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PATENT SPECIFICATION

Application Date: Dec. 24, 1932. No. 36,602/32. **402,259**

Complete Left: July 25, 1933.

Complete Accepted: Nov. 30, 1933.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Amusement Apparatus.

We, CHARLES WICKSTEED & COMPANY (1920) LIMITED, a British Company, RALPH WICKSTEED a British Subject, and TOM ATWELL, a British Subject, all of Stamford Road Works, Kettering, in the County of Northampton, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention is for improvements in or relating to amusement apparatus and is concerned with the type of such apparatus which is known as a " chute " and comprises an inclined slide, steps leading to the elevated end thereof and a girder frame supporting the steps and the slide.

The chute is a common piece of amusement apparatus in children's playgrounds, and in known constructions the steps lead straight up and onto the slide which is substantially in line with the steps. Sometimes a small platform is provided between the steps and the chute. These known constructions are subject to many disadvantages, for example, it is possible for children to be pushed onto the slide by those pressing from behind. Moreover it is necessary to place the feet onto the sloping part of the slide before assuming a sitting position and it is possible to mount the slide in a standing up position. All these disadvantages are a source of danger to users of the apparatus.

An object of the present invention is to remove the disadvantages above discussed.

According to the present invention there is provided an amusement apparatus of the type specified, wherein the directions of the elevated end or " take-off " part of the slide and of the exit from the steps leading thereto are offset with respect to or transverse to one another, and wherein a platform supported on the frame of the apparatus affords communication between the exit from the steps and the elevated end of the slide. In a convenient construction the steps and the slide are located in substantially parallel planes offset with respect to one another.

In one construction of the apparatus there is provided means, such as wire netting, supported above the platform in the neighbourhood of the " take-off " part of the slide for limiting the head room available at that part so that a user of the slide cannot mount it in a standing position. Another constructional feature comprises continuing the elevated end of the slide up above the platform level so as to form a raised seat on the platform. This construction enables a person about to use the apparatus first to sit on the raised seat and then swing the legs over on to the sloping part of the slide.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example. This example is concerned with a chute for children's playgrounds. The slide comprises the usual construction of inclined planks supported at various points down the length of the slide by iron posts bedded in concrete. The upper end of the slide rests on and is attached to a frame of girder construction also bedded in concrete. The top of this frame is boarded over to provide a horizontal platform. This platform is surrounded by a protecting rail and the slide is continued up above the platform level. The extreme upper end of the slide is formed with a horizontal seat transverse to the direction of the slide. Immediately above the seat on the slide is located a covering of wire netting supported by a tubular frame on the platform. This wire netting limits the head room available above the " take-off " part of the slide and consequently prevents children clambering onto the slide and standing erect thereon at the " take-off " part. In any case, the transverse seat on the slide which is raised above the platform affords a natural " take-off " because the user can sit on the transverse seat and swing the legs round onto the slide; since the seat is absolutely horizontal the user is not forthwith projected down the slide, but requires a slight push to start off.

The children arrive on the platform, prior to taking off on the slide, by steps which lead up to the platform in a direction which is offset from the direction of the slide. These steps are supported at the upper end on the platform and are bedded in concrete at the other end. A

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hand rail is provided on both sides of the steps and is supported on the protecting rails which surround the platform.

By offsetting the line of exit from the steps with respect to the line of " take-off " on the slide there is no possibility of a child being pushed from behind on to the slide. Furthermore, if a child has lost its nerve when arriving at the top of the steps it can stand on one side on the platform and let others pass to the slide.

It will be appreciated that the construction above described is only one example of an amusement apparatus in accordance with the present invention, and that modifications may be made in this construction without departing from the nature of the invention. For example, the steps may be located so that the direction of exit on to the platform is transverse to the direction of " take-off " on the slide.

Dated this 24th day of December, 1932.
BOULT, WADE & TENNANT,
111 & 112, Hatton Garden, London,
E.C. 1,
Chartered Patent Agents.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Amusement Apparatus.

We, CHARLES WICKSTEED & COMPANY (1920) LIMITED, a British Company, RALPH WICKSTEED a British Subject, and TOM ATWELL, a British Subject, all of Stamford Road Works, Kettering, in the County of Northampton, 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 is for improvements in or relating to amusement apparatus and is concerned with the type of such apparatus which is known as a " chute " and comprises an inclined slide, steps leading to the elevated end thereof and a girder frame supporting the steps and the slide.

