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PATENT SPECIFICATION

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Coin-freed Apparatus for Providing Amusement.

I, GRANVILLE BRADSHAW, of 5, Beauchamp Place, Brompton Road, London, S.W. 3, Engineer and British subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows :—

My invention relates to games of skill in which varying coins or articles may be won by the player or players and sometimes no coin or article is won.

Slot and coin machines have been devised for this purpose, but they usually employ a game of skill and frequently there is a strong element of chance or sequence that cannot be pre-determined and in my invention I avoid all elements of chance whatsoever by causing every result to be pre-determined but I still retain that necessary attraction produced by one person pitting himself against another, as in such games as bridge, whist and the like.

Instead of the usual game of skill such as aiming a missile at a target or controlling some operation, the skill in my invention is a mental one such as in an effort of memory or observation or a system of counting, but in certain cases in my invention the operator or observer may make pencil notes or any records he may wish to.

One method of applying my invention is described in the following and this is given only for the purpose of illustration as it can be employed in many ways :—

A machine may be employed in which an indicator tells the operator beforehand exactly what return he will receive for any coin he may spend. Thus, when the operator comes to the machine he may see that for the insertion of one coin he will receive two coins in return and the transaction is therefore a purchase.

After he has inserted his coin the cycle of operations will be completed when the two coins purchased have been released to him and the indicator has changed, thus withdrawing the offer of the two coins for sale. There is no element of chance in this part of the invention because the indicator informs the operator beforehand exactly what he is purchasing. As each coin is inserted and the purchase completed, the indicator changes and the operator may then decide whether to make a further purchase or not, but I again avoid any element of chance because in my invention these changes take place in a definite and recurring sequence, therefore any operator who cares to make a complete list of the sequence will definitely know beforehand whether the insertion of further coins will bring him a profit or not and he will also know exactly when to cease buying.

One method of executing a cycle of operations may be done by employing the following mechanism :—

A rotatably mounted wheel of a size suitable to carrying a large number of coins in its periphery may be used inside a suitable casing. This wheel, for instance, may be about 18" diameter and may have a number of slots cut radially or at any suitable angle, each slot intended to accommodate one coin of the type it is intended to use. For example, 100 slots may be cut round the periphery of the wheel and when a coin is inserted through a suitable opening in the outside casing, it falls into a vacant slot in the wheel and means are provided so that either automatically or by an operation on the part of the operator, the wheel is rotated until the next slot in the wheel has moved in front of the aperture in the casing and the machine is ready for the reception of a further coin. Thus each time a coin is inserted the wheel moves through a definite and pre-determined distance. In rotating, the wheel is made to change the indicator in a definite and pre-determined manner, thus, as above mentioned, obviating any element of chance.

Before the machine is displayed for the public to operate it, the requisite number of slots are previously filled with pennies and (as the wheel rotates) those pennies which are on the underside will automatically tend to fall out of the wheel, but they are prevented from doing so by any suitable means such as a plate or strip of metal. This strip of metal may be slidably mounted or mounted in any desired way so that it is carried forward by the wheel as it revolves and cams or

[*Price* 1/-]

catches or other devices may be employed in such manner as will form a trip mechanism and this plate, when released, may therefore return by gravity or a spring through a pre-determined distance, thus releasing a pre-determined number of coins which may then fall down a suitable slot or opening where they may be picked up by the operator.

These cams or catches may be carried on some part of the wheel or controlled thereby and they are so designed as to work simultaneously or in unison with the indicator, but always so that the release of coins or not and the changes in the indicator follow in a definite and predetermined sequence.

In addition to the slot or opening through which the purchaser's purchased coins are delivered to him, I may employ a further opening so that one or more coins may fall into a closed and sealed receptacle, also in a predetermined order, which latter coins are intended to be retained by the owners of the machines to cover the expenses and to provide a suitable profit.

Indicators may be suitably worded so as to produce interest to the operator, thus these may be inscribed with the name of some stocks or shares such as iron or steel or cotton, which people frequently buy in the hopes of securing a dividend and the money that is released to the operator may be referred to as a dividend which may be purchased by the insertion of a coin.

The skill of the operator is demonstrated by his making a mental or other note of the particular part of the sequence when the stocks are rising. Thus, for instance, if the wheel carries 100 pennies, the duration of the sequence will be exactly 100 and this sequence then recommences; thus for a period of, say, 40 coins inserted, the "market" may be a rising one or, in other words, the returns are in excess of the coins inserted and the operator secures a profit on his purchases.

Then, at suitable times during one complete revolution of the wheel, 10 coins may fall into the sealed space, which will be profit to the owners, less expenses, and the remaining 50 spaces in the wheel will be a "falling market", in which case the operator will lose exactly as many coins as may be necessary to provide a profit to those operators who have played on a "rising market" and also to provide the ten coins which fall into the sealed receptacle during each revolution.

From the above it will be obvious that any operator may discover the whole sequence of 100 by the expenditure of ten coins and after this he can exercise skill and patience in playing only when he knows the "market" is rising; thus he will wait till some other operator has expended a few pennies in endeavouring to find which particular part of the sequence the machine is standing at, or one who has made a miscount in following the sequence, and when the time comes round in which the "market" is just beginning to rise, the most skilful operator will commence to make his series of purchases and will stop purchasing when he has made his known and predetermined profit.

