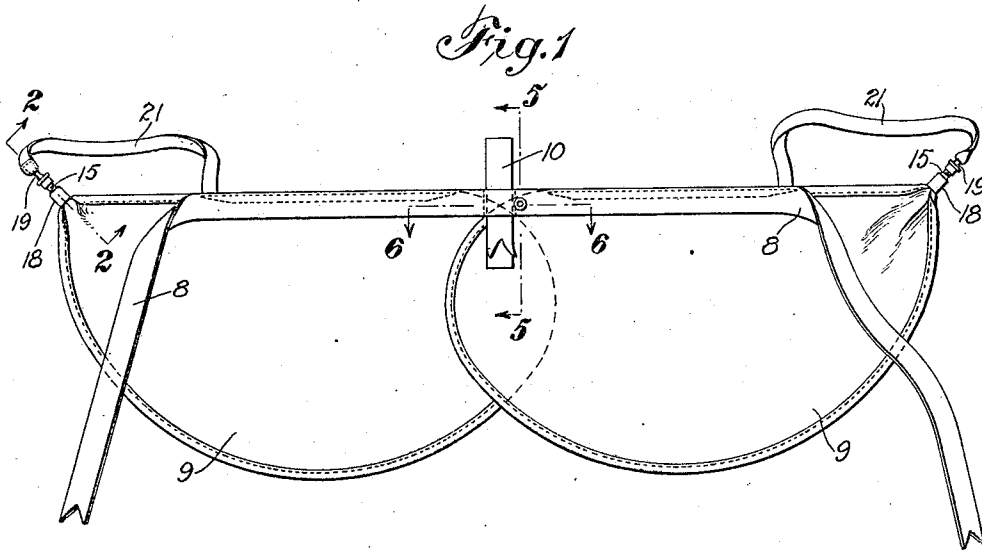
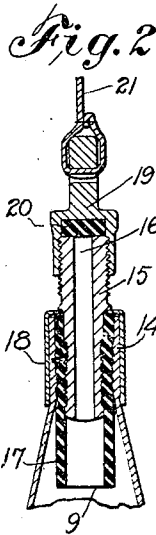
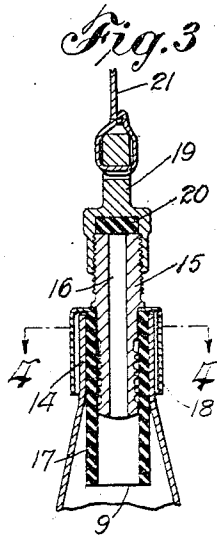
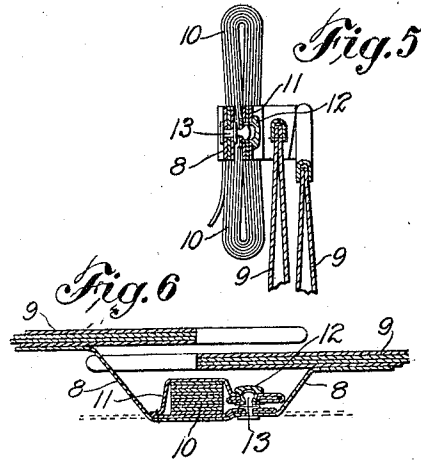
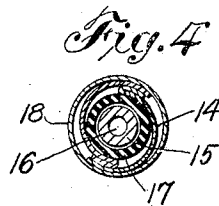


R. N. BRESSLER.
SWIMMING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 1, 1915.

1,297,648.

Patented Mar. 18, 1919.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

REGINA N. BRÉSSLER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SWIMMING DEVICE.

1,297,648.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 18, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REGINA N. BRÉSSLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Swimming Devices, fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

My invention relates to swimming devices designed to be used by bathers or swimmers for the purpose of assisting them in learning to swim; and designed also to serve as safety devices or life preservers.