The chute is a common piece of amusement apparatus in children's playgrounds, and in the constructions most generally used the steps lead straight up and onto the slide which is substantially in line with the steps. Sometimes a small platform is provided between the steps and the chute. Chutes have also been proposed (see British Patent Specification No. 26,946/10) in which the steps are out of line with the chute. These known constructions are subject to many disadvantages, for example, it is possible for children to be pushed onto the slide by those pressing from behind. Moreover, it is necessary to place the feet onto the sloping part of the slide before assuming a sitting position and it is possible to mount the slide in a standing up position. All these disadvantages are a source of danger to users of the apparatus.

An object of the present invention is to remove the disadvantages above discussed.

According to the present invention, there is provided an amusement apparatus of the type specified, wherein a platform supported on the frame of the apparatus affords communication between the exit from the steps and the elevated end of the slide, the slide being continued above the platform level and so constructed as to form a raised seat over the platform. This construction enables a person about to use the apparatus first to sit on the raised seat and then swing the legs over on to the sloping part of the slide and also acts to prevent children pressing from behind pushing the user down the slide. In a convenient construction the exit from the steps to the platform is so located as to be out of line with the slide. To accomplish this the steps and the slide may be located in substantially parallel planes offset with respect to one another.

In one construction of the apparatus there is provided means, such as wire netting, supported above the platform in the neighbourhood of the " take-off " part of the slide for limiting the head room available at that part so that a user of the slide cannot mount it in a standing position.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the chute assembly, and

Figure 2 is a plan view.

Referring to Figure 1, the slide consists of substantially U-shaped sections of planking 1, 1*a* and 1*b* with a flat plank 1*c* at the end of the slide the sections being supported at various points down the length of the slide by iron posts 2, 3 and 4 bedded in concrete foundations 5, 6 and 7 respectively. Posts 2 are provided at each side of the slide and each is attached to a Tee-section member 8

which serves to support the upper end sections 1 and 1*a*. The members 8 are rigidly connected at 9 near their upper ends to a transverse angle iron 10 carried by one side of a four-legged structure 11 provided with cross-bracing. The structure 11 is also bedded in concrete. The rectangular frame 11 also supports a second transverse angle iron 10*a* and the transverse members are boarded over to provide a horizontal platform 12 which is surrounded by wooden walls 13 located between vertical tubular members 14 and horizontal rails 15. The walls 13 are complete on two sides of the enclosure but extend for only a part of the way along the other two sides to allow of access to and egress from the platform at 16 and 16*a* (Figure 2).

The slide 1 is continued above the level of the platform 12 through the opening 16*a* left in one of the walls 13 and the extreme upper end of the slide is formed with a horizontal seat 17 transverse to the direction of the slide. Immediately above the seat 17 is located a covering 18 of wire netting attached to a rectangular frame 19 supported by extensions of the tubular members 14. This wire netting limits the head room available above the " take-off " part of the slide and consequently prevents children clambering onto the slide to stand erect thereon at the " take-off " part. In any case, the transverse seat 17 on the slide which is raised above the platform 12 affords a natural " take-off " because the user can sit on the transverse seat and swing the legs round onto the slide; since the seat is absolutely horizontal the user is not forthwith projected down the slide, but requires a slight push to start off.

The children arrive on the platform, prior to taking off on the slide, by steps 20 which lead up to the platform 12 in a direction which is offset from the direction of the slide. These steps are rigidly connected at the upper end to the transverse angle iron 10*a* at 21 and are bedded in concrete 22 at the lower end. A hand rail 23 is provided on both sides of the steps and is fixed at the top to the vertical members 14 which surround the platform.

It will be apparent from Figure 2 that by offsetting the entrance 16 to the platform 12 with respect to the line of " take-off " from the exit 16*a* there is no possibility of a child being pushed from behind onto the slide. Furthermore, if a child has lost its nerve when arriving at the top of the steps it can stand on one side on the platform and let others pass to the slide.

Preferably the side of the slide 1 remote from the entrance to the platform is extended to provide a hand grip 24 whereby the children may more easily pull themselves into position on the seat 17.

It will be appreciated that the construction above described is only one example of an amusement apparatus in accordance with the present invention, and that modifications may be made in this construction without departing from the nature of the invention. For example, the steps may be located so that the direction of exit onto the platform is transverse to the direction of " take-off " on the slide.

