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PATENT SPECIFICATION

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.



Improvements in or relating to Apparatus for Playing Games of Skill.

I, WALLACE ATHERTON McCURD, a British Subject, of 3, Albemarle Street, Clerkenwell, London, E.C. 1, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention is for improvements in or relating to apparatus for playing games of skill of the type in which a part or missile is projected or thrown at one or more targets, the movement of the part being in a vertical plane and the targets arranged at various indicated heights; an object of the game is to project the moving part to exactly the right height for the selected target, and some indication is given by the apparatus of a successful attempt; in the case of apparatus which is released for operation by the insertion of a token, the successful operation may result in the return of one or more tokens to the operator as a prize.

In apparatus of this type the moving part is usually mounted on a guide or guides along which it moves, with a rack extending along its path and a pawl on the said part is adapted to engage the rack and retain the part at the height which it reaches; in order to differentiate the targets, and to enable the apparatus to give an indication of a successful operation, one or more teeth of the rack may be omitted at the position of a target, and an additional tooth is mounted beside the rack in such a position as to be engaged by the pawl at that point; this additional tooth is movable through a small range under the weight of the moving part, and the movement of the tooth is used to give the indication of a successful operation. Conveniently the pawl carried by the moving part is of somewhat greater width than the rack and the movable tooth is mounted beside the rack in such position as to be engaged by the pawl.

In order to render the game purely one of skill and to prevent illicit operation, it is desirable that it should not be possible to project the moving part to a point above the target and then to release it step-by-step down the rack until it engages a moving tooth, and with this object in view one feature of the invention consists in the provision on the moving

part of an adjustable pawl which is movable into an operative position in which it engages or can engage the rack, but is provided with means normally holding it in, or tending to move it into, an inoperative position; in combination with this adjustable pawl there is provided means whereby it can be moved into its operative position only when the part carrying it is returned to the lower end of its range of movement, and means whereby it is moved into its inoperative position only by the resetting operation of the apparatus, for example after the insertion of a token.

According to another feature of the invention the pawl which engages the rack is pivotally mounted so as to be swung in to operative or inoperative positions, and is associated with a second pawl or detent to hold it in its operative position; a spring-control tends to move the first pawl into its inoperative position and conveniently this spring is also connected to the second pawl or detent to hold it in its engaging position. When the first pawl is in its inoperative position it is held clear of the rack and the only means for returning it to its operative position, is a stop situated at or near the lower end of the range of movement of the moving part so as to be engaged by the pawl when the part is returned to its lower end of its movement; the second pawl or detent is provided with a laterally extending pin or shoulder adapted to be engaged by a rod or strip which is mounted beside the path of movement of these pawls and is movable, for example rotatable, so as to engage this pin or shoulder at any point in the range of movement and move the second pawl or detent so as to release the first pawl. When thus released the moving part is entirely freed from control by the operator so that it returns automatically to the bottom of its range of movement. This release operation of the pawls is effected by any suitable mechanism which may itself be released for movement by the insertion of a token into the apparatus.

Another feature of the invention consists in providing a partial support for the moving part by means of a spring;

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