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(54) **HEAT EXCHANGER**

(57) A heat exchanger (23) includes a plurality of principal heat exchange sections (51a- 5 1 c) and auxiliary heat exchange sections (52a-52c). A first header-collecting pipe (60) 5 includes an upper space (61) communicating with flat tubes (33) of all of the principal heat exchange sections (51a-51c). Each of the auxiliary heat exchange sections (52a-52c) is in series connection to a corresponding one of the principal heat exchange sections (51a-51c). Of tube number ratios of the number of the flat tubes (33) constituting each of the heat exchange sections (51a-51c) to the number of the flat tubes (33) constituting a corresponding 10 one of the auxiliary heat exchange sections (52a-52c), the first principal heat exchange sections (51a) which is the lowermost one has the smallest tube number ratio. Consequently, discharge of liquid refrigerant from a lower portion of the first principal heat exchange section (5 1 a) is accelerated during

defrosting, thereby shortening the time required for defrosting.

FIG.13