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

1. An amusement apparatus of the type specified, wherein a platform supported on the frame of the apparatus affords communication between the exit from the steps and the elevated end of the slide, the slide being continued above the platform level and is so constructed as to form a raised seat over the platform for the purpose specified.

2. An amusement apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the exit from the steps to the platform is so located as to be out of line with the slide.

3. An amusement apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the slide and the steps extend in opposite directions from the platform in substantially parallel planes offset with respect to one another.

4. An amusement apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, or Claim 3, wherein means such as wire-netting is supported above the " take-off " part of the slide for limiting the head room available at that part.

5. An amusement apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the platform is surrounded by walls having an entrance and exit therein and the steps leading to the platform are provided with a handrail on each side.

6. An amusement apparatus substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 25th day of July, 1933.

BOULT, WADE & TENNANT,
111 & 112, Hatton Garden, London,
E.C. 1,
Chartered Patent Agents.

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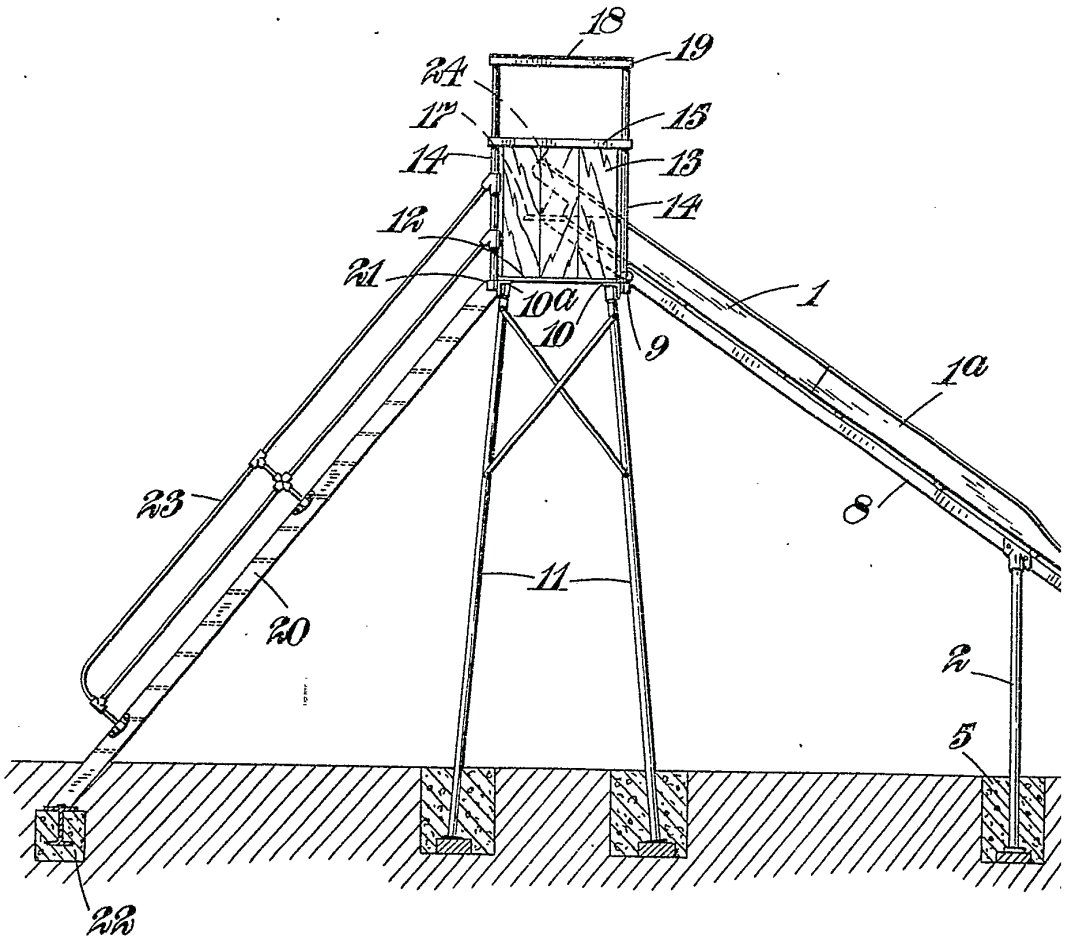


