June 5, 1928. 1,672,595

D. F. YOUNGBLOOD

SPEAKING DEVICE

Filed July 18, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

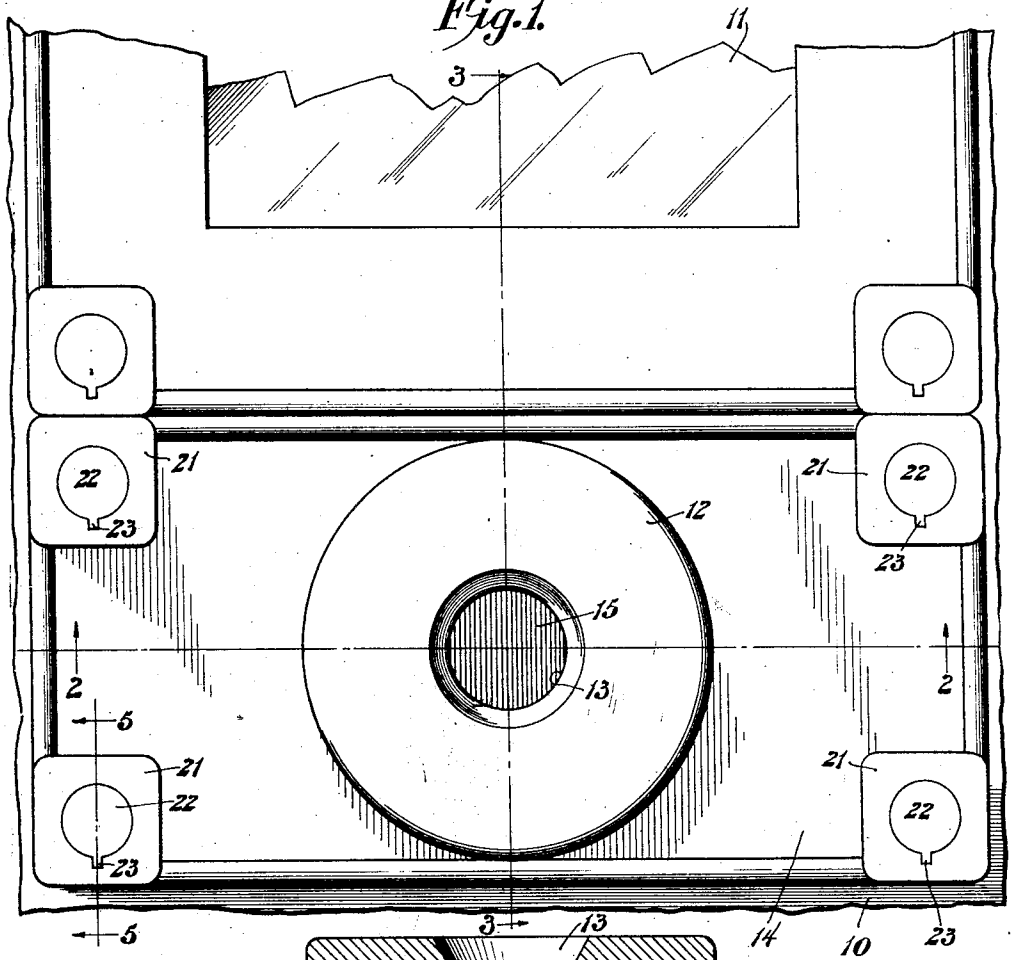
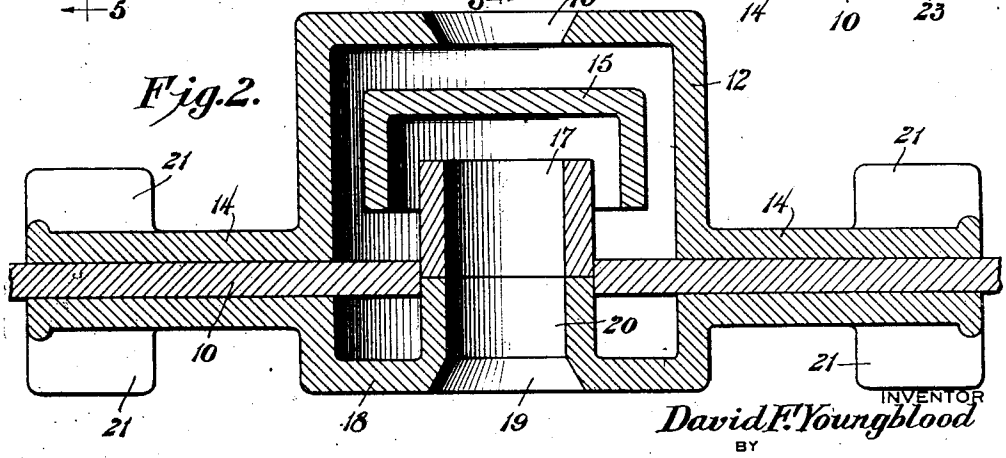


