

Dec. 27, 1927.

F. WALCHER

1,653,974

SWIMMING BOARD OR LIFE PRESERVER

Filed April 30, 1927

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

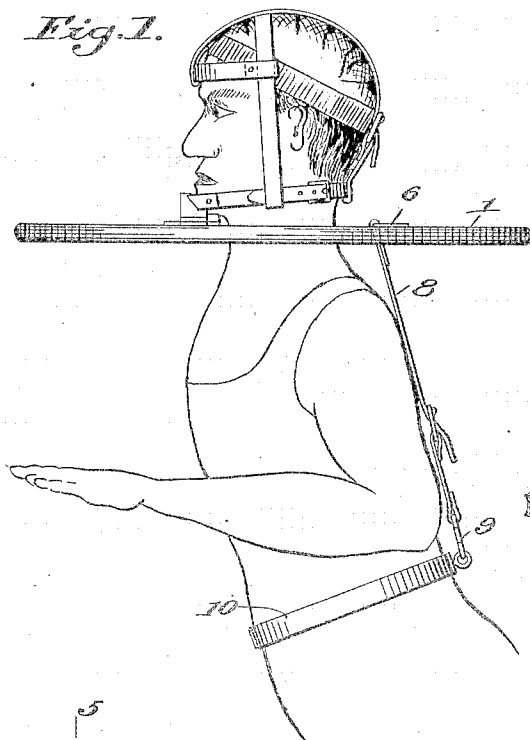


Fig. 6.

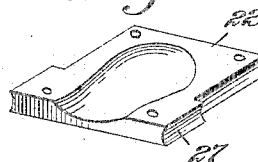


Fig. 7.

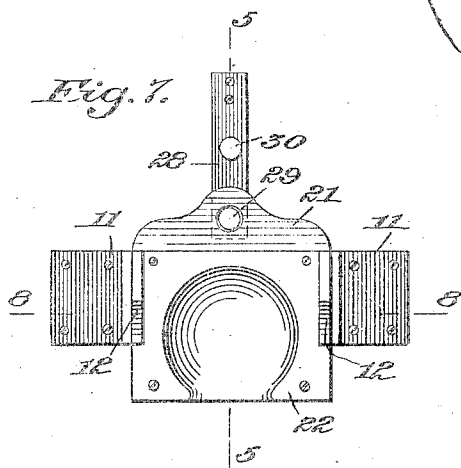


Fig. 5.

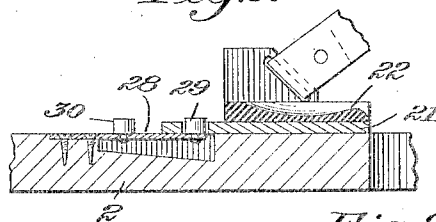
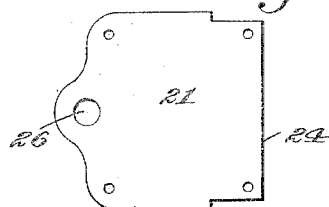
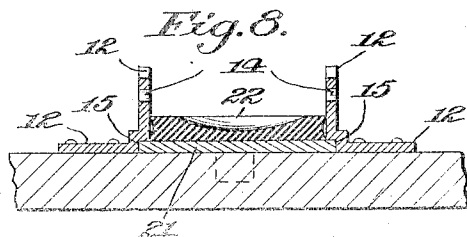


Fig. 9.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.

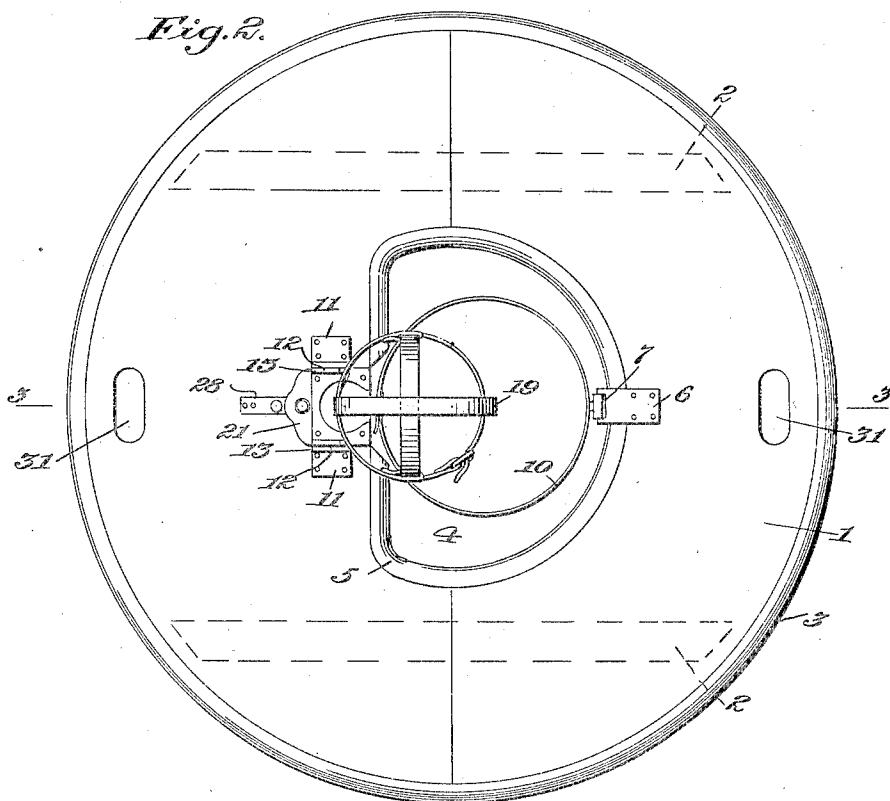


Fig. 3.

