No. 112,439. PATENTED MAR. 7, 1871.

S. W. FRANCIS.
SHOE.

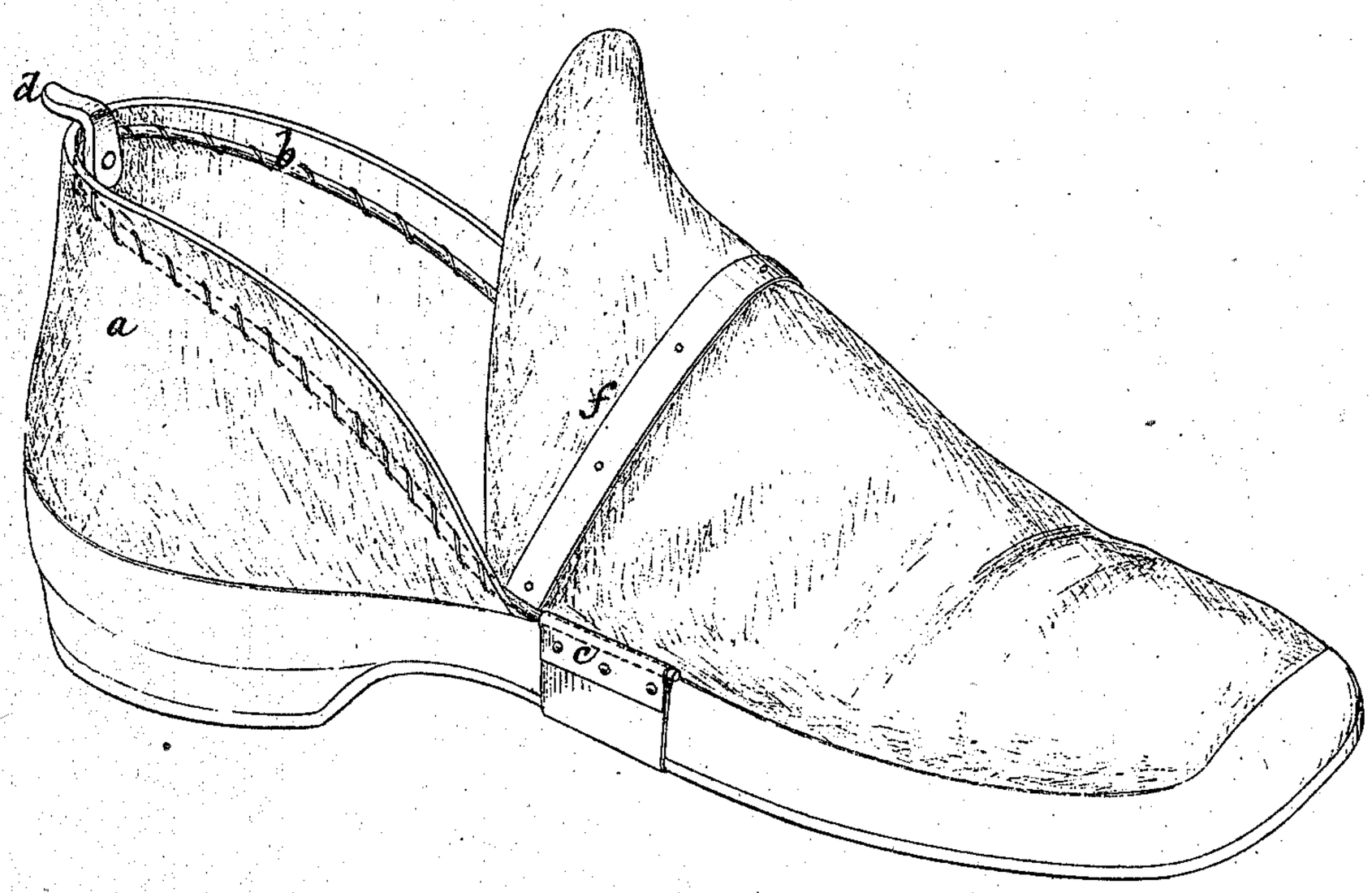
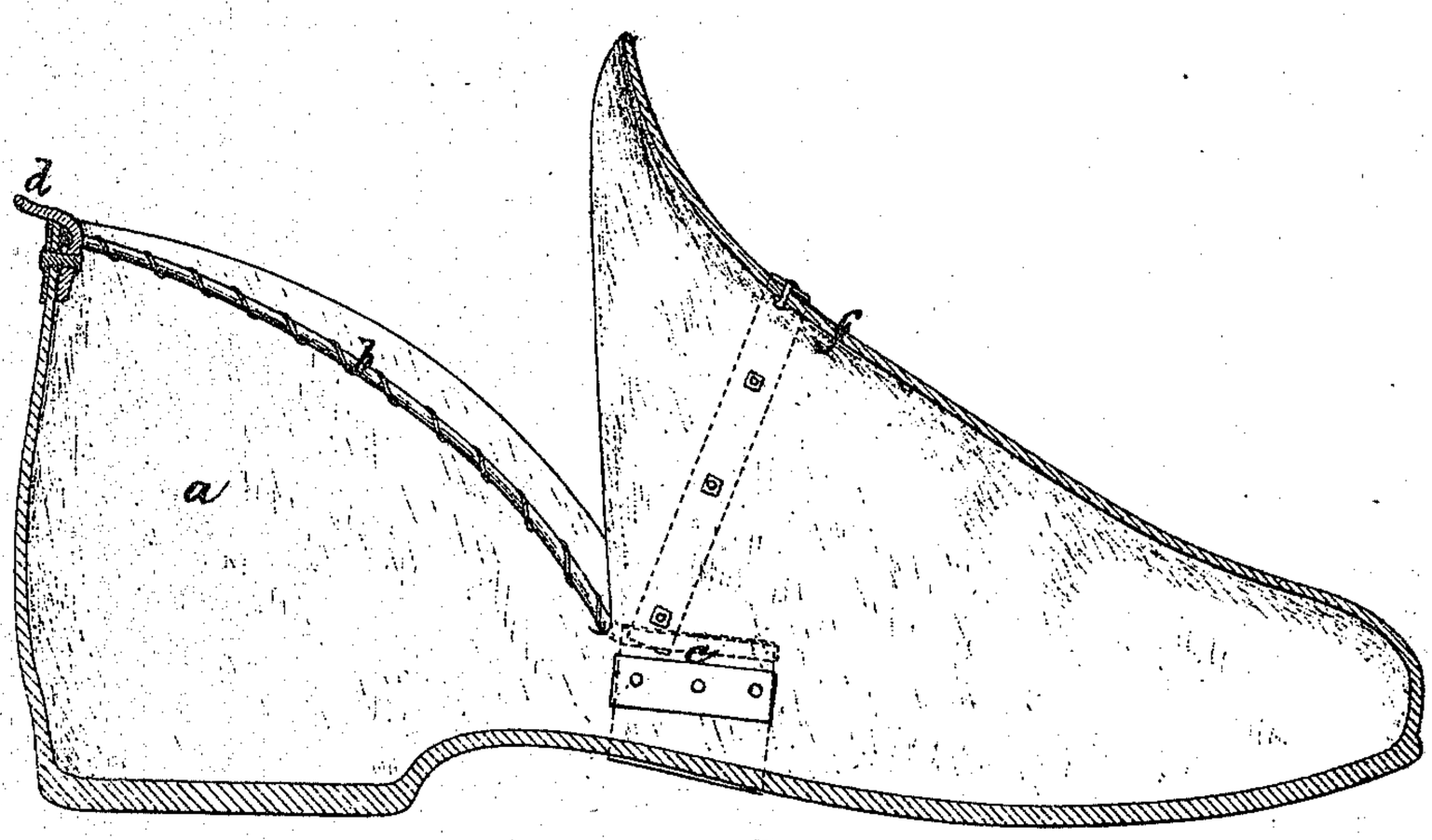


FIG. 2.



