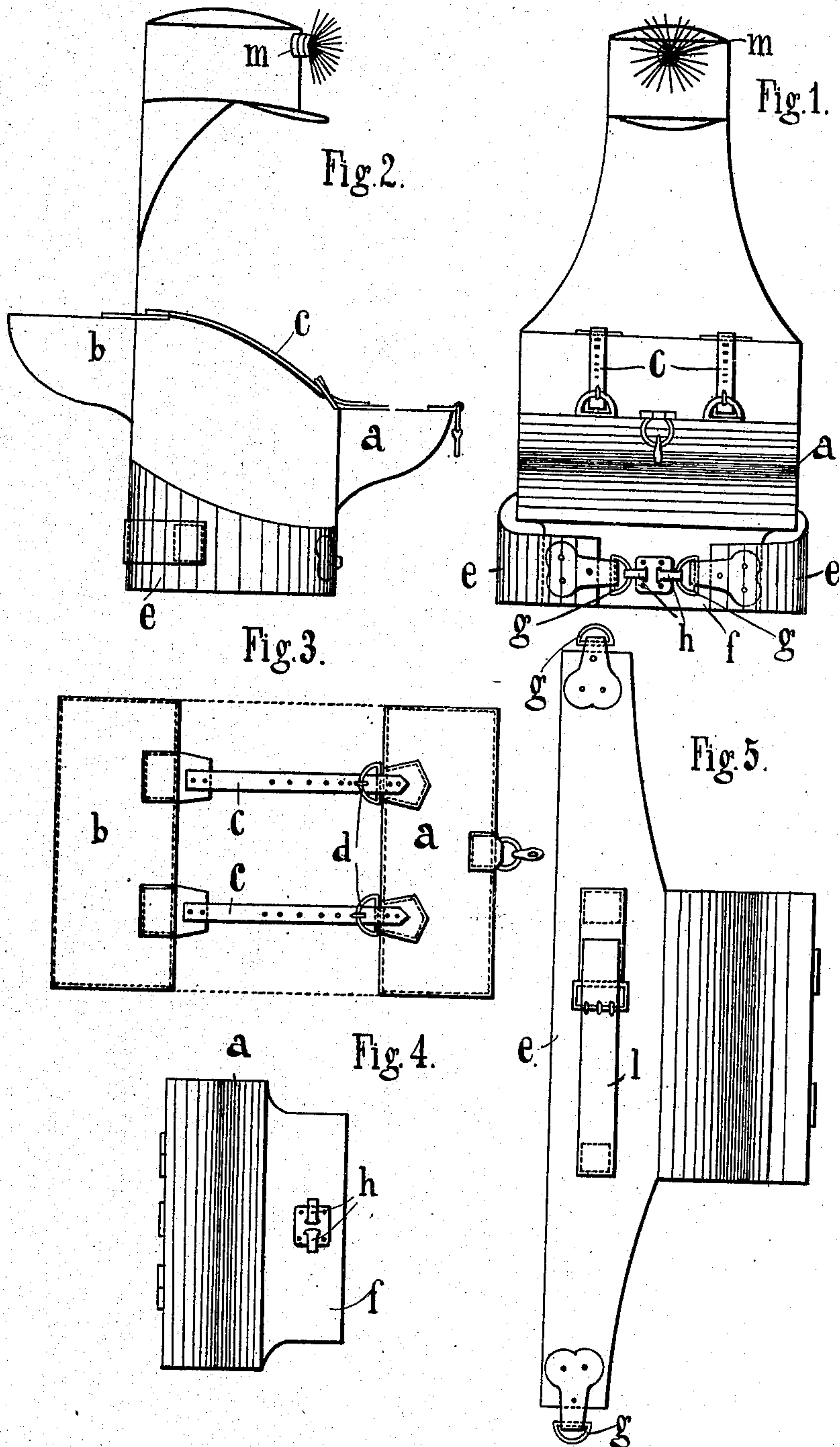


No. 885,918.

PATENTED APR. 28, 1908.

J. FOCKETYN.
LIFE BELT APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 1, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 6.

