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I. KRONENBERGER

2,149,121

COMBINED CAP AND EAR MUFFS

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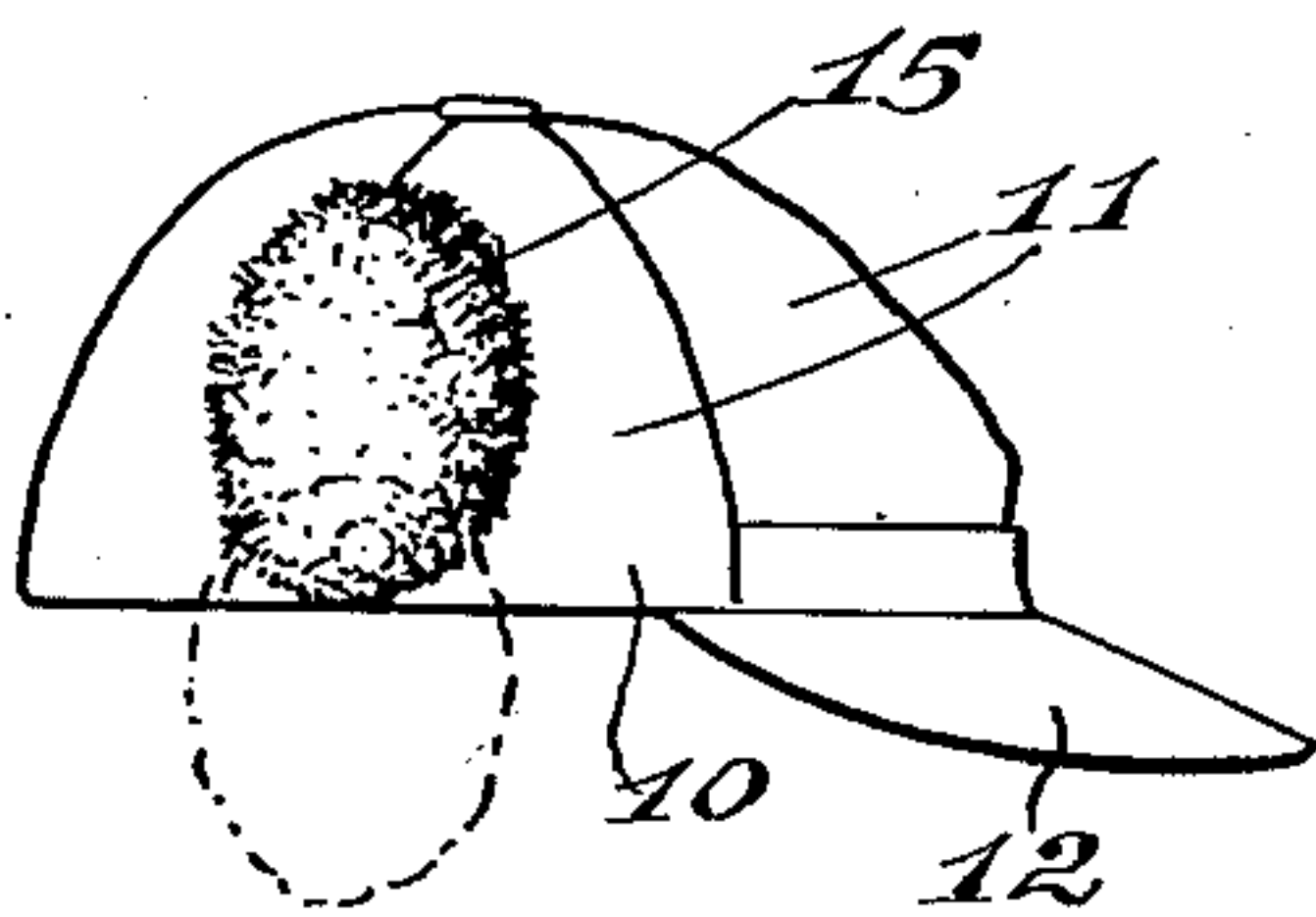


