

(No Model.)

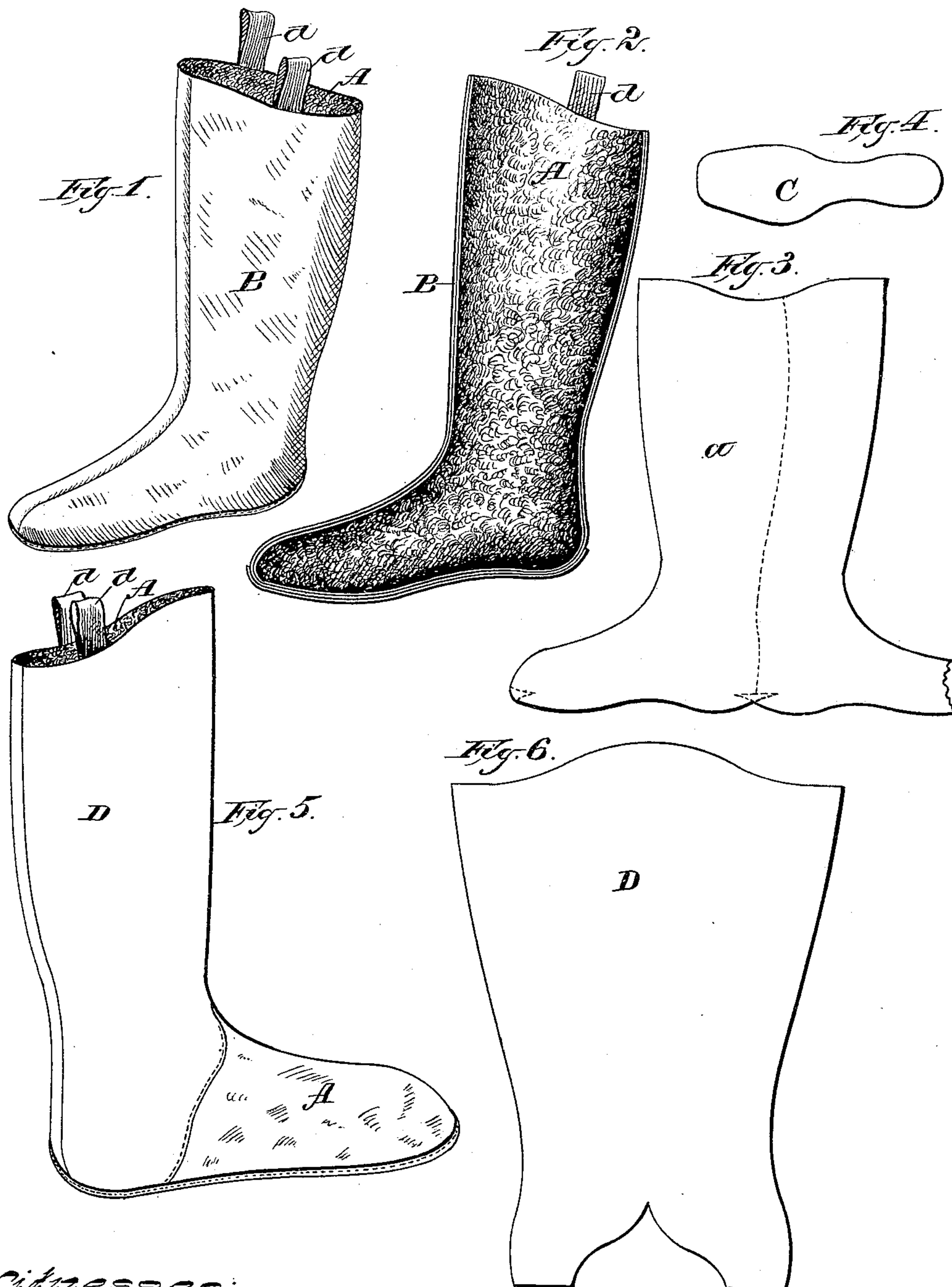
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. LANGEN.

FOOT GEAR.

No. 377,203.

Patented Jan. 31, 1888.



