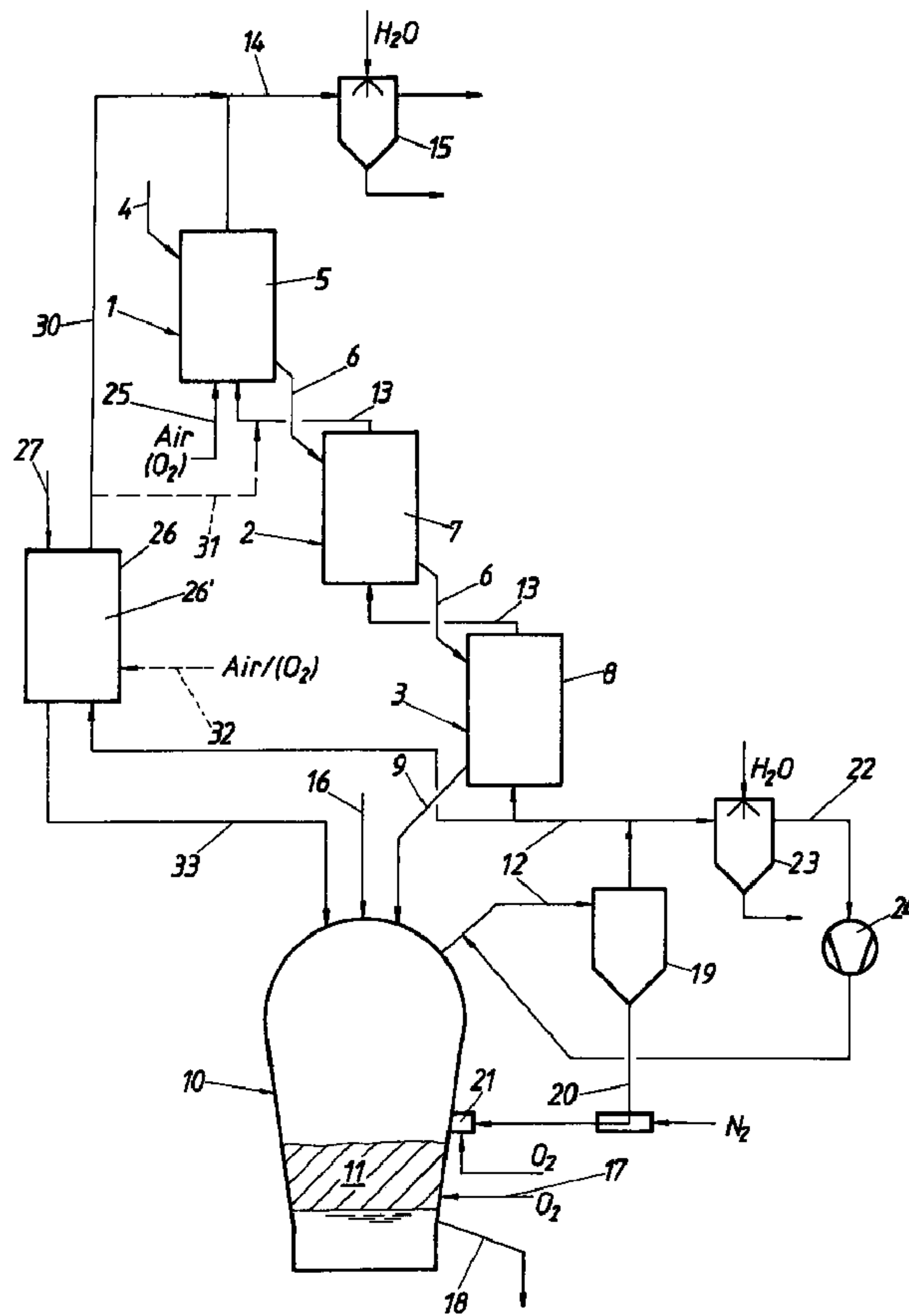




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(54) Titre : PROCEDE DE PRODUCTION DE METAL LIQUIDE ET INSTALLATION POUR METTRE EN OEUVRE LEDIT PROCEDE  
 (54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING LIQUID METAL AND FACILITIES FOR CARRYING OUT THE PROCESS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

