

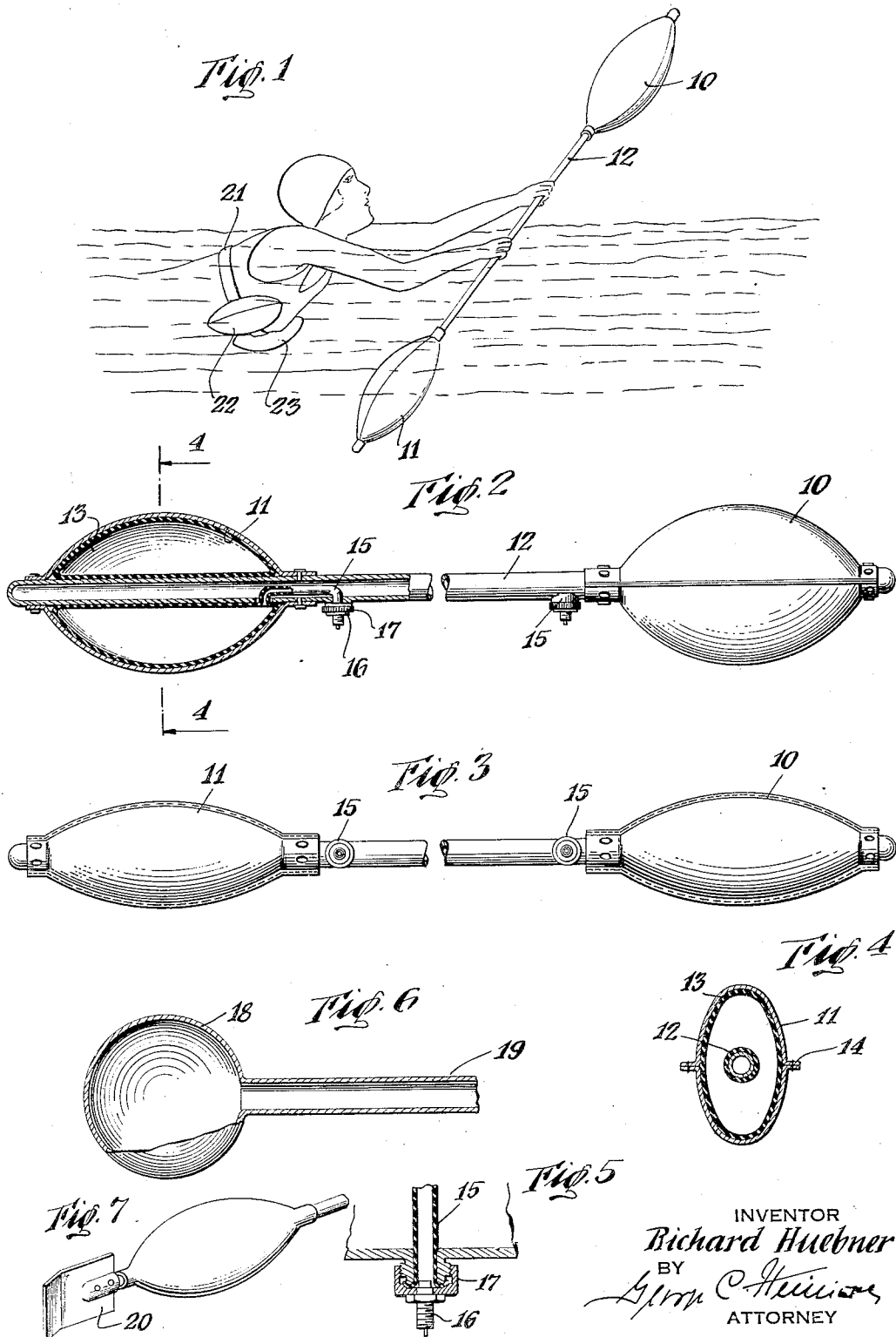
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SWIMMING APPARATUS

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,009,551

## SWIMMING APPARATUS

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## 1 Claim. (Cl. 9—21)

This invention relates to improvements in swimming apparatus, particularly an apparatus for supporting persons, who do not know how to swim, when bathing or enjoying water sports, to prevent their drowning, and for imparting to them a certain security in the water.