Witnesses:
E. J. Somers
N. E. Oliphant

Inventor:
Mathias Langen.
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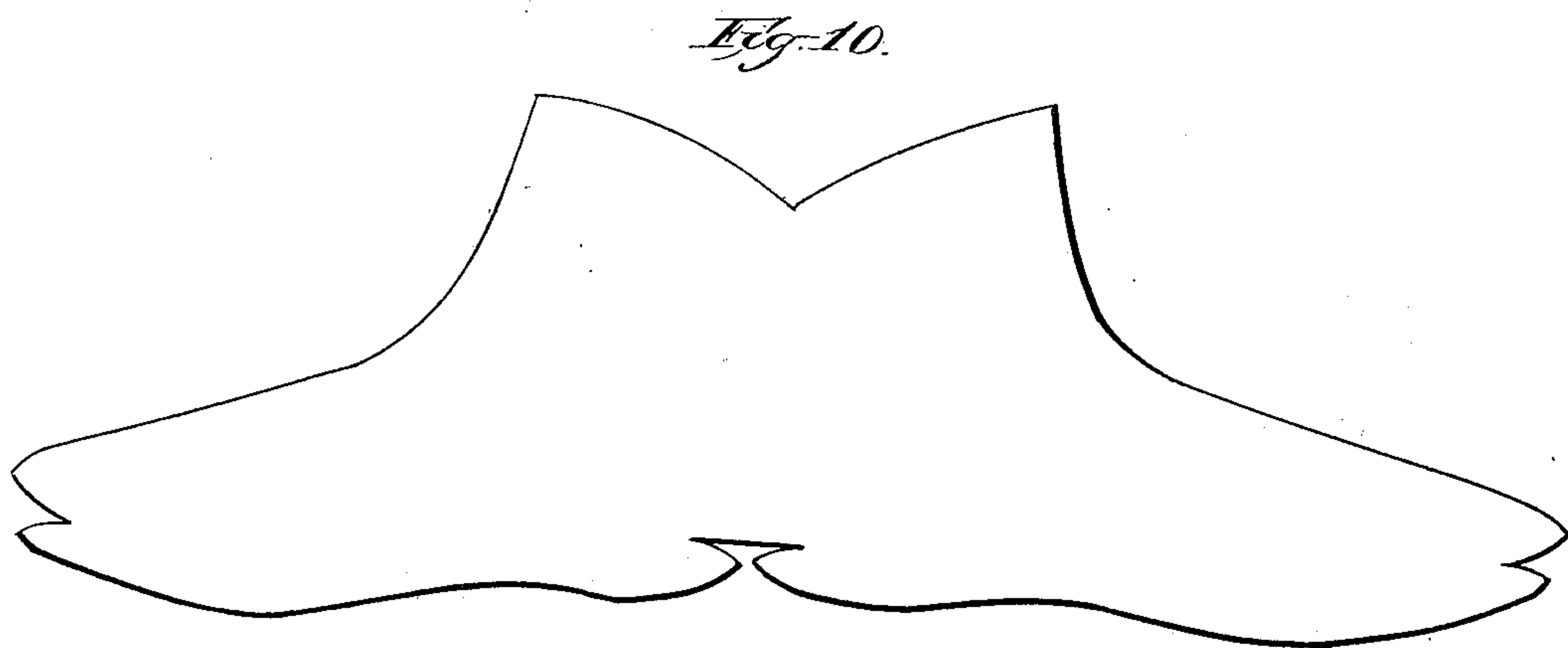
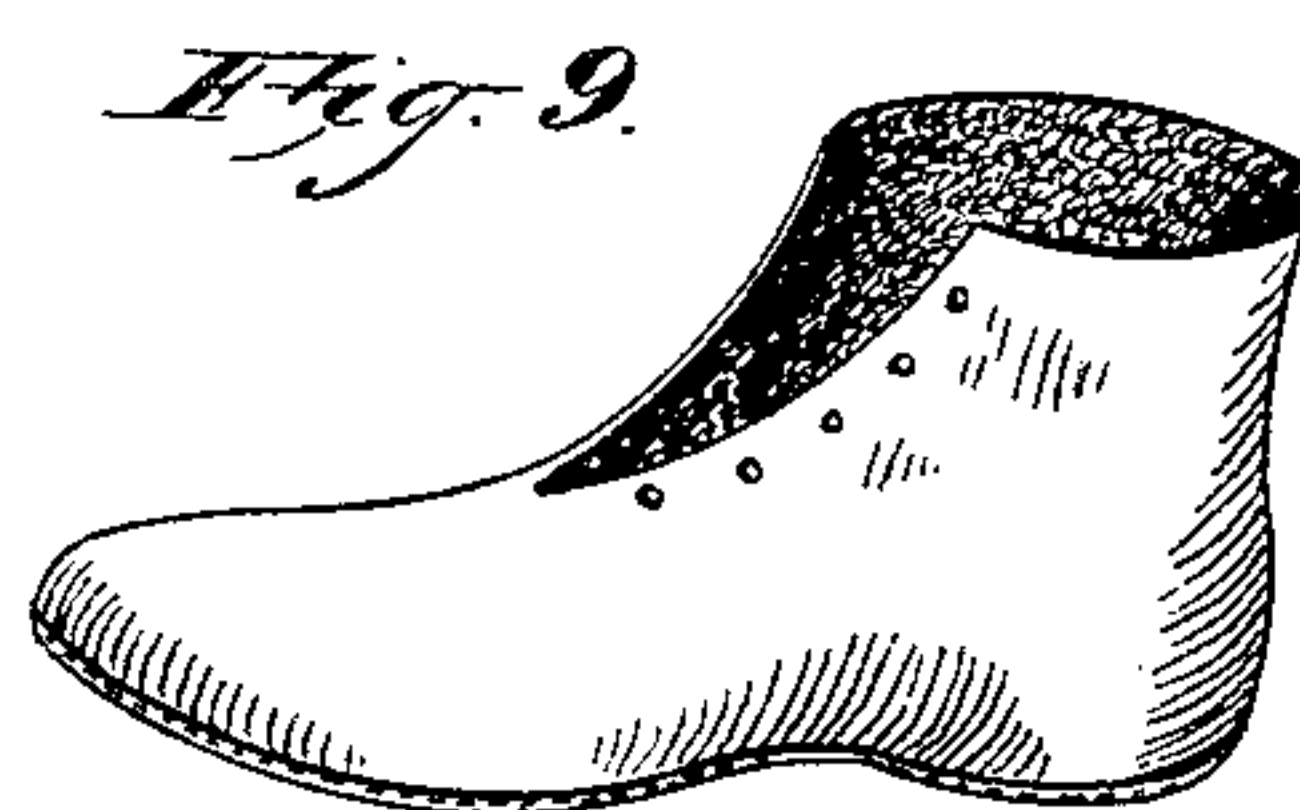
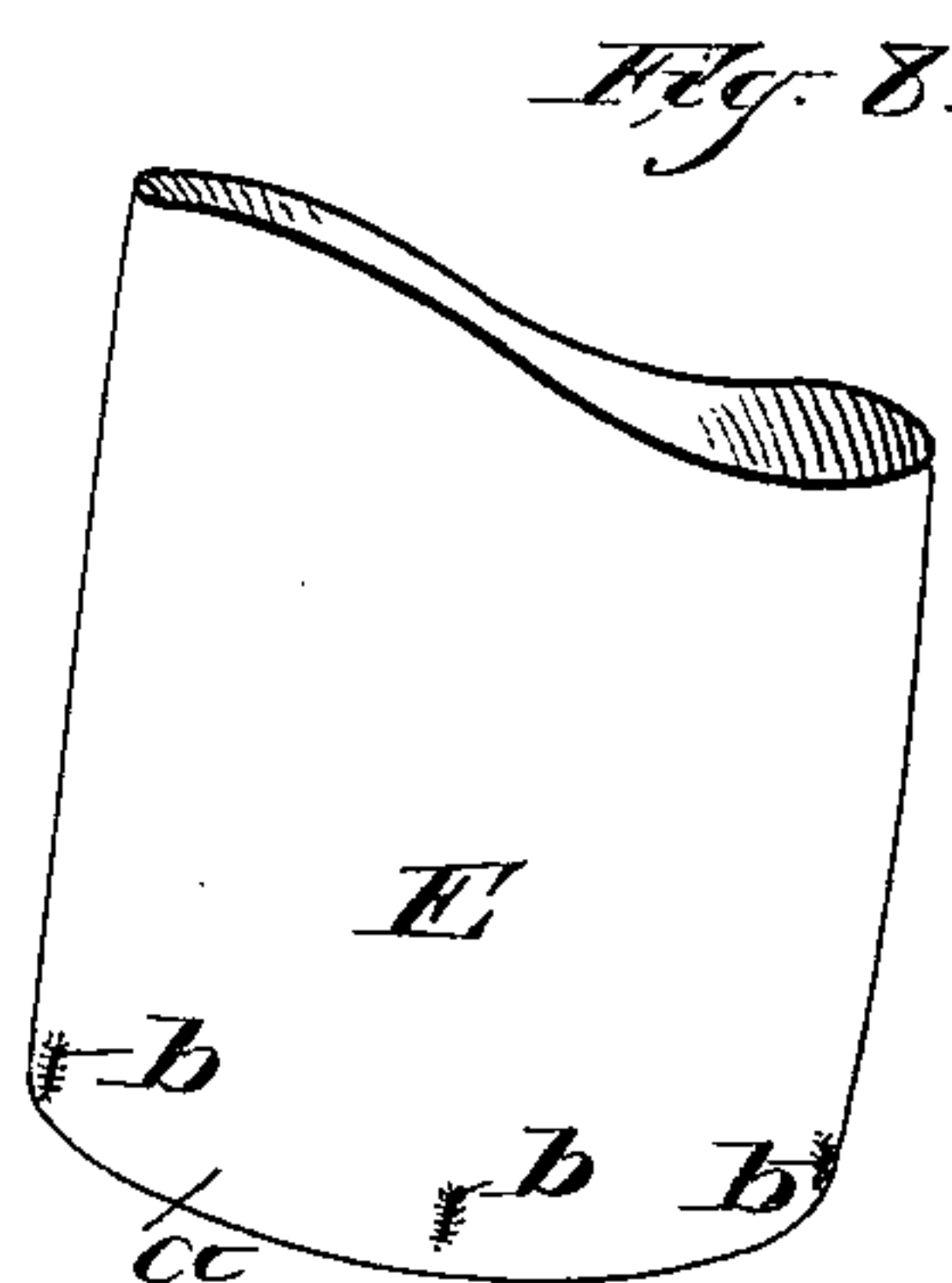
