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[54] **CARBOXYMETHYL HYDROXYETHYL CELLULOSE AS A THICKENER FOR DRILLING MUD**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Carboxymethyl cellulose has not heretofore been universally useful as a thickener for drilling muds due to

sensitivity of its aqueous solutions to the high level of inorganic salts contained in such muds. The inclusion in the carboxymethyl cellulose of hydroxyethyl functionality reduces this salt sensitivity to a level where it can be employed to thicken drilling muds, even those containing calcium salts. Carboxymethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose of carboxymethyl D.S. of 0.1 to 1.0 and hydroxyethyl M.S. of 0.5 to 2.5 are useful.

**2 Claims, No Sheets Drawing,
6 Pages Specification**

The file of this unexamined application may be inspected and copies thereof may be purchased (849 O.G. 1221, Apr. 9, 1968).