J. H. BOUCHER.

CAP CROWN PROTECTING DEVICE.

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1,433,108.

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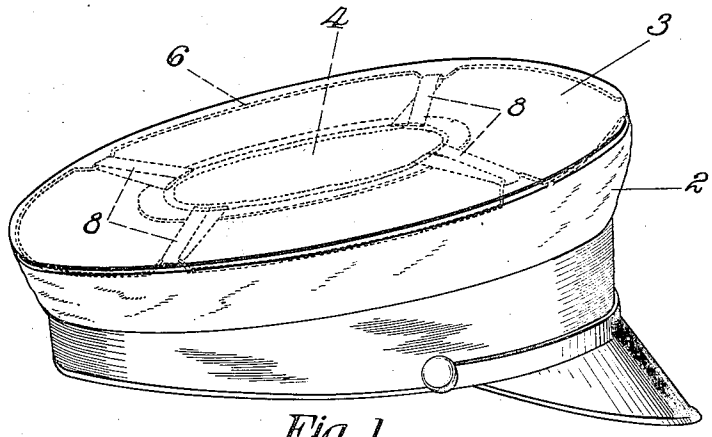


Fig. 1.

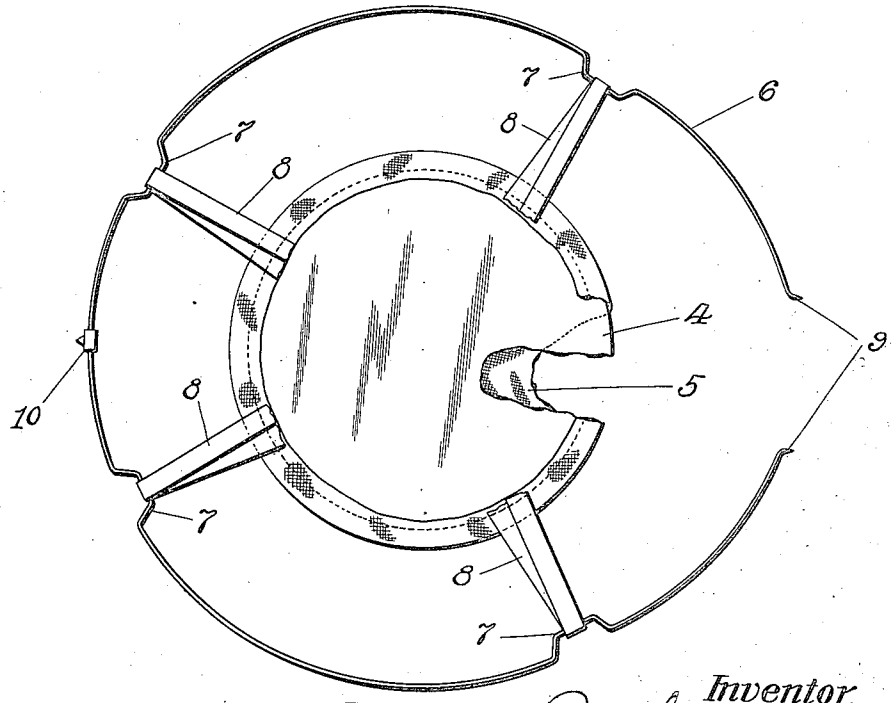


Fig. 2.

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by J. H. McCook his Atty.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. BOUCHER, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

CAP-CROWN-PROTECTING DEVICE.

Application filed December 8, 1920. Serial No. 429,064.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. BOUCHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in a Cap-Crown-Protecting Device, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like reference characters on the drawings indicating like parts in the several figures.

Policemen, firemen, chauffeurs, and others who wear caps of the flat crown style find that perspiration from the head is absorbed by the top of the crown of the cap where it comes in contact with the head. This perspiration discolors the crown of the cap producing a soiled and untidy appearance. It is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to remove this discoloration, and the result is that the serviceability of the cap is substantially reduced by this cause.

It is the chief object of the present invention to provide a protecting device which can be conveniently worn within the cap and which will prevent discoloration from the cause just described. The invention also aims to devise an article of this character which will fit a great variety of sizes and styles of caps and which can be conveniently inserted in and removed from the cap.

The nature of the invention will be readily understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring now to the drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cap equipped with a protecting device constructed in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the protecting device.