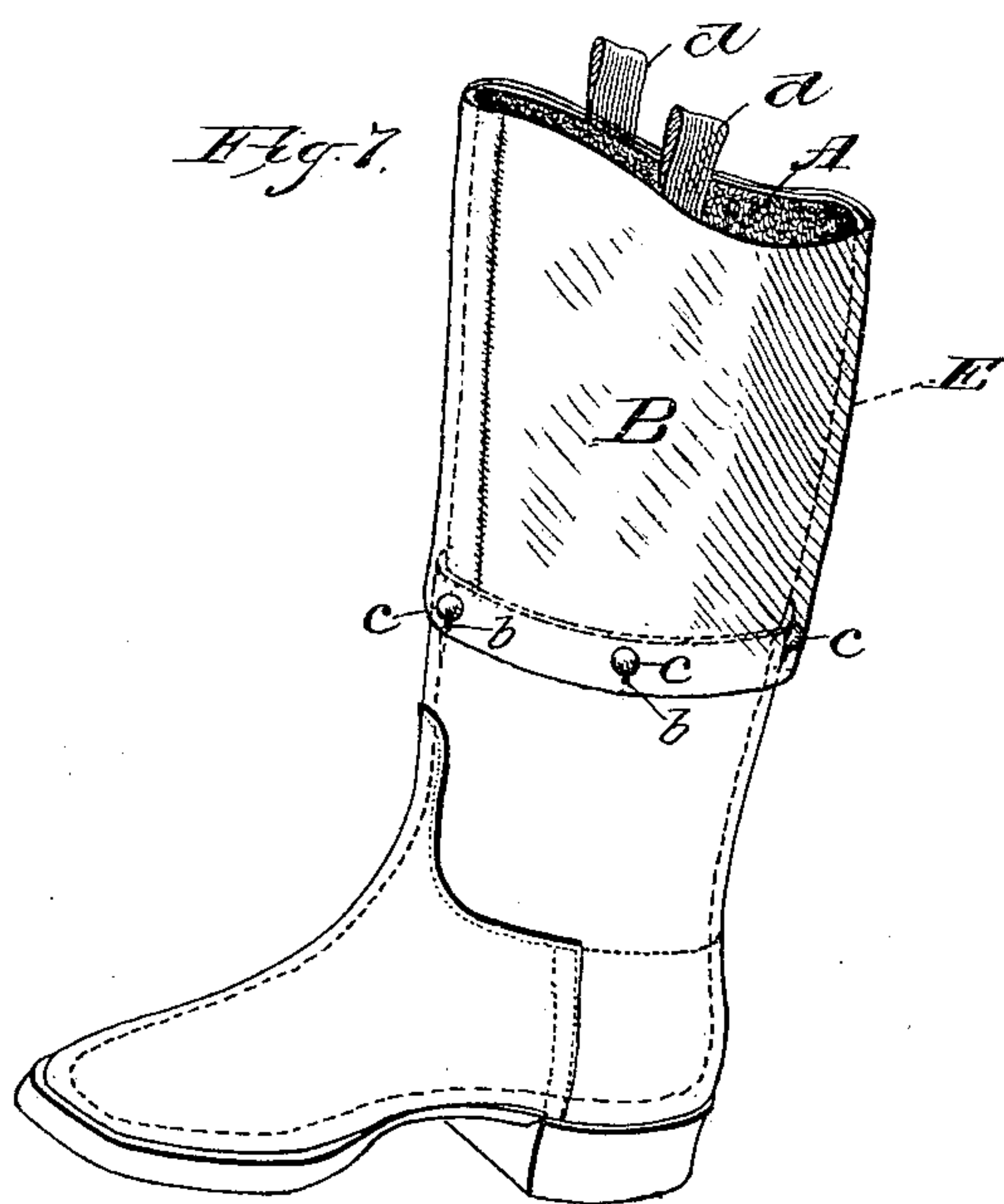
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FOOT GEAR.