Fig. 1

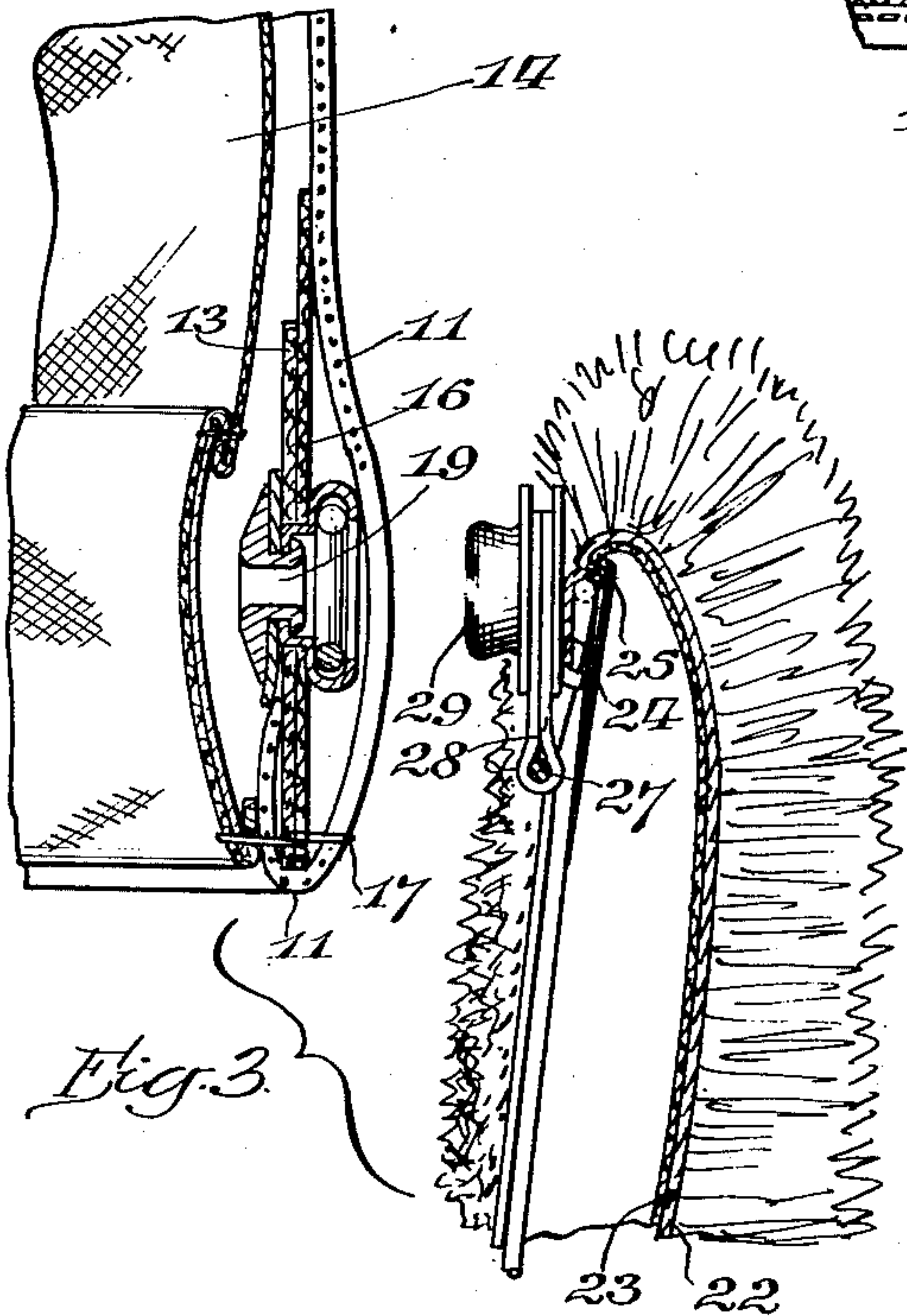
