A. B. MAYES.

PARACHUTE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 20, 1911.

1,009,766.

Patented Nov. 28, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

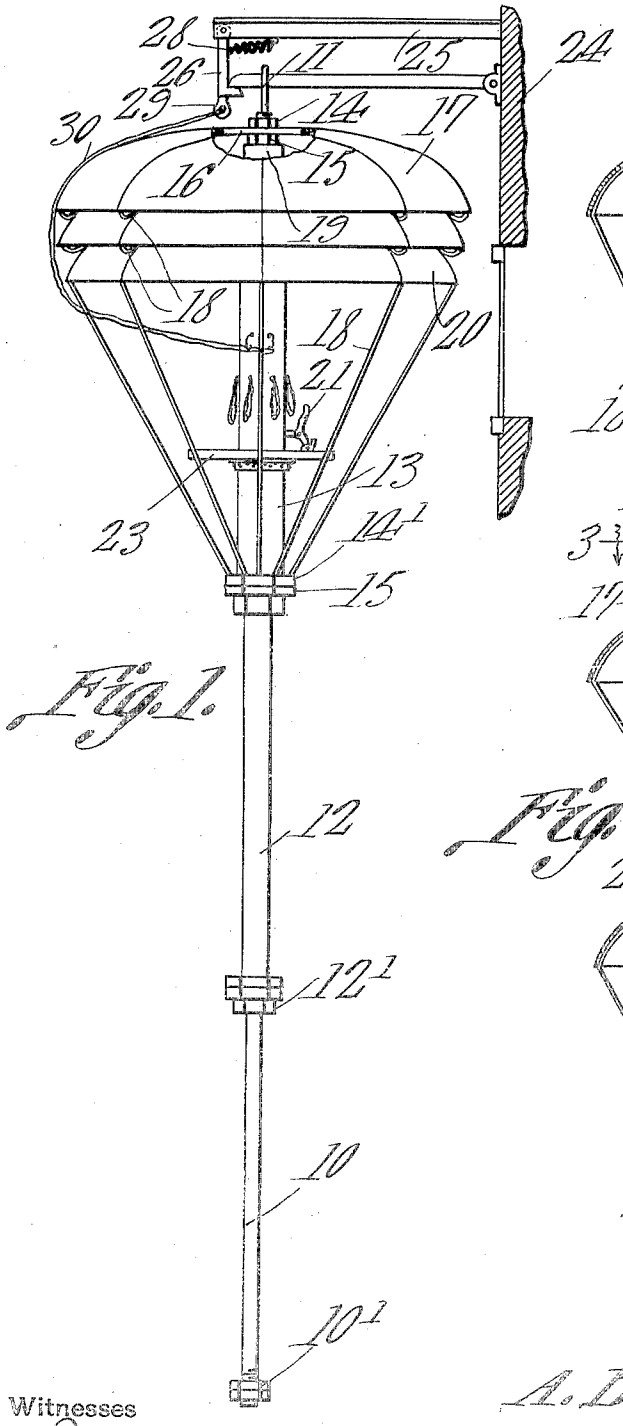


Fig. 1.