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N. E. Oliphant.

Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATHIAS LANGEN, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

FOOT-GEAR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 377,203, dated January 31, 1888.

Application filed January 29, 1886. Serial No. 190,153. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATHIAS LANGEN, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee, and in the State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foot-Gear; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to foot-gear designed to be worn in connection with an overshoe or boot.

Heretofore it has been common to make pacs or foot and leg coverings from sheep-skins or other pelts with the wool or hair side out, and such pacs have been made entirely from felt. I am also aware that shoes have been made with a pelt lining having the hair or wool side exposed upon the interior of said shoe; but in the employment of such articles of foot-gear it has been found almost or entirely impossible to thoroughly dry the same when wet, and especially is this the fact in shoes constructed as above described.

My invention therefore has for its objects to improve the manufacture of foot-gear and provide a simple, neat, and easily-manufactured article of this description that will not only give comfort to the wearer, but which at the same time can be quickly and thoroughly dried when moist or wet. These objects I attain by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings and hereinafter described.

Figure 1 represents one form of my foot-gear in perspective; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same; Fig. 3, a view of the blank for the foot and leg of a boot-pattern of my device; Fig. 4, a view of the sole. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of my foot-gear having the upper portion thereof in imitation of a boot; Fig. 6, a view of the blank for the leather re-enforce or boot-leg used in the construction shown in Fig. 5; Fig. 7, a perspective view of another form of my invention, showing a short boot in connection therewith; Fig. 8, a perspective view of the upper section or boot-top detached; Fig. 9, a view of a shoe made in conformity to my invention; Fig. 10, a view of the blank for the form of my invention shown by the preceding figure.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the

inner part of my foot-gear, composed of a sheep-skin or other pelt cut according to a suitable pattern and shaped with the wool or hair side in. When this portion A of my foot-gear is made from a blank similar to that shown in Fig. 3, it is crimped into the desired shape and then notched at the heel and toe, as shown by dotted lines, said figure, and by full lines, Fig. 10, to give the contour of a foot when sewed up and permit the attachment of a suitable sole.

By the peculiar notching of the blank, as above described, I am enabled to form the entire base or pelt portion of my device into the shape of a boot or shoe and bring the wool or hair upon the inside throughout the same.

By the employment of a blank, as above described, but one seam is necessary in uniting the edges thereof in the form desired, said seam extending from the top down the front and back to the heel; but in order to dispense with crimping I may cut the device in the form of two blanks of suitable shape (similar to that marked *a*, Fig. 3) and unite the same by suitably stitching their edges, thus forming a continuous seam extending from the top down the front, under the foot, and back up the rear to the top again.

B represents a re-enforce of felt, which is cut from a similar blank and shaped in the same manner as the pelt base A and stitched thereto, and upon the bottom of the foot-gear thus formed I secure by stitching a light flexible sole, C, of sheep-skin or other suitable material, designed principally to protect the stitching on the foot portion of my device.

