

A. COLBURN.

Manufacture of Boots and Shoes.

No. 153,666.

Patented Aug. 4, 1874.

Fig. 1.

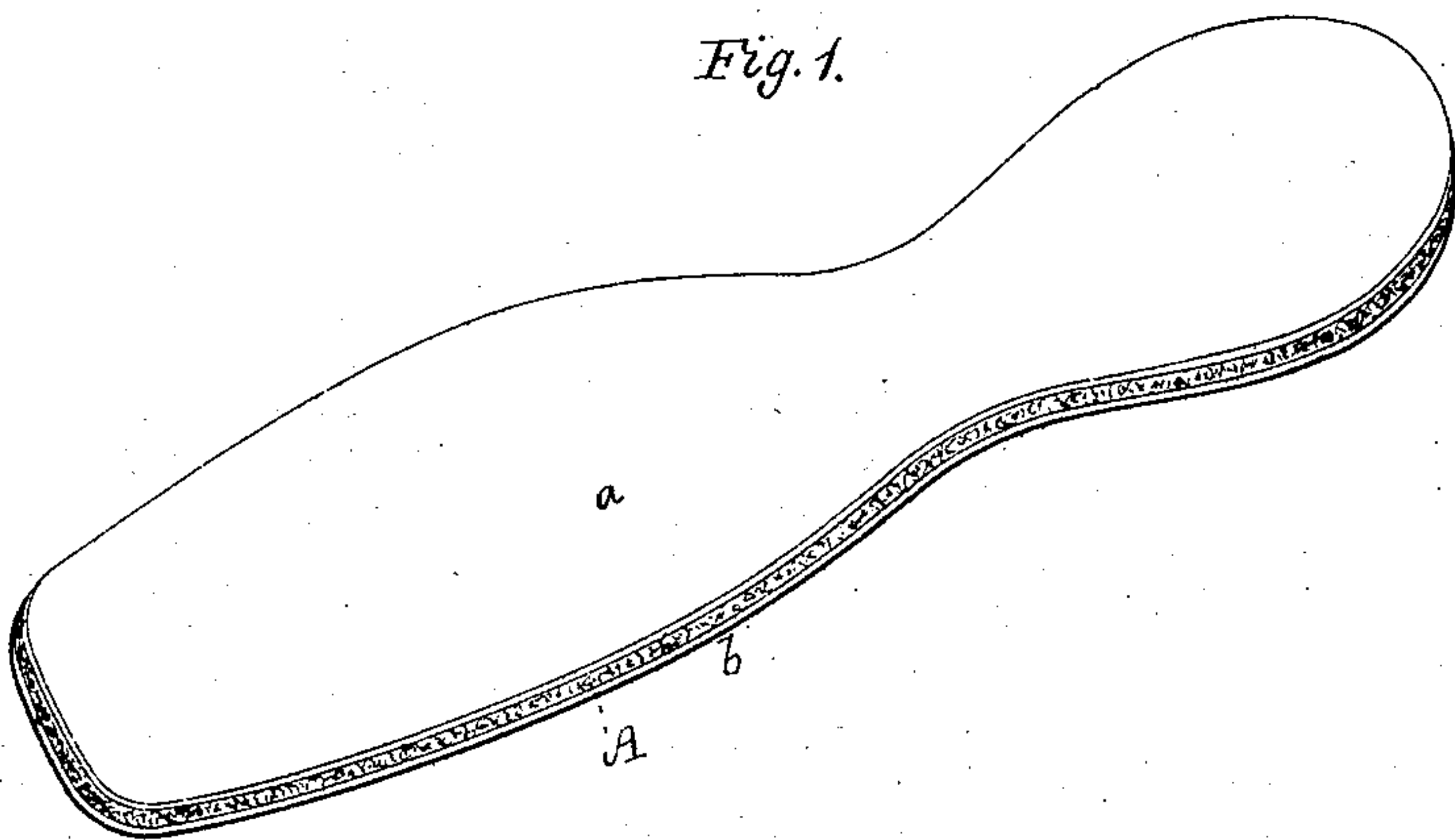


Fig. 2.