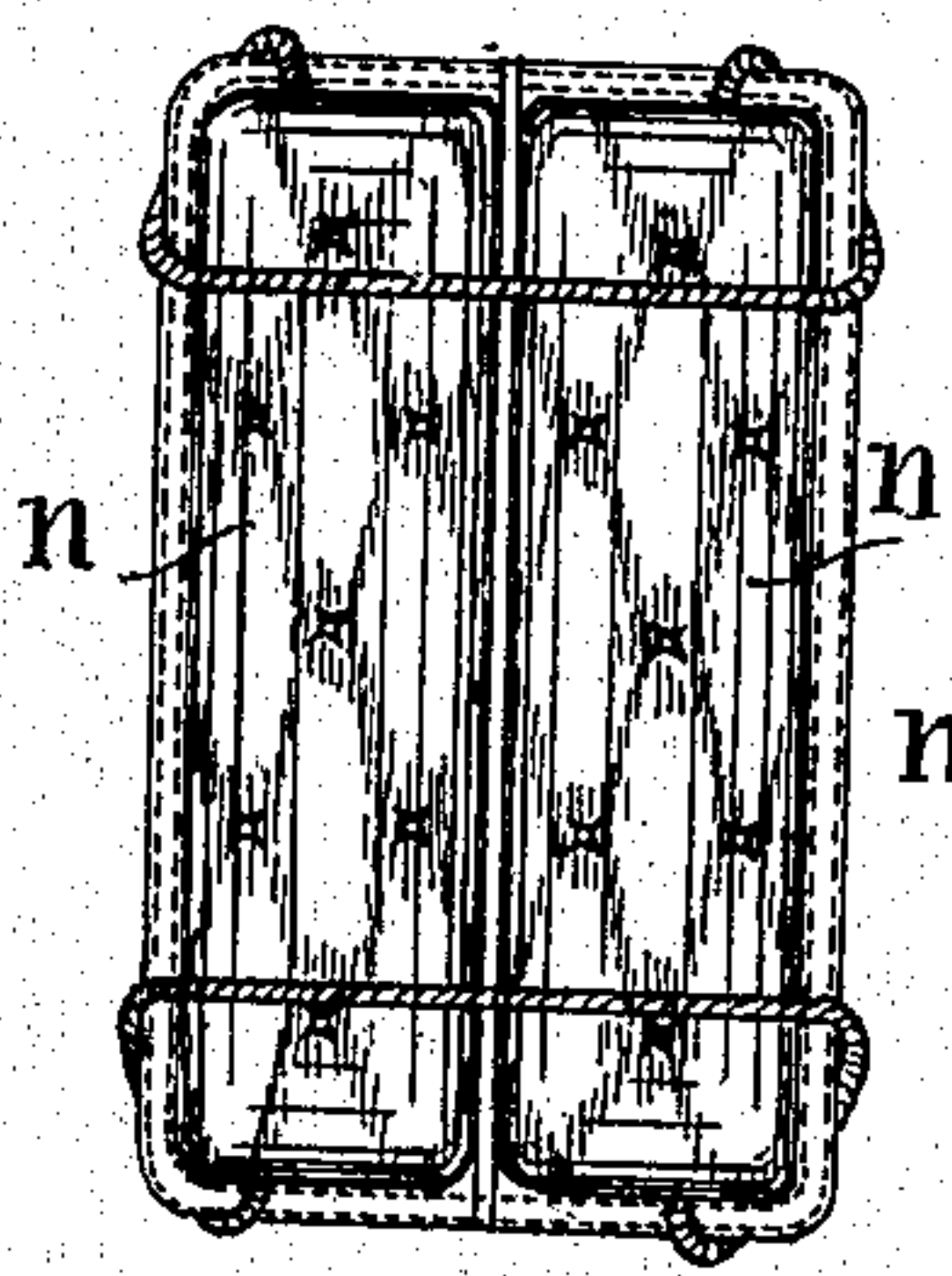


Fig. 7.