With a method for producing liquid metal from charging substances comprised of ore and of fluxes, the ore is directly reduced to sponge metal in at least one reduction zone (5, 7, 8), the sponge metal is melted along with fluxes in a melt-down gasifying zone

(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

(11) under the supply of carbon carriers and of an oxygen-containing gas and a CO- and H<sub>2</sub>-containing process gas serving as a reducing gas is produced which is fed into the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) and is reacted there and subsequently is withdrawn, wherein slagforming fluxes, in particular calcium carbonate, dolomite etc., by means of the process gas are calcined in a calcining zone (26') that is separate from the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) and melt-down zone (11). To be able to employ slagforming fluxes of any desired grain and without disturbances of the reduction process, the calcining zone (26') is connected in parallel to the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) as regards the material flow and the calcined fluxes are fed into the melter gasifier (10) directly.

Abstract:

Method for producing liquid metal and plant for carrying out the method

With a method for producing liquid metal from charging substances comprised of ore and of fluxes, the ore is directly reduced to sponge metal in at least one reduction zone (5, 7, 8), the sponge metal is melted along with fluxes in a melt-down gasifying zone (11) under the supply of carbon carriers and of an oxygen-containing gas and a CO- and H<sub>2</sub>-containing process gas serving as a reducing gas is produced which is fed into the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) and is reacted there and subsequently is withdrawn, wherein slagforming fluxes, in particular calcium carbonate, dolomite etc., by means of the process gas are calcined in a calcining zone (26') that is separate from the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) and melt-down zone (11). To be able to employ slagforming fluxes of any desired grain and without disturbances of the reduction process, the calcining zone (26') is connected in parallel to the reduction zone (5, 7, 8) as regards the material flow and the calcined fluxes are fed into the melter gasifier (10) directly.

Method for producing liquid metal and plant for carrying out the method

The invention relates to a method for producing liquid metal, in particular pig iron or liquid steel preproducts, from charging substances comprised of ore, in particular iron ore, and of fluxes, wherein the ore is directly reduced to sponge metal in at least one reduction zone, the sponge metal is melted along with fluxes in a melt-down gasifying zone under the supply of carbon carriers and of an oxygen-containing gas and a CO- and H<sub>2</sub>-containing process gas serving as a reducing gas is produced which is fed into the reduction zone and is reacted there and subsequently is withdrawn, wherein slagforming fluxes, in particular calcium carbonate, dolomite etc., by means of the process gas are calcined in a calcining zone that is separate from the reduction zone and melt-down zone and to a plant for carrying out the method.

It is known to admix slag formers such as CaCO<sub>3</sub>, dolomite etc. to the ore and effect calcination at the same time and in the same vessel as the reduction of the ore, i.e. in the reduction zone, wherein calcination is effected by means of the reducing gas. With a multistage reduction process, i.e. with a method in which several reduction zones are provided which are subsequently connected in series, complete calcination is effected only in the final reduction stage, as only in this stage the reducing gas has the temperature required for complete calcination. A disadvantage associated with this method is that the quality of the reducing gas will deteriorate and further that by the calcining process, which is endothermic, the reducing gas is decreased in temperature. Another disadvantage is to be seen in that in the reduction of fine ore the slagforming additions must have roughly the same grain size range in order that the fluidized bed formed by the fine ore in the reduction reactor will remain largely undisturbed. Coarse-grained fluxes cannot be exploited in this manner.

From DE-A - 42 40 197, a method of the initially described kind is known in which slagforming additions are treated in a separate calcining zone of a calciner, with reducing gas originating from the melter gasifier being employed for calcining purposes. In accordance with DE-A - 42 40 197, the calcined fluxes are charged into the reduction reactor in the reduction zone and together with the already partially reduced ore are moved onward through the reduction shaft and finally are charged into the melter gasifier with the reduced ore.

Another disadvantage associated with this method is that the grain of the fluxes cannot be chosen freely. On the contrary, the grain or the grain size range respectively has to correspond to the grain or the grain size range respectively of the fine ore being moved through the reduction shaft. Further, an adverse effect on the reduction process, in particular on complete

reduction, is to be expected, since the material and gas flow as well as the temperature profile are disturbed by the charging of the fluxes.

