S. W White

Hats & Caps.

No 1826 Patented Oct. 14, 1840.

Fig: 1.

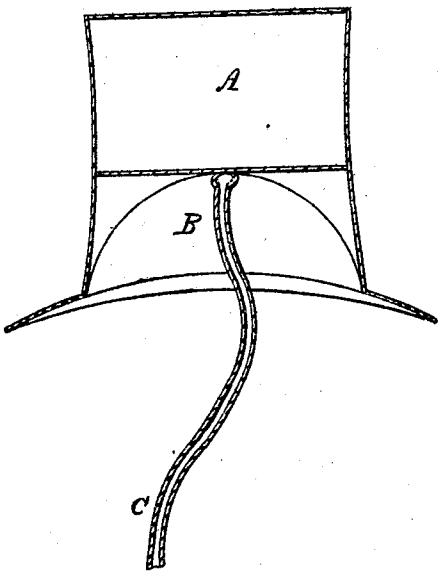
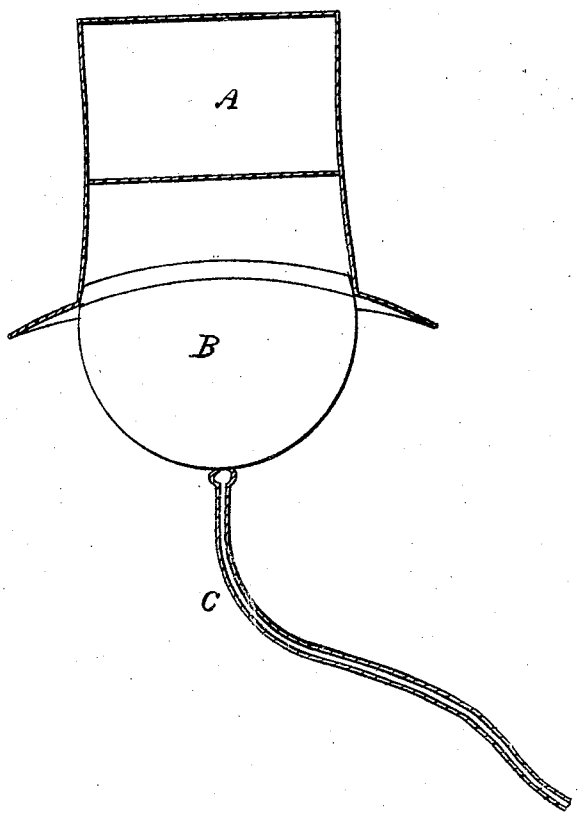


Fig: 2.



Witnesses

J. H. Potter

G. W. Harmon

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL WHITE WHITE, OF CHARLTON MARSHALL, ENGLAND.

MODE OF MAKING HATS BUOYANT, SO THEY CAN BE USED AS LIFE-PRESERVERS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 1,826, dated October 14, 1840.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL WHITE WHITE, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and now residing at Charlton Marshall, in the county of Dorset, England, have invented or discovered new and useful Improvements in Preventing Persons from Being Drowned; and I, the said SAMUEL WHITE WHITE, do hereby declare the nature of my invention and the manner in which the same is to be performed are fully described and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof, reference being had to the drawing hereunto annexed and to the figures and letters marked thereon—that is to say,

My invention is for an aquatic life hat with the extension of the same principle to caps and bonnets or any other covering of the head to which it is applicable and consists in making it in the first instance waterproof and of any material or shape and in dividing as much of the upper portion of the hat from the under portion as to leave a sufficient depth to admit of its being worn on the head or by any other mode of contrivance whatsoever that will prevent the water from entering or filling the whole or any part of that upper portion.

The next part of the invention consists in rendering the lining of it subservient to its buoyancy by making it waterproof and very full and drawn together in the center leaving one or more apertures to admit the air either by inflation or otherwise that the lining when pulled may come freely out of the hat so that when the hat falls off the head (provided it is connected to a person's dress by a cord or ribbon and which it ought always to be) the lining becomes immediately inverted in the form of a bag and by grasping the neck or aperture of which and pulling the hat under water the person is powerfully supported without exertion and consequently prevented from drowning. Or the hat after being made waterproof may be varied in its construction so as to have the waterproof lining without dividing the hat into an upper and under portion or it may be made with the above division without the waterproof lining for in the two latter forms the hat would be sufficiently buoyant to preserve life although it must be at once obvious that the first of the three modes is greatly superior and scarcely admits of a comparison.

Description of the drawing.—Figure 1 shows a hat in section with my improvements applied thereto *a* being the space between to the top of the head and crown of the hat and *b* the waterproof lining shown folded within the hat with the cord or ribbon *c* for drawing it out when required, attached thereto. Fig. 2 is also a section of a hat with the same improvements applied thereto with the waterproof lining drawn out for use.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The making of hats caps and bonnets with a space *a* waterproof as above described.

2. The application of a waterproof lining as shown at *b* for the purpose of preventing persons sinking when in the water.

S. W. WHITE.

Witnesses:
W. R. RITCHIE,
G. M. HARRISON.