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HEADGEAR

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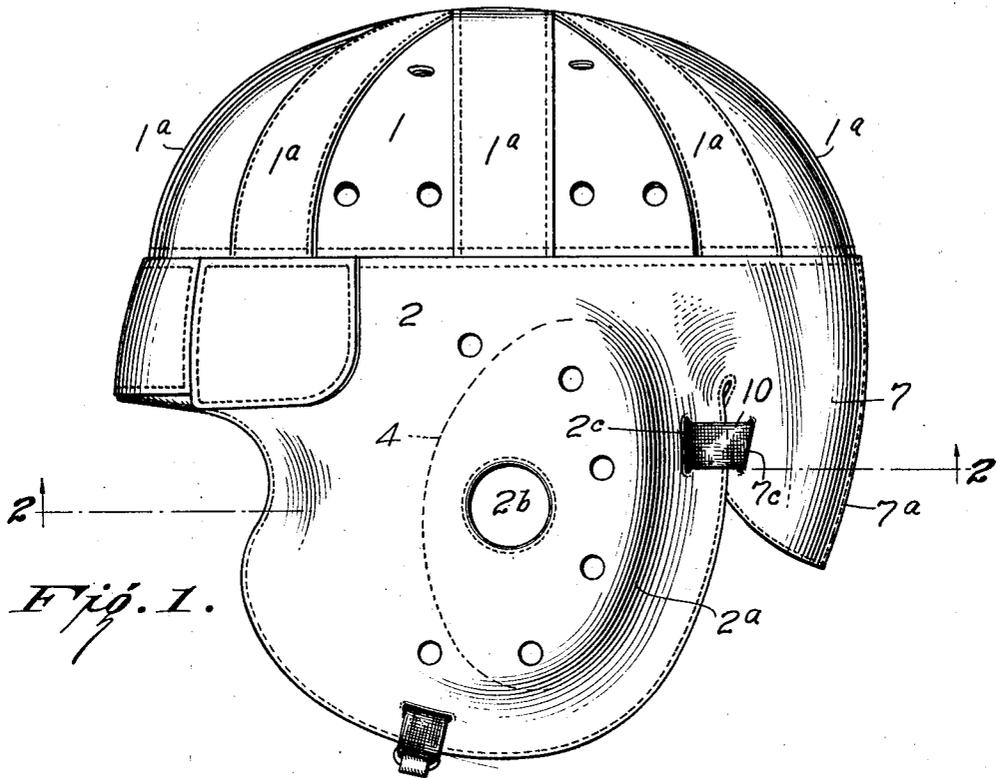


Fig. 1.

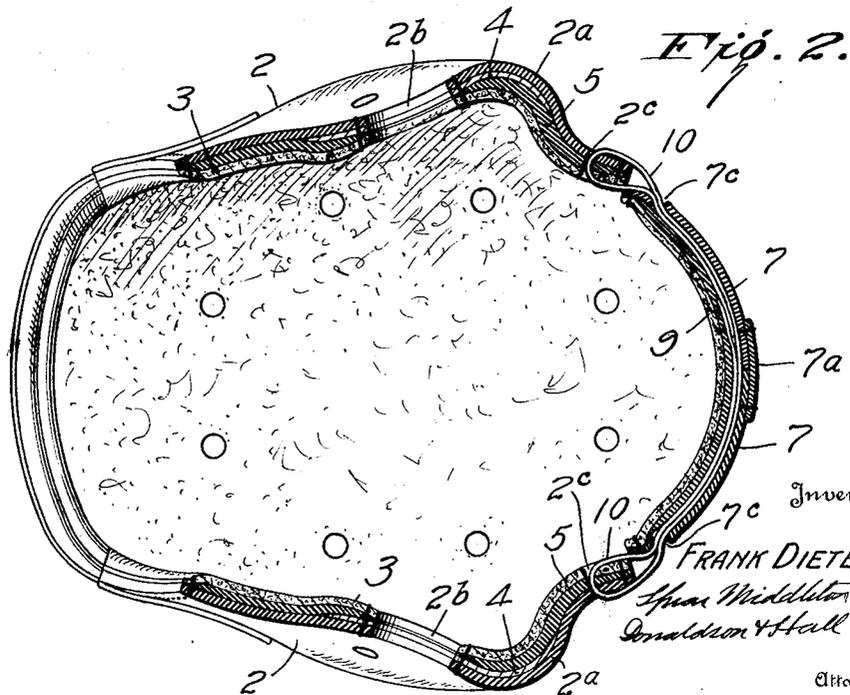


Fig. 2.

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HEADGEAR.

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My present invention relates to foot ball helmets of the type disclosed in Letters Patent No. 1,576,987, dated March 16, 1926.

