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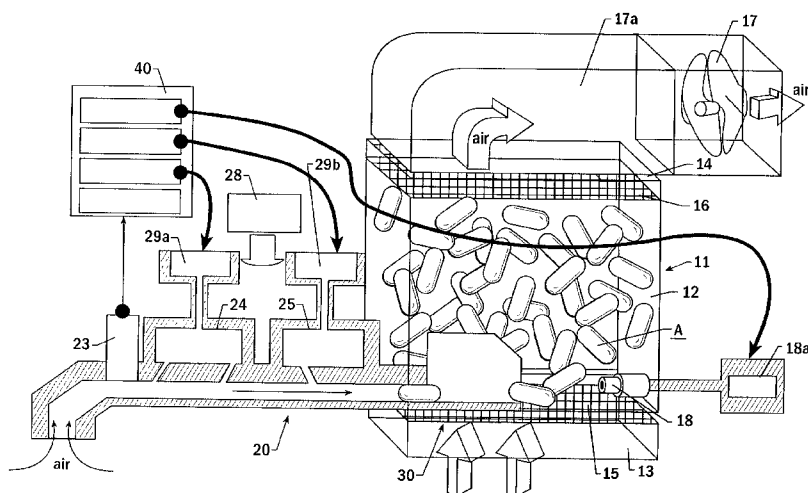
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(54) Title: DEVICE TO COUNT AND DISPENSE ARTICLES



(57) **Abstract:** A singulating and counting device (10) includes a bulk housing (11) for storing a plurality of substantially identical articles (A), an exit channel (20), and in the exit channel, forwardly (26a, 26b)- and rearwardly (27) directed jet apertures, each of which is fluidly connected to a positive pressure source (28). A forwardly-directed jet generated by the positive pressure source through the forward jet aperture (26a, 26b) can accelerate singulated articles in the exit channel, thereby increasing the interval between individual articles and rendering them more easily and accurately counted. A rearwardly-directed jet generated by the positive pressure source through the rearwardly-directed jet aperture (27) can cause articles in the exit channel to return to the housing. A controller (40) operatively connected with the pressure source(s) selectively controls the application of positive pressure to the aforementioned apertures to induce or halt singulation of the articles; the controller may be operatively associated with a sensor (23) that detects and counts articles passing through the exit channel.



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