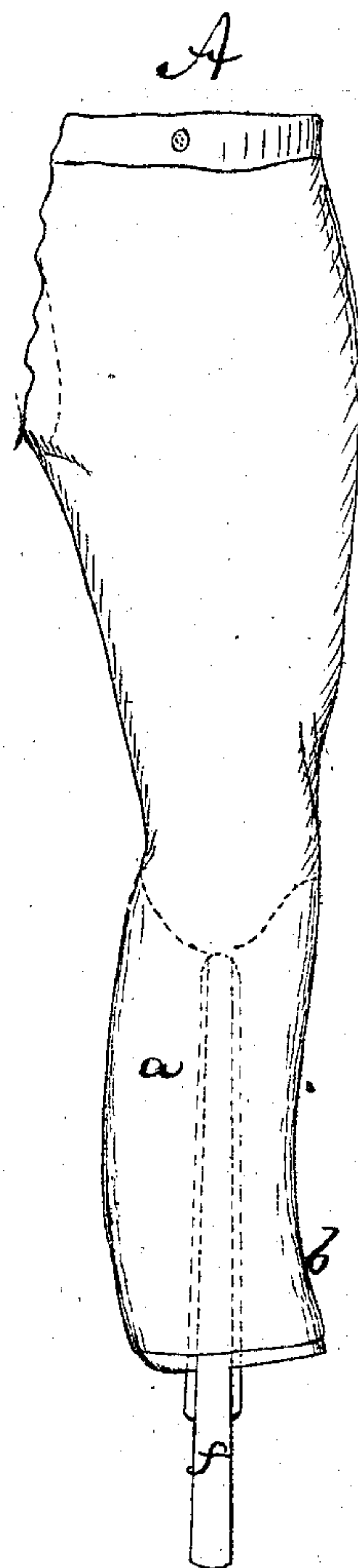
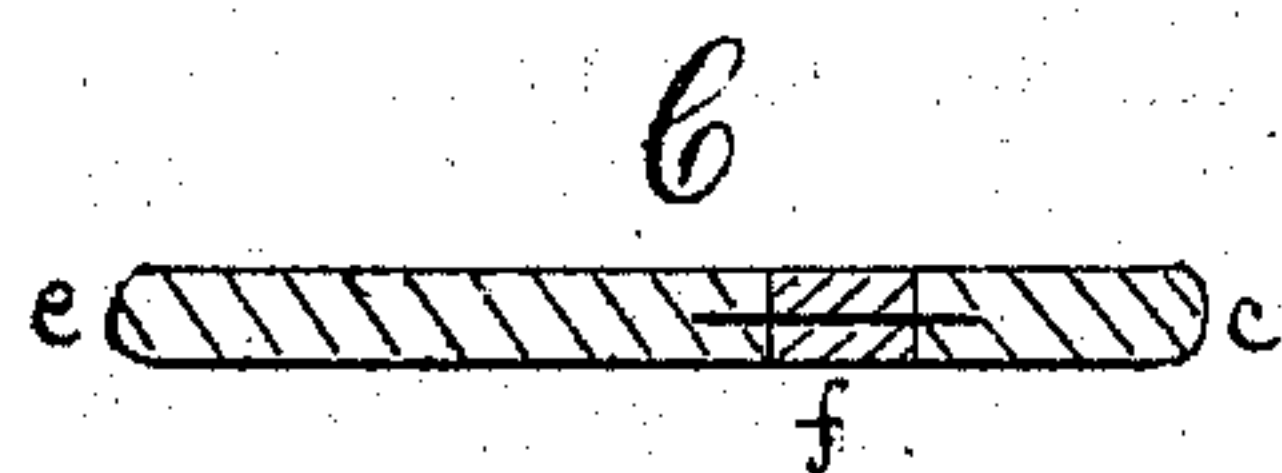
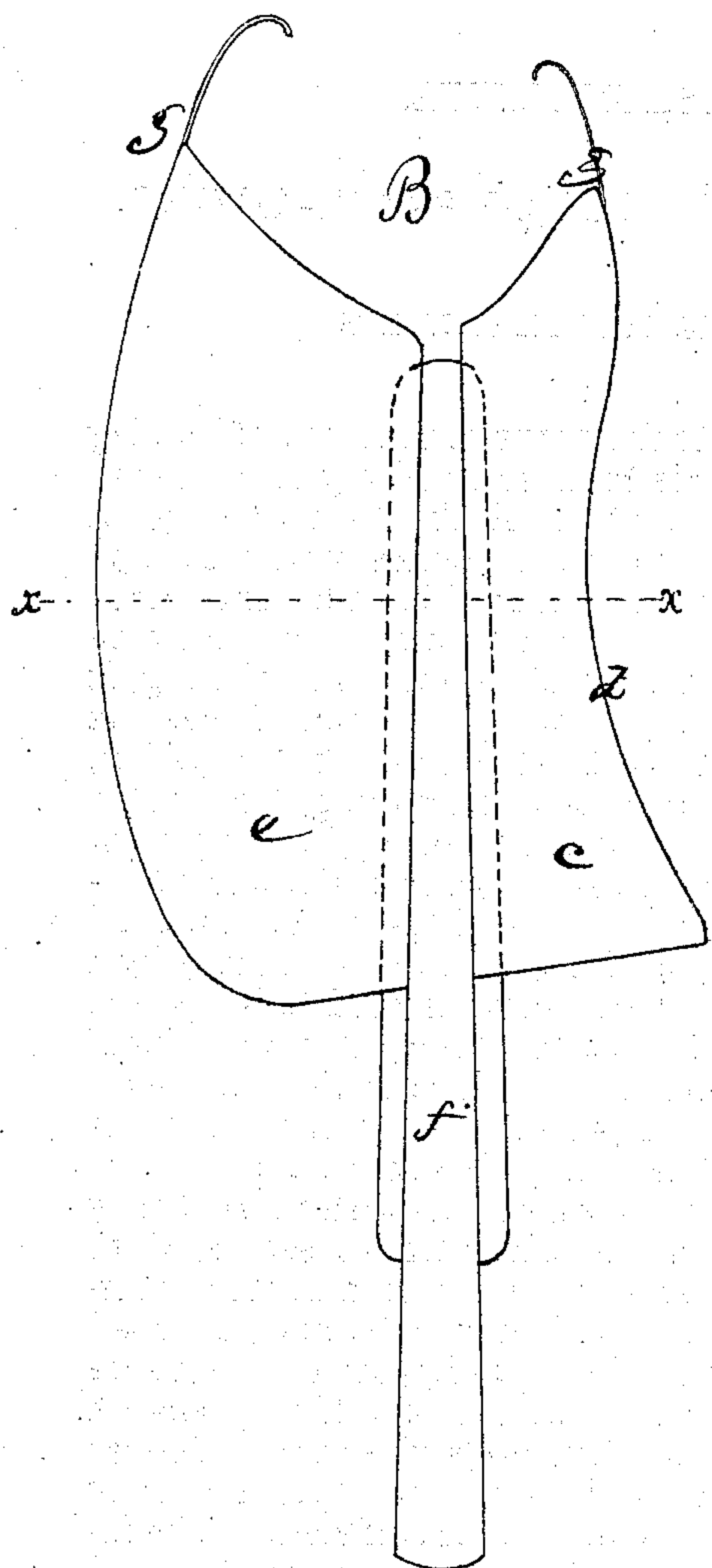


