

R. BISBEE.
MODE OF FITTING CLOTHING.

No. 74,978.

Patented Mar. 3, 1868.

Fig. 4

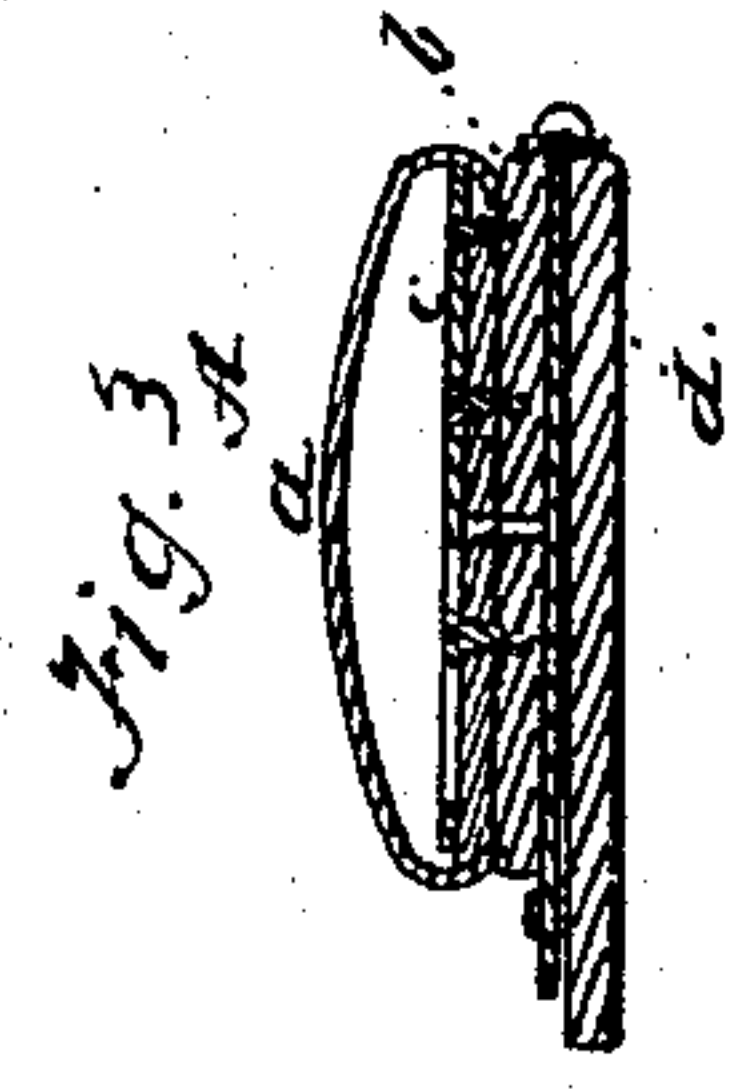


Fig. 1.