The invention aims at avoiding these disadvantages and difficulties and has as its object to provide a method of the initially described kind as well as a plant for carrying out the method, enabling the processing of slagforming additions of any desired grain. In particular, the reduction process for the ore is to proceed entirely undisturbed by fluxes and utilization of coarse-grained fluxes is to be feasible, so that a satisfactory porosity will exist in the melt-down gasifying zone.

With a method of the initially described kind, this object is achieved in that the calcining zone is connected in parallel to the reduction zone as regards the material flow and the calcined fluxes are fed into the melter gasifier directly.

If hot process gas is available in sufficient quantities, the calcining zone is suitably also connected in parallel to the reduction zone as regards the process gas flow, wherein advantageously the process gas after being discharged from the melt-down gasifying zone is purified and cooled and subsequently a portion of the process gas is fed into the reduction zone and a portion of the process gas is fed into the calcining zone.

The process gas leaving the calcining zone being still very hot, it is suitably admixed to the process gas leaving the reduction zone and advantageously is utilized for preheating and/or prereducing the ore in a prereducing zone.

In accordance with a further advantageous variant of the method the calcining zone is connected in series to the reduction zone as regards the process gas flow, with the process gas flowing first through the reduction zone and subsequently through the calcining zone.

Since with this variant the process gas has already cooled down to some extent, advantageously an oxygen-containing gas is fed into the calcining zone and a portion of the process gas is combusted.

A plant for carrying out the method, comprising at least one reduction reactor into which the ore is conducted via a conveying duct in one direction and the reducing gas via a reducing-gas feed duct in the opposite direction, and comprising a melter gasifier into which there runs a conveying duct conducting the reduction product from the reduction reactor and which is provided with feed ducts for oxygen-containing gases and carbon carriers as well as with a tap

for liquid metal and slag as well as with a reducing-gas feed duct opening into the reduction reactor for a reducing gas generated in the melter gasifier, is characterized in that a calciner is provided in parallel arrangement with respect to the reduction reactor as regards the solids flow, wherein the calciner is flow-connected with the melter gasifier through a feed duct conducting the calcined materials to the melter gasifier.

Suitably, from the reducing-gas feed duct, which leads to the reduction reactor, a branch duct departs and runs into the calciner.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment, a gas purifying means is provided in the reducing-gas feed duct and the branch duct departs from the reducing-gas feed duct at a position after the gas purifying means.

Another preferred embodiment is characterized in that the calciner is flow-connected with a preheating reactor for the ore through an offgas duct.

Suitably, a discharge duct for reacted reducing gas departs from the reduction reactor with a branch duct running into the calciner from said discharge duct, wherein advantageously a duct for an oxygen-containing gas opens into the calciner.

Preferably, the calciner is constructed as a shaft furnace or rotary tubular kiln or traveling grate or multiple-hearth furnace or single-stage or multistage fluidized-bed reactor or gas cyclone or as a multistage gas cyclone cascade.

The invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to two exemplary embodiments represented in the drawing, wherein Figs. 1 and 2, by way of example only, schematically depict an entire plant for producing metal melts, in particular pig iron or liquid steel preproducts.

The plant according to Fig. 1 as well as according to Fig. 2 comprises three reduction reactors subsequently connected in series and constructed as fluidized-bed reactors 1 to 3. An ore comprised of a portion at least of fine-grained material, such as an iron-oxide-containing material, f.i. fine ore, via an ore feed duct 4 is supplied to the first fluidized-bed reactor 1 in which in a preheating stage 5 preheating of the fine ore and possibly prereluction take place, and subsequently is conducted from fluidized-bed reactor 1 to fluidized-bed reactor 2, 3 via conveying ducts 6. Inside the fluidized-bed reactor 2, prereluction is effected in a

prereduction stage 7, and inside the fluidized-bed reactor 3 in a final reduction stage 8 final or complete reduction respectively of the fine ore to sponge iron, each by means of a process gas.