Saml W. Francis
by atty R. Sollor

WITNESSES, C. B. Nottingham
W. Bailey

United States Patent Office.

SAMUEL W. FRANCIS, OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND WILLIAM HARRISON NEWTON, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 112,439, dated March 7, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOES.

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

To whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL W. FRANCIS, of Newport, in the county of Newport and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates principally to overshoes for the feet, and its object is to produce a shoe of this description, which, while fitting the foot snugly, may be readily pulled off or drawn on without the use of the hands or boot-jack, and without the necessity of sitting down or stooping.

The invention is applicable to overshoes of rubber, cloth, or other like material, and to any similar coverings for the feet.

It consists in the employment, in the manner substantially as hereinafter described, of a metallic or other suitable spring, extending partly around the opening in the shoe through which the foot enters, and attached to the body of the shoe under such an arrangement that, while permitting the material of which the shoe is composed to yield to the pressure of the foot and allow the foot to enter the shoe, it will, when the shoe is once on, cause the yielding material to spring back into place to properly cover and clasp or fit the foot.

The manner in which my invention is or may be carried into effect will be understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an overshoe made in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same.

In carrying out my invention I prefer to apply the spring device above referred to to the heel or rear portion of the shoe, as in this position it is located most conveniently for use.

Around and near the upper edge of the heel portion *a* of the shoe I secure a metallic spring, *b*, the ends of which are secured in suitable sockets or clasps *c*, located at about the instep.

This spring is preferably arranged within the shoe, and so as to be covered by the lining; or, if the shoe be made of vulcanized rubber, the spring may be incorporated in the material of which the heel *a* is formed.

The arrangement of the spring is such that it will allow the rubber, cloth, or other material of which the rear part of the shoe is composed to collapse and yield or fold together when the foot is inserted in the opening and pressed down upon this portion of the shoe, thereby enlarging the opening sufficiently to permit the foot to pass entirely into the shoe.

When this takes place, the foot, of course, releases the heel *a* and spring *b*, and the latter, now that the pressure has ceased, immediately recoils or springs back into place, consequently drawing up the collapsible part *a*, which is thus caused to cover and fit around the foot. By this means, that is to say, by the mere pressure of the foot and without the use of the hands, the shoe can be put on with ease.

To facilitate the taking off of the shoe I provide a metallic or other stud or projection, *d*, of suitable construction, riveted or otherwise fastened to the rear part of the shoe and projecting therefrom, by pressing upon which with the toe of the other foot the heel *a* can be pushed down and the foot drawn out from the shoe.

I am aware that studs or projections have been formed on or attached to the rear portion of shoes for the purpose of facilitating the pulling off of the shoe from the foot, and I do not therefore, claim this feature, save in connection with the collapsible heel or other portion of the shoe with which the spring *a* is combined.

I have described one arrangement by which my invention may be carried into effect, but it is manifest that the form and location of the spring may be varied, and that its ends may be fastened not only by the clasps *c*, but in any other suitable manner. It may be a round or a flat spring, and of such dimensions as may be deemed advisable.

The spring, instead of being applied to the heel *a*, can be applied to the front of the shoe *f*, or at any suitable point around the opening in the shoe.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An overshoe or other covering for the foot, made of rubber, cloth, or other suitable material, combined with a spring united with the same, and arranged around or partly around the opening in the shoe, to operate substantially in the manner shown and set forth.

2. An overshoe or other covering for the foot, having a yielding or collapsible heel or rear portion, combined with a spring extending wholly or partly around and united with the upper part of the same, substantially as and for the purposes shown and described.

3. In combination with the collapsible heel and its recoil spring, arranged together as described, the stud or projection for facilitating the operation of drawing off the shoe, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

SAML. W. FRANCIS.

Witnesses:

EDWARD M. NEWBOULD,

THOS. W. WOOD.