Fig. 1 shows a cap of the type above referred to having a crown 2 with a flat top 3. The protecting device comprises a pad preferably consisting of an approximately circular sheet 4 of waterproof material, such as oiled silk, and a covering 5 therefor of silk, sateen, or any other suitable material. This protecting member or pad is supported by a frame 6, preferably made of spring wire bent into an approximately oval form, as shown in Fig. 2, and having a series of notches 7 therein to receive elastic straps 8 having their ends sewed to the pad. These straps preferably are made of elastic webbing arranged to form loops which engage the notches 7. The wire is held in the shape shown in Fig. 2 by the elastic straps 8.

The method of manufacturing this device will be obvious from an understanding of its construction. In using the device the wire frame 6 is contracted sufficiently to place it in the crown of the cap in the position shown in Fig. 1, and as soon as the frame is free it expands due to its inherent resiliency, and frictionally engages the inside wall of the crown of the cap where it supports the protecting pad substantially in contact with the top 3 of the crown of the cap. It will be understood, of course, that the unfinished edges seen in Fig. 2 will be uppermost so that the device will present a satisfactory appearance. Since the protecting pad comes between the head of the wearer and the top 3 of the cap crown, it will itself absorb a certain amount of perspiration, but the waterproof material 4 will prevent this perspiration from working through into the crown piece 3. Usually the central portion of the waterproof sheet will be held in contact with the crown piece 3 by the wearer's head, but the marginal portion of this piece will tend to drop away from the part 3 so that even if perspiration should work along the covering material 5 to the margins thereof the pad would not usually be in close enough contact with the part 3 to transmit perspiration to the crown.

It will be evident that whenever the pad becomes soiled it can easily be removed, laundered, and replaced again. The frame 6 may be made of a nickeled or galvanized iron wire, or of any other suitable material that will not rust or corrode.

While the invention has been above described as particularly applicable to caps since the necessity for it arises more especially in caps, it is equally useful in some styles of hats having very low crowns so that the top of the crown rests on the wearer's head. When the device is to be used in a hat I consider it preferable to turn out the ends of the frame 6 to form points, as indicated at 9—9, Fig. 2, and to solder or otherwise secure a prong 10 to the opposite side of the frame. These points or prongs can be pushed slightly into the wall of the crown of the hat where they will be held

by the tendency of the frame 6 to expand and thus support the protecting device in its operative position in the hat. The prongs or points 9 and 10 are not necessary, however, in a cap of the style shown in Fig. 1 due to the fact that the crown of the cap is larger at the top than at any other point.

It will now be seen that the invention provides a very simple protecting device which effectually prevents perspiration from reaching the crown of the hat or cap and therefore prevents the soiling and discoloring above mentioned. It will also be evident that the device can be manufactured very economically, that it will fit a great variety of head sizes of a given style of cap, and can be quickly placed in position and removed again when necessary.

A further advantage of this construction is that the presence of the oil proof sheet keeps the wearer's head dry in wet weather. Usually in caps of this type the crown piece wets through very quickly and since the wearer's head is in direct contact with this part of the cap his head also becomes wet very quickly. With the use of the device provided by this invention, however, the wearer is saved this discomfort. The presence of the silk or other covering 5 not only improves the appearance of the protecting device but it also contributes to the comfort of the wearer, particularly if he is bald headed.

It will also be understood that the term "cap" in the appended claims is used in a generic sense to include both the articles commonly known as hats and caps.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A cap crown protector comprising a protecting member of sheet material, a resilient wire frame encircling said member and operative to engage the inner wall of the crown of a cap, and elastic straps connecting said frame with said member and supporting the member between the wearer's head and the top of the crown of the cap, said frame having notches therein to receive said straps.

2. A cap crown protector comprising a protecting member of waterproof sheet material, a resilient wire frame substantially encircling said member and tending to expand whereby it is enabled to engage firmly with the inner wall of the crown of a cap, said frame having ends spaced apart, and flexible straps connecting said frame with said member and supporting the member in its operative position, said frame having notches therein to receive said straps.

3. A cap crown protector comprising a protecting pad including a sheet of waterproof material and a covering of fabric for said sheet, a frame consisting of a length of spring wire substantially encircling said pad and operative to engage the inner walls of the crown of the cap, and a plurality of straps connecting said frame with said pad and supporting the pad, said frame having notches therein to receive said straps and having ends spaced apart by a substantial distance.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

JOSEPH H. BOUCHER.