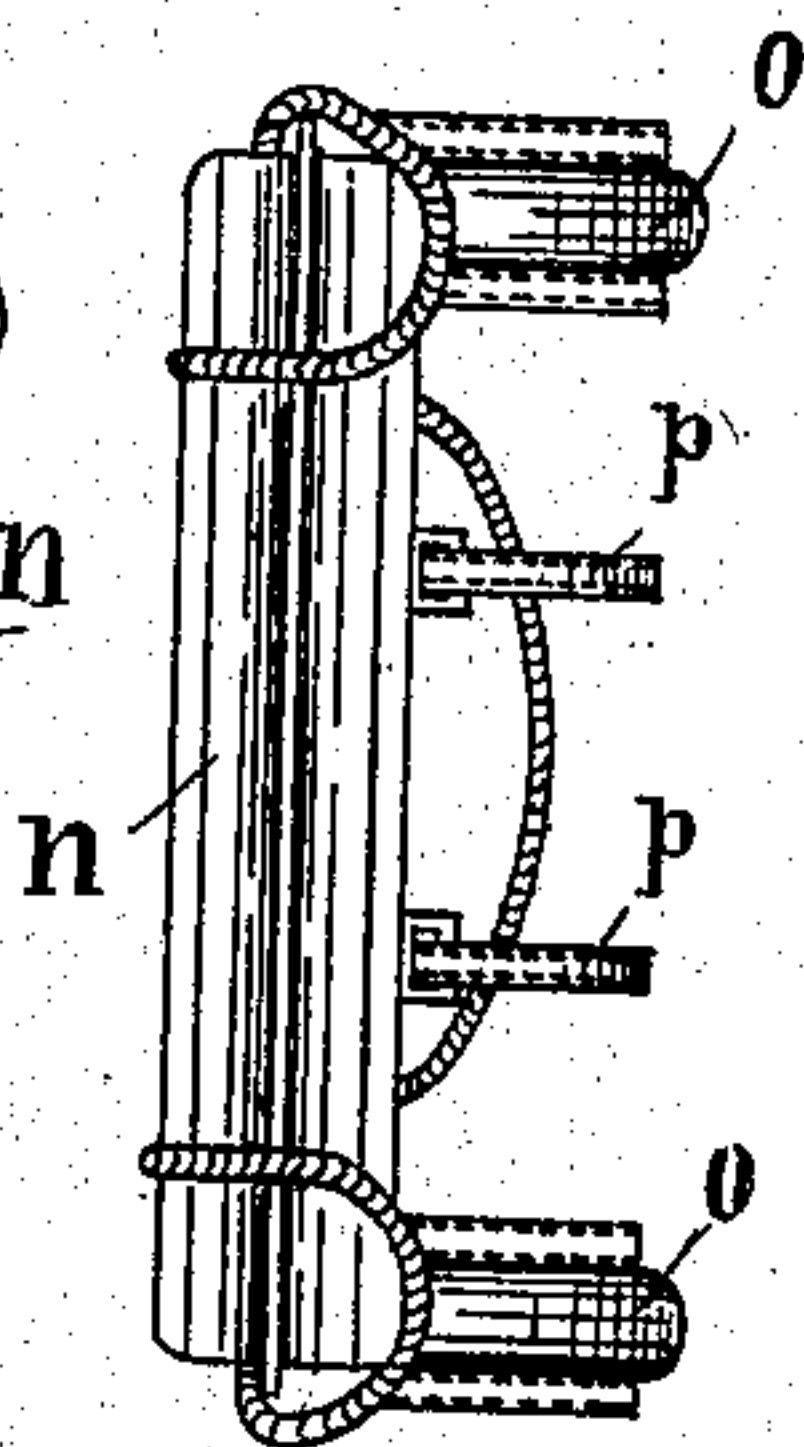


Fig. 8.

