

R. B. PETER.
CAPTIVE GOLF APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 1, 1908.

914,873.

Patented Mar. 9, 1909.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

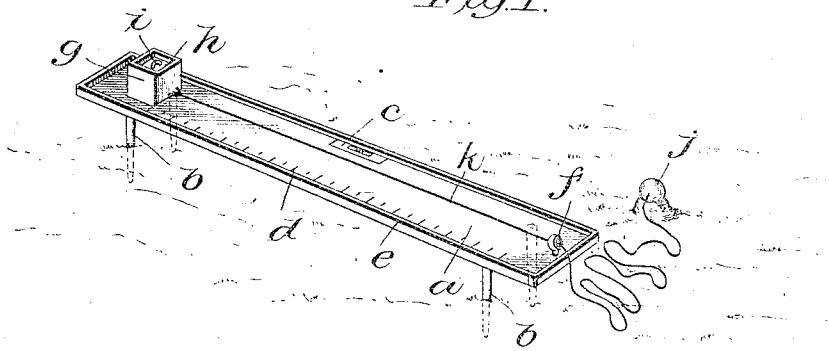


Fig. 2.

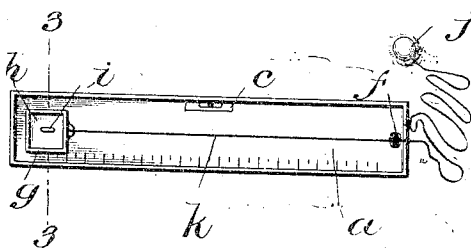


Fig. 3.

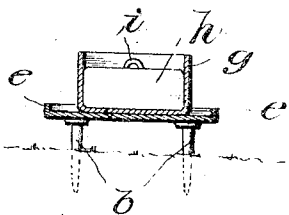
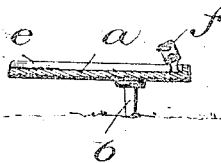


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

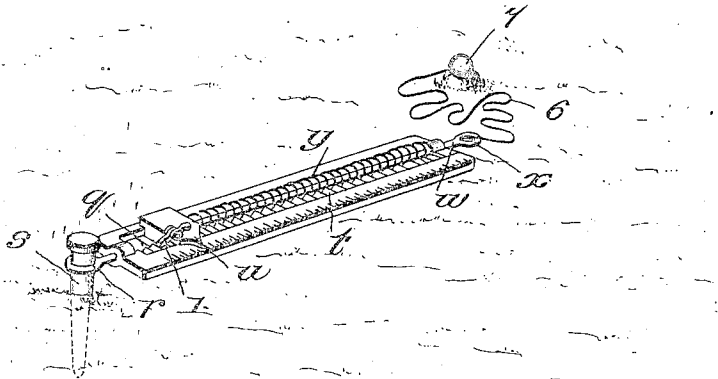


Fig. 6.

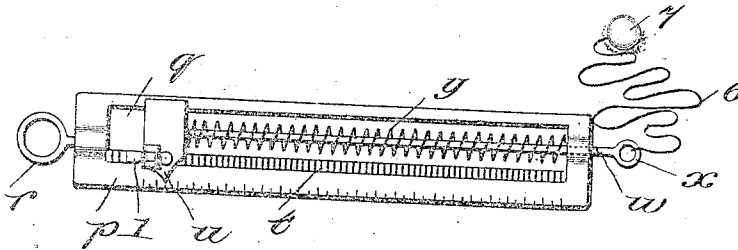


Fig. 7.

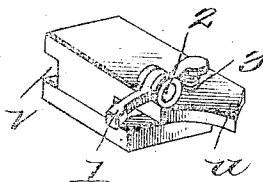
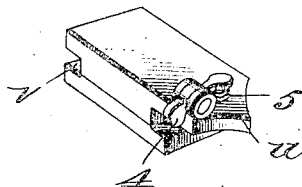


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CAPTIVE GOLF APPARATUS.

No. 914,873.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 9, 1909.

Application filed June 1, 1908. Serial No. 426,136.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT B. PETER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rockville, in the county of Montgomery and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Captive Golf Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in apparatus whereby any person may practice, in a small space, various strokes of golf.

This apparatus is especially useful for beginners and for those who have limited time for practice, as it may be used by anyone at short notice and in a small space.

Further objects will appear from the detailed description.

With these objects in view, my invention consists in the construction and combinations of parts as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view of my apparatus, the direction pins not being shown. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the complete apparatus. Fig. 3 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a section through a part of the apparatus showing the guide. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of apparatus in which the weighted box is replaced by a spring scale. Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the sliding pointer, and Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a modified form thereof.

a represents a table which may be made of any suitable material, but if made of metal should be made of some metal that will not rust readily under the influence of the weather. This table is provided with four sharpened legs *b*, preferably made of iron, with a spirit level *c*, and a scale *d*, the whole table being surrounded by a raised ledge *e*. The front end of the table is provided with a hollow guide *f*, preferably made of agate and inclined at about twenty degrees to the plane of the table.

g represents a sliding box and *h* a weight adapted to be placed in said box, provided with a staple *i*, so that it may be readily removed from said box, a number of weights of different sizes being provided.

j represents a golf ball which is perforated and through which passes a heavy string *k*, which also passes through the guide *f* and is attached to the box *g*, which slides loosely on the top of the table *a*. The string *k* is usually about the size of an ordinary chalk line, and acts to gradually overcome the movement of the golf ball after it has been struck, so that if, for example, the ball is struck with a force great enough to ordinarily send it one hundred and fifty yards, the weight of the string will gradually overcome the movement of the ball, which at the end will give a sharp jerk to the box *g*, and the extent of movement of this box as indicated on the scale will denote the force with which the ball is struck, from which the distance that the ball would usually have traveled can be readily calculated. It should be noted that in use the string *k* is laid on the ground in a number of loose coils so that when the ball is struck, it will not fly back, and this is an important feature of my invention.