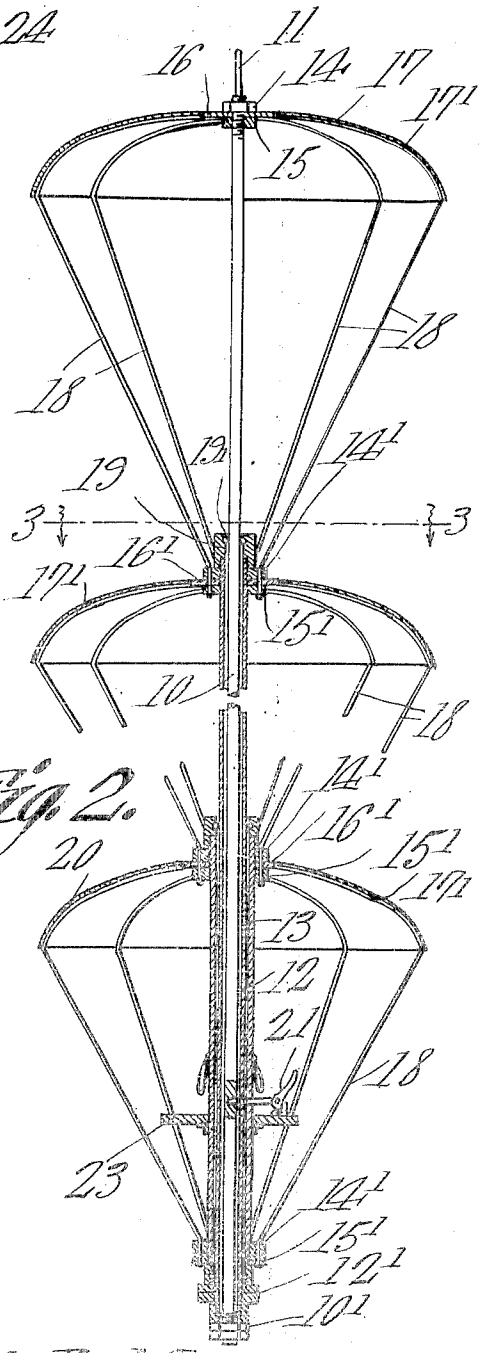


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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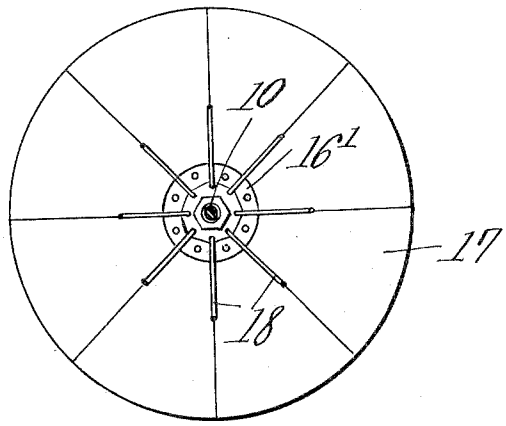


Fig. 3.

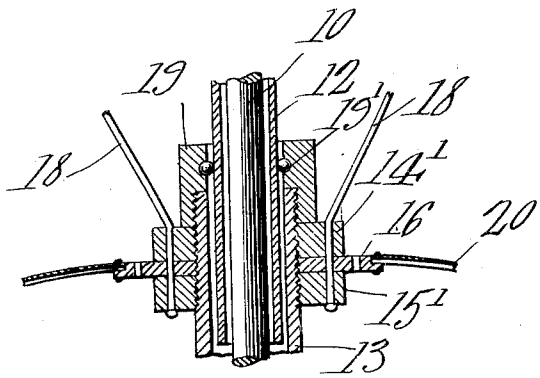


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

J. P. Bonner

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ACEPH B. MAYES, OF HOUSTON, TEXAS.

PARACHUTE.

1,009,766. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 28, 1911.

Application filed March 20, 1911. Serial No. 615,681.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ACEPH B. MAYES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Houston, in the county of Harris and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Parachute, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in parachutes.

The primary object of said invention is to provide a simple and efficient device of this character which may be conveniently supported adjacent the window of a building or which may be readily carried by a balloon or air ship.

A further object is to so construct the device that while not in use the same will occupy but little space, this feature being of particular advantage when the device is used on an air ship or balloon where it is desired to provide a structure which offers the least possible resistance to the air.

In the drawings;—Figure 1 is a view of the device in its closed position. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same extended. Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the manner of supporting the parachutes.

The invention consists in mounting a plurality of parachutes one above the other, said parachutes varying in diameter, the uppermost parachute being of the greatest diameter; the parachute being supported by telescoping members which permit the hoods to nest when the device is not in use. The device forms an effective fire escape when applied to a building and the same is of such construction that it may as before stated be used on aerial craft.

In the drawings, 10 designates a solid rod or shaft which is provided at its upper end with a hanger 11. Slidably arranged on said shaft is a sleeve 12 which is about two-thirds the length of the shaft. A second sleeve 13 being slidably mounted on the first mentioned sleeve, said sleeve 13 being about one-half the length of the sleeve 12. Each of these sleeves and the rod member are adapted to support a parachute, the rod member being screw-threaded adjacent its upper end and provided with a plurality of nuts 14 and 15 which embrace an aluminum washer 16, said washer being in the nature of gromet and being arranged centrally of the material 17 which forms the parachute, the parachute being reinforced with strips 17′ of whale bone. The material 17 which may be of canvas is of the usual hood construction and extending at different points from its edge portion are ropes 18 which converge and which are secured to nuts 14′ and 15′ which are carried by the sleeve 12 and which grip a gromet 16′ in the same manner that the nuts 14 and 15 grip the gromet 16. Secured on the end portion of the sleeve 12 and embracing the rod 10 is a sleeve 19, said sleeve housing ball bearings 19′ which facilitate the movement of the sleeve on said rod. The gromet 16′ supports a hood on the sleeve 12 in the same manner that the hood 17 is supported on the rod 10 and a hood 20 is similarly supported on the second sleeve 13 this hood being of less diameter than the central and upper hoods, said hoods being of such configuration as to nest as shown in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 1, the end portion of the sleeve 12 is flush with the nut 15 and the bearing 19″ is in contact with the nut 15′, the parachutes being nested; a pivoted latch member 21 being employed to hold the sleeves in this position. It will be seen that as this latch member is released, the weight of the sleeves will cause the two lower parachutes to assume the position shown in Fig. 2.

