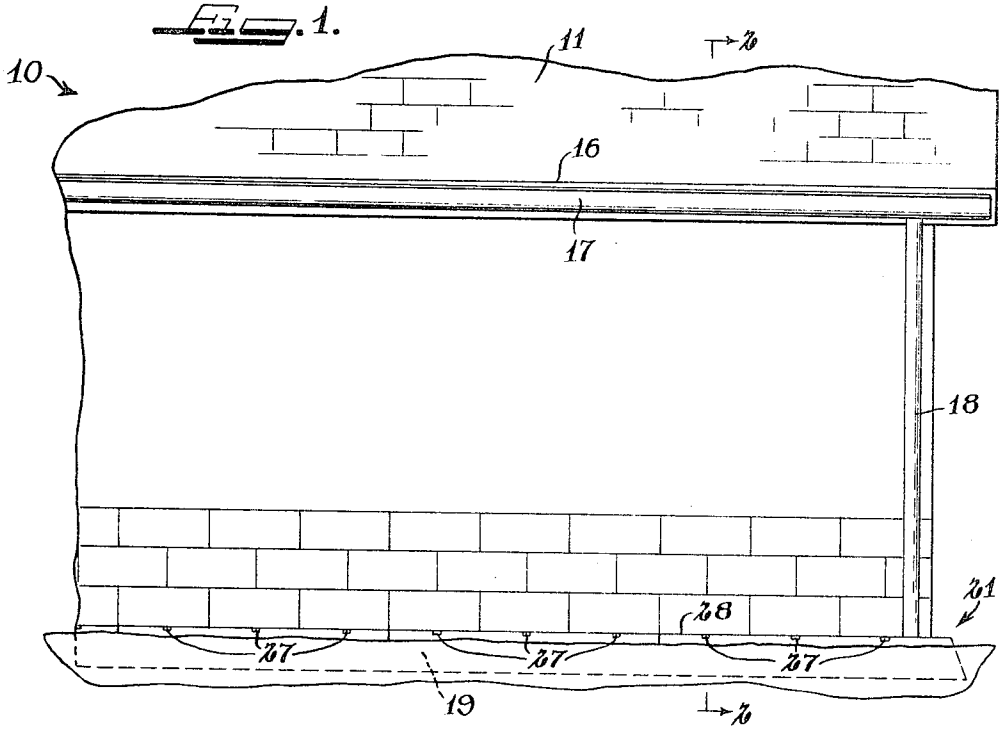
Sept. 13, 1966 W. F. FIELDS 3,271,913

MEANS FOR DISPERSING WATER FROM A ROOF OVER ADJACENT LAND SURFACE

Filed Jan. 15, 1964

Fig. 1.



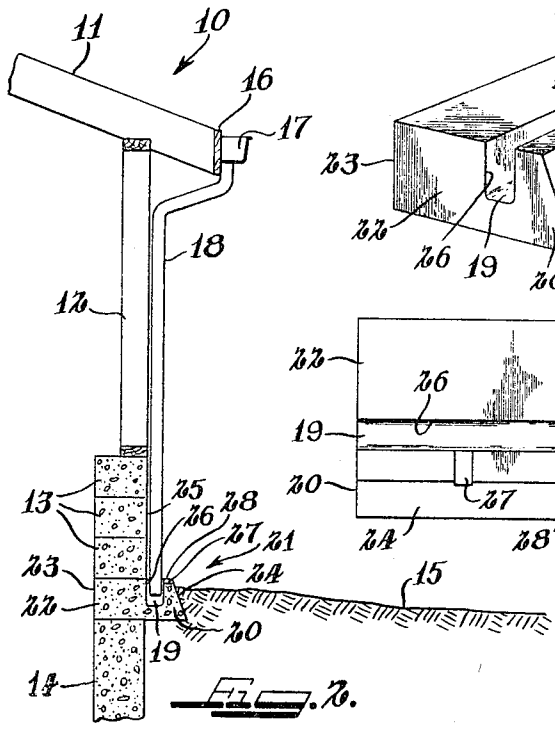


Fig. 2.

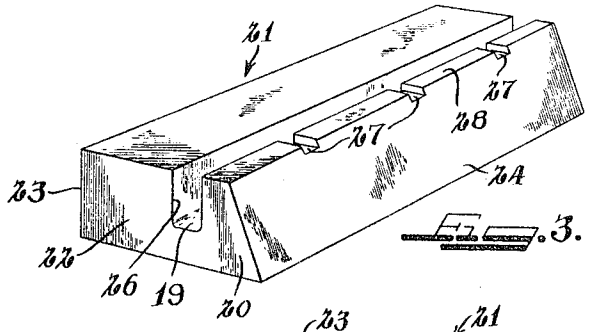


Fig. 3.

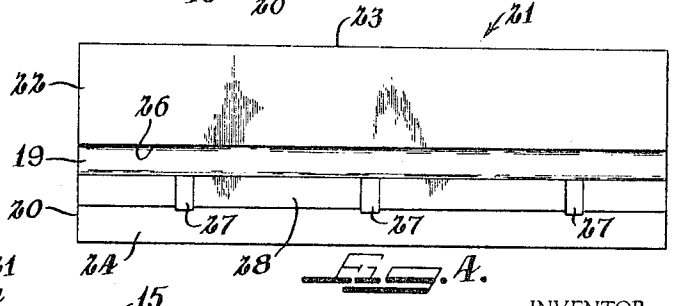


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR.
WILLIAM F. FIELDS
BY
Robert R. Lockwood
Atty.

