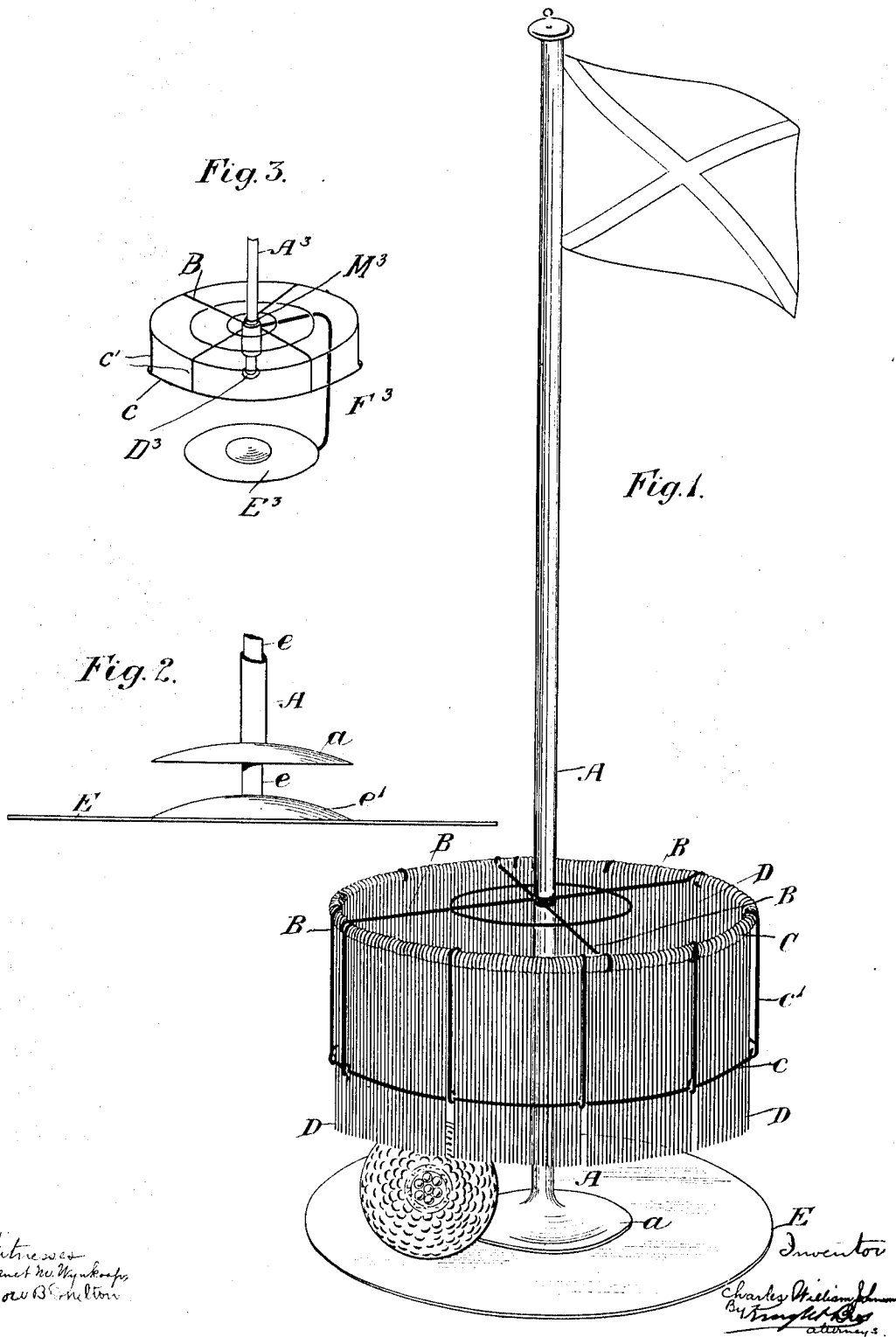


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 GOLF BALL TRAP FOR GOLF PUTTING PRACTICE.
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GOLF-BALL TRAP FOR GOLF PUTTING PRACTICE.

954,299.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 5, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES WILLIAM JOHNSON, a subject of the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and resident of 1 Gardner's Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland, balloon-maker and sporting-games manufacturer, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Golf-Ball Traps for Golf "Putting" Practice, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in golf ball traps and is primarily intended to provide a device, which will permit the practice of golf "putting" either in or out of doors.

The art of "putting" in the game of golf requires constant practice to render a player proficient, and it often happens that the player is unable to have access to a "putting green," and is thus prevented from practicing. However with the present invention, the player is enabled to practice either on a lawn or indoors or in fact at any place where a level space may be found.

