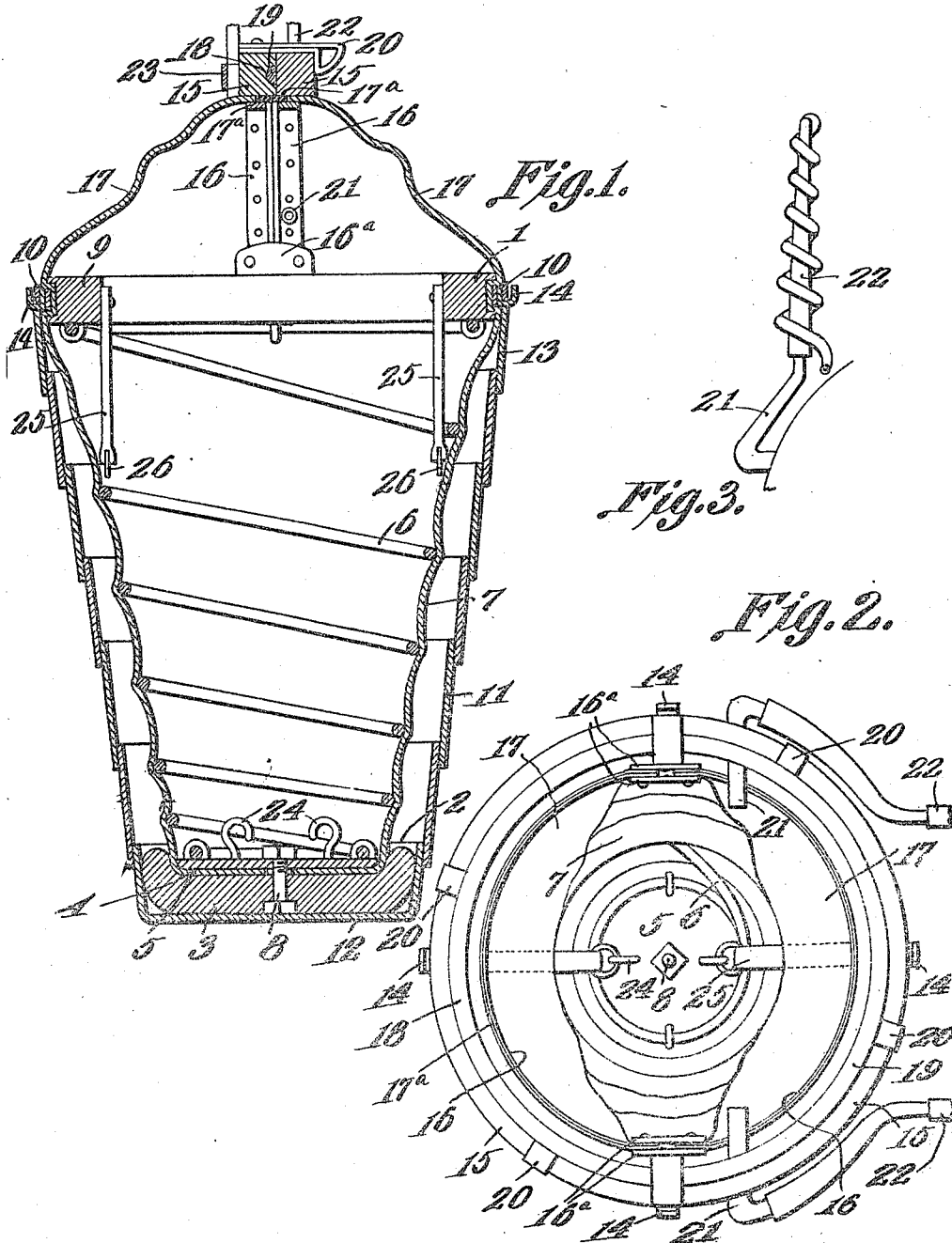


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LIFE SAVING APPARATUS.
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WILLIAM PINCZES, OF KALPMONT, PENNSYLVANIA.

LIFE-SAVING APPARATUS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM PINCZES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kalpmont, in the county of Northumberland and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Life-Saving Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention appertains to a life saving apparatus or life preserver, and aims to provide a novel and improved device of that character.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a collapsible or foldable apparatus of the character indicated, which may be collapsed within a small compass, and which may be unfolded or extended to present a buoyant basket adapted to sustain a person therein at the surface of the water.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device of the nature indicated embodying an inner water-proof bellows, and an outer telescopic shell for protecting the bellows or inner member, the whole being foldable or collapsible when not in use.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a novel and improved closure for the basket, which shall be water-tight when closed, and which shall embody means for locking the same closed, and means for admitting and discharging air.

The present invention also comprehends the provision of a life saving apparatus which shall be comparatively simple, substantial, durable and inexpensive in construction, which shall be safe, simple and efficient in its use, and which may be readily opened for use in an easy manner by those inexperienced as well as those familiar with the device.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the present invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The invention has been illustrated in its

preferred embodiment in the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a central longitudinal section of the improved device showing the same opened or ready for use. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device showing the same collapsed or folded. Fig. 3 is a fragmental detail.

In carrying out the invention, reference being had in detail to the drawing, there is provided an upper annulus or ring 1, and a base or bottom 2, the latter embodying a lower circular member 3 having an upper depression or cavity 4, and a circular plate 5 fitting within the cavity 4. A spiral coil 6 has its upper or largest convolution secured to the bottom of the annulus or ring 1 and has its lower or smallest convolution secured to the base or rather the plate 5 of the base. The coil 6 is constructed of suitable stock possessing the proper rigidity and resiliency, and is adapted to yield so that the annulus and base may be moved together or toward each other, the coil 6 however, being under compression so as to tend to separate or unfold the apparatus.