One of the chief advantages in my invention is to be found in this principle of applying a definite sequence to the returns, because in machines which are in common use chance has to play a very prominent part, otherwise the skilful player will rapidly empty the machine (and thus "break the bank") and the returns made to the player in the case of these machines are consequently small with the chances very much in favour of the machine, but in my invention, owing to the returns being definite and predetermined, it is possible for the player to have returns very frequently without any risk of draining the machine.

Another advantage in my invention lies in the fact that the players are playing against one another and are using their skill and judgment as to when to play and when to stop and under no conditions can they empty the machine of coins through either chance or skill because the machine is not competing with the player but is merely taking a small percentage of the money invested by one player competing with some player who has previously played or who is going to play subsequently.

Alternatively, the machine may be duplicated or multiplied in any way so that more than one player can play at one time and the indicators so connected that mental skill is necessary to follow the sequences which may be inter-connected but still retaining some pre-determined arrangement.

The slots in the wheel may be of such size as will accommodate one coin as, for instance, one penny, but may be so arranged that when a smaller coin such as one halfpenny is inserted, it will fall straight through into the sealed receptacle so as not to block the way for a coin of the correct size or, alternatively, the incorrect coin may be returned to the operator.

The indicator may be disposed behind a glazed surface and provision may be made, such as by a push button or lever,

so that when a coin is inserted this button or lever is pressed and by pushing on the coin or other suitable projection the wheel may be rotated the requisite amount, or alternatively, a spring device may be employed so that the coin, on being inserted, deflects or compresses this spring and after the coin has passed into the machine, this spring may cause the necessary rotation by any known means.

A locking device of any known type may be employed so that the wheel may be held in the correct position after each movement and the knowledge that one side of the wheel about the vertical centre line carries a number of coins, whilst the other side does not, can be utilized to assist in the rotation of the wheel by means of gravity.

The outside case may be of metal or of wood or any other material and may be suitably hinged or carried on to a suitable base and fitted with a lock and key for obvious reasons, and means may be provided for an instruction plate to explain to the operator that the transaction is a purchase, that chance does not enter into the operations and that the dividends will rise and fall in a definite sequence. Also, if necessary, the indicator may be one which may display a number of future results so that the operator can know the results of the next two or three purchases, thereby rendering it easier for any operator with skill in observation to determine which part of the pre-determined sequence the wheel is standing at.

Dated this 21st day of January, 1927.
GRANVILLE BRADSHAW.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Coin-freed Apparatus for Providing Amusement.

I, GRANVILLE BRADSHAW, of 5, Beauchamp Place, Brompton Road, London, S.W. 3, Engineer, a British subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement :—

This invention relates to coin freed apparatus for providing amusement.

The primary object of the invention is to provide such apparatus in the use of which there is no element of chance or hazard, a further object being to provide such apparatus which does not compete with the user and which makes a certain fixed charge (no more and no less) for a predetermined number of operations of the apparatus.

According to the present invention, therefore, I provide apparatus for providing amusement, characterised by indicating means moved through a pre-arranged sequence of indications which is repeated after a pre-determined number of coins have been inserted into the apparatus, combined with mechanism for returning variable quantities of coins at irregular intervals which coincide with pre-arranged indications on said indicating means, the arrangement being such that a user can ascertain the number of coins that will be returned and the sequence of their return by observing the said sequence of indications.

In one constructional form of the invention which is hereinafter described in detail by way of example, the machine comprises an actuating member which is caused to make a definite and predetermined advance each time a coin is inserted into the member and the latter is operated, an indicating device being operatively connected to said member and advanced thereby in definite and predetermined steps in order to complete a sequence of indications which is repeated after a predetermined number of coins have been inserted.

Said actuating member preferably consists of a rotatable coin-holding member, means being provided for advancing said member by a definite and predetermined step each time a coin is inserted into the member and said means is operated, and means also being provided for permitting the coins to fall out of said member (to be returned to the user or retained in the apparatus) at certain definite and predetermined positions in the rotation of said member. The means for permitting the coins to be returned to the user may, for example, consist of a turnable release member co-operating with the coin-holding member, which is provided with means adapted to move the turnable member and release it at predetermined positions in its rotation, whereby it can move backward relatively to the coin-holding member and so allow a predetermined number of coins to fall from the coin-holding member at predetermined positions in the rotation thereof. Thus, for example, the turnable release member might be eccen-

trically arranged and operated by means of a number of stops provided on the coin-holding member and spaced at varying radial and circumferential distances thereon, the release member being moved and released in certain positions, by said stops.

The amusement can be made of greater interest to the user by arranging the mechanism connecting the coin-holding member and the indicating device in such a manner that the latter is caused to oscillate about its centre before coming to rest in its fixed and predetermined positions. It is, of course, essential that the apparatus shall be so arranged that it can only be operated when a coin has been inserted, and, in order to arrive at this result, it is convenient to rotate the coin-holding member by means of an abutment adapted to bear against a coin inserted into said coin-holding member when rotating the latter. Means are also provided for preventing further rotation when the coin-holding member has been moved through a predetermined angle.

