Oct. 25, 1938. W. D. FENTRESS 2,134,079

ANIMATED TOY

Filed Sept. 22, 1937

FIG. 1.

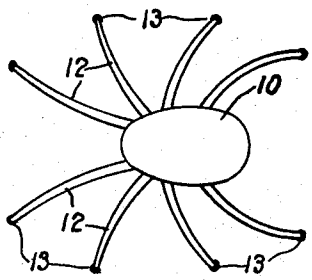


FIG. 2.

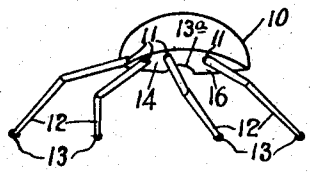


FIG. 3

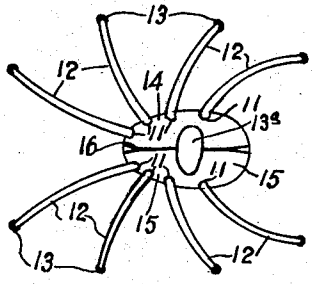


FIG. 4

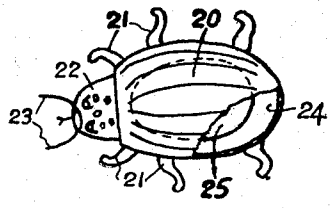


FIG. 5

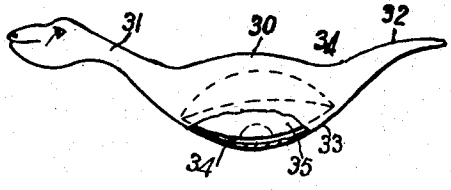


FIG. 6.

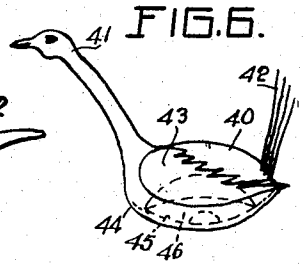


FIG. 7.

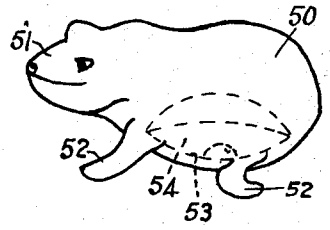
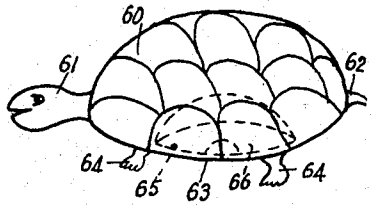


FIG. 8.



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ANIMATED TOY

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Application September 22, 1937, Serial No. 165,163

14 Claims. (Cl. 46—151)

This invention relates to toys, and in particular, to animated toys wherein the toys are given spasmodic and automatic movement by animating elements having inherent powers of locomotion.

One object of this invention is to provide a toy having a supporting structure containing an animating element having inherent powers of locomotion for automatic, spasmodic movement, such an element, for example, being the article known as the Mexican jumping bean.

Another object is to provide a toy having a body formed to simulate the appearance of an animate object, together with an animating element attached thereto and having inherent powers of locomotion adapted to give the body automatic, spasmodic movement.

Another object is to provide a toy having an animating element with inherent powers of locomotion, and capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, this animating element having supporting members, such as legs, attached thereto so as to give the appearance of an animate object, such as an insect or animal having legs.

Another object is to provide an animated toy having a body formed to represent the external appearance of an animate object, a cavity being provided in this body to receive an animating element having inherent powers of locomotion for automatically and spasmodically moving the body, such an animating element being represented by the article known as a Mexican jumping bean.

Another object is to provide an animated toy consisting of a body adapted to rest upon a table, or other supporting surface, this body having a cavity for the reception of a Mexican jumping bean, the body being formed to simulate the appearance of an animate object, such as an animal, bird, insect, fish or reptile, the portion of the body resting upon the supporting surface being formed to minimize the friction existing therebetween and to facilitate the motion of the body over the supporting surface.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of one embodiment of my invention, showing a spider formed by attaching supports, such as legs, to an animating element, such as a Mexican jumping bean.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the toy shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of the toy shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of a modification, wherein the animating element is mounted within a body formed to simulate a beetle.

Figure 5 is a side elevation of another modification of the invention, showing a body in the form of a prehistoric reptile, such as a dinosaur.

Figure 6 is a side elevation of another modification, the body being formed to represent a setting hen, or other bird.

Figure 7 is a side elevation of another modification, the body being formed to represent a frog.

Figure 8 is a side elevation of a further modification, the body being formed to represent a turtle.

In general, the animated toy of this invention consists of an animating element, such as a Mexican jumping bean, having inherent powers of locomotion for automatic, spasmodic movement, to which is attached a support adapted to rest upon the surface upon which the toy is to move. This support may consist either of legs attached directly to the animating element, or to a member secured thereto, or it may consist of a body formed to simulate the body of an animal, reptile, bird or fish, with the animating element inside this body. The body may rest directly upon the table top, or other surface upon which it is to move, or it may be provided with legs. Preferably, the body or legs are given a form adapted to minimize the friction so as to facilitate the movement of the toy over the table-top or other surface.

