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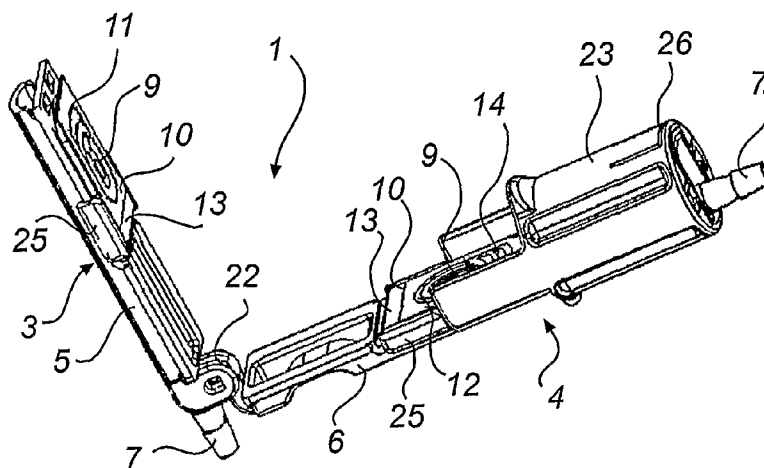
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR INTERCONNECTING, SEALED AGAINST CONTAMINATION, THE ENDS OF ELONGATE ELEMENTS SUCH AS TUBES OR PIPES



(57) Abstract: In a method and a device for interconnecting, sealed against contamination, the ends of tubes by two cooperating connecting means (5, 6) each having an inlet (7) for the associated end and an outlet (9) for connection to each other, the connecting means are each provided with a connecting plane (10), into which the outlets open, each covered by a protective means (13), and which are movable into engagement with each other with the outlets facing each other. A locking element (23) which is slidably arranged on one connecting means (6) is, in a controlled manner and without interruption of the sliding movement, movable onto the other connecting means (5) to a distinct end position. At the same time the protective means are removable by means of the locking element when this is moved, and the outlets are sealingly pressable against each other. The locking element is prevented from moving until a predetermined force is applied in the moving direction, after which a catch (26) releases and the locking element is quickly movable to the distinct end position for permanent and irreversible interconnection of the connecting means (5, 6).

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