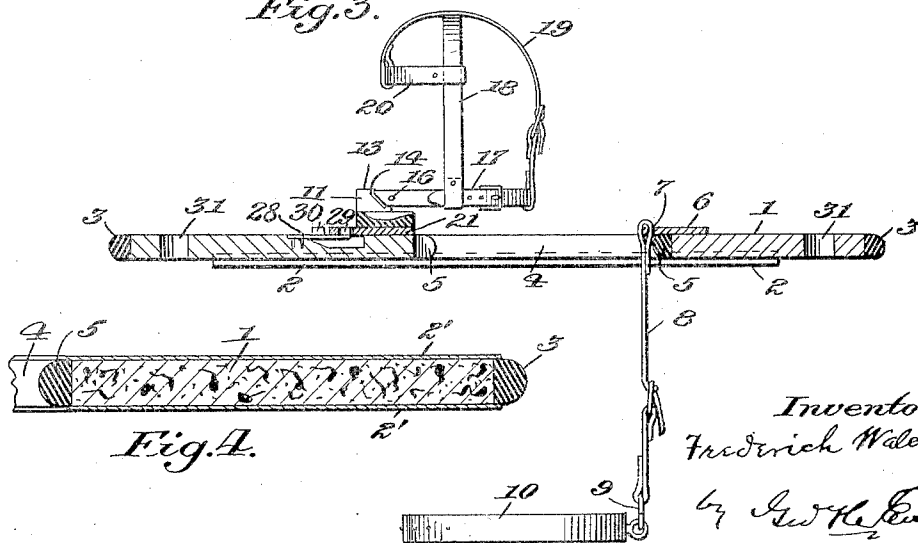


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICH WALCHER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SWIMMING BOARD OR LIFE PRESERVER.

Application filed April 30, 1927. Serial No. 187,854.

My invention relates to improvements in life saving apparatuses and is more particularly directed to means used in teaching the art of swimming.

5 The object of the invention is to provide a float formed of a buoyant material which is adapted to support the user within the water when attached to the body.

10 Another object of the invention is to provide a float formed of buoyant material which is adapted to be placed about the neck of the user to maintain his head above the surface of the water.

15 Another object of the invention is to provide means carried by the float for cushioning the head and chin of the user, the means employed for cushioning the chin being changeable so as to accommodate chins of various shapes and proportions.

20 With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in the arrangement and combination of parts which are more clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings and more specifically described in the annexed specification and claims in which:—

25 Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device showing the same applied to the head of the user.

30 Figure 2 is a plan view of the board or float.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

35 Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view on an enlarged scale of a modified form of board.

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional view of the chin rest and its catch on line 5—5 of Figure 7.

40 Figure 6 is a perspective view showing one specific form of the chin rest.

Figure 7 is a plan of the chin rest, catch and guide brackets.

Figure 8 is a section on line 8—8 of Figure 7.

45 Figure 9 is a plan of the plate to which chin rest is secured.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 1 indicates a suitable

board or the like, which may be formed of cork or other buoyant material and given any desired shape, preferably a circular shape similar to that illustrated in the drawings. If desired, the board may be formed of 55 a plurality of sections and the sections being secured together in such a manner as to prevent warping thereof. Furthermore in order to eliminate the possible warping of the board 1 I have positioned upon its under- 60 side a plurality of transversely extending strips 2. Also I may eliminate the strips 2 and place upon each side of the board 1 circular plates 2' formed of aluminum or some like metal. The board 1 has upon its pe- 65 riphery a suitable bumper 3 which is formed of any yielding material, such as rubber or the like, while its center is provided with a cut out portion 4 through which passes the head of the user, the board being normally 70 maintained about the neck. The edge of the opening 4 is likewise provided with a yielding bumper 5 which forms a cushion against which the neck of the wearer engages.

To maintain the board in its proper position 75 upon the user, I have secured upon its upper face, and adjacent the opening 4, a metal plate 6, the end of which projects inwardly beyond the bumper 4 and is provided with an elongated slot 7 which receives therein one end 80 of an adjustable strap 8, the lower end of which has connected thereto, by a detachable element 9, a belt 10 which is adapted to pass around the waist of the user.

