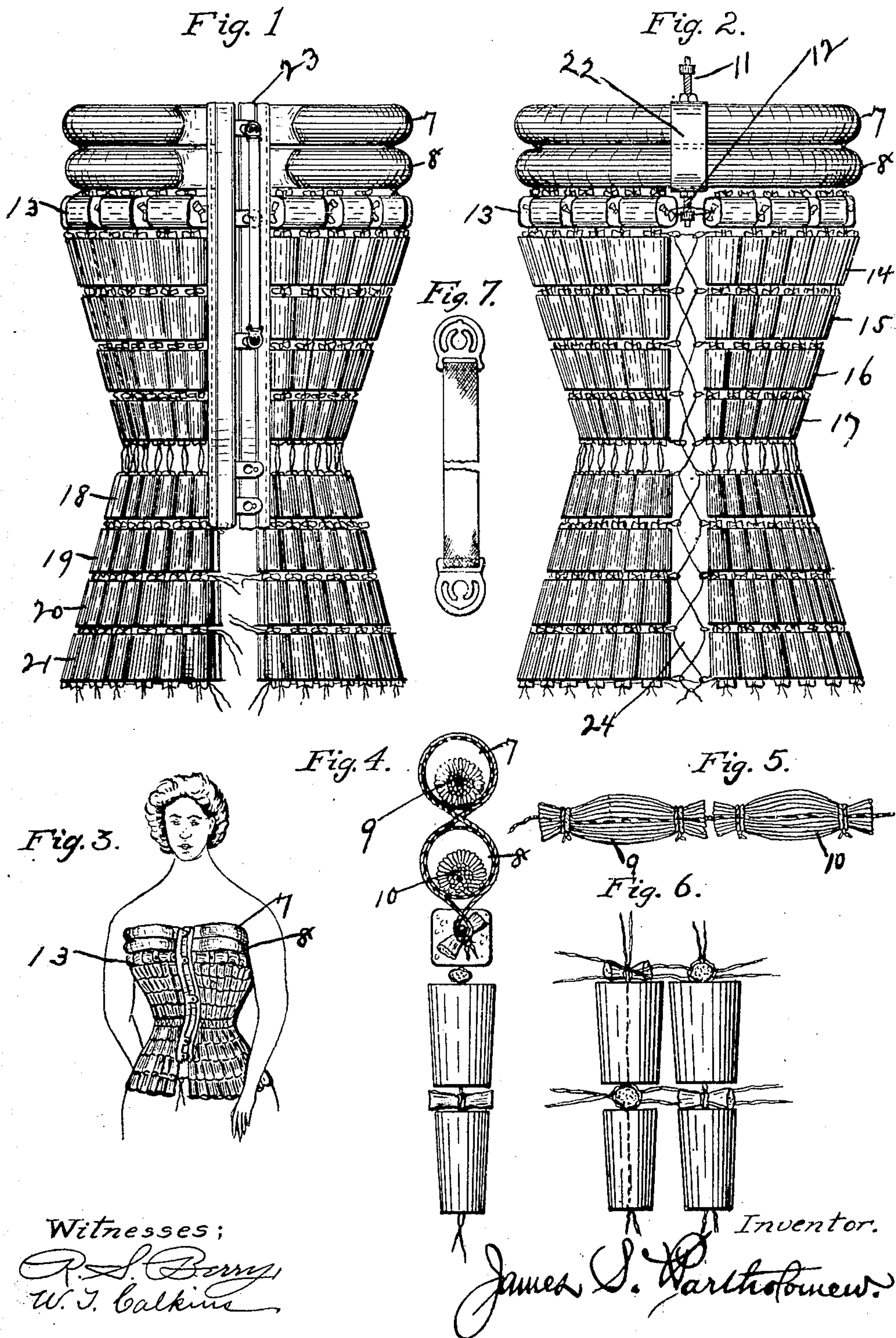


J. S. BARTHOLOMEW.
LIFE SAVING AND SWIMMING CLOTHING.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1907.

920,246.

Patented May 4, 1909.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. BARTHOLOMEW, OF OCCIDENTAL, CALIFORNIA.

LIFE-SAVING AND SWIMMING CLOTHING.

No. 920,246.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 4, 1909.

Application filed August 20, 1907. Serial No. 389,394.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES S. BARTHOLOMEW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Occidental, in the county of Sonoma and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Saving and Swimming Clothing; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The invention relates to certain novel improvements in flotation of the human being.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective garment to float the human person in salt or fresh water.

