The invention relates to a game apparatus, and more especially to a ball playing game apparatus.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character, wherein a ball tossing game can be played and thereby giving amusement to participants and thrill in the winning of the game through the operation of such apparatus, the latter being of novel construction and unique in the working thereof.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character, wherein a game can be played by two or four players, and the chance factor enters into each play in sending a ball to its goal, yet skill is an item important in the winning of the game.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of this character, which is simple in construction, thoroughly reliable and efficient in operation, strong, durable, hand actuated, giving entertainment and amusement to the players thereof, affording pleasure and attractiveness to the participants in the playing of the game, and inexpensive to manufacture and install.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which show the preferred embodiment of the invention, and pointed out in the claims hereunto appended.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the apparatus constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a multiplied side view thereof.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3--3 of Figure 2 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4--4 of Figure 3 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 5--5 of Figure 4 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6--6 of Figure 3 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 7 is a multiplied elevation of one of the key or lever separators.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views in the drawings.

Reverting to the drawings in detail, the game apparatus constituting the present invention comprises a substantially rectangular or elongated shaped body structure denoted generally at A, which involves a base section 10, upstanding vertical end walls 11, opposed upstanding spaced vertical transparent side walls 12, and a flat horizontally arranged top section 13, respectively. The sections and walls are interfitting and secured together in any suitable manner to create an enclosure or compartment 14 within this body structure A.

The base section 10 is superimposed on outer and intermediate foundation cross sills 15 and 16 respectively for the support of the said section on a flooring or other horizontal plane, while directly above the said section 10 is arranged opposite groups of depressible keys or levers 17, each group being disposed in longitudinal rows, and the keys or levers are side-by-side in parallel relation to each other throughout the row to lie crosswise of the chamber or compartment 14, meeting midway of the latter at their inner ends 18 where they overlap one another in a horizontal direction throughout the longitudinal extent of such chamber or compartment. These keys or levers 17 are pivoted about horizontal pivot rods 19 for vertical rocking motion thereon, which pivot rods 19 being mounted or having bearings in upstanding vertical dividing plates 20 which separate the keys or levers 17 into independent pairs therebetween in close relation to one another. The section 10 has clearances 21 underlying the keys or levers 17 to allow of free rocking motion thereto. The rods 19 also have fixed connections with the end walls 11 of the body structure A. The plates 20 rise above striking blocks 22 which are arranged in pairs therebetween and above a longitudinally centered horizontal guide rail 23 interfitting the plates 20. These blocks 22 are anchored on plungers 24 working through the rail 23 and fixed in upstanding vertical position on the ends 18 of the keys or levers 17. The plates 20 effect trapping troughs as denoted generally at 25 therebetween above the blocks 22 in their pair relationship. Positioned on and surrounding the plungers 24 and interposed between the rail 23 and the key or lever ends 18 are coiled tensioning springs 26 which function to tension the said keys or levers when the outer ends 27 of such keys or levers are depressed out of the normal horizontal disposition thereof, these ends being extended beyond opposite sides of the body 10 outwardly in a lateral direction thereto for hand operation thereof.

The pairs of blocks 22 have reversely inwardly bevelled striking top surfaces 28 to effect valleys common to each pair of blocks. The top sur-
faces produce a reverse casting or projection of an object when struck by such surfaces individually, according to the key or lever 17 selectively actuated at either side of the body structure A.

Provided in the uppermost face of the top section 13 and directed from one end wall 11 of the body structure A toward the approximate center transversely of the latter is an outwardly tapered ball feed chute or alley 28' which has its larger end merging into an entrance hole 29 in said top section to the enclosure or compartment 14 for the gravitating of balls 30 singly therein and onto a pair of the blocks 22 from where they will bounce at random for trapping by a trough common to another pair of said blocks.

The end walls 11 have provided therein at a determined elevation above the blocks outlet windows 31, each confronted with a netted basket 32 which effects a goal pocket detachably held and supported properly by a hanger bracket 33 fitted on the body structure A to support the basket horizontally outwardly from the end wall 11 next thereto, as best seen in Figure 2 of the drawings. The baskets 32 are designated for catching a ball 30 when driven through a window 31 through striking action of a contacting block 22 operated by a key or lever 17 which is in turn hand-controlled by a player.

By the deposit of a ball 30 in the basket 32 through striking action of a block 22 within the compartment 14 a definite scoring is had for a player in the playing of the apparatus, and such player making the highest scoring is the winner of the game played.

Each of the windows 31 is adapted to be closed by a closure member 34 which when opened affords a brace for the bracket 33, as evidenced in Figure 2 of the drawings.

The flooring arrangement created by the blocks 22 within the enclosure or compartment 14 in the body structure A constitutes the playing field for a game when played by the apparatus, and in the playing of such game the balls 30 of a determined series are placed within the chute 28' and the ball 30 nearest the hole 29 is fed therethrough with the succeeding balls in sequence following. When the series of balls are deposited in the enclosure or compartment 14, then a player selects and operates a key or lever 17 for the casting of a ball by on the blocks 22 controlled by the selected lever 17 to effect the delivery thereof through a striking force from the blocks 22 thereto successfully into a basket 33, thus making a score for the winning of the game as may be played by the apparatus. The block 22 strikes the ball and the direction the ball will travel in its trajectory is determined by the side of the game on which the player is positioned. The levers 17 on one side will control the slanted blocks 22 for one direction, and the levers 17 on the opposite side will control the slanted blocks for travel of the balls in the opposite direction. If an attempt to score has been made by the player for each ball dropped into the enclosure and some balls remain that have not made a score the balls falling to make a score can be removed from the enclosure or apparatus in any suitable manner, as for example, through either of the windows which give access thereto prior to the playing of the game by an opponent.

The game, its rules and regulations, as may be played by the apparatus is a separate entity from the apparatus and is not an essence of the invention as heretofore described.

Each of the keys or levers 17 is manually operated, preferably by a finger of the hand of a person.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus of the kind described, comprising a body structure, a plurality of striking blocks arranged in a horizontal plane within the structure, an inclined chute on the upper surface of said body, and an opening at the lower end of said chute for gravitating rolling objects onto the blocks, goal baskets mounted exteriorly of said body, means in said body for making said baskets accessible from within and without the structure for deposit of said rolling objects therein when driven by the blocks, and manually operated means for imparting striking action to the blocks.

2. An apparatus of the kind described, comprising a body structure, a plurality of striking blocks arranged in a horizontal plane within the structure, an inclined chute on the upper surface of said body, and an opening at the lower end of said chute for gravitating rolling objects onto the blocks, goal baskets mounted exteriorly of said body, means in said body for making said baskets accessible from within and without the structure for deposit of said rolling objects therein when driven by the blocks, manually operated means for imparting striking action to the blocks, and trough-forming means embracing each pair of blocks within the structure.

GERALD LEROY RIFFE.

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