G. READ.

DEVICE FOR TEACHING SWIMMING.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 29, 1914.

1,122,219. Patented Dec. 22, 1914.

Fig. 1

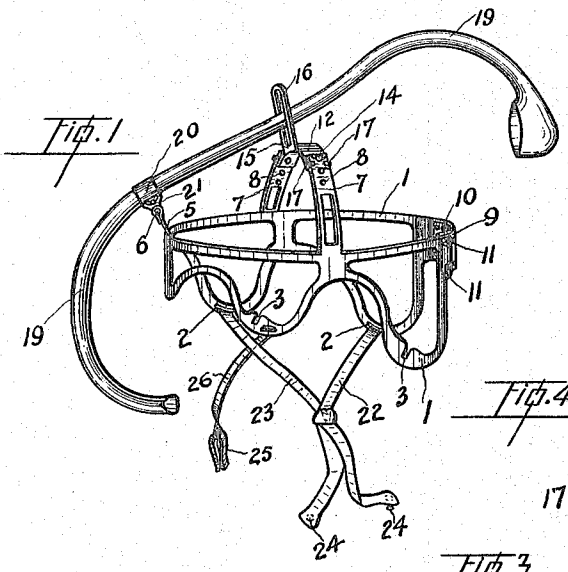


Fig. 5

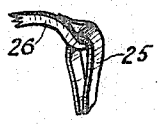


Fig. 4

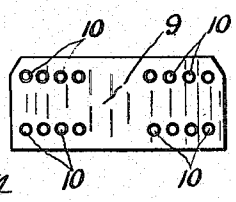


Fig. 3

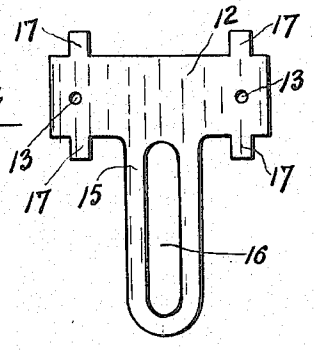


Fig. 6

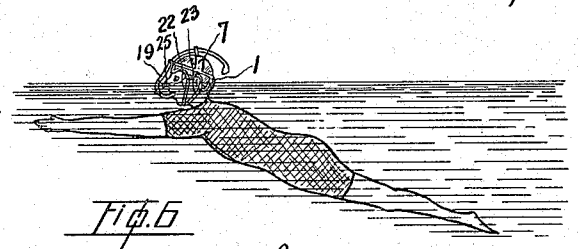
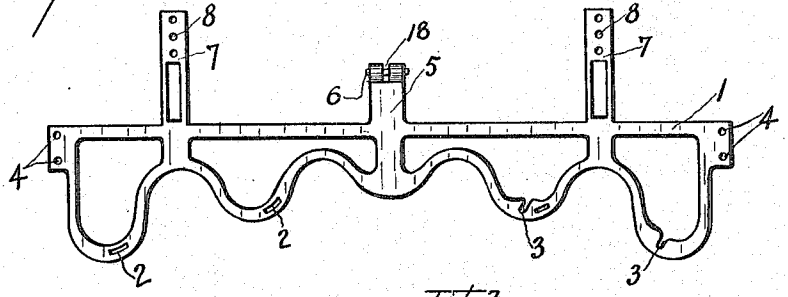


Fig. 2



WITNESSES.

Bert F. Buxton

Blanche Whitehead

INVENTOR.

GEORGE READ.

BY Fetherstonhaugh & Co.

ATT'YS.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE READ, OF VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.

DEVICE FOR TEACHING SWIMMING.

1,122,219. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 22, 1914.

Application filed April 29, 1914. Serial No. 835,183.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE READ, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of the city of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Teaching Swimming, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for teaching swimming, and the object of my invention is to devise a simple and inexpensive means adapted to be worn by the learner, the use of which will enable him to breathe while lying face forward in the water with legs and feet inclined toward the bottom, thus insuring that the learner will be taught the art of swimming correctly in the most advantageous and natural manner and in a much shorter time than is possible under the present existing methods of teaching.

A further object is to devise a means for teaching swimming which will not add to the buoyancy of the swimmer while supporting him in the water, thus providing a device the use of which will teach him to rely from the beginning on his own natural buoyancy, so that he will learn the art in the true position from the first, thereby eliminating entirely the unnatural and false position methods which obtain at the present time where the learner is supported from an exterior source or by devices which add to his buoyancy.

I attain these objects by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device. Fig. 2 is a view illustrating the construction of the main frame of my device. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view of the tube guide plate after stamping out and before assembling. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view of the back plate. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the nasal clip. Fig. 6 is a view illustrating the practical application of my device.

Similar figures of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views.

1 is the main frame of my device which is formed preferably of aluminum of very thin section, stamped out as shown in Fig. 2, and having provided therein the slits 2, the notches 3, and the holes 4, all as shown more particularly in Fig. 2.

5 is an integral portion of the frame 1, the upper end of which is doubled over so as to form a bearing for the pin 6 as shown in Fig. 2. This portion 5 has a notch 18 cut in its upper end, as shown in Fig. 2, for a purpose hereinafter mentioned.

7 are integral portions of the frame 1 which extend upwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, and are adapted to arch inwardly when the device is assembled, as shown in Fig. 1. These portions 7 are provided with a plurality of holes 8, as shown in Fig. 2.

9 is a back plate of aluminum, provided with a plurality of holes 10, which plate is adapted to engage the ends of the main frame 1 when same is bent round, as shown in Fig. 1, connection being made by means of countersunk head screws provided with wing nuts 11, which engage through certain of the holes 10 of the back plate 9 and the holes 4 of the frame 1 respectively, according to the adjustment required as to the size of the device, as hereinafter mentioned.

