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(54) ROTOR FOR THE TREATMENT OF A FLUID SUCH AS A METAL MELT

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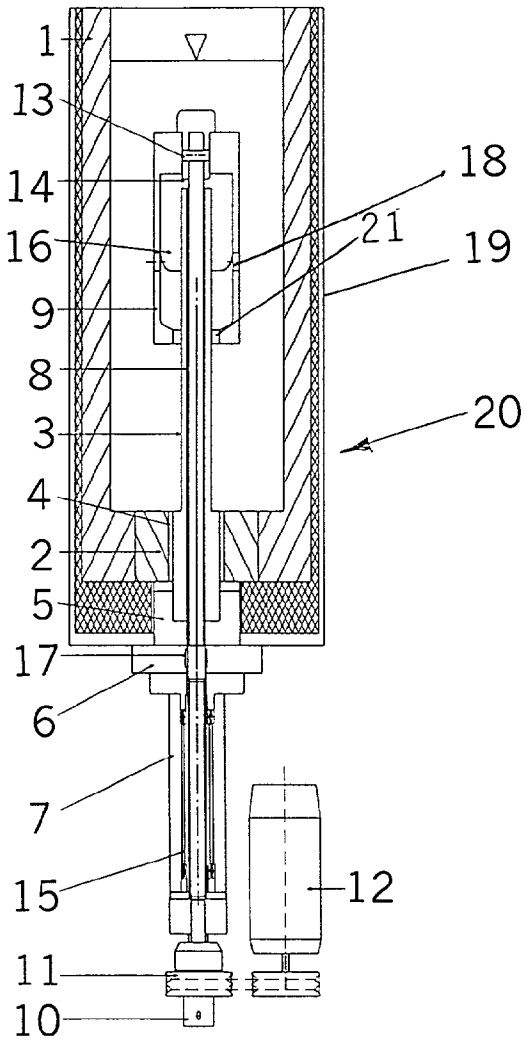
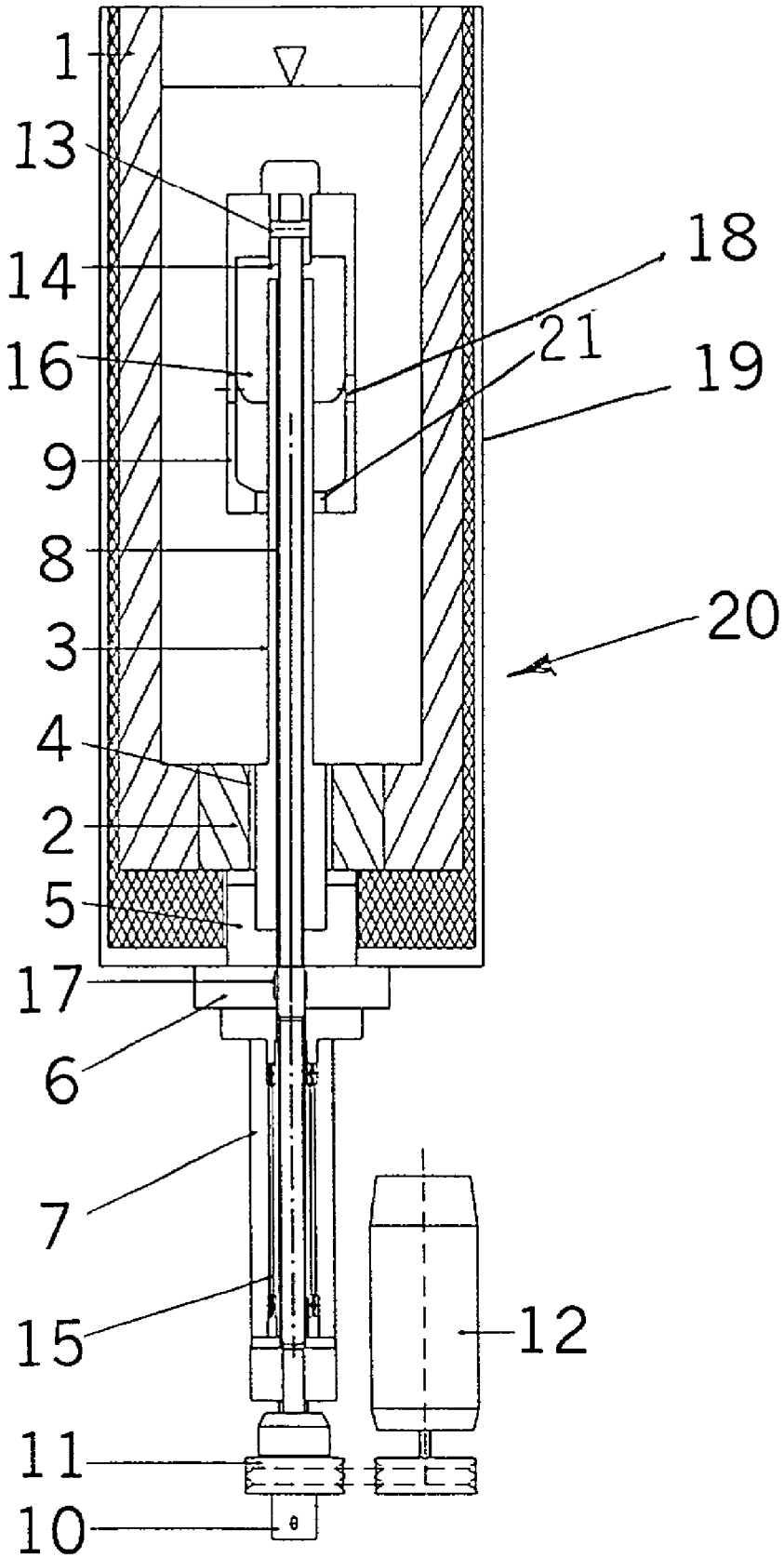
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device in connection with a rotor (**9**) for the treatment of a liquid such as molten metal in a reactor (**20**) or similar. Gas and/or particulate material is supplied to the liquid, preferably via the rotor shaft (**8**) and through openings (**18**) from a cavity (**16**) in the rotor. The rotor shaft (**8**) extends up through the base of the reactor (**20**) and is arranged so that it may rotate inside a stator pipe (**3**) which extends up from the base of the reactor. The rotor shaft and the stator pipe extend through an opening (**21**) in the lower side of the rotor (**9**) and into the cavity (**16**) in the rotor. Expediently, the rotor shaft (**8**) is connected to the rotor (**9**) via a fixing device (**13**) inside the rotor cavity, while the stator pipe (**3**) ends in the cavity (**16**).