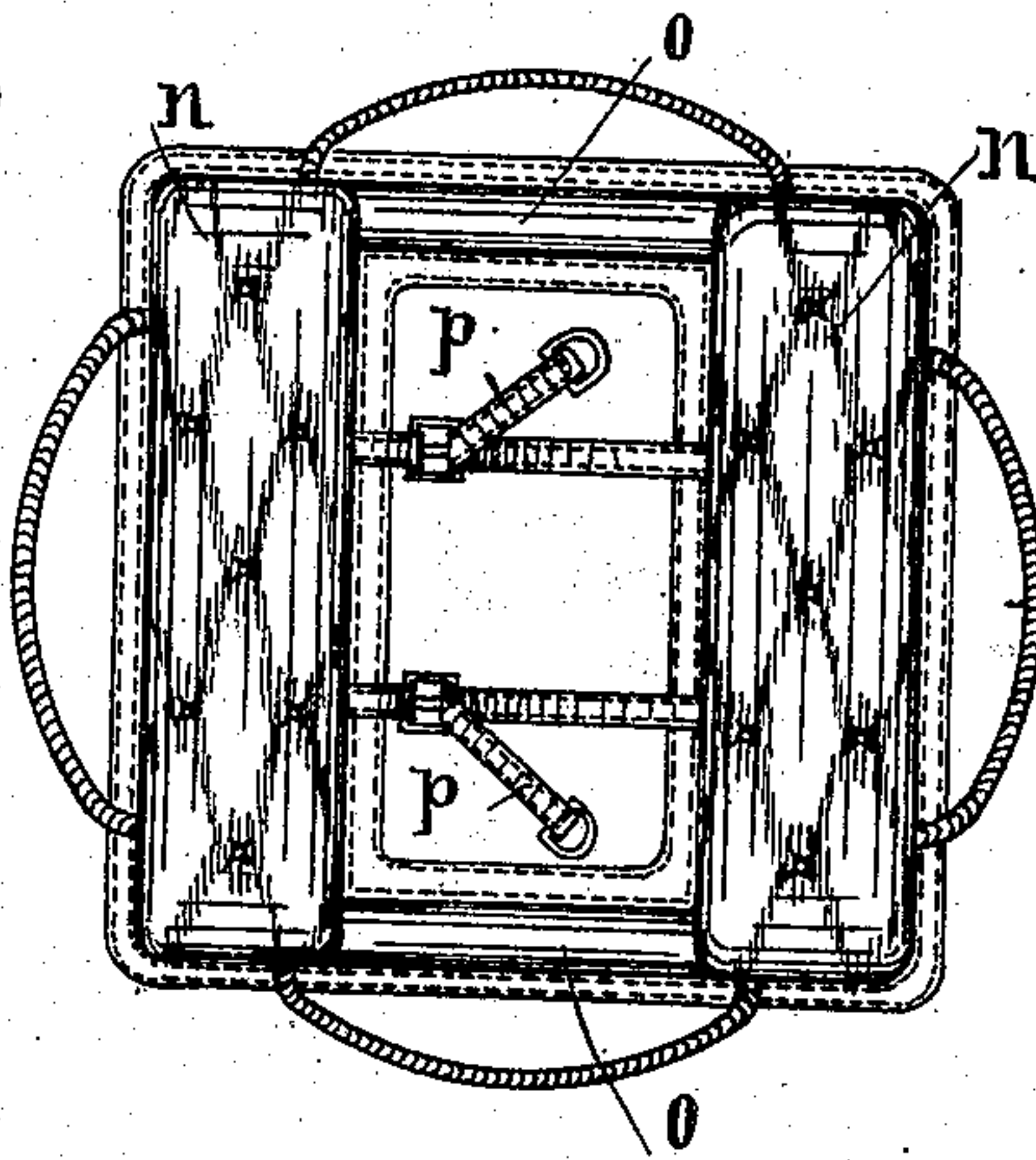


Fig. 9.