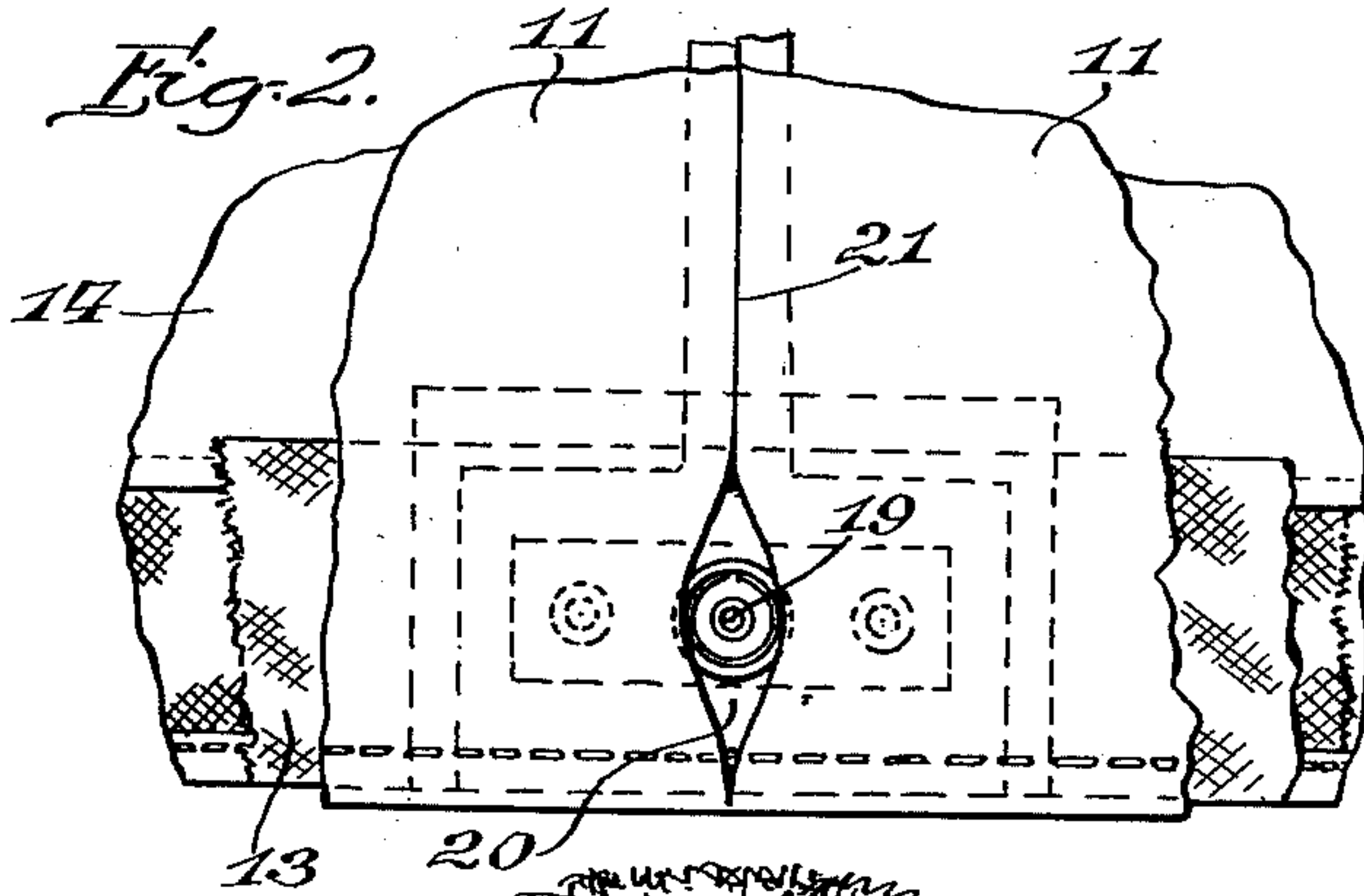