To this end, the invention consists in certain features of construction and combination of parts, which will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of my improved floating corset as it appears when adjusted about the human body and in use. Fig. 2 is a back view of my improved floating corset as it appears when adjusted about the human body. Fig. 3 is a similar front view of the corset in its shortest and most abbreviated form for reducing the specific gravity of the wearer for use in either salt or calm fresh water. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of a portion of the said corset of about the upper third. Fig. 5 is a view of two tule sections detached and hermetically inclosed in the two top tubes of Figs. 1, 2, and 3 encircling the human person as nearly as possible. Fig. 6 is a view, showing tapering corks with interposed tule cushions or washers of sections of diminishing, tapering corks of commerce, end to end in said corset, with short washers or cushions of tule double knotted in place between said corks, making said corset highly flexible and easy to wear beneath the clothing or bathing suit, either close to the human skin or to be instantaneously snapped about the person outside of all clothing in time of danger from drowning. Fig. 7 represents two fastenings to keep the corset from unbuttoning.

In the drawings, the same reference characters indicate the same parts of the invention.

In the drawings 7 and 8 are gas-tight india rubber tubes of variable lengths and diameter, hermetically inclosing the tule series of sections 9 and 10. The valves 11 and 12 are

the ordinary double check valves, with screw covering tops, and used for pumping to greater or lesser inflation the rubber tubes 7 and 8, with either gas or air, and thereby increasing or decreasing their buoyancy, as the specific gravity of wearer of the corset demands; that is to say, as the difference between salt and fresh water may require to comfortably float the human person, in either calm or stormy conditions of said waters by the use of an inflating air pump.

The hermetically sealed tule sections detached, shown in Fig. 5 are to safeguard against deflation and loss of flotation by the tubes 7 and 8 getting punctured on rocks, or any hard substance, and maintaining an exact minimum of the specific gravity of wearer of the corset; by the disposition of the bunches of tule within the tubes, that is to say, the tubes 7 and 8 are inflated for flotation and deflated for packing and transportation, at the will of the wearer, and accidental, dangerous deflation with increasing of specific gravity guarded carefully against, by the inclosed tule safeguards. Tubes 7 and 8 are fully inflated in stormy waters, and entirely deflated in calm waters. The third horizontal tier from the top 13, is composed of the large, straight corks of commerce, tied stoutly in series, with the interposed tule washers or cushions between the corks, as shown in Fig. 6. In case of the obesity of the wearer, I use from 1 to 12, or more tiers of these straight corks, in order to have the corset exactly fit the chest, waist, hip, and thighs, which cannot be done on large waists with the sections of diminishing tapering corks. The tiers 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are the ordinary diminishing tapering corks of commerce strung perpendicularly on stout, single, double, or triple cords with the tule washer stoutly tied between the corks for flexibility. The band 22 keeps the valve 11 and valve 12 pointing sufficiently inward toward the hollow of the back so as to prevent catching the outer clothing when dressing or undressing. The fastening in front, 23, is the ordinary corset front, and the lacing 24, is the usual criss-cross string between the two middle tiers of corks running up and down the center of the back for fitting said diminishing, tapering cork sections closely to the human body.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings the construction, operation and advantages

of my improved life-saving corset will readily be appreciated without requiring an extended explanation. It will be seen that device is simple of construction, that said construction permits of its manufacture at small costs, and that it is exceedingly well adapted for the purpose of life saving, and for swimming in water of greater or less specific gravity, at the will and pleasure of the wearer.

Various changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction, in order to fit large and small human beings, may be resorted to without departing from the principles or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

I claim as my invention.

1. A life-saving garment, comprising a plurality of rubber tubes with bunches of tule grass disposed therein, said tubes provided with inflating means having controlling valves whereby the buoyancy of the tubes may be increased or decreased at will.

2. In a life-saving garment comprising a plurality of rubber tubes located horizontally about the top of said garment, a plurality of series of tapering corks disposed perpendicularly below said rubber tubes in series, the corks of each series diminishing in size to the human waist line, thence increasing in size downward over the hips.

3. In a life-saving garment comprising a plurality of rubber tubes and a plurality of

series of tapering corks, controlling lacing strings between the ends of said rubber tubes in front and controlling lacing strings extending from the top of the two middle cork series on the back to bottom of garment, whereby the size of the garment may be increased or decreased at will.

4. In a life-saving garment comprising a plurality of horizontal rubber tubes and a plurality of series of tapering corks, a plurality of tule grass washers or cushions, one of each between every two of said tapering corks.

5. In a life-saving garment, a plurality of horizontal rubber tubes, bunches of tule grass inclosed therein, means for inflating and deflating said tubes with air or gas, comprising controlling valves whereby the buoyancy can be increased and the garment susceptible of a minimum, a mean or an extreme condition of buoyancy at the will of the swimmer.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at the city of Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles, in the State of California, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES S. BARTHOLOMEW. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

R. S. BERRY,
W. T. CALKINS.