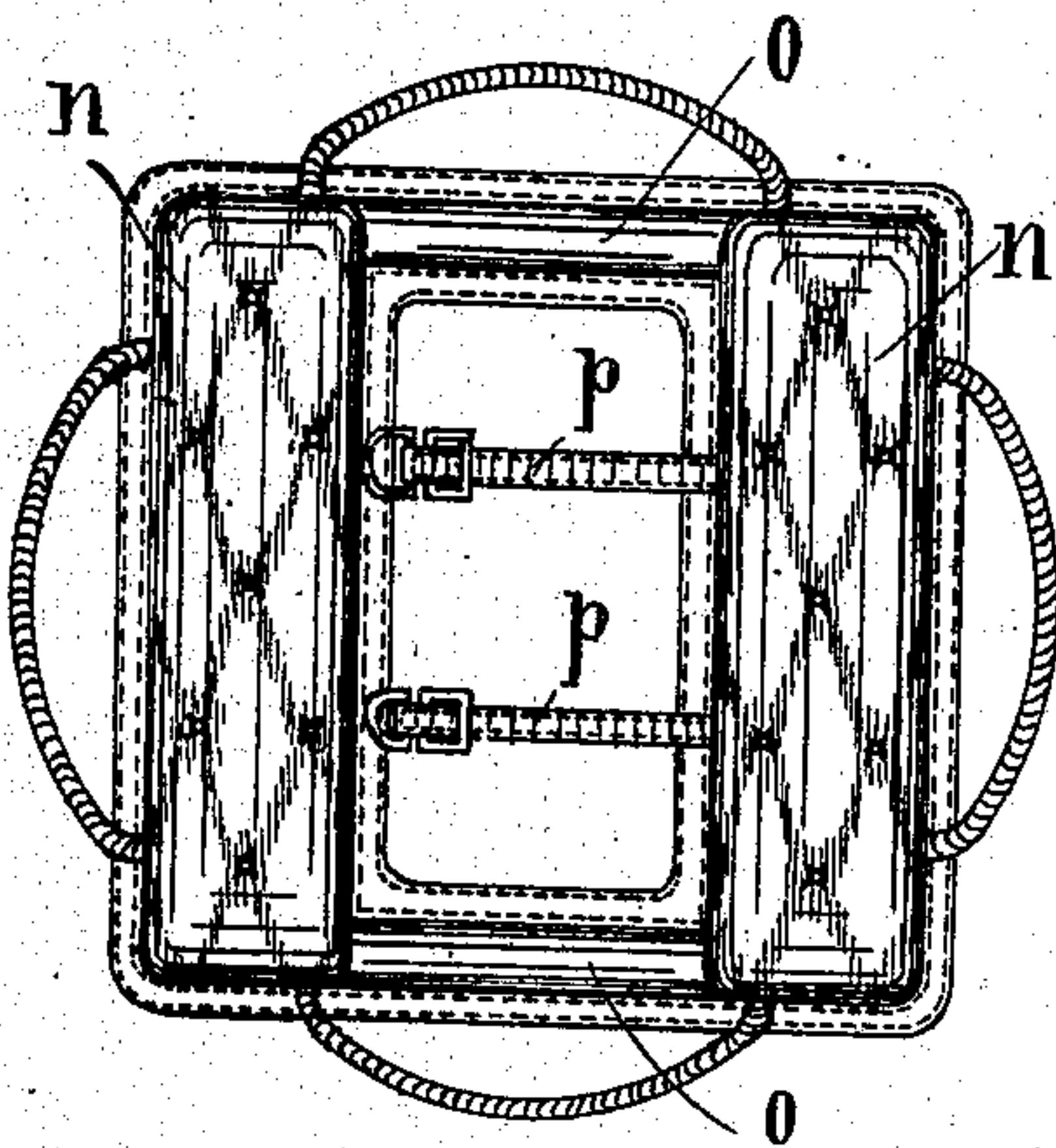
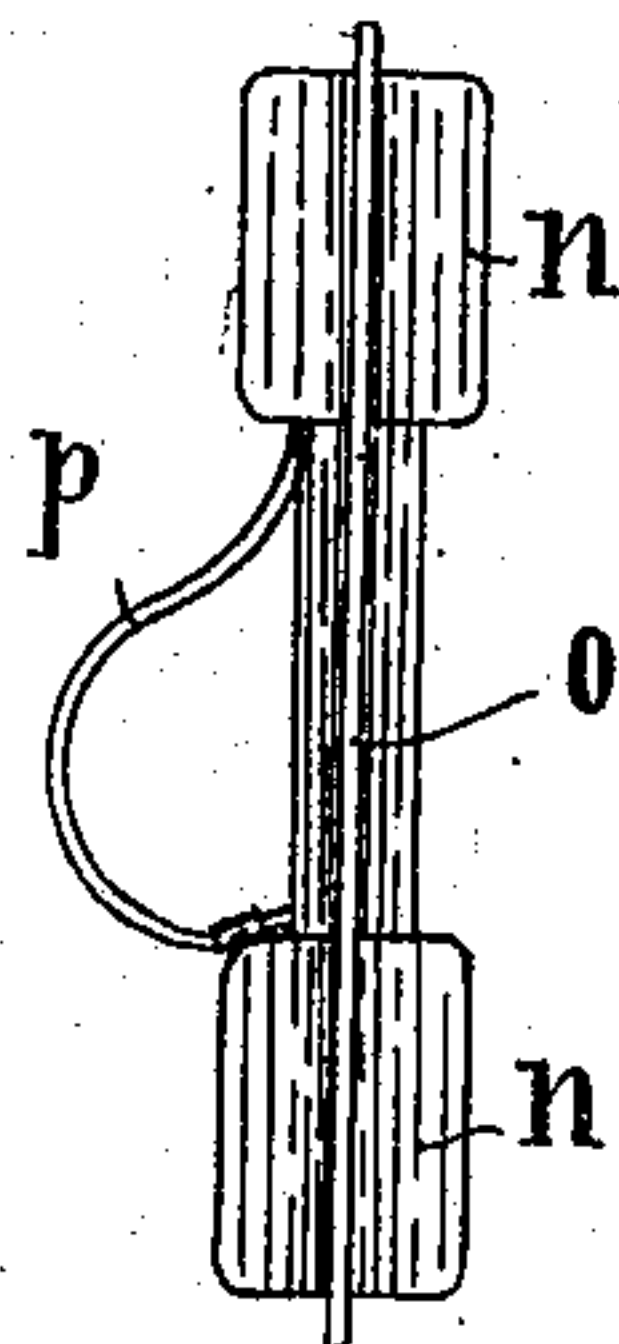


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACK FOCKETYN, OF ANTWERP, BELGIUM.