Fig. 3

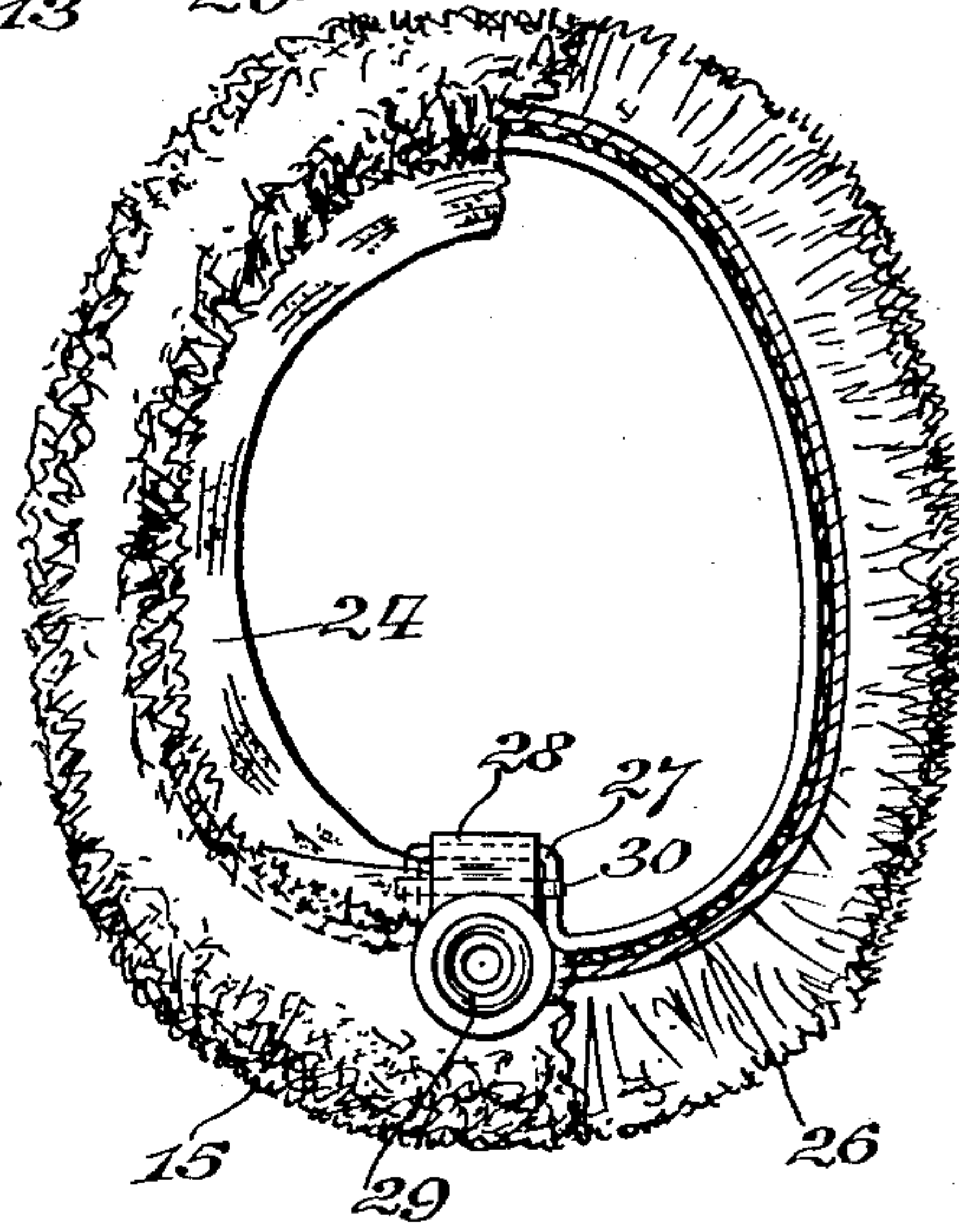


Fig. 4

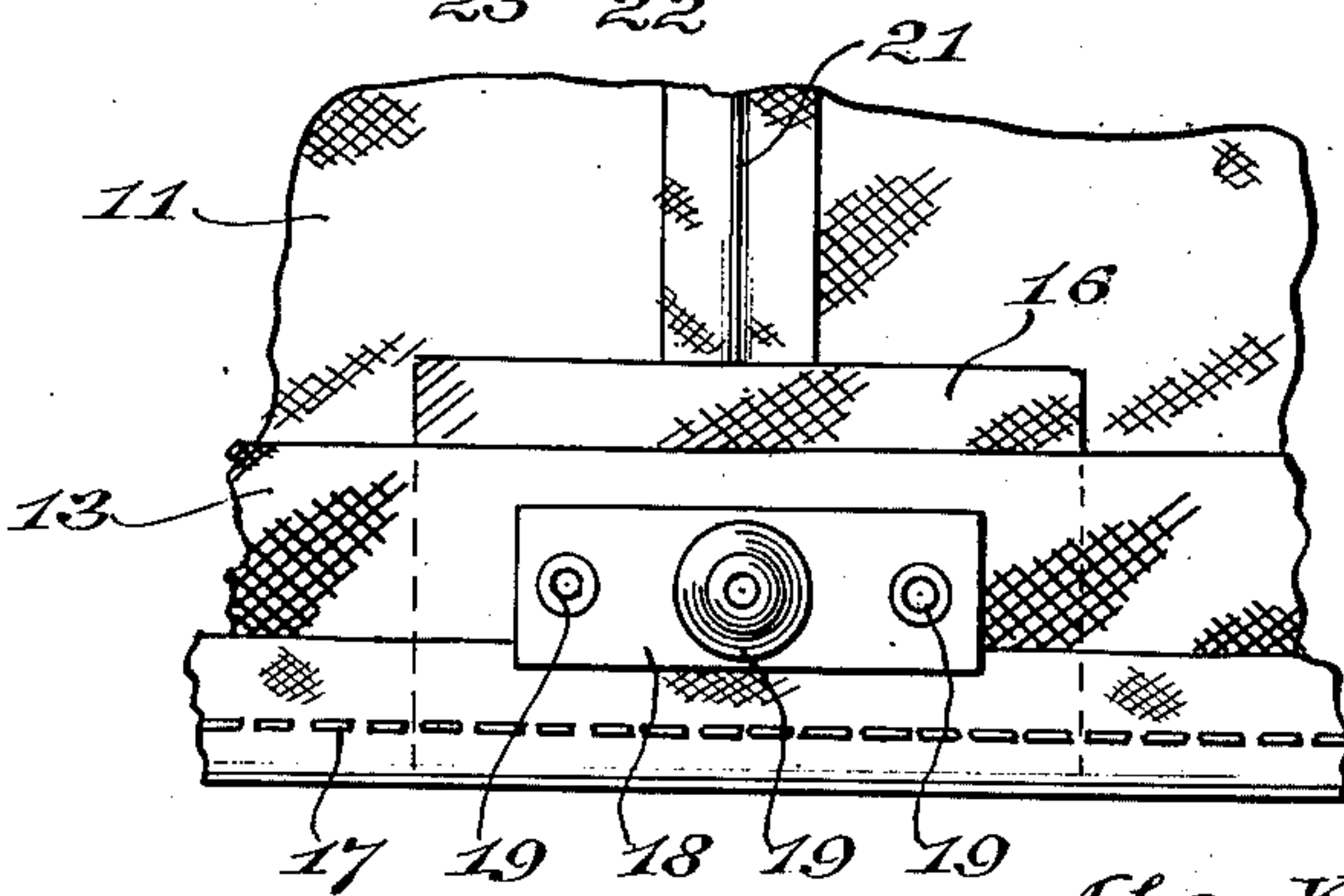


Fig. 5

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## COMBINED CAP AND EAR MUFFS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—209)

This invention relates to caps, and more particularly, to a novel and improved construction of cap having earmuffs associated therewith.