It is the principal object of my invention to provide a swimming apparatus which, besides keeping persons afloat, will allow their propulsion so that they may safely reach land in case of danger.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a swimming apparatus of comparatively simple and therefore inexpensive construction, yet durable and highly efficient in use.

Still another object of my invention is the provision of a swimming apparatus embodying inflatable, interconnected members, which besides their buoyant quality serve as propelling means also, so that a non-swimmer, particularly when using a body float, can keep himself above water and save himself by reaching land.

A further object of my invention is the provision of a swimming apparatus serving to the amusement for young and old, and equipped with means to inflate the buoyant bodies, and so constructed that upon the deflation of said bodies, it may be safely and conveniently carried along.

A still further object of my invention is the provision of a swimming apparatus using as buoyant members hollow metal balls or bodies of other suitable material and shape, and which may be equipped with suitable fins or paddles to assist in the propulsion.

These and other objects and advantages of my invention will become more fully known as the description thereof proceeds, and will then be specifically defined in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 illustrates in perspective view a swimming apparatus constructed according to my invention in operation.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of my swimming apparatus, partly in section.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view thereof.

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary, sectional detail view of a valve.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary detail, sectional view of a modified form of buoyant element.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modification showing one of the buoyant members equipped with a fin or paddle.

As illustrated, my swimming apparatus is com-

posed of two substantially oblong hollow bodies 10 and 11 which are connected by means of a rod 12 or the like, these bodies, however may have any desired contour, and may be made of any suitable material. Each of the bodies 10 and 11 is made in two halves connected with their flanges as indicated at 14.

Within each of these bodies 10 and 11, is contained a buoyant, inflatable member 13 which may be of any suitable material and shape. These bodies are inflated by means of air from an air pump or by any other suitable means. If inflated from an air pump this is done by the intermediary of a suitable valve, generally designated 15 including the well known nipple 16 and cap 17 of the customary construction, not forming part of this invention.

It will be clear that any number of such buoyant, inflatable bodies or members may be enclosed in each of the bodies 10 and 11 and connected in suitable manner.

As shown in Figure 6, the bodies 10 and 11 may be replaced by hollow, substantially ball-shaped buoyant members 18 connected by a rod 19.

In order to facilitate the swimming and propulsion the outwardly extending ends of the rods 12 and 19 may be equipped with fins or paddles 20 of the shape shown or any other suitable shape.

The use of my swimming apparatus will greatly be enhanced by the simultaneous use of a belt 21 placed about the body of the swimmer, and having secured to its ends buoyant members 22, 23 of any suitable shape.

In practice the members 22, 23 are placed about the body by means of their connecting belt 21 to keep the body afloat, and the swimmer taking hold of the rods 12 or 19 will be able to keep the head above water and by using the apparatus in the manner indicated in Figure 1 will be able to propel himself until reaching land, thus illustrating the use of my device as a life saving apparatus primarily intended for non-swimmers but also greatly contributing to the safety and amusement of expert swimmers.

It will be understood that I have described and shown the preferred forms of my device as examples only of the many possible ways to practically construct the same, and that I may make such changes in the general arrangement of my swimming apparatus and in the construction of its minor details, as come within the scope of the appended claim without departure from the spirit of my invention and the principle involved.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A swimming apparatus comprising two hollow  
5 bodies each made in two halves, flanges on each  
of the halves to unite the same to form said

bodies, an inflatable member in each of said  
bodies, a rod connecting both bodies, and valves  
on said rod controlling the inflation of said mem-  
bers, said rod and bodies contributing to the use  
of the apparatus as means to propel the same. 5

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