instrument by which the imaginary ball is supposed to be propelled on the course-board, a slope provided with a plurality of holes, each hole located below one of the said vertical columns of numerals, a ball and an instrument for propelling the ball, of a stroke-indicator comprising a plurality of lever-members pivoted together to form a lazy-tongs device, some of said members which are parallel to each other being marked with the name of an instrument, each of which instruments corresponds to that designating one of the said horizontal rows of numerals and the members of the lazy-tongs device, so marked, indicating the position in which the ball is to be placed prior to being struck by the said instrument substantially as described.

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