Via a conveying duct 9, the completely reduced material, hence the sponge iron, is fed into a melter gasifier 10. Inside the melter gasifier 10, in a melt-down gasifying zone 11, a CO- and H<sub>2</sub>-containing process gas serving as a reducing gas is generated from carbon carriers such as coal and from oxygen-containing gas and via a reducing-gas feed duct 12 is fed into the fluidized-bed reactor 3 arranged last in the direction of flow of the fine ore. The reducing gas is then in counterflow to the ore flow conducted from fluidized-bed reactor 3 to fluidized-bed reactor 2 to 1, namely via the connecting ducts 13, is conducted out of the fluidized-bed reactor 1 as a top gas via a top-gas discharge duct 14 and subsequently is cooled and scrubbed in a wet scrubber 15. It can then be supplied to a consumer.

The melter gasifier 10 is provided with a feed duct 16 for solid carbon carriers, a feed duct 17 for oxygen-containing gases as well as optionally feed ducts for carbon carriers that are liquid or gaseous at room temperature, such as hydrocarbons, and for calcined fluxes. Inside the melter gasifier 10, below the melt-down gasifying zone 11, molten pig iron or molten steel prematerial respectively and molten slag collect, which are tapped off through a tap 18.

In the reducing-gas feed duct 12 departing from the melter gasifier 10 and running into the fluidized-bed reactor 3, a dedustifying means 19 such as a hot gas cyclone is provided, the dust particles separated in said cyclone being fed to the melter gasifier 10 via the return duct 20, with nitrogen as the conveying means and passing via a burner 21 under the blowing of oxygen.

A possibility for adjusting the reducing-gas temperature results due to the gas recirculating duct 22, which is preferably provided and which departs from the reducing-gas feed duct 12 and feeds back a portion of the reducing gas into said reducing-gas feed duct 12 via a scrubber 23 and a compressor 24, namely at a position ahead of the hot gas cyclone 19.

In order to adjust the preheating temperature of the fine ore it is feasible to supply to the preheating stage 5, hence to the fluidized-bed reactor 1, an oxygen-containing gas such as air or oxygen through a duct 25, whereby a partial combustion of the reacted reducing gas supplied to the preheating stage 5 takes place.

In accordance with the embodiment depicted in Fig. 1, a separate calciner 26 is provided, which with regard to the material flow, i.e. regarding the slagforming additions charged into

the calciner 26 via the feed duct 27 and with regard to conveying on the calcined fluxes into the melter gasifier 10 via a feed duct, is connected so as to be arranged in parallel with the fluidized-bed reactors 1 to 3. As the process gas for the calcining operation, a reducing gas branched off from the reducing-gas feed duct 12 is charged into the calcining zone 26' in the calciner 26 via a branch duct 29. The offgas leaving the calciner 26 either is admixed to the top gas by an offgas duct 30 running into the top-gas discharge duct 14 or is utilized for preheating and/or prereduction in the fluidized-bed reactor 1, wherein the offgas discharged from the calciner 26 is conducted to the fluidized-bed reactor 1 via an offgas feed duct 31. The latter advantageously runs into the connecting duct 13 which runs into said fluidized-bed reactor 1 and through which reacted reducing gas from the fluidized-bed reactor 2 flows into the fluidized-bed reactor 1.

If necessary, air or another oxygen-containing gas or pure oxygen can be supplied to the calciner 26 via a duct 32, whereby a partial combustion of the reducing gas fed into the calciner 26 ensues so that its temperature is increased and the calcining process can take place in the desired manner.

Supply into the melter gasifier 10 of the calcined fluxes can be effected via a separate feed duct 33 opening directly into the melter gasifier 10, as is illustrated in Fig. 1, or else in that said feed duct 33 opens into the conveying duct 9 for the sponge iron or into the feed duct 16 for solid carbon carriers.

In accordance with the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the calciner 26 is also connected in parallel with respect to the fluidized-bed reactors 1 to 3 as regards the material flow, but as regards the gas flow is arranged in series to the fluidized-bed reactors 1 to 3. To serve as the process gas for the calcining operation, a top gas withdrawn from the top-gas discharge duct 14 via a branch duct 34 equipped with a compressor 35 is charged into the calciner 26. In order to attain the temperature necessary for the calcining process, air or an oxygen-containing gas or oxygen is supplied to the calciner 26 via a feed duct 32, whereby a partial combustion of the process gas and thus the required temperature increase will ensue.

