

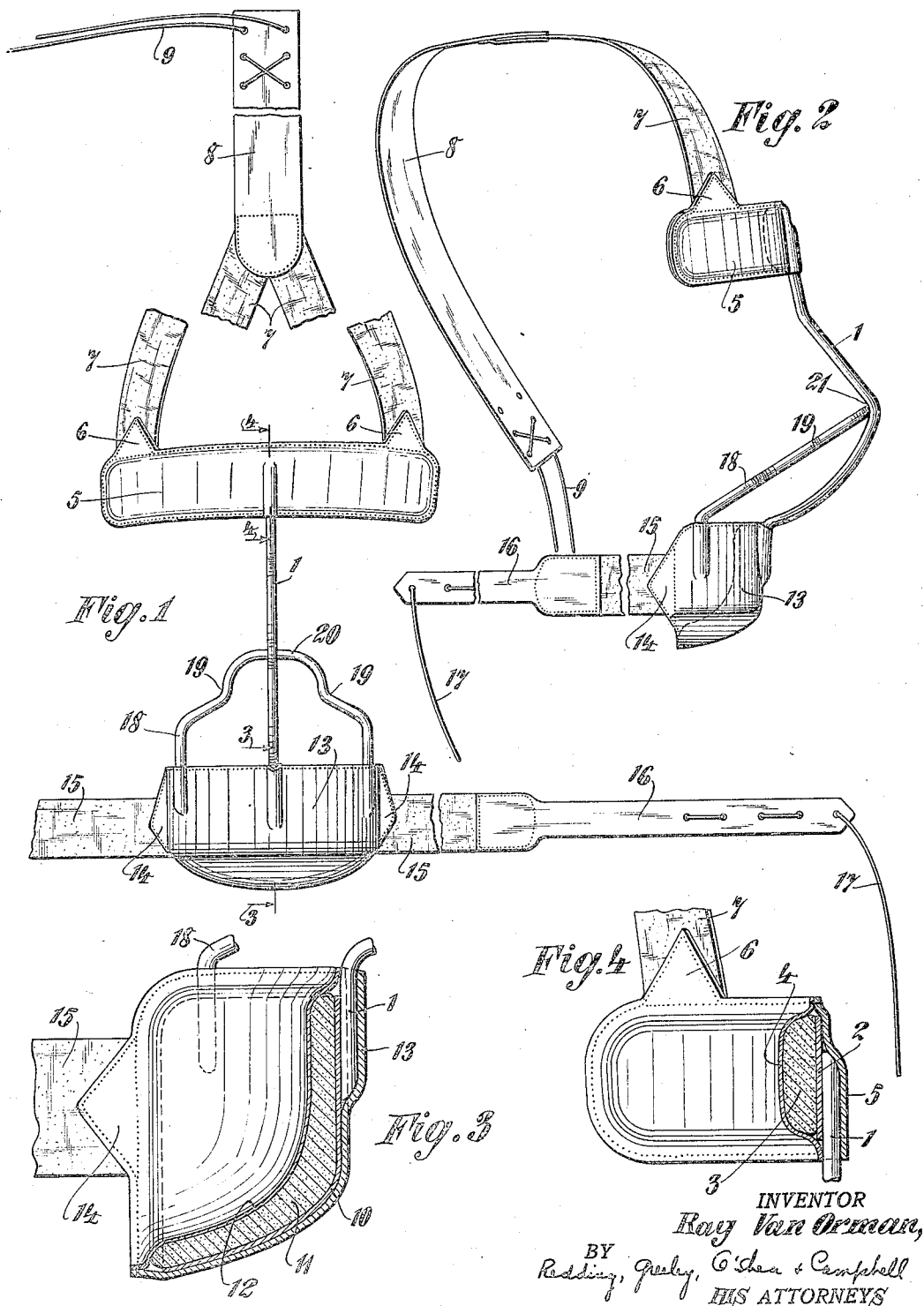
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LACROSSE MASK

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LACROSSE MASK

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The present invention relates to athletic protective devices and embodies, more specifically, an improved mask adapted particularly for use in playing lacrosse and designed to afford a desired degree of protection without disturbing or obstructing the vision of the wearer.

While the device described herein is adapted particularly for use in connection with the game of lacrosse it will be apparent other and further uses will exist in accordance with the conditions under which various games are played. The familiar types of baseball and other masks have embodied complete protection for the face of a player from being accidentally struck by the ball during play. Such masks have been formed of a net work or frame of sufficiently rugged metal to deflect the ball or other object which is directed toward the player's face, suitable apertures being provided in the frame to afford a degree of visibility. Where the player is actively engaged in playing over a sustained period of time and the action is great, the existing forms of masks have been found to be a serious impediment, offering not only a rather bulky and inconvenient mask to be carried by the player but also obstructing his vision. As a result the tendency has been not to wear masks, although the urgent need for them has existed.

