UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM McGUIFF, OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.

FOOT-BALL HEAD-GEAR.

1,262,818.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM McGUIFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Evanston, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foot-Ball Head-Gear, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to foot-ball head-gear, and has for its object improvements in the headgear whereby the wearer is rendered more efficient and is in less danger of injury.

The ordinary headgear comprising a skull and ear protectors, when worn has a holding band passing from one ear protector to the other under the chin, and this band is not only more or less uncomfortable, but at times presses on the throat so as to interfere with the breathing of the wearer and, hence, with his efficiency; and it has been found that the chin is an exposed portion of the head which is often injured. Among the objects of my invention are eliminating these disadvantages, and to accomplish this I provide a cup-shaped member fitting the chin and passing over the holding bands directly from the ear protectors to the chin protector, thereby preventing the holding band from causing discomfort and interfering with his breathing; and at the time, the cup-shaped member is suitably constructed so as to provide a simple and effective means for protecting the chin against injury.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent by a consideration of the drawings and the following description thereof.

Of the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a foot-ball headgear which embodies features of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan-view of the chin protector of said headgear. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the chin protector along the line 3-3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the protector along the line 4-4 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmental cross-section of the chin protector along the line 5-5 of Fig. 2.

The headgear comprises the skull protector 6, the ordinary band 7 for holding the gear snugly in place on the head, the rear protector 8 and the ear protectors 9. The ear protectors in this instance are made large enough to extend downward a suitable distance in order to protect the jaws from injury. The headgear comprises also the cup-shaped member or chin protector 10, with bands 11 passing through slots 12 in the protector, as shown more particularly in Fig. 5. With the bands passing through the slots as shown, the chin protector is free to move along the bands to the most suitable position for the comfort and protection of the wearer. The bands 11 may be made of any suitable material; I prefer for the purpose elastic bands. One end of each band is fastened permanently to the jaw protector in any suitable manner. I prefer in this instance to make the connection by means of rivets 13. The other ends of the bands are adjustably connected to the other ear protector in any suitable manner. In this instance, I prefer to connect the bands to the sheet of leather 14 or other suitable material, said leather having apertures 15 and 16 therein, which are adapted to pass over the button 17, fixed to the ear protector. By these means the lengths of the members connecting the two ear protectors may be varied and the elasticity of the bands holds the chin protector snugly in place.

The chin protector 10 may be formed in any suitable manner, but as a part of my invention I form the protector by the use of sheets of leather 18 on the outer surfaces of the protector, and in the inner portion of the protector I provide a sheet 19 of felt and a sheet 20 of vulcanized fiber or other suitable material. The fiber is molded into shape to fit the chin, and is such thickness that it is more or less flexible but at the same time will distribute the effect of any blow over a much larger portion of the chin than would be the case if the fiber were omitted and the ordinary leather and felt only used in the protector.

By these means it will be seen that I have provided simple and effective means for holding the headgear firmly on the head without causing discomfort or inefficiency of the wearer and at the same time, protecting the chin from injury. The softer material of the protector providing comfort to the wearer; the bands holding the protector firmly in place without discomfort, and interfering in no way with the movements of the jaw; and the relatively rigid sheet of fiber more fully protecting the jaw from injury by blows or excess pressure thereon.

I claim as my invention:

1. A protective device comprising a chin-
band and a chin-protector carried by and adjustable relatively to said chin-band.

2. A protective device comprising a plurality of chin-bands, and a chin-piece carried by and adjustable relatively to said chin-bands and adapted to embrace the front and base of the lower jaw of the wearer.

3. A protective device comprising a plurality of chin-bands one of which is arranged to embrace the front of the lower jaw of a wearer, and the other of which is arranged to pass under the jaw, and a chin-protector adapted to envelop the chin and arranged to receive said chin-bands and to maintain a predetermined relation between the latter, said chin-protector being adjustable longitudinally of said chin-bands.

4. A protective device comprising a plurality of chin-bands one of which is arranged to embrace the front of the lower jaw of a wearer and the other of which is arranged to pass under the jaw, and a laminated chin-protector adapted to envelop the chin and arranged to receive such chin-bands between its layers and to maintain a predetermined spaced relation between the chin-bands.

5. A protective device comprising a plurality of chin-bands one of which is arranged to embrace the front of the lower jaw of a wearer and the other of which is arranged to pass under the jaw, and a laminated chin-protector adapted to envelop the chin and arranged to receive said chin-bands between its layers and to maintain a predetermined spaced relation between the chin-bands, said chin-protector being adjustable longitudinally of said chin-bands.

6. A protective device comprising a plurality of chin-bands one of which is arranged to embrace the front of the lower jaw of a wearer and the other of which is arranged to pass under the jaw, and a laminated chin-protector adapted to envelop the chin and arranged to receive said chin-bands between its layers, the outer layer being provided with slits formed to permit passage of the chin-bands there-through and to maintain a predetermined spaced relation between the chin-bands, and means for securing said chin-bands to the head of a wearer.

7. The combination with a head-protector, of a chin-protector, and means whereby each of said protectors is adapted to retain the other in protecting position, said chin-protector being adjustable longitudinally of said means.

8. The combination with a head-protector having ear-pieces, of a plurality of chin-bands permanently secured to one of said ear-pieces, one of said chin-bands being arranged to embrace the front of the lower jaw of a wearer and the other being arranged to pass under the jaw, and a laminated chin-protector adapted to conform to the jaw and arranged to receive said chin-bands between its layers, the outer layer being provided with slits near its ends formed to permit passage of the chin-bands therethrough and to maintain a predetermined spaced relation between the chin-bands, the latter terminating in a lip which is common to both, said lip and the other ear-piece of the head-protector being provided with means whereby they may be attached to each other.

9. A foot-ball head protector comprising a skull protector, ear protectors attached to said skull protector, a chin-protector, and elastic means adjustably and slidably connecting said chin protector with said skull protector,

10. In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand.

WILLIAM McGILL.

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