The objects of my invention are to provide an improved swimming device capable of being inflated and thus rendered buoyant, and which may be readily put on by the user and secured in place in such a position as to support or assist in supporting him when in the water, while at the same time permitting a free movement of the arms and legs in swimming; to provide a swimming device of the type above referred to with new and improved means whereby it may be tethered to the user by means of a flexible towing cord and towed behind him in swimming, so that when the device is not secured in place upon the user and acting to support him it will nevertheless be within his reach and, by pulling in the towing cord, may be retrieved and put on or used as desired; to provide improved means whereby air may be supplied to the interior of the inflatable members or floats which form parts of the device, and prevented from escaping therefrom, such inflating means being especially intended and adapted for use on inflatable floats of swimming devices but also suitable for other inflatable devices; and to otherwise improve upon swimming devices of the kind or type to which my invention relates, as will hereinafter appear.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the improved swimming device, and in the various parts thereof, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and hereinafter particularly described and claimed; and in such variations and modifications thereof as will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which my invention relates.

In the accompanying drawing, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention:

Figure 1 is a view showing my improved swimming device in elevation;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 showing one of the inflating or valve devices secured in one of the inflatable float members;

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the parts assembled but before the binding ferrule has been compressed;

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and

Figs. 5 and 6 are enlarged sectional views taken respectively on line 5—5 and line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing, the reference numeral 8 designates a band or belt made of flexible material and designed to extend about the waist of the user, and the free ends of which are tied together to thereby secure the device in place in a manner well understood by persons familiar with swimming, life preserving, and similar devices, this band being commonly formed from woven fabric or webbing, although it may be made of any suitable material.

Carried by the belt or band 8 are two hollow inflatable members or floats 9, 9, formed from woven fabric or other suitable flexible sheet material which is impervious to air and water. The material I consider best for the purpose is a closely woven cotton fabric which has no rubber or other impervious coating but which becomes impervious to air when wet. When inflated, the floats become buoyant and act to support the user of the device when in the water. These float members are most desirably secured to the band 8 along their upper edges, as shown, and are entirely separate from one another and are inflated through separate inflating or valve devices, one such inflating device being provided for each inflatable member or float, and the floats are desirably of such size that if only one is inflated it will be sufficient to support the user.

The inflatable members are commonly secured to the belt or band at a distance from one another, as shown in the drawing, so that when the device is in use they will be upon opposite sides of the body of the user. The inflatable members being commonly made from light woven fabric, the device as a whole may be made very light in weight, and when not in use may be folded so as to take up but little space. A device of sufficient capacity to support the heaviest person

when in the water may be readily folded and carried in the pocket.

The reference numeral 10 designates a flexible towing member or cord formed from woven fabric or webbing or other suitable material, one end of said cord being permanently secured to the band 8 at a point between the inflatable members 9, see Figs. 1 and 6, and the other end being free, when the cord is released, so that it may be tied about the waist of the user, fastened to his clothing, or otherwise secured to his person.

The flexible towing member or cord is designed for use at times when the swimming device is not secured in place about the waist of and acting to support the user in the water, the belt and the inflatable members or floats being at such times towed by the swimmer through and by means of the towing cord, the user then swimming unassisted by the floats; and the length of the towing cord is such that the belt and floats will then be towed some distance behind the swimmer so as not to interfere with his movements. The belt and floats, however, being tethered to the user by the towing cord, may be readily retrieved by pulling upon said cord; and the belt and floats may thus be easily secured and, if desired, put on by the user when and in case he finds himself in need of or desires to avail himself of the supporting effect of said elements, as will be understood.

The towing member 10 when not in use as above explained is folded and doubled upon itself, and held in that condition, so as to be out of the way and not liable to interfere with the movements of the user. This is preferably accomplished by the holding means best shown in Figs. 5 and 6 in which the numeral 11 designates a flexible clasp or holding device one end of which is permanently secured to the band 8, and the other end of which is provided with a socket 12 to cooperate with a stud 13, the socket and stud forming separable fastening means for securing the free end of said clasp device to the band, the towing member being thus held secured to the band in a compact and folded condition, as will be understood from Figs. 5 and 6. When the towing member is to be used, the latch device 11 or other holding means is unfastened, the free end of said towing member secured to the user, and the belt and floats permitted to trail behind him, all as above explained.