5 An object of the invention is to provide a cap of the character described having earmuffs detachably secured thereto, and being capable of adjustment, so that when in one position they will be useful to protect the ears of the wearer, and when in another position will be merely or-  
10 namental for enhancing the attractive appearance of the cap.

Another object of the invention is to provide in association with a cap detachable earmuffs adapted for disposition against the upper portion  
15 of the cap when said earmuffs are not in use, and be capable of movement into position over the ears of the wearer when their use is desired, said earmuffs being so connected as to bear firmly against the wearer's ears when in operative  
20 position.

A still further object of the invention is to detachably secure to a cap or the like earmuffs, the securing means comprising a snap fastener, the female portion of which may be permanently  
25 secured to the body of the cap and the male portion of which may be secured to the earmuff, and means for substantially entirely concealing the said female fastener when the earmuff is removed from the cap.

30 A still further object of the invention is to provide for a cap or the like detachable earmuffs, the means holding said earmuffs to the cap being capable of permitting said earmuffs to be moved to a plurality of positions relative to the cap, and  
35 means for substantially concealing from view the earmuffs' attaching means when said earmuffs are removed from said cap.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described, which  
40 may be produced along lines convenient for low-cost manufacture, which may be readily assembled and disassembled and which will, at the same time, be highly efficient for carrying out the purposes for which it is designed.

45 With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction, arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated  
50 in the accompanying drawing, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the  
55 spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of my invention, I have illustrated in the accompanying drawing, a preferred embodiment  
60 thereof, from an inspection of which, when con-

sidered in connection with the following description, my invention, its mode of construction, assembly and operation, and many of its advantages should be readily understood and appreciated.

Referring to the drawing in which the same characters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding or similar parts throughout the several figures of the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a cap having earmuffs associated therewith, and constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view in elevation of the side of the cap to which the earmuff is detachably secured, with the earmuff removed;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a fragmentary portion of the cap through the earmuff attaching means, said view also showing in section the earmuff ready to be attached to the cap;

Fig. 4 is an elevational view of the inner side of the earmuff with parts thereof being shown in section;

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a fragmentary portion of the inside of the cap with the lining removed.

Referring to the drawing more specifically by characters of reference, the numeral 10 designates a cap comprising a plurality of segments 11 sewn together in the usual manner to produce the cap 10, said cap being provided with the visor 12 and the inner band of stiffening material 13, as well as a suitable lining 14. As the construction so far described forms no part of the present invention, it is not thought necessary to describe the same in more detail.

Detachably secured to the sides of said cap 10 are the earmuffs generally designated by the reference character 15, there being two of such earmuffs 15, one detachably secured to each side of the cap for protecting the ears of the wearer. The means for detachably securing said earmuffs to the cap will now be described.

Disposed between the inner band 13 and the outer covering of the cap is a strip of material 16, which may be of the same material as the outer covering of the cap, said strip being of a size so as to extend a substantial distance on either side beyond the side seam which secures two of the segments 11 together, the lower end of said strip 16 being secured by the row of stitching 17 to the band 13 to the outer covering 11 and the inner lining 14, as shown in Fig. 3. The strip 16 will act as a reinforcing strip and has rigidly secured thereto as well as to the inner band 13 a plate of metal or the like 18 in any suitable and well-known manner, such, for example, as by means of the rivets 19, said rivets extending through the plate 18, the band 13 and the reinforcing strip 16. Secured to the plate 18 is the female member 19 of the snap fastener.



When in fully assembled position, said fastener 19 will be disposed so that access thereto may be had through the opening 20 provided in the lower portion of the seam 21 connecting the two side segments 11 of the cap as shown more clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

The earmuff, which is generally designated by the reference character 15, may be formed of an outer cover 22 of lambskin or other suitable material and lining 23, the edges of which are secured to each other and to the inner edge of an elastic band 24 by means of the stitching 25. Disposed within the earmuff 15 is a frame of wire 26, said wire being adapted to maintain the earmuff in extended position and desired shape, said wire frame being provided with an inwardly extending portion 27, upon which is pivotally secured the band 28 of suitable material, such as sheet metal or the like, to which band is permanently secured the male member 29 of a snap fastener.