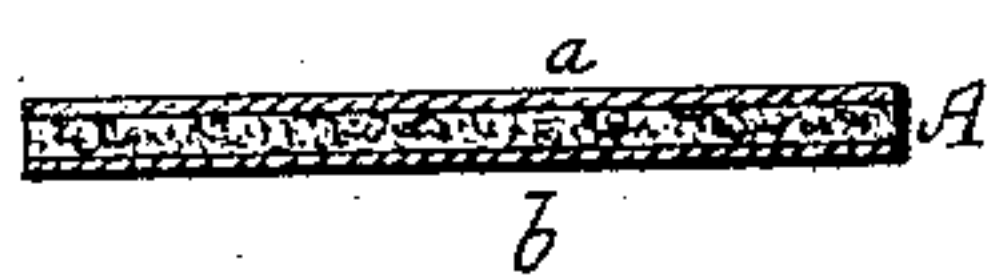
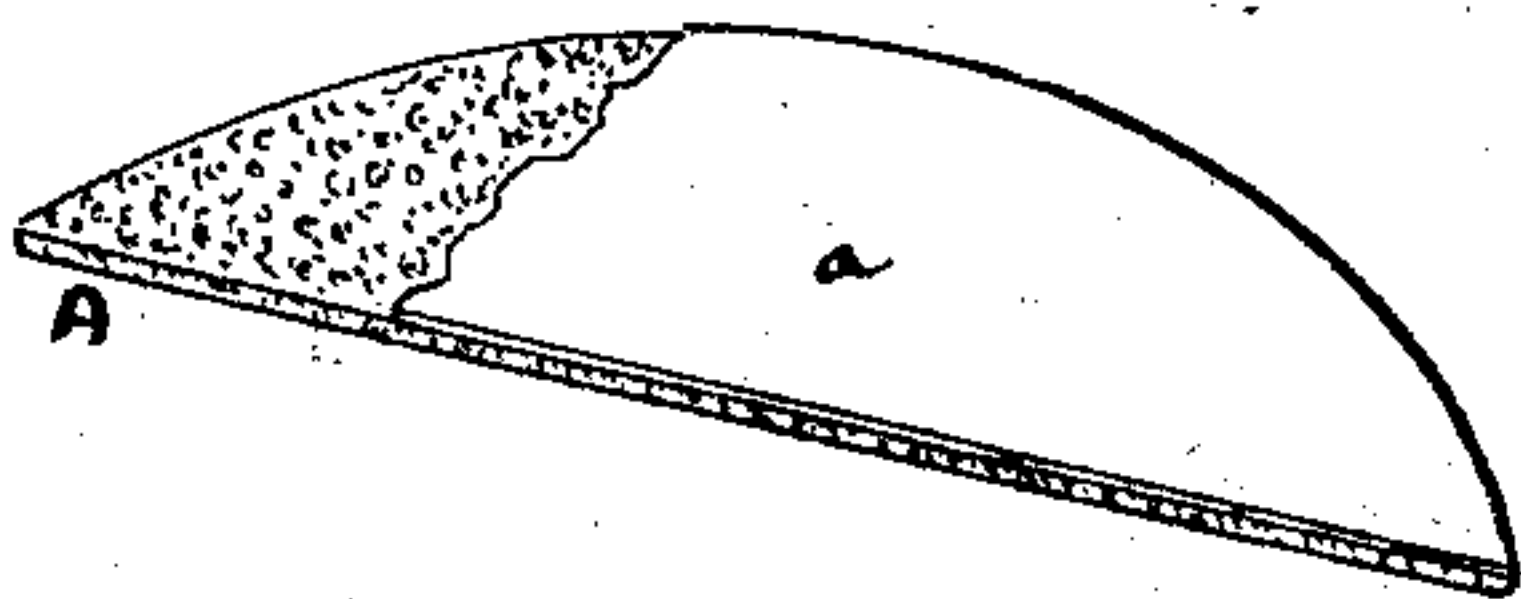


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES.

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ALVIN COLBURN, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN MANUFACTURE OF BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **153,666**, dated August 4, 1874; application filed May 9, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALVIN COLBURN, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in the Manufacture of Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a specification:

The purpose of this invention is to provide a material adapted to be used for making an insole, counter, or other analogous part of a boot or shoe, which shall possess the characteristics of lightness, dryness, warmth, and of being impervious to moisture, and which, at the same time, may be produced at small cost; and the invention consists in producing such articles from a material composed of sponge, cut or ground to a fine state, and either alone or with other substances, compressed into a sheet which converts it into a tenacious and semi-hard and elastic body, the material thus produced being rendered impervious to moisture by impregnating it with any well-known water-proof substance, and being covered upon one or both sides by a layer of cloth, wood-veneer, or other fibrous or textile material, which shall protect the sponge-body against danger of cracking or fraying at the edges and retain it intact in its original state, while being handled or transported, or worn in a boot.

The drawings accompanying this specification represent, in Figure 1, a perspective view, and in Fig. 2, a section of an insole, embodying my invention.

In these drawings, A represents the body of the sole as cut from a sheet of material, composed of sponge finely cut or ground, and impregnated with oil, paraffine, or other proper repellent, which shall render it impervious to moisture without impairing its elastic properties. Upon one or both sides of this sole I affix a layer of cloth, *a* or *b*, or other

suitable material, for purposes hereinbefore stated.

Fig. 3, of the drawings, represents a counter, made in accordance with my invention, A being the compressed and water-proof sponge-body, and *a* the layer of affixed cloth.

It may be found, in practice, desirable to incorporate with the sponge some other substance than that herein named, and I do not desire to confine myself to the use of sponge entirely, whereof to produce the requisite body, nor do I confine myself to cloth as a protection or means of strengthening this body, as both these features may be varied to a considerable extent without departing from the main feature of my invention, which I consider to be the material herein described, consisting of a body composed, wholly or in the main, of finely-divided sponge, rendered impervious to moisture and compressed into a firm body, and backed or strengthened by a layer or layers of cloth, wood, or other material, substantially as and for purposes stated.

An insole, counter, or other portion of a boot or shoe, composed of the above production, is elastic, light, warm, water-proof, and durable, and possesses many great advantages over other materials heretofore used for the purpose, in addition to which it may be manufactured at small cost.

I claim—

The material herein described, for use in the manufacture of boots and shoes, consisting of a body composed, wholly or in the main, of finely-divided, compressed, and water-proofed sponge, backed or re-enforced, on one or both sides, by a layer or layers of cloth, wood, or other material, as and for the purposes set forth.

Witnesses:

ALVIN COLBURN.

F. CURTIS,

W. E. BOARDMAN.