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ROTOR FOR THE TREATMENT OF A FLUID SUCH AS A METAL MELT

[0001] The present invention concerns a device in connection with a rotor for the treatment of a liquid such as molten metal.

[0002] Most systems for the treatment of, for example, molten metal with gas are based on the principle of supplying the gas to and dispersing the gas in the molten metal using a rotor. An example of such a rotor is shown and described in the applicant's own European patent no. 0151434, in which the gas is supplied via a drilled hole in the rotor shaft of the rotor, which consists of a hollow, cylindrical rotating body, and in which the gas is supplied to and dispersed in the liquid (molten metal) via holes in the rotating body.

[0003] One disadvantage of this and other prior art rotor solutions is that the rotor and rotor shaft extend down into the liquid from above via holes in the roof of the reactor chamber. The electric motor which drives the rotor is either fixed to the top of the reactor or fixed to a column connected to the reactor, on a separate hoist system.

[0004] In terms of liquid treatment, it is disadvantageous that the shaft extends down into the liquid from above as a vortex is formed around the shaft when it rotates. Impurities and slag which are separated from the metal float up to the surface but will easily be drawn back into the metal via this vortex. Moreover, the greatest wear on the shaft occurs in the area between air and metal, i.e. in the vortex area.

[0005] The present invention represents a solution in connection with a rotor in which the above disadvantages are eliminated. The present invention is characterised in that the rotor shaft extends up through the base of the reactor and is arranged so that it may rotate inside a stator pipe which is fixed to and extends up from the base of the reactor. The rotor shaft and the stator pipe extend through an opening in the lower side of the rotor and into the cavity in the rotor. The rotor shaft is connected to the rotor via a fixing device inside the rotor cavity, while the stator pipe ends in the cavity. The advantageous features of the present invention are defined in further detail in the attached dependent claims **2-4**.

[0006] The present invention will be described in further detail using examples and with reference to the attached drawing, which shows a reactor or treatment vessel or container **20** for the treatment of molten mass, involving the use of a rotor **9**. The reactor jacket **19** itself may expediently be produced from a suitable steel material. The steel jacket **19** is lined on the inside with fireproof material **1**.