Around the coil 6 there is disposed or fitted a flexible bag 7 constructed of suitable water-proof fabric. The lower end of the member 7 is secured or clamped between the member 3 and the plate 5, the said member 3 and plate being connected by a central bolt or draft member 8. The upper end of the member 7 is secured to the annulus 1, the annulus being provided with a circumferential or peripheral groove 9 receiving a band 10, the member 7 being clamped between the band and the groove 9. The bag or member 7 is held open by the coil 6, and is adapted to fold in the manner of a bellows or accordion.

In connection with the bag 7 there is employed a telescopic outer shell 11 embodying a plurality of annular sections in telescopic relations, the lower section 12 being closed or in the form of a pan and receiving the base 2. If desired, the bottom 12 of the shell 11 may be secured rigidly to the base 2, the upper section 13 of the shell being attached to the annulus 1 by means of hooks or ears 14 carried by the band 10 and

engaged through the section 13 adjoining its upper edge. It will be observed, that the shell 11 may telescope or collapse with the coil and bag. The shell 11 is preferably constructed of sheet metal or of suitable material capable of withstanding rough handling or hard usage.

The closure for the device embodies a pair of complementary semi-circular jaws 15, which are secured on a pair of bails or bowed strips 16, the ends or terminals of the strips 16 being pivoted to the upstanding plates 16^a secured upon the annulus 1 at diametrical opposite points. The bag 7 is extended into the cover sections 17, which have their edges secured between the strips 16 and the jaws 15, the edges of the cover sections 17 being provided with the rubber or packing strips 17^a adapted to contact with each other so as to provide a tight or water-proof joint when the jaws are closed. One of the jaws 15 is provided with an arcuate groove 18 in its inner face, while the other jaw is provided with a similarly shaped tongue 19 adapted to engage within the groove 18 when the jaws are closed, so as to assist in providing a water-proof or tight joint. Latches 20 are secured to the respective jaws 15 and are adapted to snap over the other jaws when the jaws are closed, so as to lock the jaws against being accidentally opened, and to prevent the jaws from being opened from the interior when they have once been closed.

One of the jaws 15 is provided with the tubes or pipes 21 passing therethrough adjoining its ends and having their outer portions bent along the jaw 15 and projecting upward. Tubes 22 of any suitable length are connected to the pipes 21 and may extend to any convenient height or point so that air may be admitted through one of the tubes, and may be discharged or expelled through the other one, without the liability of water being admitted. The free portions of the tubes 22 are preferably wound back upon the body or inner portions of the said tubes, as indicated in Fig. 3, so as to exclude or prevent the ingress of water or extraneous matter into the apparatus after the device has been cast or launched in the water. One of the jaws 15 is also preferably provided with a socket 23 adapted to receive a signal or flag staff which may assist the rescuing party in locating the device.

In order to maintain the device in collapsed or folded condition, a pair of straps or flexible members 25 are attached to the inner side of the annulus 1 and at diametrically opposite points and have the rings or loops 26. The rings or loops 26 are designed for engagement with the hooks 24

when the base and annulus are brought together.

Ordinarily, when the device is not in use, the bag 7 and shell 11 may be folded or telescoped, the rings or loops 26 being engaged to the hooks 24 to maintain the device in folded condition. The jaws 15 are also swung against the annulus 1 as depicted in Fig. 2. In this condition, the device will only occupy a small compass and may be readily stowed or shipped, the same being relatively light and not being cumbersome. When the device is to be employed, in case of an accident or collision, at sea, the loops 26 need only be detached from the hooks 24, and the device will open or unfold due to the tension of the spring 6. A person may then readily enter the basket, in which event, the jaws may be swung closed, and the device may then be launched or cast into the water. The device is buoyant and will float without danger of collapsing under the pressure, it being noted that the outer shell 11 protects the inner member or bag 7, and prevents objects from striking or piercing the bag 7. The bag 7 is waterproof or impervious to water, so that the person may be housed within the device without danger, and his or her life may thus be saved, it being designed that the device shall be picked up by passing vessels or rescuing parties. The device is perfectly water-proof and it is to be noted that the closure may not be opened from within the device so that the person within the device may not open the jaws to his or her danger, or to the liability of waves washing into the basket. The present device may be constructed in various sizes, is light and simple and has no exterior encumbrances.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

1. In a device of the character described, an annulus, a base, a bag connected at its ends to the annulus and base, and a coiled spring having its end convolutions secured to the annulus and base, the coil being disposed within the bag.

2. In a device of the character described, an annulus, a base, a flexible bag secured at its ends to the annulus and base, a coiled spring having its end convolutions secured to the annulus and base and being disposed within the bag, and an outer telescopic shell attached to the annulus and inclosing the bag and base.

3. In a device of the character described, an annulus, a base, a flexible bag attached at its ends to the annulus and base, a coiled spring terminally secured to the annulus and base, and means for attaching the base to the annulus when the device is folded.

4. In a device of the character described,

an annulus having a circumferential groove,
a base, a band fitting in the said groove, a
bag attached to the base and clamped be-
tween the said band and groove, and an
5 outer telescopic shell inclosing the bag and
base, the band having members engaging
the upper section of the shell.

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

WILLIAM PINCZES.

Witnesses:

JOHN ESCHMÜLLER.

JOSEPH RAVARS.