Referring now to the inflating or valve device whereby air may be supplied to the interior of one of the inflatable members and prevented from escaping therefrom and the manner of securing the same to the inflatable member, and referring especially to Figs. 2, 3 and 4:—The wall of the inflatable member is shown as merging into and so shaped as to provide a neck 14 having an opening within which the inflating device is located,

the same being held in place within the neck in any suitable way but preferably as herein-after explained. The reference numeral 15 designates a metallic nipple having an air passage 16 through which air may be supplied to the interior of the inflatable member 9; and 17 designates a collapsible and resilient tube of india rubber or other suitable flexible and elastic material, the upper end of which surrounds the lower or inner end of the nipple, said tube extending beyond the end of the nipple and into the interior of the inflatable member, as shown.

In providing the valve device and securing it in place as above explained, the nipple and collapsible tube are assembled and placed within the neck 14, and a ferrule 18 is placed over the neck as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. This ferrule is made from a suitable metal or other material which may be readily compressed to reduce the diameter thereof, and after the parts have been assembled as above, the ferrule is compressed by a suitable mechanism or device whereby its diameter is reduced to such an extent that the neck 18 is forced against the outside of the tube 17, and the upper end of said tube forced against the inner roughened end of the nipple 15; thus securing a binding engagement between the several parts and holding the nipple, tube and ferrule in place, as will be understood; the various elements assuming the condition shown in Fig. 2 after the nipple has been fully compressed.

The tube 17 not only serves as a packing between the ferrule and neck 14 and the nipple 15, but the inner projecting end of this tube serves to protect the adjacent portions of the float member by preventing their drawing directly against the end of the nipple, and also serves as a means whereby the escape of air through the nipple may be temporarily prevented.

The outer end of the nipple is closed by a removable cap 19 in threaded engagement therewith and provided with a packing 20 so that when the cap is screwed into place the escape of air from the inflatable member will be prevented. In order to prevent the cap 19 from being lost, it is connected to the swimming device by means of a flexible tape or other cord 21 which will not interfere with the screwing of the cap on to or off from the end of the nipple, but will effectually prevent its loss when detached from the nipple.

To inflate either of the floats, its valve cap 19 is removed and air is supplied to the float through the nipple by blowing in from the mouth or otherwise. After the float member has been sufficiently inflated or between breaths the escape of air is temporarily prevented by collapsing or flattening the inwardly extending end of the tube 17, this

being readily accomplished by pressing the adjacent portions of the wall of the inflatable member inward as by pressure of the thumb and finger, such pressure being transmitted through the walls and to the end of the tube to collapse the same. The escape of air from the inflatable member may thus be readily prevented until the closing cap is screwed on to the end of the nipple, after which the tube may be released and escape of air will be prevented by the cap.

What is claimed is:

1. A swimming device, comprising a flexible band adapted to extend about the waist of the user, two inflatable members carried by said band and spaced apart, a flexible towing member one end of which is secured to said band at a point between said inflatable members, and means for holding said flexible towing member secured in a folded condition against the band.

2. A swimming device, comprising a flexible band adapted to extend about the waist of the user, two inflatable members carried by said band and spaced apart, a flexible

towing member one end of which is secured to said band at a point between said inflatable members, a holding device secured at one end to said band and adapted to engage said flexible towing member when in a folded condition and hold it against said band, and separable fastening means whereby the free end of said holding device may be detachably secured to said band.

3. The combination with a swimming device comprising a float member, of a flexible towing member, one end of which is secured to the swimming device, and means for holding said flexible towing member secured in a folded condition against a part of the swimming device.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of subscribing witnesses.

REGINA N. BRESSLER.

Witnesses:

HYMAN W. DICKER,
SIMON A. BRESSLER,
LOUIS ZIPSER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."