

J. Fern. Boot-Heel.

N^o 74525

Patented Feb. 18, 1868

Fig: 1



Fig: 2

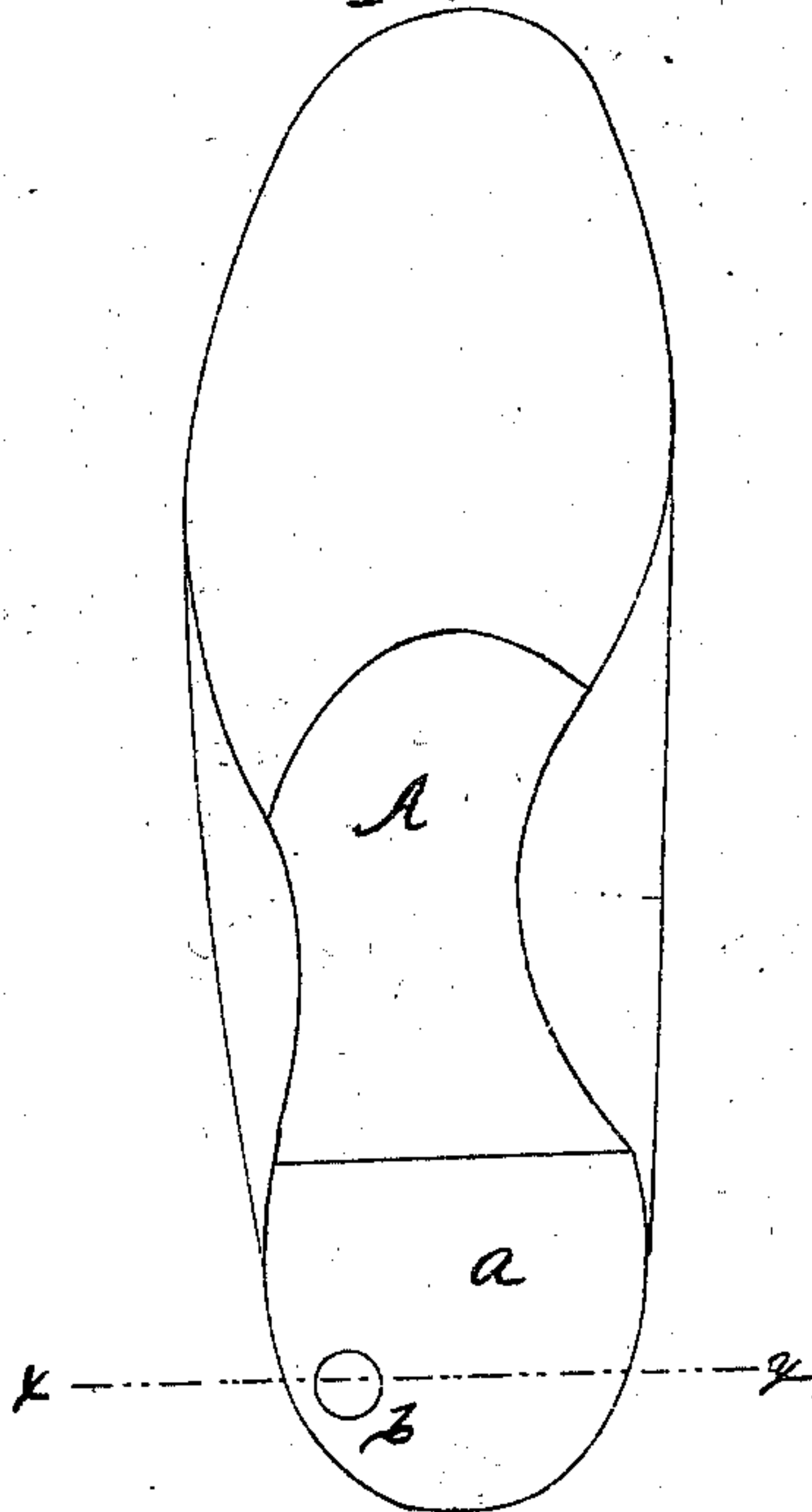