In accordance with the invention there result the following advantages:

With regard to the slagforming fluxes, there are no restrictions concerning grain sizes; any desired grain size thereof may be utilized, wherein advantageously coarse-grained fluxes are employed, since this way no decrease in porosity within the fluidized bed of the melter gasifier 10 will incur.

Another essential advantage is to be seen in that there will be no effect on the composition of the reducing gas during the reduction process, in none of the preheating 5 and/or reduction stages 7, 8.

It is feasible to utilize the top gas, which still possesses a calorific value.

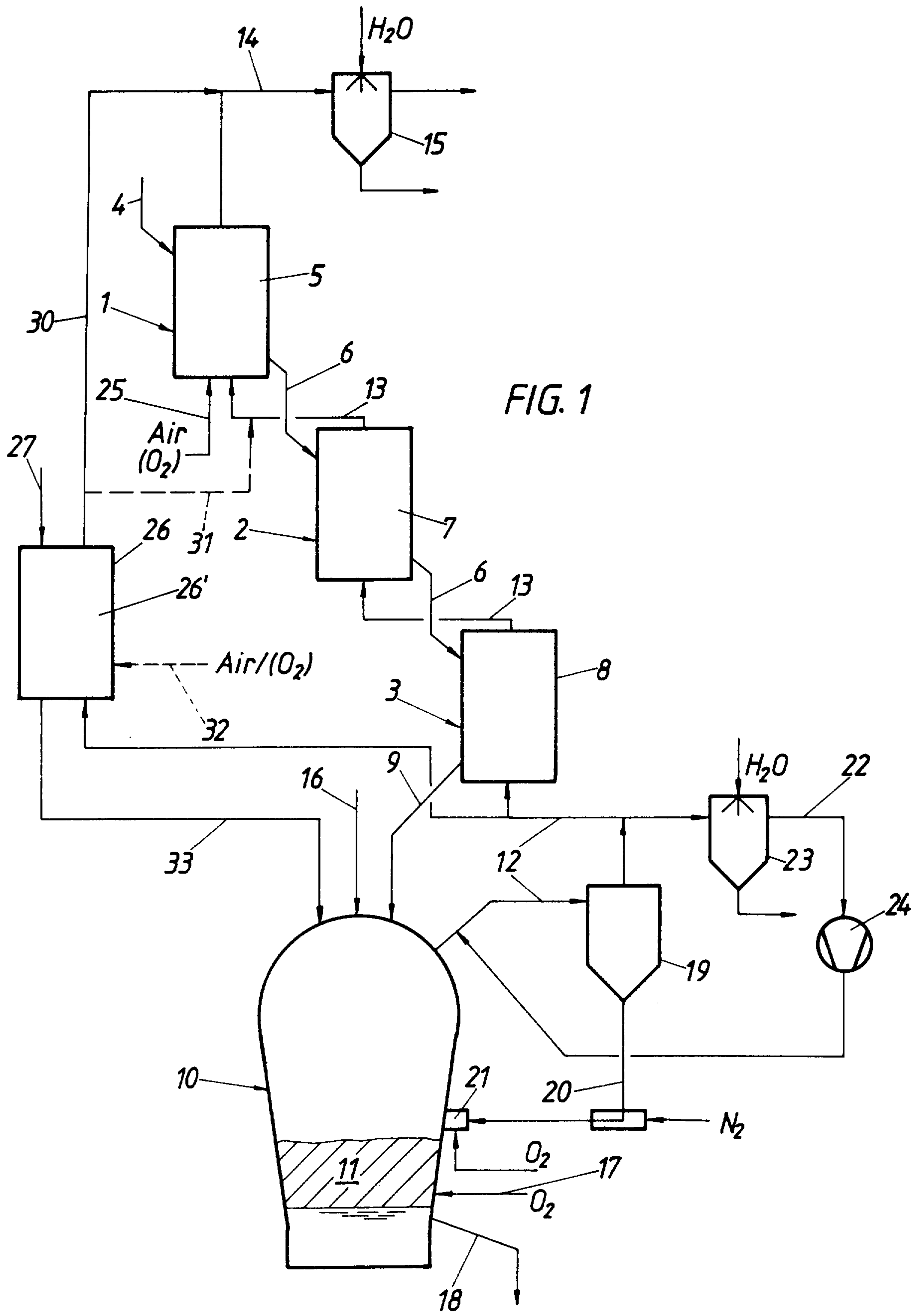
The temperature profile of the fluxes does not exert an effect on the reduction zones.

