

not directly impinging on said lubricant transmission means inlet may flow therepast without substantially interfering with the flow of lubricant from said outlet.

21. A distributor as claimed in claim 18, and further comprising a chamber, said at least two lubricant supply means inlets being within said chamber, the lubricant stream flowing upwardly through said chamber, said chamber having an opening at the bottom thereof for drainage of lubricant not entering said lubricant transmission means inlets.

22. A distributor as claimed in claim 21, said chamber further including at least one opening at the upper periphery thereof for permitting the passage of lubricant not entering said lubricant transmission means inlet to a location outside of said chamber.

23. A distributor as claimed in claim 18, wherein said lubricant supply means is adapted to produce a lubricant stream having at least two regions characterized by substantially equal lubricant flow, one of said at least two transmission means inlets being positioned in the path of each of said regions of substantially equal lubricant flow, whereby substantially equal rates of lubricant flow enter each of said at least two lubricant transmission means inlets.

24. A distributor as claimed in claim 5, 14 or 23, wherein said lubricant supply means outlet defines a nozzle outlet and wherein said at least two lubricant transmission means inlets are respectively positioned at substantially equal distances from said outlet.

25. A distributor as claimed in claim 1, 5, 14, 18 or 23, wherein each of said lubricant transmission means inlets is positioned in the path of a portion of said lubricant stream characterized by high-density flow of lubricant from said duct outlet.

26. A distributor as claimed in claim 5, 14 or 23, wherein said lubricant supply means outlet is adapted to produce an essentially conical lubricant stream, and wherein said at least two lubricant transmission means inlets are respectively positioned at substantially equal distances from the axis of said conical stream and at substantially equal distances from said outlet.

27. A distributor as claimed in claim 5, 14 or 23, and including at least one additional inlet positioned outside of said regions of substantially uniform lubricant flow for providing a rate of flow different from said first-mentioned nozzles.

28. A distributor as claimed in claim 1, 5, 14, 18 or 23, and further comprising a baffle in the gap between said outlet and said inlets, whereby the flow rate of lubricant in said stream entering said inlets is modified.

29. A distributor as claimed in claim 28, wherein said baffle includes at least a portion selected from the group including a cross-wire screen, a perforated disk and a web.

30. A distributor as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least a path of said lubricant stream between said lubricant supply means outlet and said lubricant transmission means inlets is free of constraints.

31. A distributor as claimed in claim 1, 3, 14, 15, 18 or 30, wherein said lubricant supply means includes a duct having an inlet and an outlet;

means for causing a gas to flow through said duct from said duct inlet to said duct outlet; and

means for feeding a liquid lubricant into said duct at a location intermediate said duct inlet and said duct outlet, whereby a mixture of said gas and liquid is

produced in said duct, said mixture discharging from said duct outlet.

32. A distributor as claimed in claim 31, wherein said duct outlet communicates with a preliminary expansion chamber of a diameter greater than said duct, said preliminary expansion chamber communicating to said lubrication supply means outlet.

33. A distributor as claimed in claim 32, including a further expansion chamber surrounding said gap and having duct means communicating from a bottom of said further expansion chamber to said preliminary expansion chamber for the entraining of lubricant from the lubricant stream not directly impinging on the lubricant transmission means inlet back into the lubricant stream, said further expansion chamber otherwise essentially preventing the passage of said lubricant from said lubricant stream not directly impinging on a lubricant transmission means inlet to a location outside of said further expansion chamber.

34. A distributor as claimed in claim 31, wherein said duct is constricted, causing said gas to move at high velocity and reduced pressure in said duct, and said means for feeding a liquid lubricant includes a passage for lubricant, said passage discharge end being connected at said intermediate location and exposed to said reduced pressure, whereby lubricant leaves said passage and intermixes with said high-velocity gas flow.

35. A distributor as claimed in claim 34, and further comprising means for controlling the pressure at the inlet end of said lubricant passage, whereby the rate of feeding lubricant to said high-velocity gas stream through said passage is regulated.

36. A distributor as claimed in claim 35, and further comprising:

a lubricant storage reservoir, said means for feeding lubricant further including means for drawing lubricant from said reservoir and delivering lubricant to said inlet to said lubricant passage, and

a headpiece, said headpiece and reservoir being joined to form a hermetic container, said container including said chamber, said means for feeding and said means for controlling the pressure at the inlet end of said lubricant passage.

37. A distributor as claimed in claim 35, wherein said means for feeding a liquid lubricant further includes a secondary reservoir, means for supplying lubricant from said primary reservoir to said secondary reservoir while maintaining said lubricant at a constant level and means for supplying lubricant from said secondary reservoir to said duct.

38. A distributor as claimed in claim 35, wherein a plurality of said lubricant transmission means inlets are provided arranged on a circle, said circle being coaxially aligned with said outlet.

39. A distributor as claimed in claim 35, wherein said duct includes two colinear duct portions, the diameter of said portion at the inlet being less than the diameter of said portion at the outlet of said duct, said intermediate location for feeding said lubricant being proximate the connection between said first and second duct portions.

40. A distributor as claimed in claim 39, wherein the length-to-diameter ratio of said duct portion at the outlet is at least five.

41. A distributor as claimed in claim 39, wherein the length-to-diameter ratio of said duct portion at the outlet is about fourteen.

\* \* \* \* \*