12 is a plate of aluminum, stamped out preferably as shown in Fig. 3, and provided with the holes 13, by means of which holes it may be engaged to the portions 7 of the main frame 1, connection being made by means of countersunk head screws provided with wing nuts 14. Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that when the plate 12 is thus connected to the portions 7, an arch is formed extending transversely across the frame 1.

15 is an upstanding portion formed integrally with the plate 12 and provided with a slot 16 therein, this portion being adapted to be bent at approximately right angles to the plate 12 when the device is assembled, the slot 16 being in alinement with the notch 18 when the portion 15 is so bent.

17 are integral portions of the plate 12 adapted to be bent over to clip the portions 7 of the frame 1 when the device is completely assembled, as shown more particularly in Fig. 1.

19 is an air tube of aluminum, disposed slidably through the slot 16 and supported hingedly on the portion 5 of the frame 1, being connected thereto by means of the clip 20, the lower end of which is adapted to fit in the notch 18 and to be swingably connected to the portion 5 by means of the pin 6. This clip 20 is adapted to be slackened or tightened on the tube 19 by means of the wing nut 21 which engages a suitable screw which passes through both sides of the clip

20 underneath the tube 19, as shown in Fig. 1. The upper end of the tube 19 is formed preferably in funnel shape while its lower end is formed into an oval shaped mouthpiece adapted to comfortably fit into the mouth of the user.

22 and 23 are chin straps, one end of each of which is secured into its respective slit 2 in the frame 1, while their other ends are each provided with a button or stud 24 adapted to engage in the respective notches 3 of the frame 1.

25 is a spring clip adapted to fit over the nostrils to close same and prevent the entrance of water into the nasal passages.

26 is a strap securing the clip 25 to the frame 1.

It will be noted that the adjustability of the device to any size of head is possible by means of the provision of the plurality of holes 10 in the back plate 9 and the holes 8 in the portions 7 of the frame, also that the air tube 19 may be adjusted to any position of the mouth by slackening the clip 20 and sliding the tube therethrough to the desired position and then tightening up the clip again.

Having thus indicated the principal parts of my invention, I will now describe the manner in which it is used.

When my device is fully assembled ready for use it is as shown in Fig. 1. It may then be taken by the learner and placed on the head, the frame 1 encircling the brows and extending completely around the head, being held in position by the arch formed by the portions 7 and the plate 12, this arch resting on the crown of the head. The chin straps 22 and 23 are passed under the chin and their free ends secured by placing the buttons 24 in the notches 3. The mouthpiece of the tube 19 is then placed in the mouth, whereupon the learner may enter the water, in which he will be supported in the true swimming position and enabled to breathe freely although the mouth and nose are submerged, since the upper end of the tube 19 is always out of the water and thus the lungs are provided with a continuous supply of air.

It may be mentioned that the use of the nasal clip is optional, as in the majority of cases learners are able to repel the water from the nose naturally by air pressure.

It is well understood that confidence is necessary when learning the art of swimming and to increase this confidence in the learner the present methods are those which involve the use of devices which add to the buoyancy of the swimmer or simply the support afforded by the instructor, both of which methods instil into the mind of the learner a false impression, the learner being inclined to rely on such supports rather than on his own buoyancy. Naturally, tuition under such methods is slow and unsatisfactory, and is always accompanied by muscular strain and bodily exhaustion, while the nauseous annoyance of swallowing large quantities of water is ever present. These defects in the present existing methods are entirely eliminated by the use of my device, which, while heavier than water, yet supports the learner in the true swimming position, and, by giving him confidence in the beginning, enables him to learn the art correctly in a much quicker time and in a more comfortable and advantageous manner than is possible under the methods in present use.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A device of the class described, comprising a head frame provided with an arched portion extending transversely across the frame on the upper side and forming a part thereof, an air tube supported on said frame, and means for adjusting the said frame to suit different sizes of heads, all substantially as set forth.

2. A device of the class described, comprising a frame adapted to encircle the head and to be adjustable therearound, an arched portion extending transversely across the said frame on the upper side thereof, and provided with an upstanding slotted portion, an air tube disposed slidably through the slot in the said upstanding portion, and means for hingedly connecting the said air tube to the frame, all substantially as set forth.

3. A device of the class described, comprising a frame adapted to encircle the head and to be adjustable therearound, an arched portion extending transversely across the said frame on the upper side thereof and provided with an upstanding slotted portion, an air tube disposed slidably through the slot in the said upstanding portion, means for hingedly connecting the said air tube to the frame, and means for detachably securing the frame to the head, all substantially as set forth.

4. A device of the class described, comprising a divided frame adapted to encircle the head and provided with annular openings therethrough in proximity to the edges of its opposite ends, a plate provided with a plurality of openings therethrough and adapted to be detachably secured to the opposite ends of the said divided frame to adjustably connect same, portions extending upwardly from each side of and integral with the frame, and opposite each other, said portions being provided with a plurality of openings therethrough toward their upper ends, a plate having an upstanding slotted portion and adapted to detachably connect the opposing ends of the said upwardly extending portions of the frame to form an arch, a bearing suitably supported on the said frame on the front thereof, a

pin carried by the said bearing, an air tube disposed slidably through the slot in the said upstanding slotted portion, a clip member adapted to grip the said tube and to be swingably connected to the said pin, means for slackening or tightening the grip of the said clip member on the said tube, whereby same may be adjusted, and straps carried by the said frame whereby the frame may be detachably secured to the head, all substantially as set forth.

Dated at Vancouver, B. C., this thirteenth day of April, A. D. 1914.

GEORGE READ.

Witnesses:
JAMES TAYLOR,
B. WHITEHEAD.

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