Obviously, any desired indications may be used on the indicating device. In the constructional form of the invention described hereafter, for example, said device, which consists of a rotatable disc, is provided with a number of labels on which are printed the names of certain stocks and shares. Three of these labels are always visible to the user in a window in the front of the apparatus, so that the user can determine what position in the complete sequence of indications the disc is occupying before he inserts a coin into the apparatus. The same three labels do not appear again during the said sequence.

One constructional form of the present invention is illustrated, by way of example, on the annexed sheet of drawings, whereon :—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the machine, with part removed to disclose the interior mechanism.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 illustrates the mechanism operatively connecting the main driving shaft of the machine to the indicating disc on which labels printed with the names of certain stocks and shares, are arranged; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view illustrating the operative connection between the operating lever and the main driving shaft of the machine.

The machine comprises a casing 1 which is closed at its open front by a detachable cover 2 and at the back by a detachable cover 3 provided with locking means. The casing is formed with an opening 4, at the back of which is secured a frame fitted with a glass window 5 through which the indications of a revolvable disc (referred to hereinafter) can be observed by the user from the front of the machine. A flange 6 is provided on the casing for the purpose of receiving a card or the like (not shown) bearing an exact representation of the indications on said revolvable disc referred to above, said card or the like being provided in order that the user may refer thereto and so determine exactly in what position in the definite and predetermined order or sequence of its movement the aforesaid disc is standing at that particular moment, thus eliminating any possibility of chance or hazard in the use of the machine.

The front cover 2 is provided with an opening 7 through which the coins, in this case, pennies, can be inserted and with a flange 8 to which is fixed a card or the like (not shown) on which are provided the names of all the stocks and shares printed on the labels on the aforesaid disc, opposite the amounts the user will receive from the machine when the particular stocks or shares appear centrally in the window 5. A combined chute and trough 9 is also provided on the cover 2, the trough being adapted to receive the coins returned to the user from the machine, as described hereinafter.

The main driving shaft 10 of the machine is journalled, at one end, in a bearing 11 fixed in the front cover 2, and at its other end, in a bearing 12 provided in a plate bracket 13, which is bolted, as shown in Fig. 2 between said cover and the casing 1. A coin-holding wheel 14 is keyed on the driving shaft 10, said wheel being formed with a number of radial, rearwardly inclined slots 15, each forming a kind of chute for a coin 16, and each provided, on its upper wall, with a shoulder 17 adapted, as shown in Fig. 2, to prevent the coin falling rearwardly out of the wheel 14 as long as the radial slots are above the horizontal plane passing through the axis of the driving shaft. Counterfeit coins, or coins which are undersized, are not retained by the shoulder 17 and simply pass straight through the slot 15 into the interior of the machine. Five of the slots 15, spaced at desired circumferential intervals, open out at the circumference of the part 14^a of the wheel 14 (see the upper slot 15 in Fig. 2) so when such a slot is below the horizontal plane, the coin therein will drop out of the slot in a radial direction and be caught in a cash box (not shown)

in the bottom 74 of the machine. The wheel 14 is also provided with a flange 18 in which are formed as many radial slots 19 as there are slots 15, and intermediate teeth 20, between the slots, each of said teeth being formed with converging chamfers 21 at its tip. A plate 22 is pivotally arranged on the bearing 11 and is provided with a slot 23 (preferably of such a size as to prevent oversized coins being inserted) through which a coin inserted in the opening 7 in the cover can pass, in order to enter one of the slots 15 in the wheel 14. It may here be remarked that the wheel 14, and, consequently, the shaft 10, are rotated by the action of the plate 22 on the coin, the latter being accommodated in one of the radial slots 15 in the wheel and acted upon on one side, by a tongue 24 projecting rearwardly from the plate 22. The tongue is adapted to move in an annular recess 25 cut in the front face of the wheel 14. The plate 22 is actuated, in one direction, from the outside of the machine, by means of a lever 26, adapted to be pressed by the user, said lever being pivotally arranged in a bearing 27 and fixed to a lever 28, to which is secured a pin 29 contacting with the plate 22. The lever 28 rocks the plate 22 in an upward direction when the lever 26 is pivoted downwardly, and a spring 70 returns the plate 22 to its normal position when the pressure on the lever 26 is released.

A shaft 30 is turnably arranged in a bearing 31 fixed in the bracket 13, said shaft being formed, at one end, with a toothed pinion 32, and fixed, at the other end, to a circular plate 33, which is connected to a disc 34 having a flat rim 35 moving parallel to the window 5 in the casing 1. A plurality of labels 36 are provided on the front face of the rim 35, as shown in Fig. 1 and each label bears the name of a particular stock or share, such for example as, LOANS, SHIPPING, BONDS, TRUSTS, COAL, and so on, all arranged in a definite sequence as explained hereinafter. The pinion 32 gears with a toothed wheel 37 loosely mounted on the shaft 10, but arranged to be operatively connected thereto by means of a segment 38, see also Fig. 3, keyed to the shaft 10 and adapted to bear against a buffer carried by the toothed wheel 37 and consisting of a plunger 39 slidably carried by the wheel and spring-pressed toward the segment by a spring 40. The ratio of the number of teeth on the pinion 32 to that on the wheel 37 is 1 : 5 so that for every revolution of the wheel, the pinion and the shaft 30 and disc 34 will make five revolutions.