## CLAIMS:

1. A method for producing liquid metal from charging substances comprising ore and fluxes, wherein the ore is directly reduced to sponge metal in at least one reduction zone, the sponge metal being melted along with the fluxes in a melt-down gasifying zone of a melter gasifier under a supply of carbon carriers and of an oxygen-containing gas and a CO- and H<sub>2</sub>-containing process gas serving as a reducing gas which is fed into the at least one reduction zone and is reacted there and subsequently is withdrawn, wherein slag-forming fluxes by means of the process gas are calcined in a calcining zone that is separate from the at least one reduction zone and the melt-down zone, characterized in that the calcining zone is connected in parallel to the at least one reduction zone as regards a material flow and the calcined fluxes are fed into the melter gasifier directly.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the calcining zone is also connected in parallel to the at least one reduction zone as regards a flow of the process gas.
3. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the process gas after being discharged from the melt-down gasifying zone is purified and cooled and subsequently a portion of the process gas is fed into the at least one reduction zone and a portion of the process gas is fed into the calcining zone.
4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that the process gas leaving the calcining zone is admixed to the process gas leaving the reduction zone.
5. The method according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the process gas leaving the calcining zone is utilized for preheating or prereducing the ore in a prerduction zone.
6. The method according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the process gas leaving the calcining zone is utilized for preheating and prereducing the ore in a prerduction zone.

7. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the calcining zone is connected in series to the at least one reduction zone as regards a flow of the process gas, with the process gas flowing first through the at least one reduction zone and subsequently through the calcining zone.
8. The method according to claim 7, characterized in that an oxygen-containing gas is fed into the calcining zone and a portion of the process gas is combusted with the oxygen-containing gas in the calcining zone.
9. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the liquid metal includes pig iron.
10. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the liquid metal includes liquid steel products.
11. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the charging substances included iron ore.
12. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the slag-forming fluxes include at least one among calcium, carbone and dolomite.
13. A plant for producing liquid metal from charging substances comprising ore and fluxes, the method comprising at least one reduction reactor into which the ore is conducted via a conveying duct in one direction and a reducing gas via a reducing-gas feed duct in an opposite direction, and comprising a melter gasifier into which there runs a conveying duct conducting a reduction product from the reduction reactor and which is provided with feed ducts for oxygen-containing gases and carbon carriers as well as with a tap for liquid metal and slag as well as with a reducing-gas feed duct opening into the reduction reactor for the reducing gas generated in the melter gasifier, characterized in that a calciner is provided in parallel arrangement with respect to the reduction reactor as regards the solids flow, wherein the calciner is flow-connected with the melter gasifier through an additional feed duct conducting the calcined materials to the melter gasifier.

14. The plant according to claim 13, characterized in that from the reducing-gas feed duct, which leads to the reduction reactor, a branch duct departs and runs into the calciner.
15. The plant according to claim 14, characterized in that a gas purifying means is provided in the reducing-gas feed duct and that the branch duct departs from the reducing-gas feed duct at a position after the gas purifying means.
16. The plant according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that the calciner is flow-connected with a preheating reactor for the ore through an offgas duct.
17. The plant according to claim 13, characterized in that a discharge duct for the reacted reducing gas departs from the reduction reactor, with a branch duct running into the calciner from said discharge duct.
18. The plant according to claim 17, characterized in that a duct for an oxygen-containing gas opens into the calciner .
19. The plant according to any one of claims 13 to 18, characterized by at least two fluidized-bed reactors sequentially connected in series, wherein the ore is conducted from one fluidized-bed reactor to another via conveying ducts in one direction and reducing gas is conducted from one fluidized-bed reactor to another via reducing-gas connecting ducts in the opposite direction, and by the melter gasifier into which there runs the feed duct conveying the reduction product from the fluidized-bed reactor arranged last in the direction of the ore flow and whose gas discharge duct runs into the fluidized-bed reactor arranged last in the direction of the ore flow.
20. The plant according to any one of claims 13 to 19, characterized in that the calciner is constructed as one among a group consisting of a shaft furnace, a rotary tubular kiln, a traveling grate, a multiple-hearth furnace, a single-stage or multistage fluidized-bed reactor, a gas cyclone, and a multistage gas cyclone cascade.



