

Sept. 4, 1923.

1,466,726

E. A. MEEKS

FIREPROOF GARMENT

Filed March 8, 1922

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

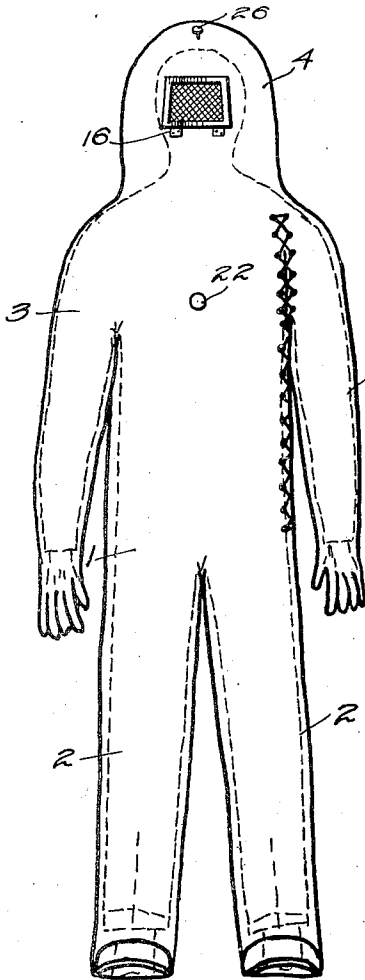


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

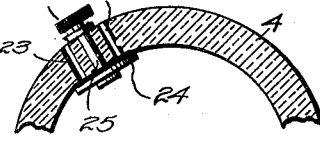
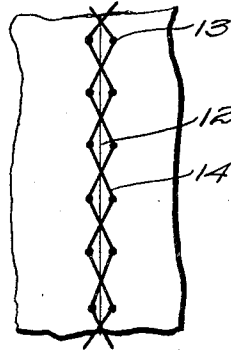


Fig. 4.



Inventor

E. A. Meeks

By

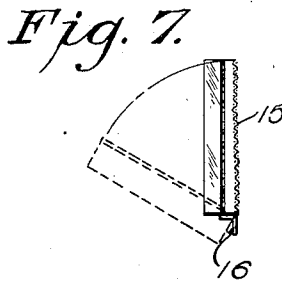
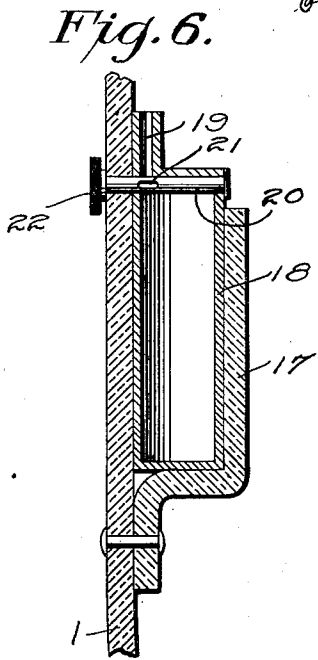
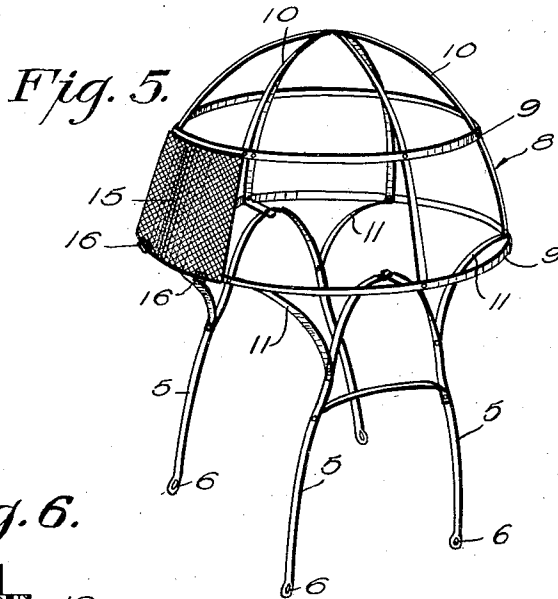
Ch. Parker Attorney

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E. A. MEEKS
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventor
E. A. Meeks

By

Ch. Farber Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARL A. MEEKS, OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA.

FIREPROOF GARMENT.

