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**Canty et al.**

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(54) **WELDABLE SIGHTGLASS ASSEMBLY**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention provides a sightglass assembly for viewing the interior of a vessel, such as a reaction vessel for chemical or biochemical reactions, and is adapted to be welded to a vessel wall. The sightglass assembly comprises a window disc fused to a metal frame having a flange extending radially therefrom. The assembly is set into an appropriately sized opening in the vessel wall and the outer perimeter of the flange is welded to the vessel wall. An annular groove in the flange, surrounding the frame and window disc, absorbs stresses created by the heat of welding and thus protects the integrity of the entire unit. When installed, the sightglass assembly and inner face of the tank wall provide an easily cleanable smooth continuous surface, free of recesses and crevasses where bacteria can collect and grow or product from previous batches can accumulate and cause contamination.

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G02B 7/00

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **359/894**; 359/436; 359/440;  
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(58) **Field of Search** ..... 359/894, 895,  
359/440; 220/663; 116/276; 73/334, 330,  
325

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**8 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet**