[0007] A moulded brick **2** is embedded in the reactor's base lining **1**. A stator pipe **3** with a seal **4**, which forms a seal between the moulded brick **2** and the stator pipe **3**, is inserted from the bottom of the reactor. The stator pipe **3** is made of a fireproof, insulating material which is resistant to the molten mass and has a given thermal conductivity. The stator pipe is guided vertically and horizontally by a collar **5** which is made of an insulating material.

[0008] The collar is located on a steel flange **6** which is bolted to the bottom of the reactor jacket. This creates a prestress on the seal **4** which is located between the stator pipe **3** and moulded brick **2**. This prestress is important for the absorption of differences in thermal expansion and shrinkage between the various materials. The bearing support **7** for the rotor shaft **8** is mounted against the steel flange **6**. The bearings are cooled using forced air cooling. The drive shaft **8** of the rotor **9** is inserted down into the stator pipe from the top and ends in a quick-action coupling **10** in the bearing support. A belt pulley **11** driven via an electric motor **12** is located above the quick-action coupling.

[0009] The rotor **9** is of the same type as that shown and described in the applicant's own European patent no. 0151434, which is hollow inside and has an opening **21** at the bottom end and holes **18** in the sides. The rotor is fixed to the drive shaft at the top, expediently via, for example, a thread connection or a carrier arrangement in the form of a cotter or bolt connection. The stator pipe **3** extends from the base of the reactor through the hole in the base of the rotor **9** and into the cavity in the rotor with a certain clearance to the internal top surface **14** of the rotor.

[0010] When treating a molten mass or filling the reactor with it, an air/gas pocket is formed in the upper part of the cavity **16** in the rotor so that no molten mass can flow down into the annulus between the shaft **8** and the stator pipe **3**. The rotor otherwise works in the same way as that described in the applicant's above European patent; the molten mass is drawn up through the hole **21** in the base of the rotor by means of the rotation of the rotor **9** and is pressed (slung) out through the holes **18** in the side by means of centrifugal force.

[0011] Gas and/or particulate material for the treatment of the liquid may expediently be supplied through a drilled hole in the rotor shaft (not shown in further detail) or through the annulus between the shaft and the stator pipe. Alternatively, gas may be supplied via a drilled hole in the shaft and any surplus gas may be returned through the stated annulus. The reactor may also be fitted with a lid (not shown in further detail) so that the molten mass may be treated in a closed system, for example under an inert atmosphere. It should be noted that the invention as it is defined in the claims is not restricted to the embodiment shown in the FIGURE or described above.

[0012] Hence, the rotor with the embodiment shown may be used to treat liquids other than molten metal, for example suspensions such as sewage or other types of contaminated water.

[0013] The solution here described avoids, as stated above, the formation of a vortex and wear on the rotor shaft as it is not in direct contact with the molten mass.

[0014] Another major advantage of there not being such contact is that it is possible to use metallic materials in the shaft which are considerably stronger and less expensive and which have a longer life than the materials now used.

[0015] Still another major advantage of the use of a stator pipe which ends in an air pocket in the rotor is that there is no need for expensive seals which would otherwise be necessary if the shaft had extended through the base without the stator pipe.

1. A device in connection with a rotor (**9**) for the treatment of a liquid such as molten metal in a reactor (**20**) or similar by supplying gas and/or particulate material to the liquid, preferably via the rotor shaft (**8**) and through openings (**18**) from a cavity (**16**) in the rotor, characterised in that

the rotor shaft **(8)** extends up through the base of the reactor **(20)** and is arranged so that it may rotate inside a stator pipe **(3)** which extends up from the base of the reactor, whereby the rotor shaft and the stator pipe extend through an opening **(21)** in the lower side of the rotor **(9)** and into the cavity **(16)** of the rotor and whereby the rotor shaft **(8)** is connected to the rotor **(9)** via a fixing device **(13)** inside the rotor cavity, while the stator pipe **(3)** ends in the cavity **(16)**.

2. A device in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that

the shaft **(8)** is directly connected to the rotor **(9)** by means of a thread connection, cotter or bolt connection.

3. A device in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that

gas and/or particulate material is supplied to the cavity **(16)** in the rotor via a drilled hole in the shaft **(8)** or via the annulus between the shaft **(8)** and the stator pipe **(3)**.

4. A device in accordance with claims **1** and **3**, characterised in that

any surplus gas is designed to be returned via the annulus between the shaft **(8)** and the stator pipe **(3)**.

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