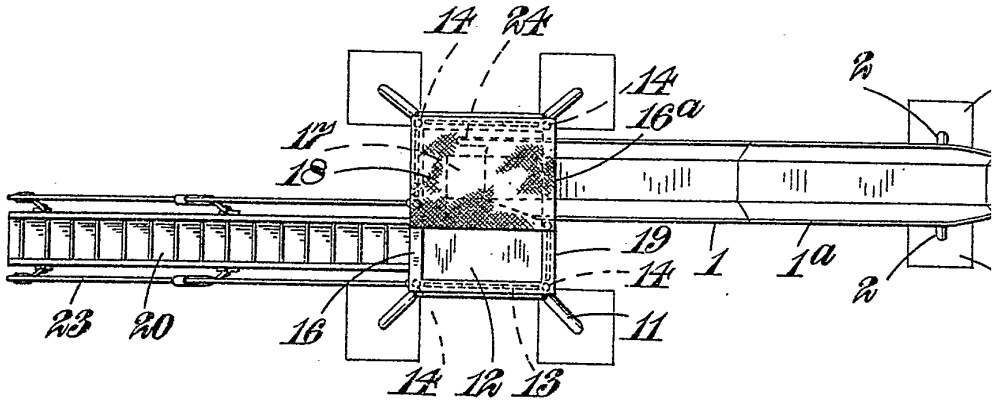


Fig. 1.

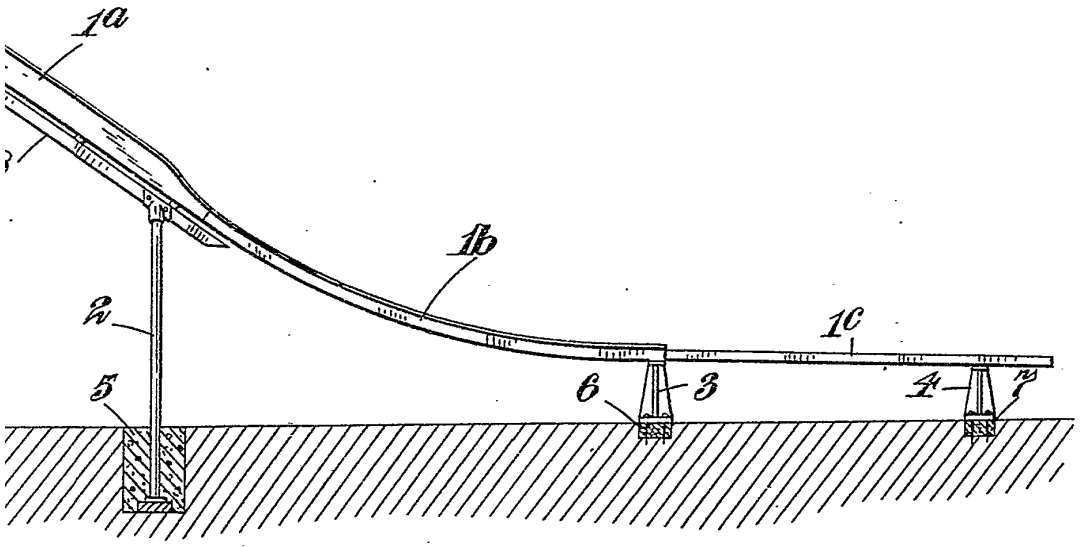
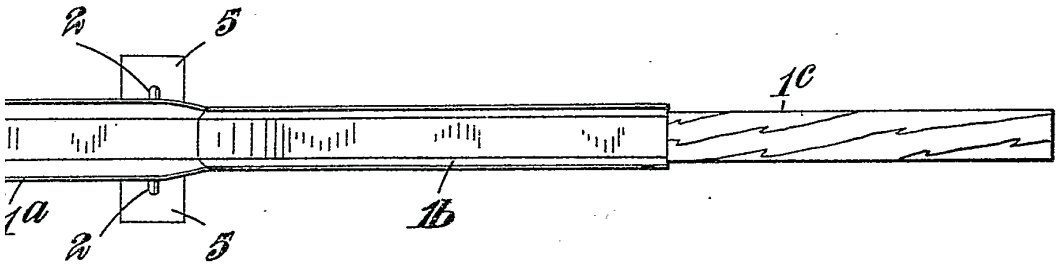


Fig. 2.