For the purpose of indicating the direction in which the golf ball is driven, I provide a series of whalebone pins which are stuck in the ground on lines radiating from the guide *f*, and at equal distances therefrom, these pins being lettered *m*, *n*, *o* on the drawing. The position which the string *k* assumes when it drops on the ground, with relation to said pins, will enable the operator to determine whether he has driven the ball in exactly the desired direction.

It is well known that different kinds of golf clubs are selected with reference to the length of the stroke. I therefore provide a series of different sized weights, so that one size could be put in the box when a driver is being used and another size when a midiron is used, etc.

The operation of the modification shown in Figs. 1-4 is as follows:—The apparatus is set in the position shown in the drawing, care being taken that the table is set level. The heavy string is drawn so that it is practically straight between the box and the guide, and the remainder of the string is so arranged in a loose coil as shown on the drawing, the ball being placed upon an ordinary tee. The user then strikes the ball exactly as if he were playing the regular game of golf. The ball in its flight, of course, straightens out the string, and the weight of this string gradually lessens the force with which the

ball is traveling, until finally the string becomes straight, when it exerts a sharp pull upon the box *g*, moving the same over the scale, the divisions of the scale and the weights in the box being so proportioned that the user can calculate just how far the ball would go if struck in the usual manner. Furthermore, the relation of the string *k* to the whalebone pins enables the player to see if he has driven the ball in the desired direction.

Referring to the modification shown in Figs. 5 to 8, in these figures the sliding weighted box is replaced by a spring scale having a ratchet or other means thereon which prevents the return of the pointer at the end of the stroke until it is released by the golfer. *p* represents a spring scale much like the ordinary fish scale now on the market, provided with a central aperture *q* and an eye *r*, mounted so as to rotate in one end thereof. A pin *s* is adapted to pass through this eye and be driven into the ground, as shown in Fig. 5. The part *p* is provided with the ordinary scale marks and with a ratchet *t*. *u* represents the pointer, which is provided with grooves *v* in its sides. This pointer is adapted to slide in the open space *q* of the frame, and is guided by the sides thereof. To the pointer is attached a rod *w*, having an eye *x* at the end thereof, and this rod inside of the frame is surrounded by a coiled spring. Pivotaly mounted on the pointer *u* is a ratchet 1, supported on a pin 2 in bearings on the pointer, and having its rear end normally pressed downward by the spring 3, the rear end of the pawl being adapted to engage the teeth of the ratchet *t*.

In Fig. 8 a modified form of the pawl is shown, which is provided with an enlarged end 4 which is adapted to frictionally contact with the top or one of the sides of the frame of the scale and is pressed down by a spring 5 into contact with said side, so that the pointer may be readily moved forward, but the rearward movement thereof will be stopped by the pawl 4 unless the spring 5 is compressed by the user. Direction pins such as *m*, *n*, and *o* are also provided with this modification of the apparatus, but they are not shown on the drawing.

The advantage of this form of the apparatus is that it is small and light and can be carried in the pocket and set down anywhere, simply by driving the pin *s* through the eye *r* into the ground, said eye being loosely engaged with said pin so that the scale may be moved freely therearound. A heavy string 6 is attached at one end of the eye *x* and at the other end to a golf ball 7.

The operation of the form of the device shown in Figs. 5 to 8 is as follows:—The parts being in the position shown in Fig. 5, the ball is struck by the golfer and the heavy string

slowly overcomes the momentum of the ball. When the string is straightened out, it exerts a pull on the rod *w*, compressing the spring *y* and moving the pointer *u* a distance over the scale proportional to the force of the blow. The ratchet locks the pointer at the extreme position of its forward movement and the golfer can then calculate the distance the golf ball would have moved if free. When it is desired to use the apparatus again, the pawl is released from the ratchet teeth or from the side of the frame and the parts returned to their original position.

I claim:—

1. A captive golf apparatus, consisting of a table with a scale and a guide in combination with a weighted box adapted to slide upon said table, a golf ball, and a flexible connection between said box and said ball, said connection passing through said guide, substantially as described.

2. A captive golf apparatus, comprising a table provided with means for supporting it in a level position, and also provided with a scale and a guide at one end, a weighted box adapted to slide on said table, a golf ball, and a string connected to said ball and said box and passing through said guide, substantially as described.

3. A captive golf apparatus, consisting of a table provided with a scale, and with a guide at one end, a weighted box adapted to slide on said table, a golf ball, a heavy string connecting said golf ball with said box, and passing through said guide and a number of pins adapted to be stuck in the ground to indicate the direction of the stroke, substantially as described.

4. A captive golf apparatus, consisting of a table provided with a raised ledge, sharpened legs, a spirit level, and a guide at one end, a box having a removable weight therein and adapted to slide on said table, a golf ball and a heavy string connected to said ball and said box, and passing through said guide, substantially as described.

5. In a captive golf apparatus, the combination of a golf ball, a heavy string attached to said golf ball, said string being arranged in a loose coil, whereby a slight and steadily increasing resistance is applied to the ball after it is struck, and sliding means attached to said string for measuring the force of the blow upon the golf ball as said means stops at the end of the stroke, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT B. PETER.

Witnesses:

JOHN L. BRUNETT,
OTHO H. W. TALBOTT.