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

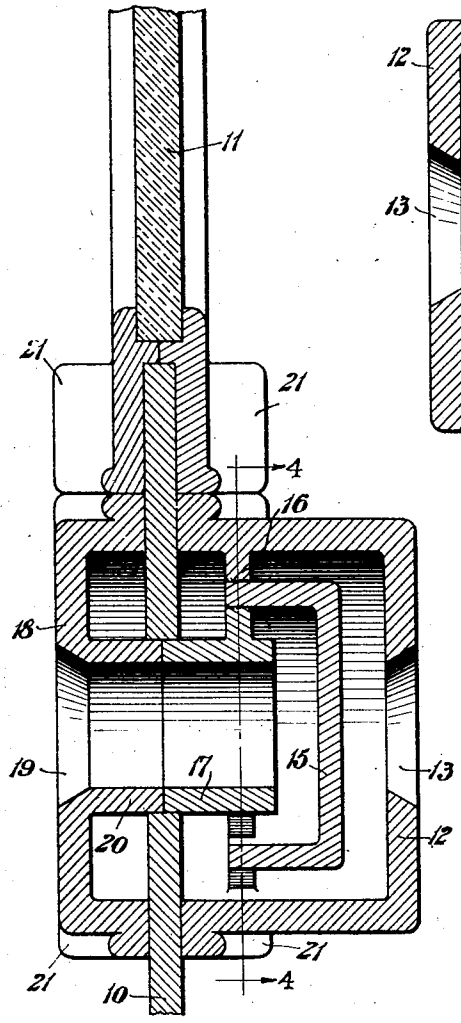


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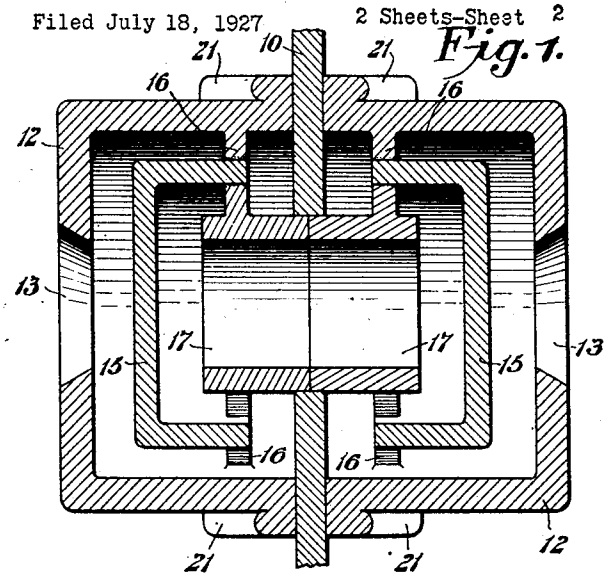


Fig. 4.

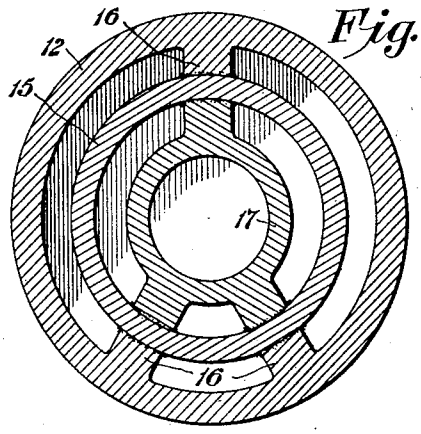


Fig. 5.