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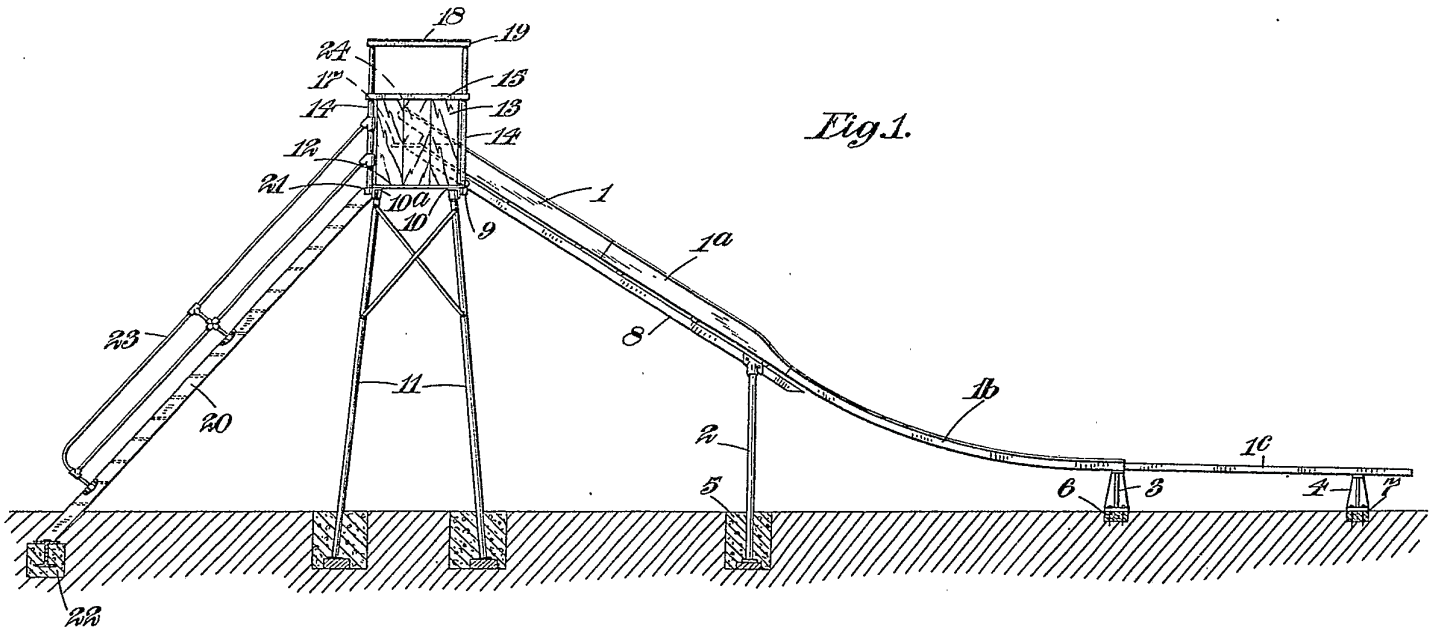

Fig. 1.

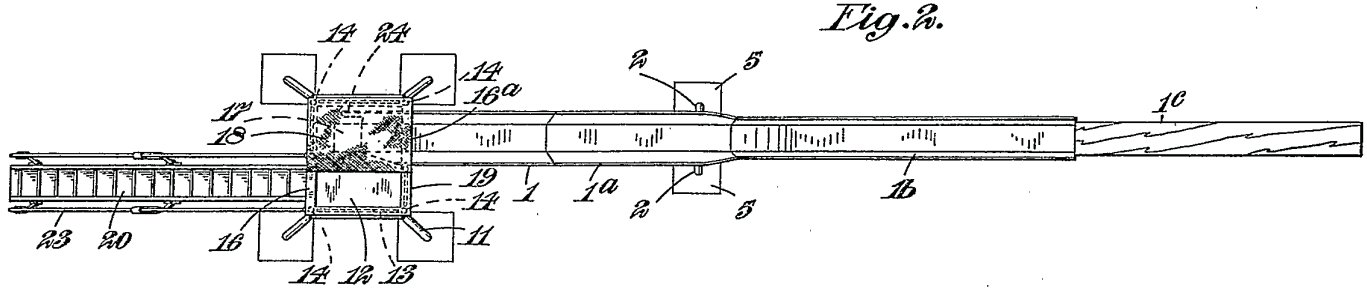

Fig. 2.

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