In view of the foregoing, the present invention seeks to provide a mask which affords suitable protection for the player without obstructing his vision.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mask of the above character which is relatively small and light, at the same time providing adequate protection for the most vulnerable portions of the player's face.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mask which is simple of construction and which is readily donned and doffed, at the same time affording a free and unobstructed vision for the player and adequate protection for the vulnerable portions of his face.

Further objects, not specifically enumerated above, will be apparent as the invention is described in greater detail in connection

with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation, showing a mask constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a view in side elevation showing the mask of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view in section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a view in section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the above drawings, a vertical protective piece 1 is bent to conform generally to the profile of a human face, the ends thereof terminating adjacent the forehead and chin. The upper end, that is, the end terminating adjacent the forehead, is suitably secured to a forehead plate 2, as by welding or other suitable means. The forehead plate is bent to conform generally to the horizontal profile of the forehead and carries a cushioning pad 3 of sponge rubber or other suitable material over which a layer 4 of soft, pliable leather or other suitable material is mounted. An outer layer 5 covers the end of the protective piece 1 as well as the forehead plate 2 and is preferably formed of a relatively stiff leather to resist blows which may be sustained thereby.

Tabs 6 are formed on the layer 5 and have secured thereto suitable elastics 7 which are connected to a head strap 8 provided with lacings 9 or other suitable means for securing the mask over the head of a player.

The lower end of the vertical piece 1 is secured to a chin cup 10 which is preferably formed of metal, similar to the plate 2. The cup is shaped to conform to the contour of the chin of a player and, along its inner surface is provided with a pad 11 of sponge rubber or other suitable cushioning material. A layer of soft pliable leather 12 or other material is mounted over the cushioning material 11 and is secured in place by being stitched to the periphery of an outer layer 13, preferably formed of relatively stiff and inflexible material.

Suitable tabs 14 are formed along the vertical sides of the chin cup and have secured

thereto the elastic bands 15 which are secured to straps 16 having lacings 17 which may serve as a means for securing the straps around the head of a player and to the strap 8.

To serve as a bracing member, as well as an additional protective element, a generally U-shaped reentrant metallic protective piece 18 is formed with bent extremities 19 which are secured to the sides of the chin cup piece 10. The protective piece 18 has spaced bent portions 19 which terminate in a connecting portion 12, the mid portion of which is welted or otherwise suitably secured to the vertical protective piece 1 at 21. In this manner, the mouth of the player is fully protected against accidental blows and the face thus adequately protected without impairing the vision of the wearer. The weight of the mask is almost insignificant and its bulk is slight, thus offering practically no objectionable features which would tend to cause the mask to be cast aside and discarded during play.

While the invention has been described with specific reference to the accompanying drawings, it is not to be limited, save as defined in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A protective device comprising a forehead plate, cushioning material carried therewith, fastening straps secured thereto, a chin cup, cushioning material carried thereby, a single protective member securing the two first members together, said last named member comprising a rigid wire disposed in the median plane of the two first members and conforming generally to the profile of the human face, and a second protective member secured to the chin member and the first member.

2. A protective device comprising a forehead engaging member, an independent chin engaging member, a single protective member securing the two first members together and constituting the sole connection therebetween, said last named member comprising a rigid means disposed in the median plane of the two first members, said protective member conforming generally to the profile of the human face, and a protective member secured at a single point intermediate its ends to the first protective member adjacent the nose protecting portion thereof, and at its ends to space points on the chin member.

3. A protective device comprising a forehead engaging member, an independent chin engaging member, a single protective member securing the two first members together and constituting the sole connection therebetween, said last named member comprising a rigid means disposed in the median plane of the two first members, said protective member conforming generally to the profile of the human face, and a protective member se-

cured at spaced points to the chin member and the first protective member.

4. A protective device comprising a forehead plate, cushioning material carried therewith, fastening straps secured thereto, a chin cup, cushioning material carried thereby, a single protective member securing the two first members together, said last named member comprising a rigid wire disposed in the median plane of the two first members and conforming generally to the profile of the human face, and a second protective rigid wire secured at its ends to the chin member and intermediate its ends at a single point to the first protective member.

This specification signed this 2d day of June A. D. 1930.

RAY VAN ORMAN.