The free ends of the wire frame 26 are held in abutting relation to each other by means of the metal tie or strip 30, said strip 30 being also effective for limiting the movement of the member 28 in a clockwise direction as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing.

By reason of the above arrangement, it will be noted that when the earmuff is secured to the cap by engagement of the cooperating fastener elements 19 and 29, the earmuff will be disposed not in an exact vertical relationship with respect to the cap, but will extend downwardly and inwardly so as to bear firmly against the ears to efficiently protect the same, and likewise when the earmuff is in its inoperative position against the side of the cap it will extend upwardly and inwardly and thus lie snugly against the body of the cap, thereby presenting a neater and more attractive appearance than if it extended straight upwardly.

The cooperating fastening elements 19 and 29 are constructed so as to be detachably engageable with each other, as well as to permit rotation relative to each other when in assembled position. With this arrangement it will be apparent that the earmuff may be entirely removed from the cap, in which case the opening 20 in the seam 21 may be moved to a position where it will substantially entirely conceal the fastening element 19, said gap or opening 20 being made so as to permit the side edges thereof to be brought into abutting relation to each other for concealing said fastening element 19 when the earmuff is removed and to permit a separation of said side edges when it is desired to attach the earmuff to the cap. When in assembled position on the cap the earmuffs 15 may be moved to the full line position shown in Fig. 1 or the operative position as shown in dotted lines in said figure.

From the above it will be apparent that I have provided a cap having means associated therewith for detachably securing thereto suitable earmuffs, said earmuffs being connected in such a manner as to permit their adjustment to their operative or inoperative positions and when in either of said positions will lie snugly against the body of the cap so as not to detract from the attractive appearance thereof.

It will also be noted that when said earmuffs are removed from said cap, the means permitting

attachment of the earmuffs to the cap will be substantially concealed from view, thus again not marring or detracting from the usual appearance of the cap.

It is believed that my invention, its mode of construction and assembly, and many of its advantages should be readily understood from the foregoing without further description, and it should also be manifest that while a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described for illustrative purposes, the structural details are nevertheless capable of wide variation within the purview of my invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a cap of the character described, a pair of earmuffs, and means for detachably and adjustably securing said earmuffs to said cap, said means including a plate member fixedly secured to the inside of the cap, fastening means secured to said plate member and extending through an open seam provided in said cap, a cooperating fastening means provided on said earmuffs for engagement with said first-mentioned fastening means, said fastening means, when in operative assembly, being capable of rotating movement relative to each other, and said open seam being capable of concealing from view the fastening means secured to said plate member when the earmuff is removed therefrom.

2. In combination with a cap of the character described, a pair of earmuffs, each earmuff having means for independent and detachable engagement with said cap, said means including the male portion of a snap fastener secured to a supporting member, over which the body of the earmuff is disposed, the female portion of the snap fastener being fixedly secured to a portion of the cap and disposed inwardly of the outer covering of said cap, and extending through an open seam provided therefor in the side of the cap, said open seam permitting access to the fastening element in the cap when it is desired to secure the earmuff thereto, and being capable of concealing from view the said fastening element when the earmuff is removed from the cap, said fastening element on the earmuff being arranged at an angle to the body thereto, whereby when the earmuff is attached to the cap it will, when in ear protecting position, bear firmly against the face of the wearer, and when in its other position will lie snugly against the head portion of the cap.

3. In a device of the character described, including a cap, and detachable earmuffs secured thereto, said earmuffs each being provided with one element of a snap fastener, the other element of which is contained within the cap, open portions of each of the side seams of said cap above said second-mentioned element, the lips of said seam being separable so that the second mentioned element may project therethrough for engagement with said first-mentioned element, said lips being formed so that they are normally juxtaposed to a closed position, concealing said second-mentioned element when said earmuffs are each removed from said cap, presenting an unblemished appearance to the surface of said cap

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