Fig: 3

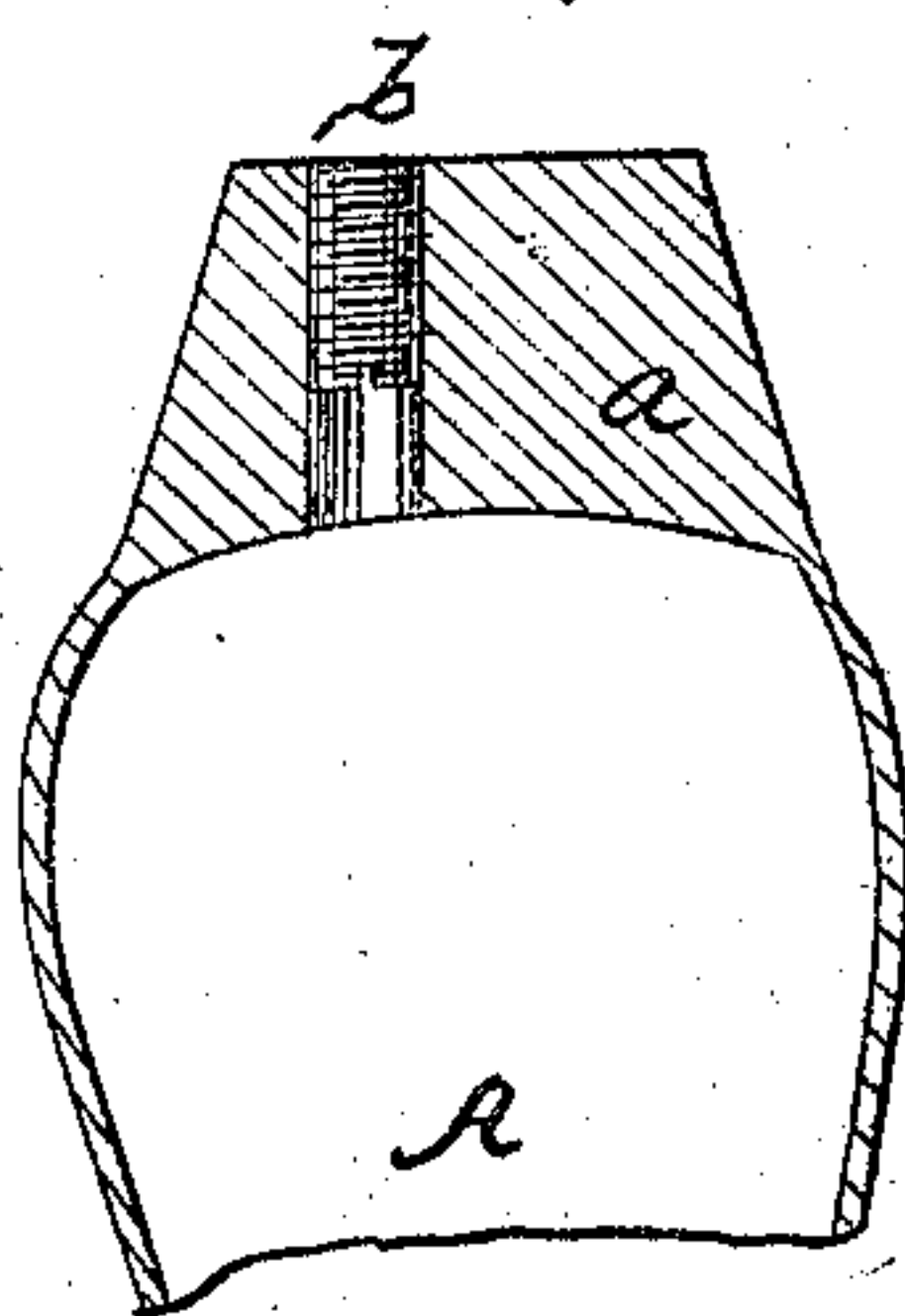
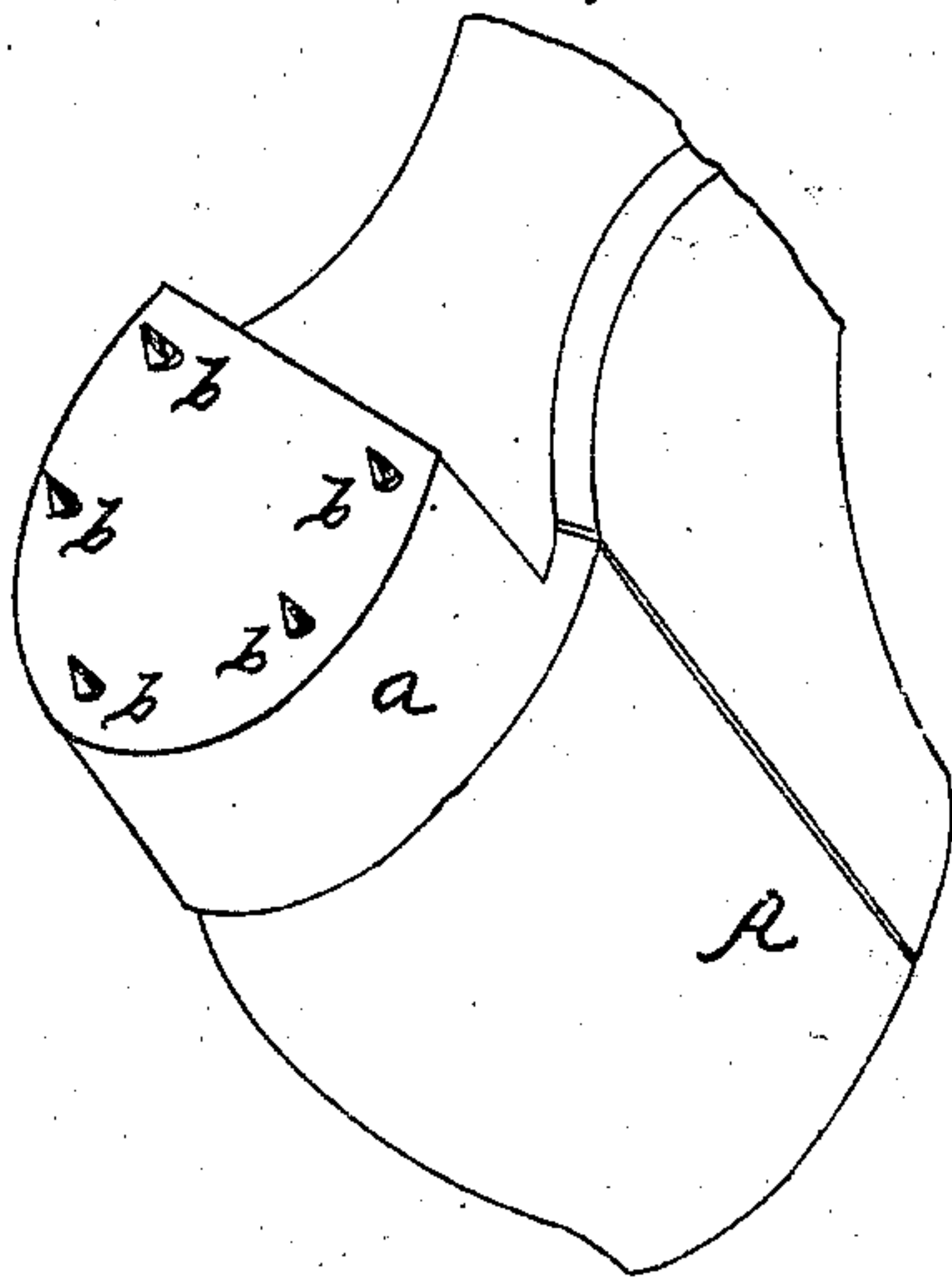