A further object of my invention is to overcome the necessity of locating a "hole" at the center of the "putting green" by providing a portable trap which may be securely held in place by any suitable means, and which may be readily removed to permit the "putting green" to be repaired or placed in proper condition.

The invention comprises, broadly speaking, a base having an upright spindle, over which loosely fits a tubular standard. This standard carries a surrounding fringe which terminates a short distance above the level of the base. When in actual use the device is placed at the center of the "putting green" or in an equivalent location. The ball upon being putted, if it is accurately directed, will strike against the pendent fringe and force the same inward. Immediately upon the ball passing into the center of trap, the fringe will assume its normal position, and the ball will be held entrapped.

Further objects and advantages will appear from the foregoing description with reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention, Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view

of the base, and the lower portion of the sliding standard, and Fig. 3 shows a modification of Fig. 1.

In the accompanying drawing wherein like reference letters indicate like parts throughout the different views, A designates a tubular standard, which is loosely mounted on the spindle *e*, (see Fig. 2). The spindle *e* has an annular base E, the central portion of the base member being dome-shaped as at *e'*. This base E is adapted to support the standard A, which in order to conform to the dome-shaped central portion of the base E has its lower end flared outwardly as at *a*, see Fig. 2. Radiating wires B are secured to the standard A, the free or outer ends thereof being fastened to the ring C. A suitable pendent fringe is secured to the ring C, which forms a ball receiving chamber about said standard. In the preferred embodiment of my invention this fringe comprises a plurality of wires D, which are pivotally secured at their upper ends to the ring C. A series of supporting arms *e'* are also secured to the ring C at spaced intervals, and have a check member or ring *c* attached to their lower ends, which is positioned on the outside of and adjacent to the pendent strips or wires D.

From the above description the operation and function of my invention will be seen to be as follows. On "putting" the ball at the trap the ball brushes the pendent wires D inward and as soon as the ball has entered the trap the wires swing back to their normal position. The ball, once within the trap, is prevented from rolling out by means of the check ring *c* which prevents the outward movement of the wires D. However, to permit the ball to be removed from the trap, the standard A which, as has heretofore been stated, is loosely mounted on the spindle *e*, is raised by hand and as the pendent wires or fringe D together with the supporting rings C and *c* are carried by the standard A, they will likewise be raised, thus permitting the removal of the ball. At times, however, it may be difficult to remove the ball, after the standard has been raised, and to obviate any trouble of this sort, the standard A is provided at its base with a flared or flanged portion *a*, so that upon raising the standard

an impetus will be given to the ball causing it to roll out of the trap without any effort on the part of the operator.

In Fig. 3, which shows a modified form of my invention, I have shown the base E³ having a bracket-shaped arm F³ secured thereto. This arm F³ has a bearing formed in its upper end to slidably receive the standard A³. In this construction the standard A³ has a shoulder M³ which is adapted to limit the downward movement of the standard while the extreme lower end of the standard is provided with a flange D³ to prevent the displacement of the standard when the same is raised. In this construction the formation and arrangement of the pendent wires or strips D and the radiating arms and rings are substantially the same as in Fig. 1.

It will be obvious that I may form the pendent strips of any suitable material and that the configuration of the assembled pendent members need not necessarily be circular, but may be made up in whatever shape desired.

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

1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a base, a standard slidably secured thereto, of a pendent fringe secured about said standard and forming a ball receiving chamber.

2. In a device of the class described, a base, a standard secured thereto, a series of pendent members connected to and forming a chamber about said standard, whereby a ball may be passed into said chamber, and means cooperating with the said members for retaining the ball therein.

3. In a golf ball trap, the combination of a ball receiving chamber, a circular series of pendent means forming the walls of said

chamber, and constructed and arranged to freely swing inward, and means for preventing them from swinging outward from their normal position.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination with a base, of a standard vertically movable relative to said base, pendent means forming a ball receiving chamber and a check member cooperating with said pendent means, to prevent the escape of the ball from the chamber and means for automatically forcing the ball out of said chamber when the standard is raised.

5. In a device for trapping golf balls, the combination with pendent members forming a ball receiving chamber, of vertically movable means for supporting said members and provided with means for simultaneously discharging the ball from the chamber.

6. In a device of the class described, the combination with a base, of a standard movably supported on said base and having a flared end portion and pendent strips connected to and forming a ball receiving chamber about said standard.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination with a supporting member, a plurality of pendent strips secured thereto of a base, a standard slidably connected to said base, and rigidly attached to said supporting member.

8. In a device of the class described, the combination with a standard, a circular series of pendent members connected thereto, of rigid means secured to said standard and surrounding said pendent members, whereby said members are prevented from outward movement.

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