It is more interesting to the user (although not essential) to make the disc 34 oscillate backwards and forwards a few times before it ultimately comes to rest in its predetermined positions. This result is arrived at by means of the spring-pressed plunger 39 and by pivoting the segment 38 to a rod 71, which is slidable in a swivel 72 carried on the wheel 37. A spring 73 is arranged between the swivel and a shoulder on the rod 71. After the first impulse is imparted to said wheel by the pressure of the segment on the plunger 39, the spring 73 is compressed, and the recoil thereof causes the wheel 37 and disc 34 to rotate in the opposite direction to the arrow in Fig. 3 whereupon the spring 40 is compressed and, by its recoil, causes the wheel and disc to rotate for a short distance in the opposite direction. Thus, the user sees the labels on the rim 35 of the disc 34 swinging backwards and forwards behind the window 5. In order to prevent the disc 34 oscillating too long, a disc 80 is screwed on to the shaft 30 and loosely arranged thereon is another disc 81 which is retained between the rim 82 of the disc 80 and a ring 83. Four bolts 84 are screwed into the disc 81 and on each is arranged a coil spring 85 pressing on the ring 83. The inertia of the disc 81 exerts a damping effect on the disc 80 (and consequently the shaft 30) at the end of each forward or backward movement of the disc 34.

In order that the wheel 14 and the disc 34 shall make a definite and predetermined advance each time a coin is inserted in the slot 7 and acted upon by the lever 26 through the medium of the plate 22, as aforesaid, levers 41, carrying at their free ends a cylinder 42 which also acts as a slight brake, are pivotally mounted on a bracket 43, which is fixed to the upper central part of the plate bracket 13. The said cylinder is normally forced in the direction of the wheel 14 by means of a spring 44 connected, at one end, to the levers and, at the other end, to an upstanding part 45 of the bracket 43. The normal position of the cylinder 42 is thus as shown in Fig. 1, that is, engaging with the two opposite chamfers 21 of two adjacent teeth 20 on the wheel 14, in which position the cylinder acts as a means for preventing the further rotation of the wheel 14 unit the lever 26 is again operated. While the wheel 14 is being advanced by one slot 15, the cylinder 42 rises over one of the teeth 20 and takes up its position between that tooth and the next following tooth.

If reference is made to Fig. 2, it will be obvious that in order to prevent all

the coins inserted through the slot 7 dropping out of the radial slots 15 in the wheel 14, when said slots are in such positions that their forward ends are inclined downwardly toward the front of the machine (see the slot 15 beneath the shaft 10, in Fig. 2) and are open to the chute 9, means must be provided which will close said forward ends until such times as a dividend-paying stock or share appears centrally in the window 5. Said means consists of a trip plate 46, which is pivoted eccentrically on the flange 47 of the bearing 11, the arrangement being such that when the trip plate is carried around by the movement of the wheel 14, as explained hereafter, its outer extremity is moved towards the centre of the wheel 14. In order to operate the trip plate, a number of pins 49 are secured in the radial slots 19 of the wheel 14 by means of nuts 50. Each pin is formed with an enlarged head or stop 51 having a flat face 52 adapted to contact with the edge 53 of the trip plate. The stops are arranged in spaced circumferential and radial relationship around the slots 19, the distance between any two stops being arranged so that during the time that the trip plate is released by one of said stops, and engages with the next stop, a predetermined number of coins will be allowed to fall from the wheel 14, into the chute and trough 9. As previously mentioned the trip plate 46 is rotated by the stops 51, and the angle through which the said plate is rotated depends upon the initial position of the extreme outer end of the face 53 with respect to the flat face 52, because, obviously, owing to the mounting of the plate 46 upon the eccentric flange 47, when the wheel 14 rotates, taking the stop with it, the said end moves inward along the said flat face, until such times as the end is moved entirely out of contact with the face, whereupon, a spring 54 connected to the plate 46, returns the latter in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of the wheel 14. The backward movement of the trip plate is stopped by the contact of the face 53 with the flat face 52 of the next stop 51 which latter is spaced at a predetermined distance from the centre of the shaft 10 in order to allow a definite number of coins to be returned to the user.

In order to prevent the coins sticking in the slots 15, instead of being discharged out of said slots when the trip plate 46 is in a position favourable to this result, a flat plate 55 is secured to a bracket 56 which is fixed to the plate bracket 13. The end of the plate 55, which is bevelled, penetrates into an annular recess cut in the inner face of the wheel 14 and contacts with the ends of any coins which have not already rolled down the slots 15.

A recording meter, or revolution counter, 57 is arranged at the front of the machine, so that an attendant can observe at a glance how many sequences have been passed through, and how many coins the machine has retained since the last reading of the meter.