The invention aims to provide a construction in which the ear will receive full and adequate protection and at the same time be free from any projection of a character to be likely to be knocked in scrimmages, whereby the helmet will be displaced on the head.

The invention further aims to provide a helmet in which the ear and sides of the head will receive maximum protection with a minimum of interference with sounds transmitted to the ears of the wearer.

Another object is to provide a helmet in which the back portion will fit the head of the wearer snugly and be held in connection with the side guards by a novel manner of connection.

With these and other objects in view, the invention includes the novel features of construction hereinafter described, the nature and scope of my invention being defined by the claims appended hereto.

What I at present consider the preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the helmet, and

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Referring by reference characters to this drawing, the numeral 1 designates the usual hard leather crown or cap portion of a head gear or helmet formed of leather, reinforced by crossed strips 1^a of leather stitched to the outside of the underlying cap proper. 2, 2 designate the members for protecting the sides of the head, which members comprise outer layers of leather and inner layers 3 of cushion material, preferably felt. Said side members are secured at their upper edges to the lower ends of the strips or straps 1^a which are projected below the cap portion for this purpose, as is customary.

The side members 2 are provided with substantially semi-circular projections 2^a formed by molding or die shaping the leather, such projections conforming in shape to the helices of the ears and positioned to overlie the same. From an inspection of Fig. 2 it will be seen that the projections are inclined towards the front of the helmet and that they emerge into the surface of the side portions at the front of

the ears, or in other words, disappear thereat.

This construction takes care of the helix of each ear, due to the inside space or channel formed by the projection, while by reason of the entire absence of any projection at the front of the ear, liability of disarrangement of the helmet during scrimmages is materially reduced.

Furthermore, the aforesaid construction materially aids the hearing of the wearer, as the converging of the sides towards the front enables the orifices 2^b, 2^b to face partly forward and thus pick up sound in a manner similar to the unexposed ear.

The side members 2 are preferably formed of relatively stiff leather, but to insure retention of shape, I preferably provide them with reinforcements 4 of vulcanized fiber molded to similar shape, to wit, with rear semi-circular projections and flattened front portions, said reinforcements being stitched to the side members around the edges of the ear openings, as shown.

To better cushion the sides and protect the ears, I prefer to place between the felt lining 3 and the reinforced side members, layers of sponge rubber, as indicated at 5.

The crown and side members are provided with the usual ventilating openings 6.

The side protecting members 2 are provided with (preferably integral) extensions 7 which are united at the rear as indicated at 7^a to form the protector for the back of the head, and said extensions are separated from the rear edges of the side members 2 by the vertical slits so that the vertical edges of the respective parts are juxtaposed for a considerable distance. The side members 2 are provided with slits 2^c adjacent their rear edges, which slits extend also through the lining, and the back extensions 7 are provided with similar slits 7^c which do not extend through the lining 9.

An elastic tape 10 is threaded through one of the slits 2^c and doubled upon itself and both layers passed through the adjacent slit 7^c, through the space between the extensions 7 and the lining and out through the other slit 7^c, where one of them is threaded through the remaining slit 2^c and the ends joined to form an endless elastic tape connection.

This provides a yielding connection between the back and side portions and draws

the former into snug contact with the back of the head, rendering the use of a chin strap unnecessary. This construction also holds the ear protecting members in proper position at the sides of the head.

By this arrangement also an elastic tape of material length is provided to give ample elastic effect, the major portion of the tape is protected, and yet when worn, it is easily replaced.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A foot ball helmet comprising a crown shell having side protecting members depending therefrom provided with substantially semi-circular projections conforming in position to the helices of the ears, the outer surfaces of said projections inclining gradually forwardly and inwardly and merging completely in the face of said side protecting members in front of the ears, the outer inclined surface of each projection and that portion of the face of the corresponding side protecting member in front of the ears lying substantially in a plane, a forwardly inclined perforation in each projection adapted to communicate to the ear sounds coming from the front in a manner similar to the reception of such sounds by the

ear itself, said side members being formed of leather and each having therein an internal reinforcing member of rigid material of a size and shape similar to the projections and positioned to overlie and protect the ear, each of said reinforcing members having a perforation registering with the perforation in the projection, and cushioning means on the inside of the reinforcing members and remaining portions of the side protecting members.

2. A foot ball helmet comprising a crown shell, side protecting members depending therefrom, a protecting portion for the rear of the head having free side edges abutting the rear edges of the side protecting members, said rear protecting portion having a cushion lining and slots, one adjacent each side edge of said rear portion, said slots forming the terminals of an internal passage extending across and within said rear protecting portion, and said side members having slots near their rear edges and an endless elastic tape threaded through all of said slots and lying in said passage in doubled form.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

FRANK DIETERLE.