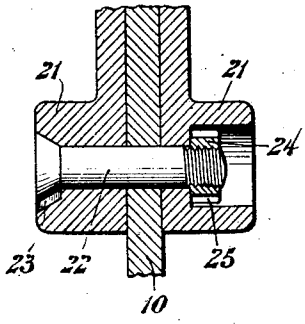
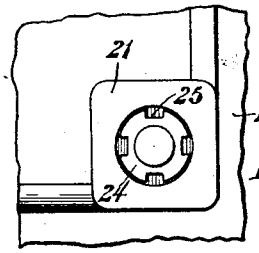


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID FRANKLIN YOUNGBLOOD, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

SPEAKING DEVICE.

Application filed July 18, 1927. Serial No. 206,658.

This invention relates to speaking panels and aims, among other objects, to provide an improved device to permit communication between visitors and inmates of jails, prisons, asylums etc. and, at the same time, prevents the passing of articles such as arms, tools, narcotics, poison, liquor, written messages, etc. through the speaking opening.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of a speaking panel embodying the improvement;

Figs. 2 and 3 are sectional views on the lines 2—2 and 3—3, respectively, of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of Fig. 5 looking from the right hand side; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view showing a slightly modified form of speaking panel.

Referring particularly to the drawings, the speaking panel is shown as being connected to a metal partition wall 10 and is arranged adjacent to a window 11 so that visitors may see the inmates while they are conversing, the frame being made of metal.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 3 the speaking device is arranged below the window and, in this example, comprises a series of cups and tubes cooperating with an opening in the wall 10 to permit the sound of the voice to travel therethrough in a tortuous course and positively prevent the passage of an article through the opening.

On one side of the partition is shown a cup 12 which, obviously, may be of any desired cross section. This cup has a small speaking opening 13 preferably arranged centrally of its closed end and is adapted to be secured to the partition by means of integral flanges 14 having provision for novel securing means later to be described.

Within the cup 12 there is shown a central partition or deflector 15 also in the form of a cup. Herein, the inner cup is shown as being secured to lugs 16 within the outer cup conveniently by welding or other suitable means.

Within the deflector cup 15, a tube section 17 is secured also conveniently by lugs similar to those just described. This tube is shown as projecting into but not through an opening in the partition and communicating with the interior of the deflector cup, being separated from the speaking opening 13 by the end wall of the cup.

In Figs. 2 and 3 there is shown a complementary cup panel 18 on the opposite side of the partition. In this instance the cup is of less depth than the cup 12 but has flanges like the flanges 14. Also this cup is shown as having a central speaking opening 19 and an integral, inwardly-extending tube 20 of the same size as the tube 17 projecting into the panel opening against the inner end of the tube 17.

In some instances it will be desirable for the sake of securety to employ duplicate cups and deflectors on the opposite sides of the partition 10. Fig. 7 shows such an arrangement. This prevents either communicant from deranging the deflectors in both cups. In some instances, however, only one cup and deflector will be sufficient.

To secure the panels against unauthorized removal, the flanges are shown as having integral bosses 21 adapted to receive bolts 22, one of which is shown in Fig. 5 as having a head held against rotation in a counter sink by means of an integral lug 23. The opposite lug is counterbored to receive a nut 24 having peculiarly arranged notches 25 to receive a key wrench supplied to the warden or other keeper.

In Fig. 6 the nut is shown as being substantially circular in cross section and having a plurality of peripheral notches and is seated in the bottom of a cylindrical counterbore in the boss 21. Thus, it will be seen that the head ends of the bolts are smooth so that they cannot be turned with a screwdriver or other tool and the nuts are not easily removed with ordinary tools accessible to the public generally. Moreover, if the nuts are placed on the inside of cells, it will be impossible for a visitor to furnish an inmate with any kind of tool for the purpose of removing the nuts.