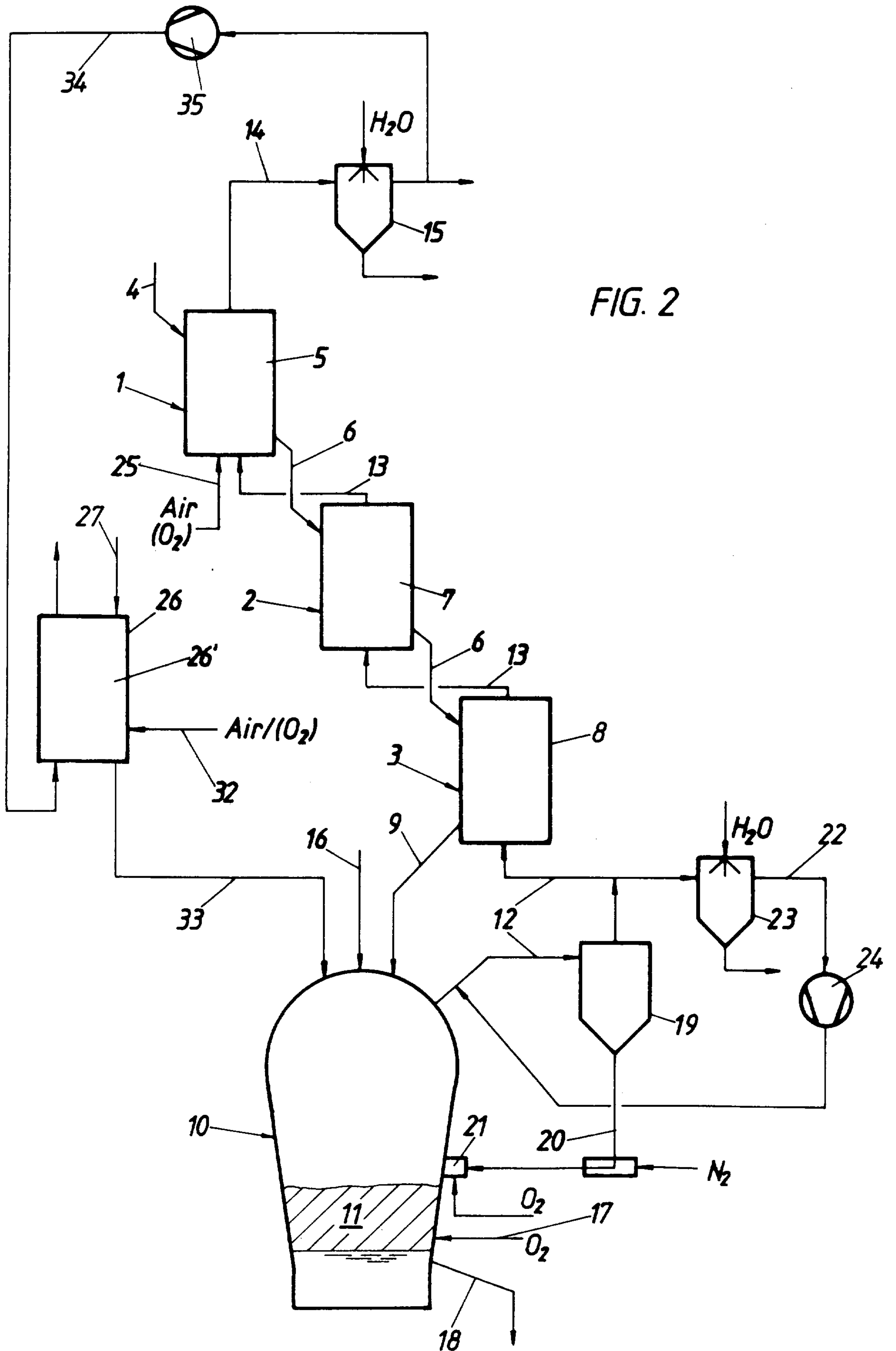


FIG. 2