Referring to the drawing in detail, Figure 1 shows one embodiment of the animated toy of this invention. This embodiment consists of an animating element 10, such as a Mexican jumping bean, formed with holes 11. Mounted in these holes 11 are supporting elements 12, made to represent the legs of an insect, such as a spider. The tips of these supporting elements 12 are preferably rounded, as at 13, or otherwise treated to minimize friction and facilitate the movement of the toy across the table-top, or other surface upon which it is intended to move. The notch 13a, shown in the lower side of the animating element 10, is a natural depression found in Mexican jumping beans, the lower sides 14 and 15 being beveled relatively to each other and meeting along a ridge 16.

The legs 12 may be formed of wire, synthetic plastics, glass or other suitable material adapted to provide the necessary support and lightness of weight.

In the operation of the toy shown in Figures 1 to 3, the toy is placed upon a smooth surface, preferably one of glass or polished stone, and

preferably in the sunshine, or near some other source of warmth. As the animating element 10 possesses inherent powers of locomotion, due to the presence of a small worm which makes its home within the beam, the jerking of this worm is transmitted to the bean, and this jerking gives the toy an automatic, spasmodic movement over the table-top or other surface upon which the toy rests.

The modified toy shown in Figure 4 consists of a body 20 having legs 21 attached thereto, and a head 22 with or without feelers or horns 23. The body 20 is formed to represent an insect, and is preferably of papier-mâché, Cellophane or other light material. A cavity 24 is provided therein for receiving an animating element 25, which in this case likewise consists of a Mexican jumping bean. The operation of the modified toy of Figure 4 is similar to that of Figures 1 to 3. As the jumping bean executes its spasmodic movement it imparts this movement to the toy, and the latter pursues an erratic path across the table-top or other supporting surface.

The modified toy shown in Figure 5 consists of a body 30 formed to represent a prehistoric reptile, such as a dinosaur, and having a head 31 and tail 32. The bottom surface 33 of the body 30 is adapted to rest upon the table-top, and a cavity 34 is provided for the reception of the animating element 35. As before, this animating element is shown in the form of a Mexican jumping bean. The surface 33 is configured to cause the toy to move freely over the table-top in response to the spasmodic jerking imparted to it by the animating element 35. It is not necessary to provide the toy with legs, and these may or may not be provided, at the option of the maker.

The modified toy shown in Figure 6 has a body 40 formed to represent a setting hen, or other bird. For this purpose it is provided with a head 41, a tail 42 and wings 43. The bottom surface 44 of the toy is formed to rest directly upon the table top, although short legs may be provided if desired. As before, a cavity 45 is provided within the body 40 for the reception of a Mexican jumping bean 46, or an equivalent animating element.

The modified toy of Figure 7 has a body 50 formed to represent a frog with a head 51 and legs 52. The body, as before, is formed with a cavity 53 for the reception of a Mexican jumping bean or other animating element 54.

The modified toy shown in Figure 8 consists of a body 60, formed to represent a turtle having a head 61 and tail 62. The turtle shell or body 60 may be made with a lower surface 63 adapted to rest directly upon the table-top, or it may be provided with short legs 64, suitably formed to minimize friction and facilitate movement. A cavity 65 is provided within the body 60 for the reception of the Mexican jumping bean, or other animating element 66.

The operation of the modified toy shown in Figures 6 to 8, inclusive, is substantially similar to that described in connection with Figures 4 and 5.

It is advisable to employ a body material for the toy which is extremely light, and which can be folded, bent, molded or cut into the desired form. Among materials while I have found suitable for this purpose are papier-mâché, Cellophane, balsa wood or metal foil, particularly aluminum foil. Feathers may also be used for decorative purposes.

It will be understood that I desire to comprehend within my invention such modifications as come within the scope of the claims and the invention.

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

1. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element.

2. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, said members being formed to simulate legs.

3. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, said members being formed to simulate legs and disposed in outwardly radiating position relatively to said animating element.

4. An animating top comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, and means for securing said members directly to the shell of said animating element.

5. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, said members being formed to simulate legs, and anti-friction means on the outer ends of said legs for minimizing the friction during engagement of said legs with the supporting surface.

6. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, said members being formed to simulate legs, the outer ends of said legs being formed to minimize friction relatively to the supporting surface.

7. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a plurality of supporting members connected to said animating element, said members being formed to simulate legs, the outer ends of said legs being rounded to minimize friction relatively to the supporting surface.

8. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a body

having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, the contacting portion of the bottom surface of said body engageable with the supporting surface being formed with an area which is small in comparison with the total area of said bottom surface whereby to facilitate motion of said toy relatively to the supporting surface.

9. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a body having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, the contacting portion of the bottom surface of said body engageable with the supporting surface being rounded with an area which is small in comparison with the total area of said bottom surface whereby to facilitate motion of said toy relatively to the supporting surface.

10. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, a body having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, and supporting members connected to said body and resting upon the supporting surface.

11. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, a body having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, and supporting members connected to said body and resting upon the supporting surface, the outer ends of said supporting members being formed to minimize the friction of engagement with said supporting surface.

12. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a body having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, said body being formed of a material of relatively light weight in comparison with the weight of said animating element.

13. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, said animating element having a recess therein, and a supporting member secured in said recess.

14. An animated toy comprising an animating element consisting of an insect within a natural shell, said insect by its movements imparting to said shell inherent powers of locomotion capable of automatic, spasmodic movement, and a body having a cavity therein for receiving said animating element, said cavity being arranged adjacent the lower surface of said body whereby to position said animating element immediately in the vicinity of the supporting surface.

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