A nut 10′ on the lower end of the rod 10 forms a stop for the sleeve 12 and a nut 12′ on the sleeve 12 forms a stop for the sleeve 13. Arranged on the sleeve 13 is a circular platform 23 which will support one or more persons, suitable belts being secured to the sleeve in order to properly support the occupant. In the form shown in Fig. 1, the device is supported by a building, the wall 24 of which is provided with the rigid arm 25 to the outer end of which is pivotally connected an L shaped latch member 26, said latch member having its off set end portion beveled and adapted to receive a pivoted bar 27 which is supported by the wall 24, a coiled spring 28 holding said latch member in contact with said bar, the latch member being provided with an eye 29 to which the releasing cord 30 is attached, the releasing cord being passed around the parachutes and secured to the sleeve 13, the hanger 11 being supported by the pivoted bar 27. It will be noted that the arms 25 and 27 are so spaced from a window 31 that a person may step from said window to the platform carried by the sleeve 13 and after the person has reached said platform the

latch which holds the sleeves in their telescoped position may be released allowing the parachutes to assume the position shown in Fig. 2. After the parachutes have assumed this position, the operator will withdraw the latch 26 by means of a cable 30 and allow the apparatus to descend, the plurality of parachutes assuring an easy and gradual descent.

The apparatus may be positioned on the building in various ways. The building may be provided with a booth in which the apparatus may be placed when not in use, this booth being provided with a rail on which the device may be supported at its base, a similar rail being provided for supporting the upper end of the apparatus, the two rails thus forming a track, a traveler being supported by the upper rail to which the loop 11 may be secured, means being provided for releasing said loop to allow the apparatus to descend. With a construction of this sort, it will be noted that the device will be protected from the weather, the peculiar arrangement of the tracks permitting the same to be readily removed from the booth.

It will be noted that a device of this character is particularly adapted for use on hotel and office buildings, the same being capable of being folded to occupy but little space, the parachutes being readily extended when it is desired to use the device.

Particular attention is called to the manner of supporting and connecting the hoods or parachutes the flexible connecting cables 18 permitting the hoods to nest said cable readily unfolding as the sleeves descend, the spacing of the sleeves and rods when the device is in an extended position holding said cables taut.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a plurality of telescoping members and a parachute arranged on each of said members.

2. In a device of the class described, a rod, a plurality of sleeves slidably arranged on said rod, a parachute supported by each of said sleeves and said rod, and flexible connections between said parachutes.

3. In a device of the class described, a rod, a parachute supported by said rod, a sleeve slidably mounted on said rod, a parachute supported by said sleeve, a second sleeve provided with a parachute and adapted to slide on the first mentioned sleeve, said second sleeve being provided with a platform.

4. In a device of the class described, a rod, a parachute supported by said rod, a sleeve slidably mounted on said rod, a parachute supported by said sleeve, a second sleeve provided with a parachute and adapted to slide on the first mentioned sleeve, said second sleeve being provided with a platform, and means for holding said parachutes in nested position.

5. In a device of the class described, a rod, a plurality of sleeves slidably arranged on said rod, a parachute supported by each of said sleeves and said rod, a flexible connection between the edge portion of one parachute and the supporting means of an adjacent parachute.

6. In a device of the class described, a plurality of extensible members, a parachute supported by each of said members, each of said parachutes being provided at its point of connection with a washer, and a jam nut arranged to bear against the upper and lower face of said washer.

7. In a device of the class described, a rod, a hanger arranged at one end of said rod, a stop arranged at its other end, a sleeve slidably arranged on said rod, a second sleeve slidable on the first mentioned sleeve, said rod and each of said sleeves being provided with a parachute.

8. In a device of the class described, a plurality of telescoping members, and a parachute arranged on each of said members, said parachutes nesting when said members are telescoped.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ACEPH B. MAYES.

Witnesses:
C. McMILLEN,
NORMAN ATKINSON.