From the foregoing description, it will be clear that the speaking device is eminently adapted for use in preventing passage of articles from a visitor to a prisoner or inmate and the arrangement of deflectors will also tend to prevent the spread of disease from prisoners or inmates to visitors through the speaking opening. Further, the improved cup-shaped panels may easily be removed from the partition walls for the purpose of cleaning out any articles which have been lodged in them by either visitors or inmates and then be replaced without considerable loss of time. This arrangement affords a means whereby a warden or keeper may determine whether or not there has been any attempt to pass articles through a speaking device and will serve as a warning to keep close watch over such prisoners or inmates. Moreover, the improved cup panels may be manufactured very economically and applied to existing partition walls in jails, prisons, asylums and the like without necessitating material alteration.

Obviously the present invention is not restricted to the particular embodiment thereof herein shown and described. Moreover, it is not indispensable that all the features of the invention be used conjointly, since they may be employed advantageously in various combinations and subcombinations.

What is claimed is:

1. A speaking device for jails, prisons and the like comprising, in combination, substantially cup-shaped panels secured to opposite sides of a wall, each having a speaking opening therein and a deflector within one of said cup-shaped panels to prevent direct passage of articles through the speaking openings.

2. A speaking device of the class described comprising, in combination, a pair of cup-shaped panel members, each having a speaking opening therein and secured to the opposite sides of a partition wall; one of said cup-shaped panel members having a substantially cup-shaped deflector secured therein and arranged to cause the sound transmitted therethrough to take a serpentine course and prevent passage of articles from one side of the partition to the other through the speaking opening.

3. A speaking device of the character described comprising, in combination, a panel adapted to be secured to a partition wall; a cup-shaped portion integral with said panel and having a speaking opening therein; a deflector within said cup-shaped portion and a speaking tube leading from the opposite side of the partition walls within said cup-shaped portion.

4. A speaking device of the character described comprising, in combination, a panel having provision to be secured to a partition wall; a cup-shaped mouthpiece integral with the panel; a cup-shaped deflector within the mouthpiece and arranged opposite from the speaking opening; and a tube within the cup-shaped deflector arranged to project into an opening in the partition wall.

5. A speaking device of the character described comprising, in combination, a cup-shaped mouthpiece having integral flanges adapted to be secured to a partition wall; said mouthpiece presenting a substantially centrally arranged speaking opening; a cup-shaped deflector secured within the mouthpiece and presenting a wall opposite from the speaking opening; and a speaking tube secured within the cup-shaped deflector adapted to cause the sound to travel through the mouthpiece in a tortuous path.

6. In a speaking device of the character described; a cup-shaped mouthpiece having a speaking opening therein; a deflector within the cup-shaped mouthpiece and means to secure the mouthpiece against one side of a partition wall.

7. A speaking device of the character described comprising, in combination, a hollow mouthpiece having a speaking opening therein; a deflector within the mouthpiece and spaced from the speaking opening arranged to cause sound to travel in a tortuous path therethrough; and means to secure the mouthpiece to one side of a partition wall.

8. A speaking device of the character described comprising means for transmitting sound through a partition wall and means to prevent passage of articles therethrough; flanges for securing said device to a partition wall; said flanges having bosses thereon and bolts for securing said flanges to the wall through the bosses; said bolts having nuts housed within counterbores to prevent access to them by a prisoner.

9. A speaking device of the class described having flanges adapted to be secured against one side of a partition wall; said flanges presenting counterbored bosses and securing means for said flanges associated with said counterbored bosses and inaccessible to an inmate or visitor.

10. A speaking device of the character described comprising, in combination, oppositely arranged cups secured to opposite sides of a partition wall; flanges on said cups having integral bosses thereon; the bosses on one side of the partition presenting counterbores to receive a frusto-conical head, the bosses on the other side of the partition wall presenting substantially cylindrical counterbores to receive nuts; bolts for the frusto-conical heads inserted through said bosses and substantially cylindrical ends seated within cylindrical counterbores and having notches arranged to receive a special wrench to permit their removal by unauthorized persons but being so arranged

that they are inaccessible to inmates or visitors.

11. A speaking device of the character described comprising a pair of substantially duplicate cup-shaped panels secured against opposite sides of a partition wall; deflectors within said cup-shaped panels to prevent direct communication between an inmate and a visitor; and means to permit removal of said panels for cleanout purposes.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

DAVID FRANKLIN YOUNGBLOOD.