To maintain the board in its proper po- 85 sition about the neck of the wearer and to prevent its downward movement upon the shoulders I have provided a head engaging strap which passes over the head of the user and tends to support the board. As illus- 90 trated in the drawings, the board 1 has secured upon its upper face a pair of spaced brackets 11, each being provided with a horizontal portion 12 by which the bracket is secured to the board 1 and a vertical extend- 95 ing portion 13, the latter having formed therein an inclined slot 14, the purpose of which will be hereinafter more fully described.

As shown in Figure 8, the bracket mem- 100

bers 11 are each provided with a channel 15 formed at the junction of the horizontal and vertical portions, these channels receiving therein the edge of a chin support hereinafter set forth.

The vertical portions 13 of the brackets 11 have secured thereto by rivets 16 or the like, within the slots 14, the ends of an adjustable strap 17 which is adapted to pass around the neck of the user, and this strap 17 has secured thereto adjustable straps 18 and 19, the former going up over the head of the wearer, while the latter passes from the back of the neck upwardly over the head and is secured to the intermediate portion of the strap 18, the end of the strap 19 continuing forward and having connected thereto a brow band 20; this head gear serving to support the board 1 free of the shoulders of the user.

In order to provide a cushion rest for the chin of the user I have arranged a detachable support which consists of a plate 21 having secured thereto a yielding pad 22 which has formed in its upper face a depression 23 for the reception therein of the chin of the user. As illustrated in the drawings, it will be observed that the plate 21 is provided with a reduced end portion 24 and a projecting front portion 25, the latter having an opening 26 therein. The cushion 22 is provided with an enlarged end portion 27 and when placed upon the plate 21, the edges of the major portion of the plate 21 will project beyond the edges of the major portion of the cushion and these projecting edges are received within the channels 15 of the bracket 11. It is my purpose to provide various forms and sides of the cushion elements for supporting the chin and by the structure which I have just recited, it will be apparent that the specific form of cushion illustrated is readily detachable from the brackets 11. In order to adjustably secure the cushion element in place, I have provided adjacent the front portion of the plate 21 a spring 28 one end of which is secured to the board, while its other end carries one or more pins or catches 29 which are moved upwardly into the opening 26 carried by the plate 21. The spring 28 is further provided with a finger engaging button 30 by which the spring and the pin 29 may be depressed.

Having thus fully described my invention it will be clearly apparent that when the device is properly applied to the neck of the user that the buoyancy of the float will maintain his body properly within the water, and in applying this device upon the neck, the board is first placed over the head and the belt adjusted properly about the waist after which the head engaging straps are adjusted as well as the cushion for the support of the chin.

In order to facilitate the carrying of the

float, I have provided about the board and adjacent its periphery a plurality of hand receiving openings 31.

From the foregoing, it is thought that the construction, operation and many advantages of the herein described invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without further description, and it will be understood that various changes in the size, shape, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A buoyant ring or collar to encircle the wearer's neck, provided with means to support it in place, a horizontal guide way on the upper side of the ring or collar adjacent to the front edge of the neck opening, and a chin rest slidable in and out of said guide way and recessed in its upper side to receive the wearer's chin.
2. A buoyant ring or collar to encircle the wearer's neck and provided with means to support it in place, a horizontal guide way on the upper side of the ring or collar adjacent to the front edge of the neck opening, a chin rest slidable in and out of said guide way, and a spring catch engaging the said chin rest to secure it in its adjusted position.
3. A buoyant flat ring or collar to encircle the wearer's neck, means for supporting the collar or ring in place, parallel guide forming brackets on the upper side of the ring or collar, a depressible spring catch extending intermediate of said brackets, and a chin rest slidable between said brackets and having means for engagement with said spring catch.
4. A buoyant flat collar or ring to encircle the wearer's neck, means for supporting the collar or ring in place, parallel guide forming brackets on the upper side of the ring or collar and each having a strap-slot, head gear provided with supporting straps connected to said slots, a spring catch in front of the two brackets, and a chin rest slidable between said brackets and having an aperture for engagement with the spring catch.
5. A chin rest attachment for swimming boards or life preservers comprising a flat metal plate apertured at its forward end, a soft or yielding chin rest secured on top of the metal plate and of less width than the plate, parallel guide forming brackets between which the projecting side edges of the metal plate slide and a spring catch to engage the aperture in the metal plate and secure the chin rest in place.
6. A buoyant annular flat collar or ring sheathed on its upper and lower sides with aluminum and provided at its inner and outer edges with a yielding binding, and head and body straps for supporting the collar or ring in place on the wearer's neck.

7. A buoyant flat collar or ring to encircle the wearer's neck, means for suspending and holding the same in place and a horizontally extending chin rest secured on the upper flat face of the ring or collar adjacent to the forward edge of its neck opening and provided with a recess for the chin on its upper side.

the wearer's neck provided with means for holding it in place, a horizontal guide way on the upper side of the ring or collar, a plurality of interchangeable chin rests of different form adapted to slide in and out of the guide way and a locking means for said chin rests.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

8. A buoyant flat collar or ring to encircle

FREDERICH WALCHER.