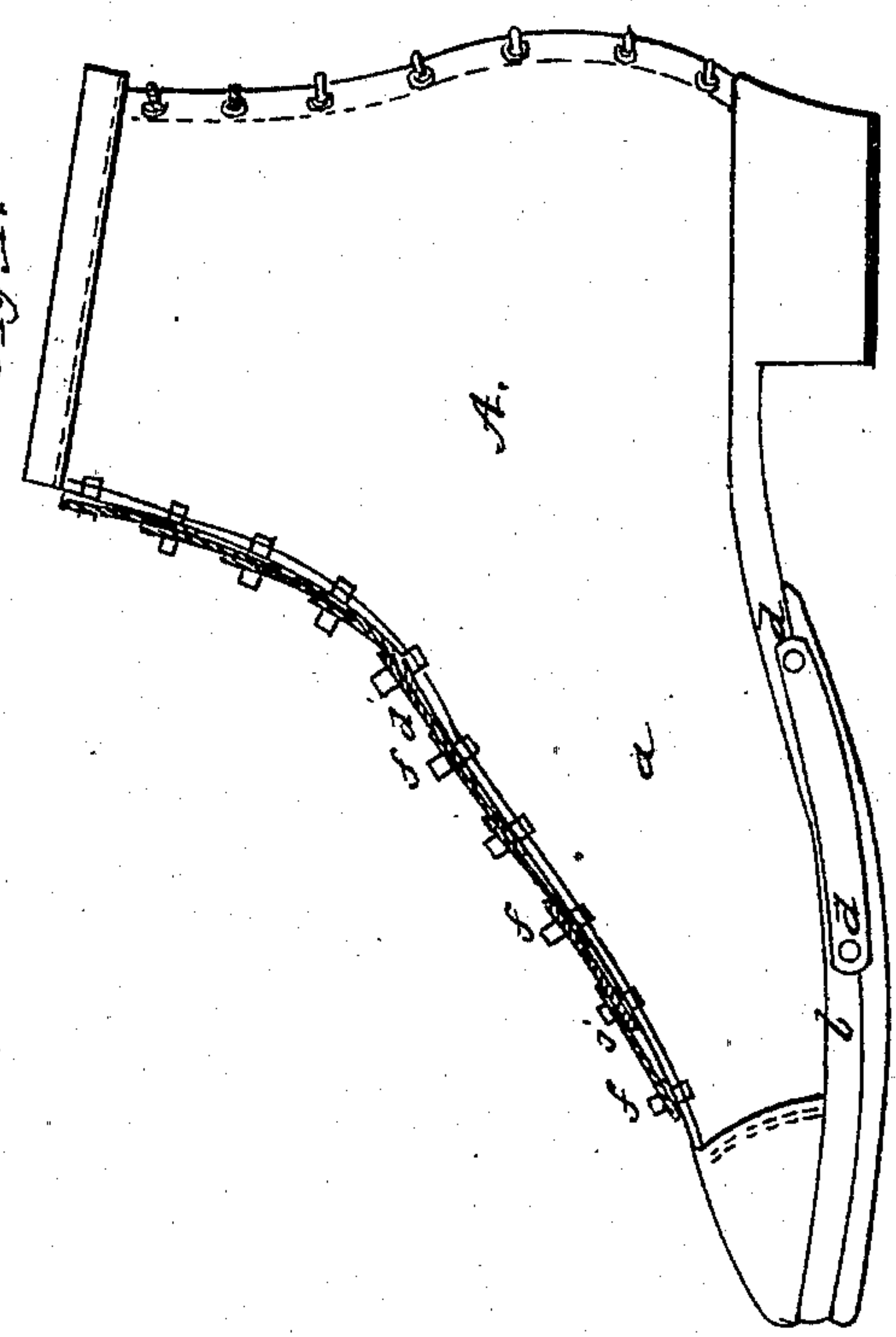
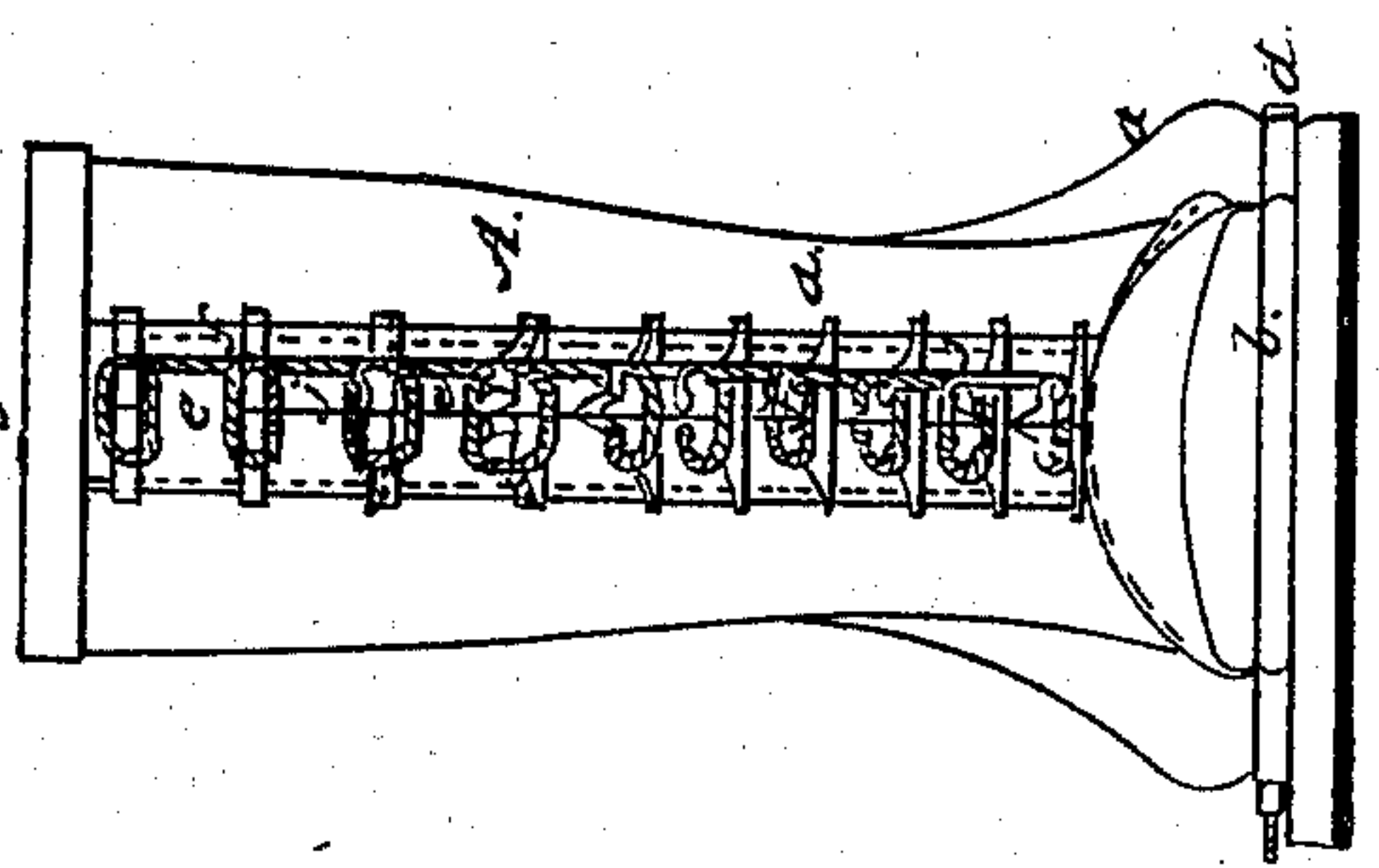