In the particular machine previously described, the sequence is one of 49 purchases, corresponding to one complete revolution of the wheel 14, and the sequence is invariable and repeated over and over again. The wheel 14 is therefore provided with 49 coin-holding slots 15 and a like number of slots 19. The insertion of a coin through the slots 7 and 23 and the subsequent operation of the lever 26, causes the wheel 14 to advance in the direction of the arrow through a definite and determined distance, that is, through a forty-ninth part of a complete revolution, corresponding to the movement of the cylinder 42 over one of the teeth 20 into engagement with the next pair of opposite chamfers 21, this engagement of the roller with the said chamfers positively preventing any further movement of the wheel 14 until a subsequent operation of the lever 26. Inasmuch as the advance of the wheel 14 at every operation of the thumb lever is definite and predetermined, so must be the advance of the disc 34, although the advance of the latter will be through an angle five times as great, owing to the 5 : 1 ratio between the toothed wheel 37 and the pinion 32. Consequently, a definite and predetermined indication or stock or share label will appear centrally in the window 5 of the machine, said window being made sufficiently wide for another label to be visible to the user on each side of the first mentioned label, so that the user can always determine in what position of the sequence the disc 35 is standing by referring to the aforesaid card or the like fixed to the flange 6 on the front cover 2 and he always knows that he is purchasing the stock or share shown on the central label appearing in the window 5, the value of which he can determine by looking at the card or the like on the flange 8. If, for example, the three labels showing in the window bear the indications COAL—TRUSTS—BONDS, the user not only knows that he is purchasing TRUSTS and, therefore, will receive nothing for his immediate investment, but also, by referring to the card or the like on the flange 6, he can at once determine his position in the sequence, and how many more coins he

has to invest before a certain dividend paying stock or share will appear centrally in the window 5. The three labels showing in the window 5 are changed after each operation of the lever 26 in a definite and predetermined sequence, and the release of coins from the radial slots 15, either to the cash box in the base 74 or to the trough 9, is also arranged to take place in a definite and predetermined sequence. Obviously, the return of coins during one revolution of the wheel 14 must only take place when predetermined labels are shown in the centre of the window 5, and this must be repeated for every revolution of the wheel 14 and of the disc 34. This effect is obtained by spacing a stop 51 corresponding say, to the appearance of COAL in the window 5 at such a circumferential distance from a following stop and at such a radial distance forward or backward of said stop, that the trip plate 46 after having been moved radially inward by the first mentioned stop will be released to allow the coins corresponding to COAL to drop from the slots which are uncovered by the edge 48 of said plate, until the latter, turning backward against the rotation of the wheel 14 comes into contact with the next following stop. The outer end of the plate contacts with the face 52 of said following stop in such a position that after a predetermined number of coins have been inserted in the machine and the disc 35 moved through a predetermined distance, say to TEXTILES, the number of coins corresponding to this indication will be released into the chute 9 when the said indication appears and the end of the face 53 disengages the face 52 of said following stop 51. It has already been explained that a fixed number of coins is retained by the machine during every revolution of the wheel 14, as a charge for the amusement provided, all the other coins being returned to the users.

It should be clearly understood that the operations of the above described apparatus are not operations of chance or hazard. Every time the wheel 14 is actuated the indicating device 35 is moved to a definite and predetermined position, which is not repeated again in the sequence of movement of said device. Further the user of the apparatus knows before he plays, by observing the labels in the window 5, what will be the result of the operation, and he has only to discover the sequence, either by observing the indicating device or by referring to the aforesaid representation thereof provided on the flange 6, in order to determine whether it would be worth his while to use the apparatus again when the said device is occupying a certain position. Further the user has all his coins returned to him as he operates the apparatus (except the normal charge for using the apparatus a certain number of times) and therefore he does not win or lose by chance but he has all the excitement of a game of chance without the risk of loss.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is :—

1. Apparatus for providing amusement, characterised by indicating means moved through a pre-arranged sequence of indications which is repeated after a predetermined number of coins have been inserted into the apparatus, combined with mechanism for returning variable quantities of coins at irregular intervals which coincide with pre-arranged indications on said indicating means, the arrangement being such that a user can ascertain the number of coins that will be returned and the sequence of their return by observing the said sequence of indications.

2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, comprising an actuating member which is caused to make a definite and predetermined advance each time a coin is inserted into the member and the latter is operated, and indicating means consisting of an indicating device operatively connected to said member and advanced thereby in definite and predetermined steps in order to complete a sequence of indications which is repeated after a predetermined number of coins has been inserted.

3. Apparatus for providing amusement as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, which comprises a rotatable coin-holding member, means for advancing said member by a definite and predetermined step each time a coin is inserted into the member and said means are operated, and means for permitting the coins to fall out of said member (to be returned to the user or retained in the apparatus) at certain definite and predetermined positions in the rotation of said member.

4. Apparatus for providing amusement as claimed in Claim 3, comprising a rotatable coin-holding member in which the coins are inserted, a turnable release member co-operating with the coin-holding member, and means on the latter which move the turnable member and release it at predetermined positions in its rotation, so that it can move backward relatively to the coin-holding member and so allow a predetermined number of coins to fall from the coin holding member at

certain predetermined positions in the rotation thereof.