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MEANS FOR DISPERSING WATER FROM A ROOF OVER ADJACENT LAND SURFACE

William F. Fields, 418 S. Monroe St., Lincoln, Ill.

Filed Jan. 15, 1964, Ser. No. 337,816
3 Claims. (Cl. 52—16)

This invention relates, generally, to water dispersing systems and it has particular relation to apparatus for dispersing water on a roof due to rain and melting snow and ice over the land adjacent to a wall of a building carrying the roof.

Among the objects of this invention are: To provide in a new and improved manner for dispersing water on the roof due to rain and melting snow and ice over the land adjacent to a wall of a building provided with the roof; to direct the water away from the building wall at ground level in order to prevent seepage into the basement; and to disperse the water at ground level over a relatively wide area in order to irrigate the adjacent land, prevent erosion thereof and utilize the water for a useful purpose where no storm sewer is available to carry it off.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a view, in side elevation, of a portion of a building to which the present invention can be applied.

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken generally along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a section of a foundation gutter constructed in accordance with this invention.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the foundation gutter shown in FIG. 3.

Referring now particularly to FIGS. 1 and 2 of the drawing, it will be observed that the reference character **10** designates, generally, a portion of a building of conventional construction which is provided with a roof **11** and a house wall **12**. The house wall **12** may be supported along its under side by concrete blocks **13** which, in turn, are carried by a foundation wall **14** that extends below the surface **15** of the adjacent ground. The foundation wall **14** may comprise a basement wall.

Along the lower edge **16** of the roof **11** there is positioned an eaves gutter **17** for collecting water from the roof **11** due to rain and melting snow and ice. A downspout **18** serves to discharge the water collected by the eaves gutter **17**.

It is conventional to connect the downspout **18** to a storm sewer. Alternatively it is conventional to arrange for it to discharge directly over the surface **15** of the ground. When the water is discharged into a storm sewer it is wasted. The discharge of the water from the downspout **18** directly onto the surface **15** of the ground is objectionable since it may cause erosion. In addition the discharge of the water onto the surface **15** of the ground may cause a concentration adjacent the outer surface of the foundation wall **14** which may result in seepage therethrough. A damp basement then may result.

In accordance with this invention provision is made for discharging the water from the downspout **18** into a trough **19** that extends lengthwise of a gutter section **20** that forms an integral part of a foundation gutter which is indicated, generally, at **21**. The construction of the foundation gutter **21** is shown more clearly in FIGS. 3 and 4 of the drawing. It can be constructed of concrete, either pre-cast or poured in place.

The foundation gutter **21** also includes a wall section **22** which, as shown in FIG. 2, is interposed between the lowermost concrete block **13** and the upper surface of the foundation wall **14**. Its inner vertical surface **23** constitutes an extension of the inner surfaces of the concrete blocks **13** and of the foundation wall **14**. It will be understood that the joints between the concrete blocks **13**, the wall section **22** of the foundation gutter **21** and the foundation wall **14** are suitably sealed.

The outer surface **24** of the gutter section **20** slopes away from the outer wall surface **25** of the concrete blocks **13** and thus extends to a slight extent underneath the surface **15** of the ground. The inner side **26** of the trough **19** preferably is contiguous with the outer wall surface **25**.

In order to disperse the water that collects in the trough **19** over the surface **15** of the ground one or more ports **27**, preferably several, are provided in the surface **28** of the gutter section **20**. When this construction is employed, the water that is discharged into the trough **19** by the downspout **18** from the eaves gutter **17** is dispersed over the surface **15** of the ground from many locations. Thus there is no concentration of water in any particular area.

It will be understood that the foundation gutter **21** is positioned so that it is horizontal. Also the surface **28** of the gutter section **20** is horizontal. In the event that the flow of water into the trough **19** is such that it cannot be carried away through the ports **27**, then it overflows the surface **28** and flows downwardly over the sloping outer surface **24** substantially from end to end. This serves to uniformly disperse the water over the surface **15** of the ground.

What is claimed as new is:

1. Means for collecting from a roof water due to rain and melting snow and ice comprising:
   (a) an eaves gutter underlying a lower edge of the roof,
   (b) a foundation gutter extending at ground level underneath the building wall carrying said roof edge,
   (c) said foundation gutter having a trough extending along the outer side of said building wall with the bottom of said trough below the land surface,
   (d) the upper surface of said foundation gutter along the side of said trough away from said wall being located along the adjacent land surface, and
   (e) a downspout extending from said eaves gutter along the outer side of said building wall with its lower end constructed and arranged to discharge water into said trough to flow over said upper surface of said foundation gutter onto the adjacent land surface.

2. The water collecting means claimed in claim **1** characterized in that the lower end of the downspout extends into the trough in the foundation gutter.

3. The water collecting means claimed in claim **1** characterized in that the upper surface of the foundation gutter is provided with one or more ports through which water in the trough can flow onto the adjacent land surface.

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FRANK L. ABBOTT, *Primary Examiner.*
M. O. WARNECKE, *Assistant Examiner.*