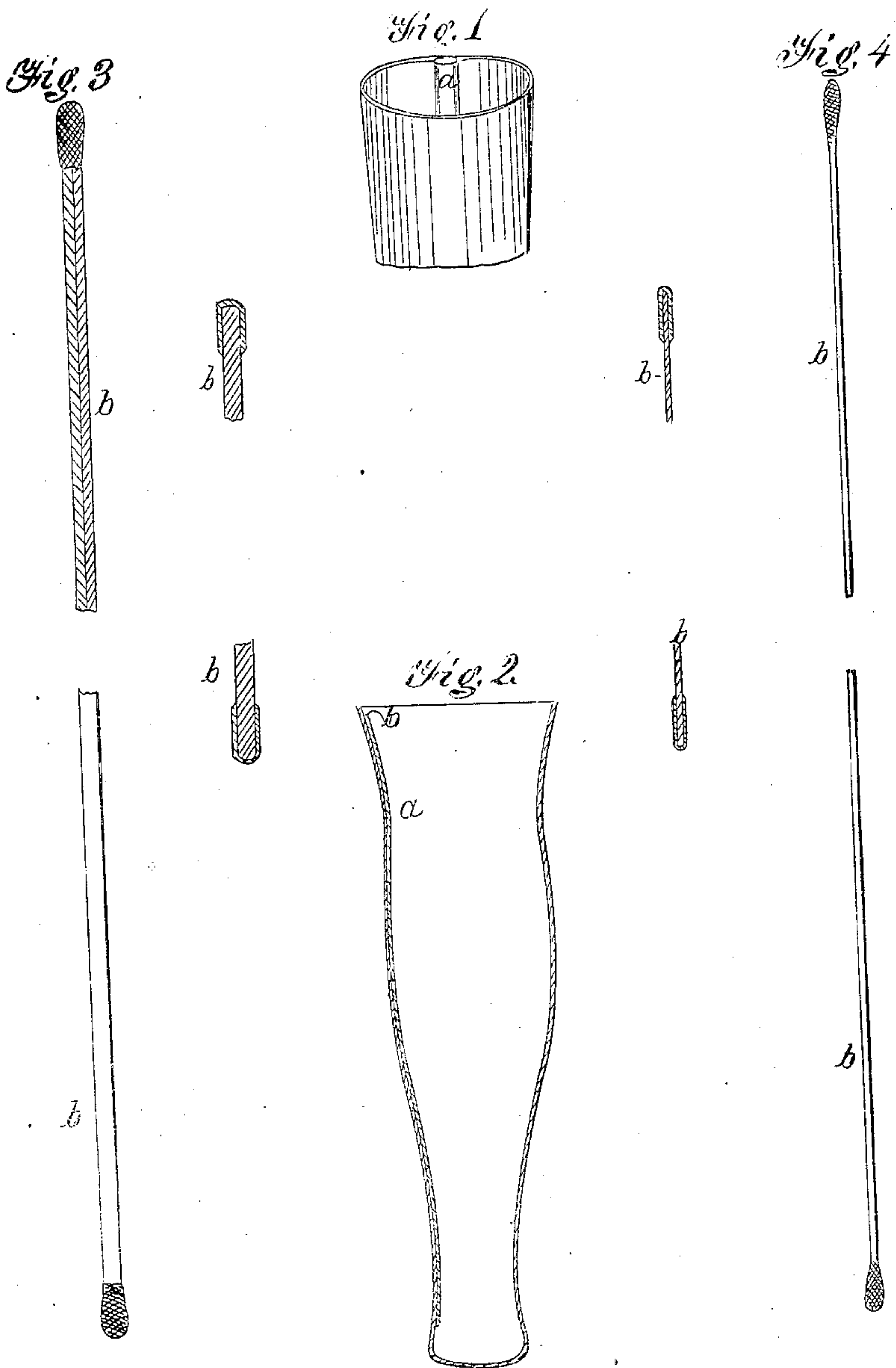


E. V. Sears.
Stocking.

No. 50,279.

Patented. Oct. 3. 1865



Witnesses { *W. B. Gleason*
H. Souer

Edmund V. Sears
By his Atty -
W. B. Crosby

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD V. SEARS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN STOCKINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 50,279, dated October 3, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD V. SEARS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Stockings; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

To support in proper position on the leg of a wearer hose or stockings, garters are and long have been used, notwithstanding the well-known objections to their use—viz., their action as ligatures to compress the leg and check the proper circulation of the blood therein, and also the annoyance caused by their slipping and unfastening.

To retain stockings in their proper positions under the various conditions accompanying daily usage, without the employment of any form of band, ligature, or garter acting to surround the leg and thus bind or clamp the stocking in its place, is the object of my invention.

Said invention consists in a stocking as a new article of manufacture, when provided in or along the length of the leg with a pocket or series of loops, designed to receive a long slender piece of whalebone or other equivalent material.

I prefer the pocket to the loops, and prefer, also, that it should be formed in the weaving or knitting, but a piece of tape or strip of cloth or knit goods may be sewed or otherwise united to the stocking-leg so as to answer the purpose. To make this addition as little prominent as possible I prefer that the long narrow pocket, or the series of loops which may be substituted for the pocket, should be on the inside of the stocking-leg and on that side of each stocking which, with reference to the wearer, comes on the inner or protected side of the wearer's leg.

I prefer to have the pocket or series of loops extend from near the sole of the stocking to

the top of its leg. The whalebone or other tough yielding substitute therefore, like steel skirt-wire, cane, or rattan, is best provided with a soft pad wound upon or otherwise fastened to either end to prevent the ends from chafing the wearer or the stocking. I greatly prefer the continuous pocket to receive and support the whalebone over a series of loops for the same purpose, for the reason that the pocket is interposed between the leg of the wearer and the whalebone all along its entire length.

The whalebone is inserted in the pocket and kept therein by a few stitches at the top thereof, which are cut or withdrawn when the stockings are to be washed, so that the whalebones can be extracted and used in any other stockings of suitable length.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows a portion of a stocking-leg in perspective, exhibiting the pocket at *a*. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section taken through a stocking-leg, and showing the material of the stocking-supporter and the pocket, both in section at the left-hand side. Fig. 3 shows in elevation a portion of the supporter *b*, of about the full size, representing it as made of the braided or woven-covered flat steel wire, of which hoop-skirts are made. Fig. 4 shows an edge view of a supporter, *b*, of about the full size. In both Figs. 3 and 4 the ends of the supporter *b* are shown as wound or padded with some suitable soft material. The other views, not numbered, show the ends of supporters in sections.

I claim—

As a new article of manufacture, a stocking which is provided with means for receiving the supporter *b*.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of August, A. D., 1865.

EDWARD V. SEARS.

Witnesses:

J. B. CROSBY,
F. GOULD.