5. Apparatus for providing amusement as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 4, which comprises a wheel or the like formed with slots for holding a fixed number of coins, means for rotating the wheel or the like after a coin has been inserted thereinto, means for preventing the advance of the wheel or the like beyond a predetermined angle after each actuation of said first mentioned means, and an indicating device operatively connected to the wheel or the like, in such a manner that its advance after each actuation of the latter is also definite and predetermined.

6. Apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5, which is so constructed and arranged that a fixed number of coins are retained by the apparatus from a predetermined number of coins inserted thereinto.

7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 in which coins are allowed to fall out of said wheel or the like for distribution to the user at certain fixed positions in the rotation thereof by the movement of an eccentrically arranged member, which is operated by means of a number of stops provided on the wheel or the like and spaced at varying radial and circumferential distances.

8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, 6 or 7 in which the angular movement of said indicating device is larger than that of the wheel or the like.

9. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 in which the indicating device is provided with means whereby it is caused to oscillate about its centre before coming to rest in its fixed and predetermined positions, with or without the addition of means for damping the oscillatory movement of said disc.

10. Apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 9 in which the actuating member or the coin-holding wheel or the like is fixed to a shaft on which a toothed wheel is loosely mounted, said wheel engaging with a toothed pinion, arranged on a shaft on which an indicating device is mounted, and being operatively connected to the shaft on which the wheel or the like is fixed through spring means.

11. Apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 3 to 10 in which the actuating member or the coin-holding wheel or the like is operated by means of an abutment which is adapted to bear against a coin carried in said member or wheel or the like to rotate the same, means, co-operating with the member or wheel or the like, being provided for preventing further rotation when the latter has been moved through a predetermined angle.

12. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said means consist of a spring-pressed cylinder or cam adapted to bear on teeth provided on said member or wheel or the like.

13. Apparatus for providing amusement, comprising a rotatable wheel, coin-holding slots therein, an abutment adapted to bear on a coin inserted into one of said slots, means co-operating with the wheel to limit the angular movement thereof, eccentrically mounted means for preventing the coins falling out of said wheel to the exterior of the apparatus, means for permitting a fixed number of coins to fall out of said wheel during each revolution thereof, an indicating member, gear mechanism connecting said wheel and member, indications arranged on said member in a predetermined sequence which is completed each time the wheel moves through a complete revolution, and a window or opening in the apparatus wherein can be seen a sufficient number of said indications for the user to determine what position in the sequence the indicating member is occupying.

14. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims 3 to 13, so arranged that a fixed number of coins fall out of the actuating member or coin-holding member or wheel during each revolution thereof, said coins being retained in coin-holding means arranged in the apparatus.

15. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims 2 to 14, in which the actuating member or coin-holding member or wheel comprises a plurality of slots each having four paths one through which the coin is inserted into the apparatus, one through which small or counterfeit coins can pass into the interior of the apparatus, one through which the coin can fall into coin-holding means in the apparatus and one along which the coin can pass to be returned to the user.

16. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the actuating mechanism and indicating device are so arranged that the user can visually, mentally or otherwise determine before operating the apparatus exactly what return he will receive from the apparatus after he has operated the latter.

17. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the actuating mechanism and indicating device are so arranged that the user can visually determine what a number of future results will be.

18. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims which is arranged when operated to deliver to the user one or more coins or no coins and in which the future results are predetermined.

19. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims, provided with a representation of said indicating means, whereby a user can ascertain the result of future operations of the apparatus by observing on said representation the position of the indications which are shown on said indicating means before he operates the apparatus.

20. Apparatus for providing amusement, constructed arranged and adapted to be operated substantially as described with reference to the annexed sheets of drawings.

Dated the 15th day of October, 1927.

