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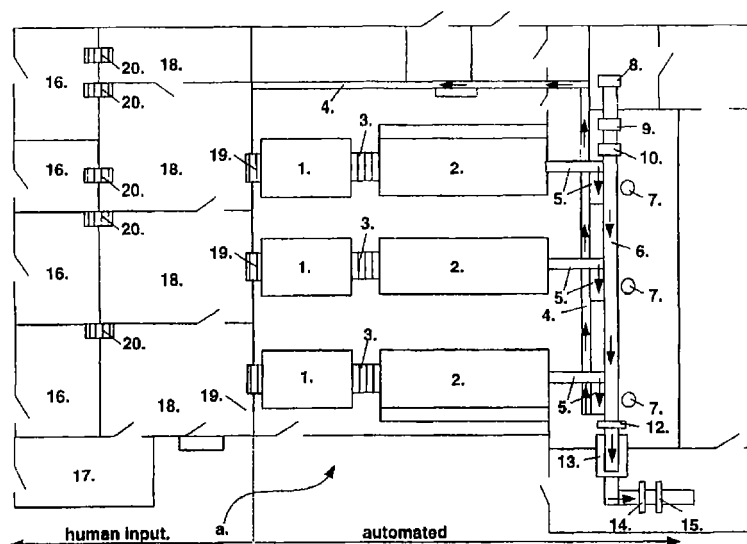
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(54) Title: AUTOMATED PRODUCTION OF PACKAGED COOKED MEALS



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(57) Abstract: An aseptic method of preparing meals using automated means to place food portions of different types such as meat, lamb, chicken, vegetables, starches, rice, and potatoes within individual food type moulds (21) and into an in-line oven (1); each type of the food portions is then cooked as the moulds (21) are conveyed (19) through the oven; and automated means such as a spatula (22) and mould holder and lifting apparatus (24) are used to remove the food from the oven and moulds; and assembling the individual food portions to form a meal within a package (23). Also disclosed is a monitoring means for use in a multiple stage sequential automatic food processing system that includes a means (15) for assigning a unique identification code or barcode to each individual food portion and sensors for measuring values of predetermined parameters (e.g. temperature, duration) of the process for said identified portions.

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