Fig. 2.



attest;
C. W. B. witness
Edward Griffith.

Randall Bisbee.
by his Attorney.
Frederick Curtis

United States Patent Office.

RANDALL BISBEE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 74,978, dated March 3, 1868.

IMPROVED MODE OF FITTING CLOTHING.

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

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Be it known that I, RANDALL BISBEE, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and original Mode of Constructing or Fitting Articles of Clothing to Different Portions of the Human Figure; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, due reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a front view,

Figure 2 a side elevation, and

Figure 3 a transverse section.

The principal object had in view in making this invention is to provide, by means of its employment, articles of dress or clothing for different portions of the human figure, which, while possessing the desideratum of ease and comfort, shall impart a more graceful appearance to the wearer, and be a nearer approach to elegance of form.

In carrying out my invention, I produce an inelastic but flexible mould or casement, to envelope the parts of the person to be measured and fitted, this mould or casement to be made in imitation of the portion of a perfect or ideal human figure, to which it is intended to fit an article of dress or clothing. In this mould or encasement, I make certain apertures or openings for the purpose of allowing the mould to expand, in order to accommodate itself to the variations in form, as well as irregularities, and, in some cases, malformation, of the human body, but only to the extent deemed necessary, and only in localities where the operator desires it, thus conforming the article of dress as nearly as possible to this perfect mould consistent with ease to the wearer. The edges of the above-named apertures are to be provided with a series of points or other means of taking an accurate impression of their size and shape, as they become more or less expanded in fitting the mould to portions of a person's body, in order to enable the mould to be restored to the exact position, after removal from the body, that it assumed when thereon, and by this means allow the article of clothing to be fitted to or in imitation of this mould, at any time subsequent to thus fitting it.

In practical use of my invention, a certain number of standard sizes and shapes of the moulds are to be provided and kept on hand, in like manner that ordinary lasts are employed in establishments for making boots and shoes, and no moulds should be applied to a human figure or portions of a figure that such figure does not fill in the normal or closed state of such mould; hence, any enlargement of the mould by the form of the wearer, or by reason of irregularities or defects in the figure, will at once be exposed, and may be accurately noted by means of the points above referred to.

The drawings accompanying and making part of this specification are intended to illustrate the application of my invention to the purposes of boot and shoe-making, as developing, perhaps, more clearly its peculiarities and advantages, than if applied to other articles of clothing.