E. F. SMITH.
Stretching Board for Legs of Pantaloon.
 No. 124,916. Patented March 26, 1872.



Witnesses.
 M. W. Frothingham.
 J. B. Kildes.

Elliot F. Smith.
 By his Atty.
 Crosby & Gould.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELLIOT F. SMITH, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN STRETCHING-BOARDS FOR LEGS OF PANTALOONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 124,916, dated March 26, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELLIOT F. SMITH, of Salem, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Stretching-Board for Legs of Pantaloon; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawing which accompanies and forms part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

In the manufacture of pantaloons or trousers it is now customary to shrink and stretch the cloth at the front part of the bottom of each leg to form what are known as spring-bottom legs. When the legs of such pantaloons become wet, and the garment is laid by or hung up to dry, they are drawn awry or are wrinkled.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a remedy for this difficulty, and a remedy which may be easily applied and without the necessity of employing a tailor to press the legs. The invention is applicable, however, to the keeping in shape of any pantaloons-legs, or to bringing them to shape whenever desirable.

In my invention I employ two former or stretcher blocks inserted in each leg, the outer edge of one block being placed against the center of the back of the leg and the outer edge of the other block against the center of the front, (such edges being made of proper form for this purpose,) and between the inner and adjacent edges of these blocks I drive a wedge or key, which serves to spread the blocks and to stretch and distend the leg upon the blocks, the garment being then hung up and allowed to remain a greater or less time, sufficient for the cloth to become dry or again formed with a permanent set, the weight upon the legs at the same time drawing down and stretching into form the whole length of leg. It is in such formers or stretchers, and their employment to impart or restore the forms to the legs of pantaloons, that my invention consists.

The drawing represents, at A, one of the legs of a pair of pantaloons provided with such stretcher or former blocks, and a pair of the blocks seen in elevation at B, and in cross-section at C, the section being taken in the plane of the line *x x*.

a denotes the pantaloons-leg; *b*, the spring-front at the bottom of the leg. *c* denotes the front former-block, having a front edge, *d*, curved to

correspond to the curve at the front of the leg when the leg is collapsed midway of the seam. *e* denotes the other block, the rear edge of which is shaped in accordance with the shape of the leg at the back. The adjacent edges of the two blocks are straight, and between them, when they are inserted into the leg, is driven the key or wedge *f*, which forces the blocks apart and stretches upon them the leg, distending the cloth and bringing it to proper shape. The pantaloons being hung up with the stretchers in the legs and allowed to remain a suitable time, the legs will be reshaped at bottom as perfectly as though pressed by a tailor. The blocks may be used to bring the legs to shape only after being wet and wrinkled, or may be constantly used, when the pantaloons are hung up, to preserve the proper shape of the legs. They may also be used as boards upon which to press the legs with an iron, they being made flat on the sides, as seen at C, to receive properly the action of a heated pressing or sad iron; and they may, also, be used in making pantaloons, to impart the requisite form to the legs. Blocks of different shapes may be used for different styles of pantaloons; but for various sizes of one style a pair of blocks of one shape will be sufficient. The inner edges of the blocks may be grooved and the wedge made with tongues or tenons to enter said grooves, and the wedge may be made of such length as to enable the same blocks to be used for legs of various sizes. At the upper end of each block a spring, *g*, may be attached to prevent the formation of sharp bends at the points where the blocks begin to act upon the cloth.

I claim—

1. The stretchers or former-blocks for distending and reshaping the legs of pantaloons, when made with flat sides and with edges having rounded angles or corners, and outlines suited to give the desired shape to the bottoms of said legs, when provided with a wedge suited to the thickness of the blocks, and adapted for insertion between their parts so as to expand them, substantially as shown and described.

2. Also, the springs *g* attached to the blocks, substantially as shown and described.

E. F. SMITH.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS GOULD,
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