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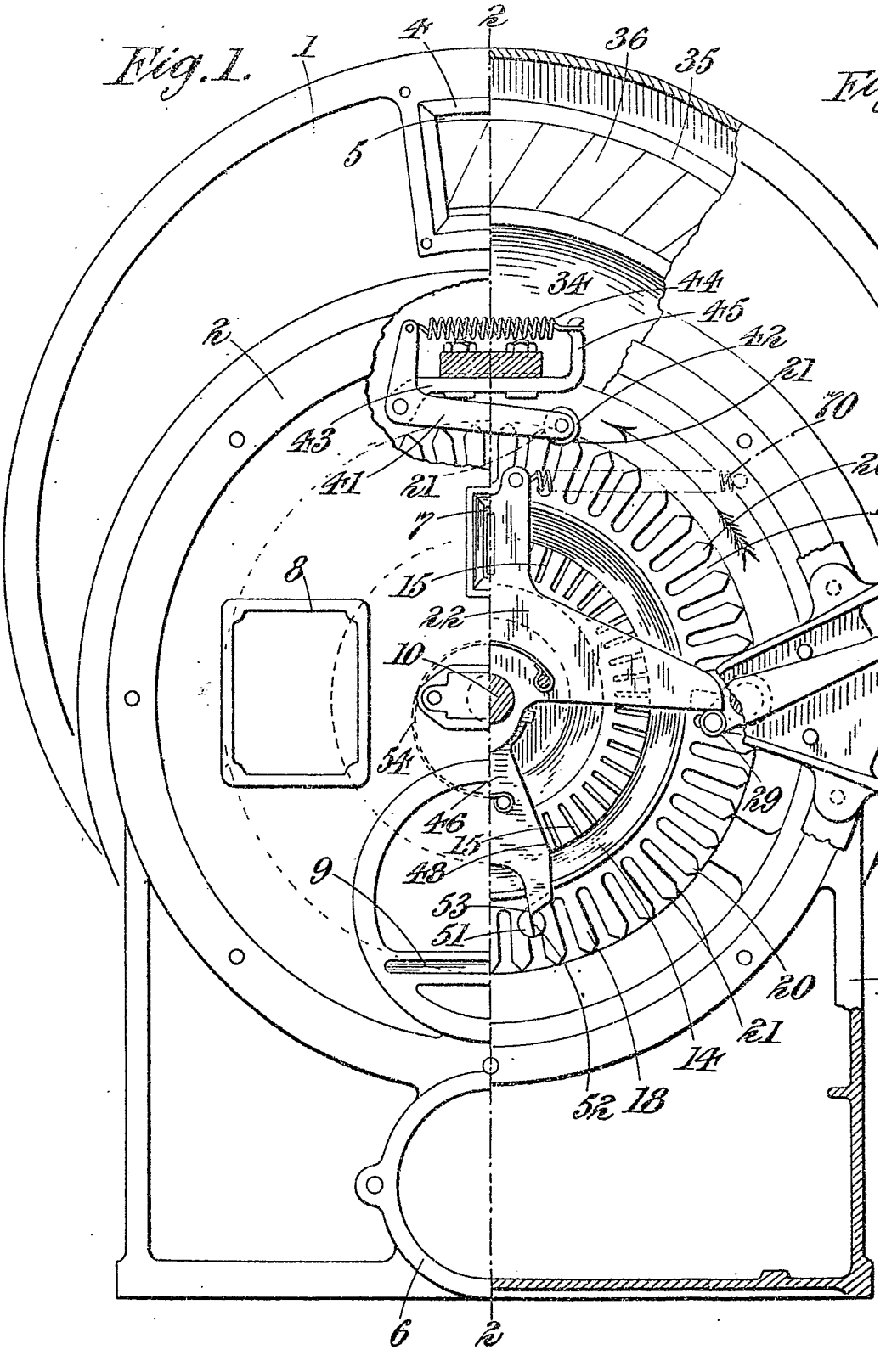
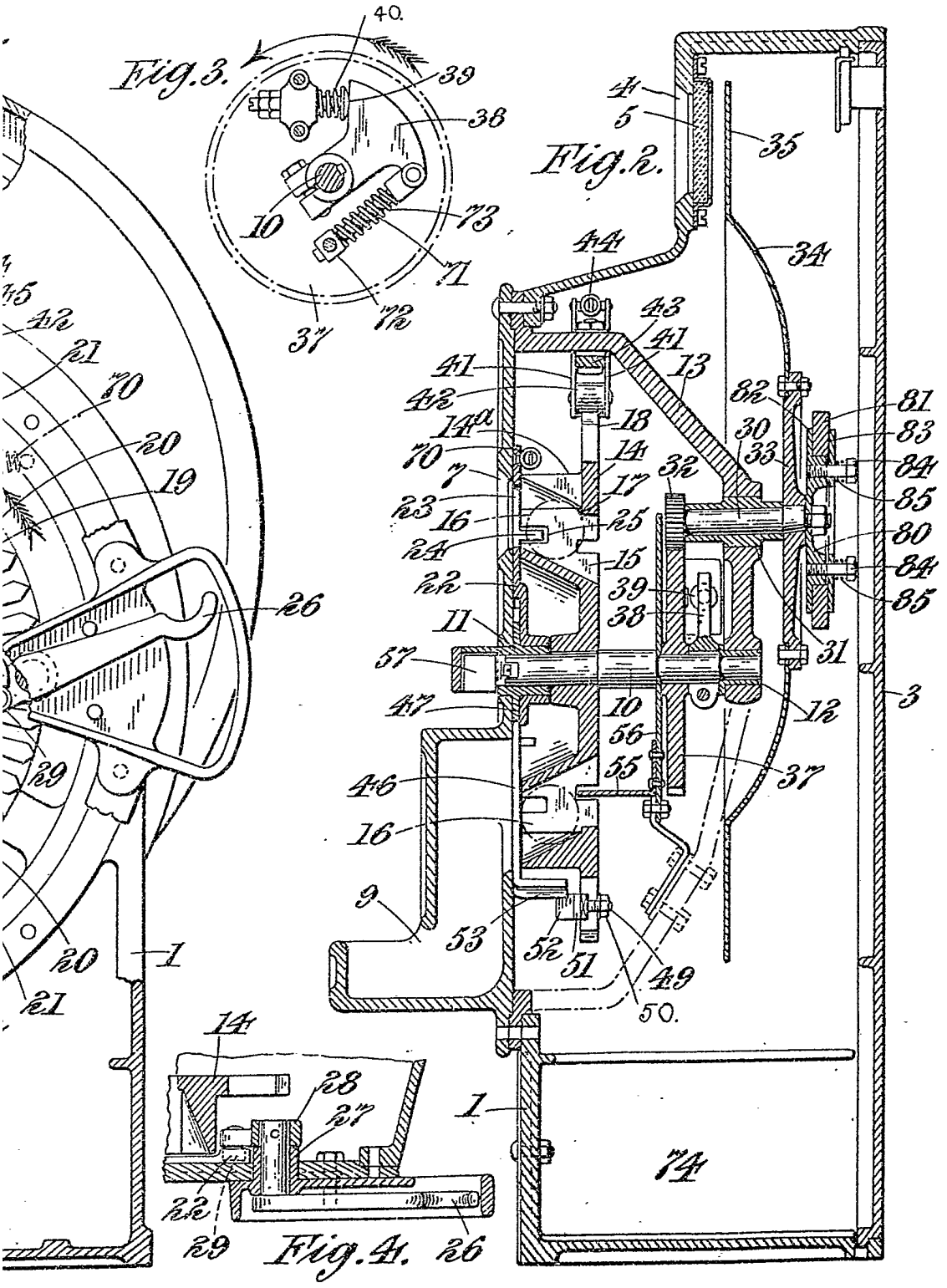
Fig. 1.