LIFE-BELT APPARATUS.

No. 885,918.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed June 1, 1907. Serial No. 376,860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACK FOCKETYN, architect, a subject of the Belgian King, and residing at Antwerp, Belgium, have invented new and useful Improvements in Life-Belt Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to life belt apparatus of the type having front and back floating members connected by shoulder straps. Such apparatus has hitherto been constructed with the body belts or fastening members attached to and passing around the floating members. It has been proposed to adapt such apparatus to serve as a pillow when desired.

The general object of this invention is to simplify the construction while retaining the supporting properties of the apparatus when in use in the water and also to make it lighter and more readily applicable and adjustable than hitherto.

The improved arrangement of the body belt is an important feature of the present invention, such belt being secured to and depending below the floating members as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate the carrying out of the invention in one convenient manner: Figure 1 shows a front view of the complete apparatus. Fig. 2 a side view. Fig. 3 a plan view of the cushions and shoulder straps. Fig. 4 a view of the body belt extended which is attached to the rear cushion, and Fig. 5 a view of the front cushion with the attached part carrying the fastening hooks. Fig. 6 is a plan view of a modified form of apparatus serving as a cushion when not in use. Fig. 7 is a side view thereof. Figs. 8 and 9 show plan views of the apparatus ready for use as life buoy. Fig. 10 is a side view thereof.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 to 5, the front and back floating members *a* and *b* consist simply of two cushion-shaped bags with the thicker part at the top made of canvas or like material although, as hereinafter described, they need not be constructed of a waterproof-material. These bags are connected by two shoulder straps *c* adjustable by means of buckles or the like *d*, and they are preferably worn close up to the chin of the wearer in front and at about the same height at the back. The lower part of each floating member has depending therefrom a fairly wide body band, *e* and *f* respectively

extending partially around each side of the body, the ends of the back band, *e*, overlapping the ends of the front band, *f*, at or near the front of the body. The ends of the back band are provided with hooks or loops, *g*, attached in any suitable manner and adapted to engage eyes or lugs *h*, secured to the middle part of the front band. A strap or tightening member, *l*, is also provided at the rear of the back band for adjusting the body band to suit different sized persons.

By means of the body band and shoulder straps the floating members, *a* and *b*, are held securely in position upon the wearer. The canvas or like bags, *a* and *b*, are filled or partially filled with a substance which will not absorb water and is at the same time buoyant such as soot or the like. The bags used need not therefore be waterproof and if accidentally cut open would still serve their purpose. A further advantage in using a soft substance such as this, is that the rear bag, *b*, may be used as a pillow. Thus people at sea in times of unusual peril could wear the apparatus at night while sleeping and utilize it as aforesaid. Furthermore owing to its lightness and simplicity no great amount of inconvenience would be caused thereby.

The center of buoyancy of the apparatus is very high up and consequently is certain to bring the head of the wearer above water on immersion even though the person be rendered unconscious from any cause. Rings or hooks may also be provided upon the front bag for the attachment or support of food receptacles or other articles, whereby a person will be enabled to remain in the water for a great length of time without assistance. The apparatus may be worn by sailors or the like during the ordinary performance of their duties with very little inconvenience. I preferably also attach an apparatus carrying a beacon light, *m*, to the rear cushion, *b*, such apparatus forming a helmet or head covering and containing electric accumulators or other apparatus for supplying the light.

In the form of construction shown in Figs. 6 to 10, the apparatus is composed of two floating cushions *n*, *n* connected together by two lateral parts *o*, *o* and provided with shoulder straps *p*, *p*, the buckles of which permit of adjusting the apparatus on the shoulders of a person.

When the apparatus is not in use, the floating members *n*, *n* may be brought close together to form a cushion, which may be

used on benches, thwarts, or other seats of ships, boats and the like. In time of peril, the cushions *n, n* are brought apart from each other, and then the apparatus may be readily
5 fitted upon the shoulders of a person.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

10 A life-belt or buoy consisting of two float-able-cushion-shaped members each having a straight upper plane and a swelled lower plane for increasing the surface to be acted upon by water, straps connected with said

members for firmly fitting the same upon the shoulders and upper part of the body of a 15 wearer, and lateral connecting supports for passing under the arms of a wearer, the whole arranged to maintain a person in a vertical position in the water.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my 20 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JACK FOCKETYN.

Witnesses:

G. DE LERSY,
A. L. ADAMS.