By referring to those drawings it will be seen that the mould or encasement before alluded to, is shown at A as made substantially in the form of an ordinary front-laced boot, except that it is made to approximate in form to a perfect boot, of which *a* is the upper, and *b* the sole, such sole being divided from or about its instep, outward, thus making two portions of such sole, movable with respect to each other, a thin metallic plate, *c*, being affixed to the inner upper surface of one side or portion of the sole, and so as to overlap or partially overlap the other half of the sole, and provided with a slot and screw, in such manner as to allow the two portions of the sole to recede from or be forced toward each other, in order to vary the width of the sole and conform it to the foot of the wearer. An auxiliary or outer sole, or thread, is secured to one portion of the sole, before mentioned, and serves as a bearing-surface or support for such sole; or in place of the metallic plate and clamp-screw, or in connection therewith, a number of bolts, *d d*, &c., may be extended through the two portions of the sole *b*, as shown in the drawings, and serve to confine and adjust their movements.

The opening in front of the mould or encasement A is shown at *e*, as having arranged upon its opposite edges a series of indicators or pointers, *f f*, &c., placed opposite each other, and with their inner faces upon a line with the edge of the opening *e*, so that upon closing this opening they shall bring up in contact face to face with each other. The shape of these indicators is shown at fig. 4 of the drawings, which is a representation of one of them, and on referring to which it will be seen that such pointer is composed of a metallic

knee or bracket, one portion, *g*, of which is to be secured to the mould A, and serves to support the device thereon, the upper extremity, *h*, of such device being formed into a sharp edge, running longitudinally with the opening *e*, a hook, *i*, being formed at or about at the angle of the two portions *g* and *h*, such hook serving to receive a lacing, shown at *j* in the drawings, for the purpose of securely holding the upper, *a*, in its proper position about the foot of the wearer.

I do not, however, wish to be understood as intending to confine myself to this mode of confining the two portions of the upper, as many other equivalent devices might be employed to accomplish this purpose.

With regard to the heel or back portion of the mould or encasement A, it may or may not be made with an opening, similar to the opening *e*, and provided with pointers or indicators in like manner thereto, but in practice it will probably be found advisable to so construct it.

In place of the pointers, for indicating the size of the openings, a piece of paper may be inserted below such openings, and their margin defined by means of a pencil. In fitting a person's foot for the purpose of making a pair of boots, the mould A is to be applied to the foot in the same manner as with an ordinary laced boot.

The sole of the mould A is to be expanded or contracted according to the width of the wearer's foot, and the upper, *a*, drawn into place around the foot by means of the lacing *j* or its equivalent. The wearer is then allowed to walk about in such mould A, and its condition with regard to the foot adjusted, until it feels perfectly easy, and in conformity with the desire of the wearer. A sheet of paper is then to be pressed down upon the pointers *ff*, &c., which will puncture the paper with a line of dots or indentations, which are separated from one another more or less, according to the distension of the two portions of the upper, *a*. The mould A is then to be removed from the foot of the wearer, and the last, upon which the boot is to be made, fitted to it, until the opening of the upper by means of the pointers assumes exactly the size and shape that it took when upon the person's foot, thus causing the boot made upon the last to be an exact counterpart of the mould A, as thus fitted.

The above description shows one mode of carrying out my invention, but it will be obvious that various modifications may be made in its details of application, without affecting the character or principles of the invention, the main conditions of which consist in a flexible mould, provided with yielding or variable apertures for showing the changes in or departure from the normal or perfect condition of such mould.

Many advantages manifest themselves, even in the comparatively few experiments thus far made in my invention.

One advantage is that no latitude is left for guessing at the measure in fitting the last, as is now generally the case, the measures, by means of my invention, being invariably and unalterably exact.

Another important advantage of my invention is the fact that it obviates the necessity of employing high-priced, experienced operatives, and enables the measures to be taken and the lasts subsequently to be fitted by any person of ordinary intelligence.

Another advantage is that the person ordering boots may walk about with the mould upon the foot until it is exactly suited to his taste, the boot subsequently made being an exact counterpart of this.

The invention elevates the making of clothing to a higher standard than as a mere means of clothing the human body, and renders this occupation a nearer approach to art than has yet been attempted, while at the same time it should and will have the effect of reducing the cost of such clothing.

I claim, as an improvement in the mode of manufacturing or fitting clothing or other covering for the foot and other portions of the human figure, the employment of an inelastic but flexible mould, made perfect in form, constructed with yielding openings or apertures, and provided with a device for indicating the shape or form of such openings, substantially as herein shown and described.

I also claim, as a means of indicating and noting the size and shape of the apertures in the mould, the pointers, or their equivalents, essentially as herein shown and described.

I also claim the construction of the sole of the mould for the foot, as divided in its centre, and provided with a suitable means of confining it in position, substantially as before set forth and explained.

RANDALL BISBEE.

Witnesses:

FRED. CURTIS,

C. W. BALWIN.