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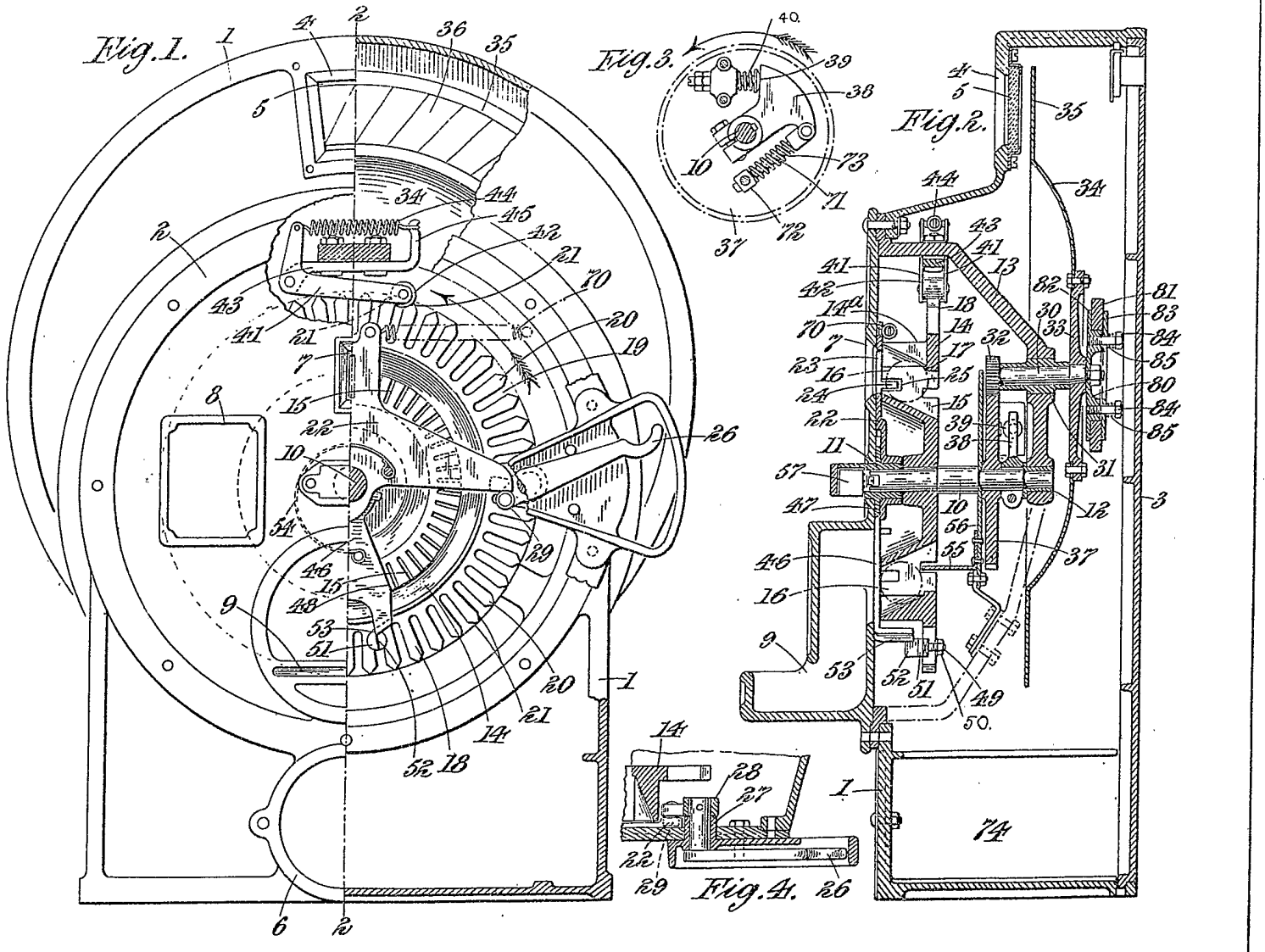

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