Fig: 4



Witnesses.

Theo Tusche
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Inventor.

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Per *[Signature]*
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United States Patent Office.

JOHN FEARN, OF TOMPKINSVILLE, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 74,525, dated February 18, 1868; antedated February 12, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOT-HEELS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN FEARN, of Tompkinsville, in the county of Richmond, and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Mode of Protecting the Heels of Boots and Shoes and for other purposes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a screw I employ.

Figure 2 represents the bottom of a shoe, showing my improved mode of applying a steel screw for the protection of the heels, &c.

Figure 3 is a section through the heel and screw, taken in the line *xx*, fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a heel, showing the same improvement in another application.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention relates to an improved mode of applying a screw or screws to the heels of boots and shoes for the purpose of preventing them from wearing away unevenly more on one side than the other, and also to prevent slipping on ice when required.

A represents a shoe, of which *a* is the heel. To prevent one side of the heel from wearing away faster than the other, as the heels of the boots and shoes of most persons do more or less on one side or the other, I introduce one or more hardened steel screws, *b*, shown detached in fig. 1, and in place in the other drawings. The screw *b* is made of equal size, and the thread is cut upon it, from end to end, with a slot as usual at one end, for the screw-driver, as shown in figs. 1, 3.

For inserting the screw or screws in the heel of a boot or shoe, I bore a smooth hole, of proper size, with a centre-bit, through the heel, at such place or places, as may be required and introduce the screw or screws from the inside, as shown in fig. 3. The screw or screws used must be shorter than the hole through the heel, to let the head sink below the surface of the inside. By this plan the screw may be raised or lowered, at pleasure, by applying a screw-driver to the head on the inside. The outer end of the screw may wear away, but the head on the inner end is always the same, and the screw may be set out exactly as may be necessary to protect the heel from wearing and keep it even and level. The hole above the head of the screw sunk below the surface may be filled with a cotton wad to make the sole even on the inside of the shoe. The screw, thus introduced into the heel and screwed from the inside, may be sharpened and projected beyond the bottom of the heel, as shown in fig. 4, for the purpose of giving a sure footing on the ice or other slippery surface, and the points of the screws may be drawn in below the surface of the heel when the need of using them no longer exists.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The cylindrical screw *b*, with or without points, applied from the inside of the heel, whereby the same can be screwed in or out from the inside, to compensate for the wear of the heel, substantially as herein shown and described.

JOHN FEARN.

Witnesses:

WM. F. McNAMARA,

ALEX. F. ROBERTS.