In the form of my foot-gear shown by Fig. 5 I re-enforce the leg and heel portion only of my device with leather, leaving the foot part entirely composed of the pelt base. This construction gives the appearance of a boot to the device when an ordinary overshoe is worn upon the foot, and at the same time permits the wearer to have the protection usually given by a boot-leg, while by leaving the foot portion of my device without any re-enforce whatever the same can be easily dried out when moist or wet. The leather re-enforce D, for the form of foot-gear above described, is shown in detail, Fig. 6, and, if desired, this re-enforce may be of felt.

In Fig. 7 I show my foot-gear in connection with a short boot, and in this instance I prefer to re-enforce the pelt with leather or felt, E, down to where the top of the boot would come when on the foot, said re-enforce being so stitched to the pelt base A as to leave a flap, *a*, and this flap I provide with button-holes *b*, designed to engage buttons or hooks *c* on the boot-top, so as to unite the parts and prevent the entrance of snow or mud.

It is obvious that the re-enforce E may be independent of the pelt; but to give a better appearance to the foot-gear when on the market it is preferable to unite the two as above described.

It is also obvious that simply the pelt base can be made as above described and worn with an ordinary boot; but as a short boot can be made at a less cost than the ordinary shoe and the pelt re-enforced at the top by what would be otherwise waste leather, the form described is preferred; and to further cheapen the article and at the same time add to its appearance and sale, the re-enforce may be of felt instead of leather, so as to be worn with the short boot and answer the purpose of a boot leg or top. In this instance, the pelt base being inserted by hand into the short boot and the latter united to the re-enforce, the whole can be drawn on the foot after the manner of an ordinary boot.

In Fig. 9 I show a shoe having a pelt base and felt re-enforce, said parts being cut in the form shown by Fig. 10 and stitched together, the peculiar notching of the blank permitting the formation of the shoe by a single seam extending from the top down the front, then under and back to the heel, after which a light sole is secured thereto to protect the stitching on the bottom. The top stitching on the foot portion of the pelt base in both the boot and shoe form of my device is usually covered by a thin strip pasted to said foot portion of the device, thus giving the appearance of an unsewed article, and I provide the boot forms of my device with straps or pulls *d*.

The shoe form of my foot-gear is designed to be worn with an overshoe or within doors without any additional foot-covering, and is provided with the usual front opening and perforations for a lace. When the pelt base is re-enforced entirely with felt and becomes wet upon the inside, to readily dry the same it is only necessary to turn it inside out, to bring the wet portion near a fire, and when using leather I leave the toe portion of the pelt base unre-enforced, so that when drying the heat may strike through the inside.

I am aware that a wool-skin sock having the wool side out and united at its top to the corresponding part of a felt lining designed to

be thus removable for the purpose of drying without being detached from said wool-skin sock has been employed, and I lay no claim to such construction, it being one of the desirable features of my invention to have the wool or hair side of the pelt next the foot of the wearer as a matter of comfort and convenience, at the same time lessening the wear upon such side, and thereby rendering the article more durable than is the case when the wool is outermost.

By the construction above described I provide a simple easily-manufactured foot-gear that not only serves to keep the feet warm when worn, but which can be easily dried as an ordinary stocking, and the parts being united throughout their corresponding lengths there is less liability of the inner part becoming torn by carelessness of the wearer.

Though I have described the part that forms the re-enforce as preferably composed of felt or leather, it may be found desirable to make the same from cloth, rubber, or other suitable non-felt material; and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to any one of these, each being equally applicable as a re-enforce and serving to increase the comfort of the wearer, while individually differing in some respects, and each possessing some advantage over the others in certain instances.

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

1. In an article of foot-gear, a pelt base having the wool or hair side thereof turned in and adapted to cover the foot and a portion of the ankle or leg, a re-enforce or outer covering of non-pelt material such as described secured or united throughout its length, or from top to bottom, by the seam that binds their edges together to said base, and a flexible sole, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In an article of foot-gear, a pelt base having the wool or hair side thereof turned in and adapted to cover the foot and a portion of the ankle or leg, a re-enforce or outer covering of non-pelt material such as described secured throughout its length or from top to bottom to said base, in combination with a short boot, the former provided with button-holes and the latter with buttons, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand, at Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, in the presence of two witnesses.

MATHIAS LANGEN.

Witnesses:

H. G. UNDERWOOD,
MAURICE F. FREAR.