Application filed March 8, 1922. Serial No. 542,068.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EARL A. MEEKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Green Cove Springs, in the county of Clay and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fireproof Garments, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to fireproof garments and it comprises a suit formed of suitable material, such as asbestos and provided with a hood or head covering, and means for supporting the hood above the head of the wearer. In the present invention I provide a suitable frame adapted to rest on the shoulders of the wearer to support the weight of the suit and permit free movement of the wearer within the garment. The frame is provided with a window of suitable material to permit the wearer of the garment to see what he is doing. A suitable pocket is provided for the reception of an oxygen tank whereby the interior of the garment may be supplied with oxygen at the will of the wearer and a relief valve is provided to permit discharge of exhausted gases from the interior of the garment.

By means of the construction described a garment is provided which will withstand intense heat and flame and is useful in effecting rescues from burning buildings and similar places.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown one embodiment of the invention. In this showing,—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the garment,

Figure 2 is a side elevation, parts being shown in section,

Figure 3 is a detail view of a portion of the garment showing the relief valve,

Figure 4 is a detail view of a portion of the garment showing the closure means,

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the frame,

Figure 6 is a detail sectional view showing the oxygen tank, and

Figure 7 is a detail view of the window.

Referring to the drawings the reference numeral 1 designates generally the body portion of a garment which is formed of asbestos or other fireproof material. The garment is provided with legs 2, arms 3 and a hood or head covering 4. The hood is adapted to be retained spaced from the

head of the wearer as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, by means of a frame formed of suitable rigid material. As shown the frame consists of a pair of supporting members 5 adapted to rest upon the shoulders of the wearer and provided with eyes 6 at their lower ends. A strap 7 is passed through these openings and extends around the body of the wearer beneath the arms. The supporting members are adapted to support a substantially semi-spherical member 8. This member comprises a plurality of circular rings 9 arranged substantially horizontally and semi-circular rings 10 arranged vertically. Suitable braces 11 are arranged between the lower horizontal ring and the supporting member 5. As shown in Figure 2 of the drawings the supporting frame retains the hood slightly spaced from the body of the wearer providing a space for air or oxygen and also permitting free movement of the wearer within the garment.

The garment is provided with a side opening 12 having a plurality of hooks or eyelets 13 arranged on each side and adapted to receive a lacing 14 which may be formed of suitable fire resisting material. The hood is provided with an opening adapted to be closed by a window 15 formed of suitable transparent fire resisting material and arranged in alinement with the eyes of the wearer. This window may be hinged to one of the rings 9 as at 16.

Means are provided for supplying fresh air or oxygen to the wearer of the garment. As shown the garment is provided with a pocket 17 adapted to receive an oxygen tank 18. This tank is provided with an outlet 19 arranged on the inner side of the garment and a rotatable valve 20 is adapted to control the outlet. The valve is provided with a transverse port 21 and is further provided with a handle 22 on the outside of the garment.

A relief valve is arranged in the hood to permit of discharge of exhausted gases. As shown the hood is provided with opening 32 normally closed by a disc 24 arranged on the inside of the garment. This disc is provided with a stem 25 extending through the garment having a cap 26 arranged on the outer end and normally spaced from the garment.

The garment is put on by removing the lacing 14 and is then laced up by some one other than the wearer. The provision of

the supporting frame takes the weight of the garment off the wearer, permitting freedom of movement and enables the wearer of the garment to proceed in an ordinary manner. By the use of suitable fire-resisting material such as asbestos, and providing a garment which completely covers the wearer, the wearer may enter burning buildings and other similar places without danger and may thus effect rescues that would otherwise be impossible. When the supply of air within the garment becomes exhausted additional oxygen may be provided by opening the valve 20. The disc valve 24 may be similarly opened to discharge the exhausted gases.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

25 Having described my invention, I claim:
 1. In a fireproof garment, a pair of curved supporting members adapted to rest upon the shoulders of the wearer, the lower ends of said supporting members being pro-

vided with openings for the reception of a flexible fastening member surrounding the body of the wearer, a substantially rigid frame mounted on said supporting members, said frame being adapted to surround the head of a wearer and be spaced therefrom and a garment of fireproof material, said garment consisting of a body covering, and an intergral hood resting on said frame to support it.

2. In a fireproof garment, a pair of supporting members adapted to rest upon the shoulders of a wearer, a substantially hemispherical frame formed of strips of wire and secured to said supporting members, said frame being adapted to surround the head of a wearer and spaced therefrom, a fireproof hood adapted to rest on said frame, and a fireproof body covering formed integrally with said hood and supported thereby.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EARL A. MEEKS.

Witnesses:
 A. H. BELL,
 S. A. BELL.