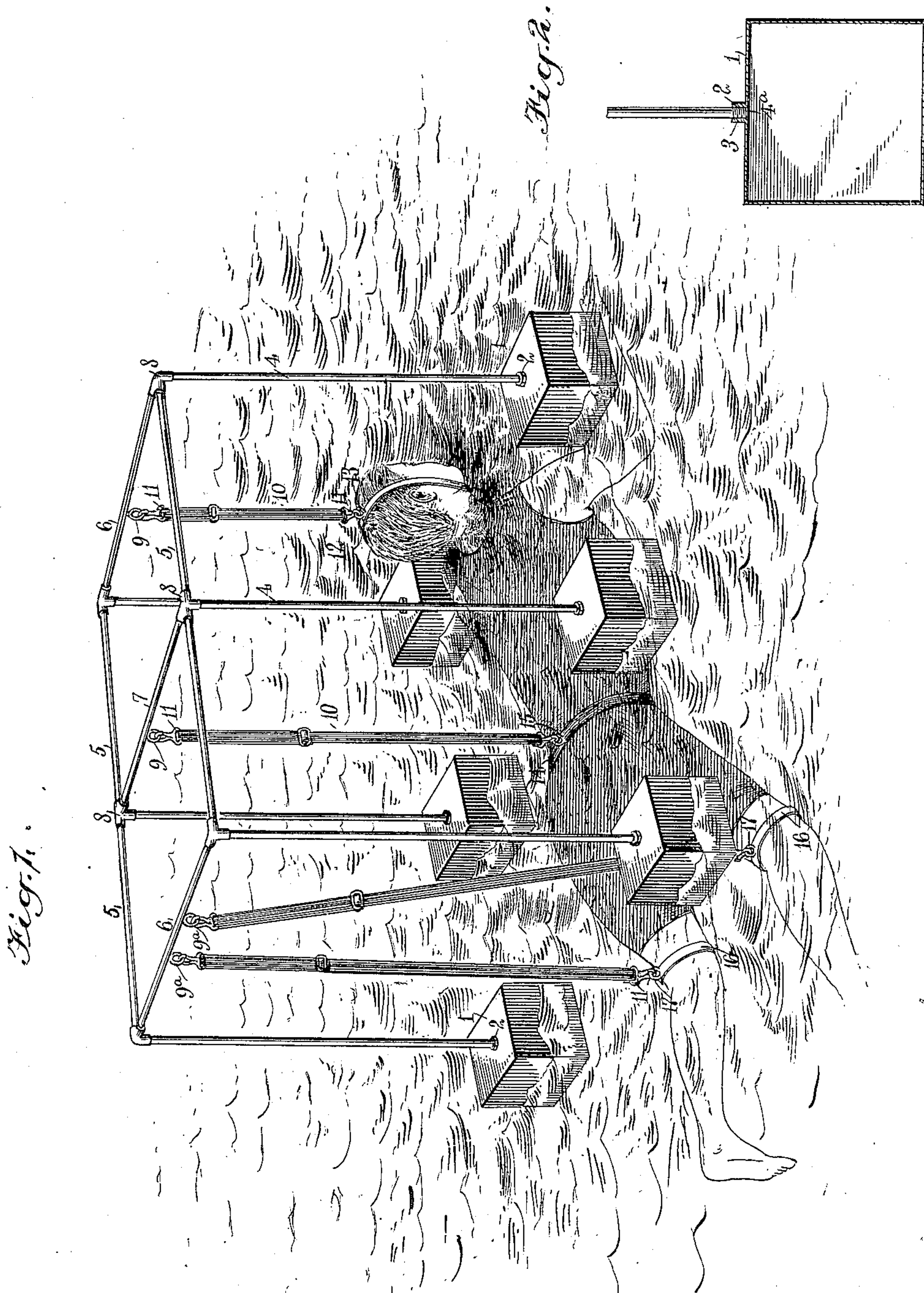


J. A. EDWARDS.  
SWIMMING DEVICE.  
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 27, 1910.

994,136.

Patented June 6, 1911.



WITNESSES

*Geo. W. Naylor*

*Orlando Munn*

INVENTOR

*John H. Edwards*

BY

*Munn & Co.*

ATTORNEYS



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. EDWARDS, OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

## SWIMMING DEVICE.

994,136.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 6, 1911.

Application filed September 27, 1910. Serial No. 584,041.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN A. EDWARDS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Birmingham, in the county of Jefferson and State of Alabama, have invented a new and Improved Swimming Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to swimming devices, and more particularly to a device comprising a plurality of floats, a frame-work arranged upon and supported by the floats, and adjustable means attached to said frame-work for supporting a swimmer in the water.

The object of this invention is to provide a device of the class described, simple and serviceable in construction and inexpensive to manufacture, which can be employed to support a person in the water, and which is so constructed as to allow the free use of the swimmer's limbs at all times.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of parts to be more fully described hereinafter, and particularly set forth in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of my invention, showing the manner in which it supports a swimmer; and Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross section of one of the floats.

Before proceeding to a more detailed description of my invention, it should be understood that great difficulty has been encountered in constructing a suitable device for teaching a person how to swim. To obviate this difficulty, I have constructed a device which, as before described, consists of a plurality of floats, having a frame-work arranged thereon, and adjustable means secured to the frame-work for supporting a person in a natural swimming position in the water, while allowing him free use of his limbs. In this way, my invention does away with the necessity of another person assisting the swimmer, and allows the latter to practice to better advantage the different strokes used in swimming. It might also be stated that my device can be used in both rough and smooth water, and would be of

assistance to the user in rescuing another person from drowning.

In the specific form shown in the drawings, I provide a plurality of hollow floats 1, preferably rectangular in form and made of any suitable material, such as tin, galvanized sheet metal, or the like. Each float has a projection 2 on its upper face, provided with a suitably threaded opening 3. Supported by the floats is a frame-work consisting of uprights 4 having their lower extremities 4<sup>a</sup> threaded and adapted to be received in the threaded openings 3 in the floats, side members 5, end members 6, and a cross member 7. These several members have their extremities suitably threaded, so that by the use of angle couplings 8, into which these ends may be screwed, there is constituted a rigid frame-work supported by the floats, as shown most clearly in Fig. 1 of the drawing. The front end member 6 and the cross member 7 are each provided with an eye 9, while the rear end member 6 is provided with two eyes 9<sup>a</sup>. Adapted to be removably attached at the eyes are adjustable hangers 10 constructed of some suitable material, such as leather or the like, and having snap catches 11 at their extremities.

Before using my device, the swimmer places a band 12 of suitable material, having an eye 13, about his head, a band 14 about his waist, having an eye 15, and two bands 16 one around each leg just above the knee, and having eyes 17. When the swimmer is ready to go into the water, he positions himself between the floats, and attaches the snap hooks 11 at the lower extremities of the hangers 10, to the eyes of the leg, waist and head bands, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawing, he can then assume the usual swimming position between the floats.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In a device of the class described, a plurality of floats, a frame-work arranged upon said floats, and means movably secured to said frame-work for supporting a swimmer.

2. In a device of the class described, a plurality of floats, a frame-work carried by said floats, and adjustable means attached to said frame-work for supporting a swimmer, at different parts of his body.

3. In a device of the class described, a plurality of separate floats, an upright mounted on each float, frame members arranged upon and connected to said uprights, and  
5 adjustable hangers secured to said members and arranged to support a swimmer in the water.

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

JOHN A. EDWARDS.

Witnesses:

W. J. CONNITT,  
CLARENCE CRAIG.

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

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