

(No Model.)

S. HENSHALL.
ART OR METHOD OF KNITTING STOCKINGS.
No. 388,678.
Patented Aug. 28, 1888.

FIG. 1.

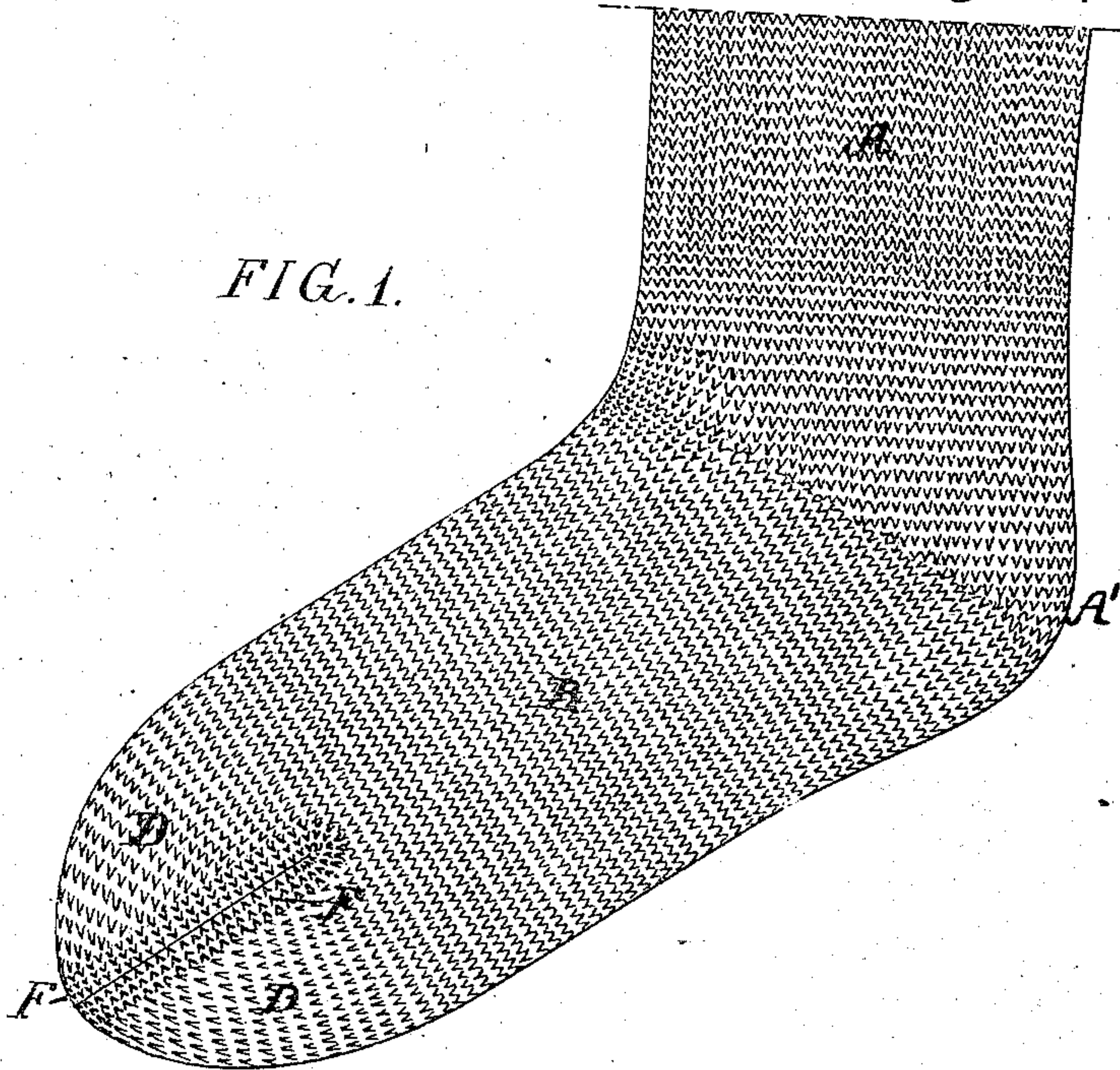


FIG. 2.

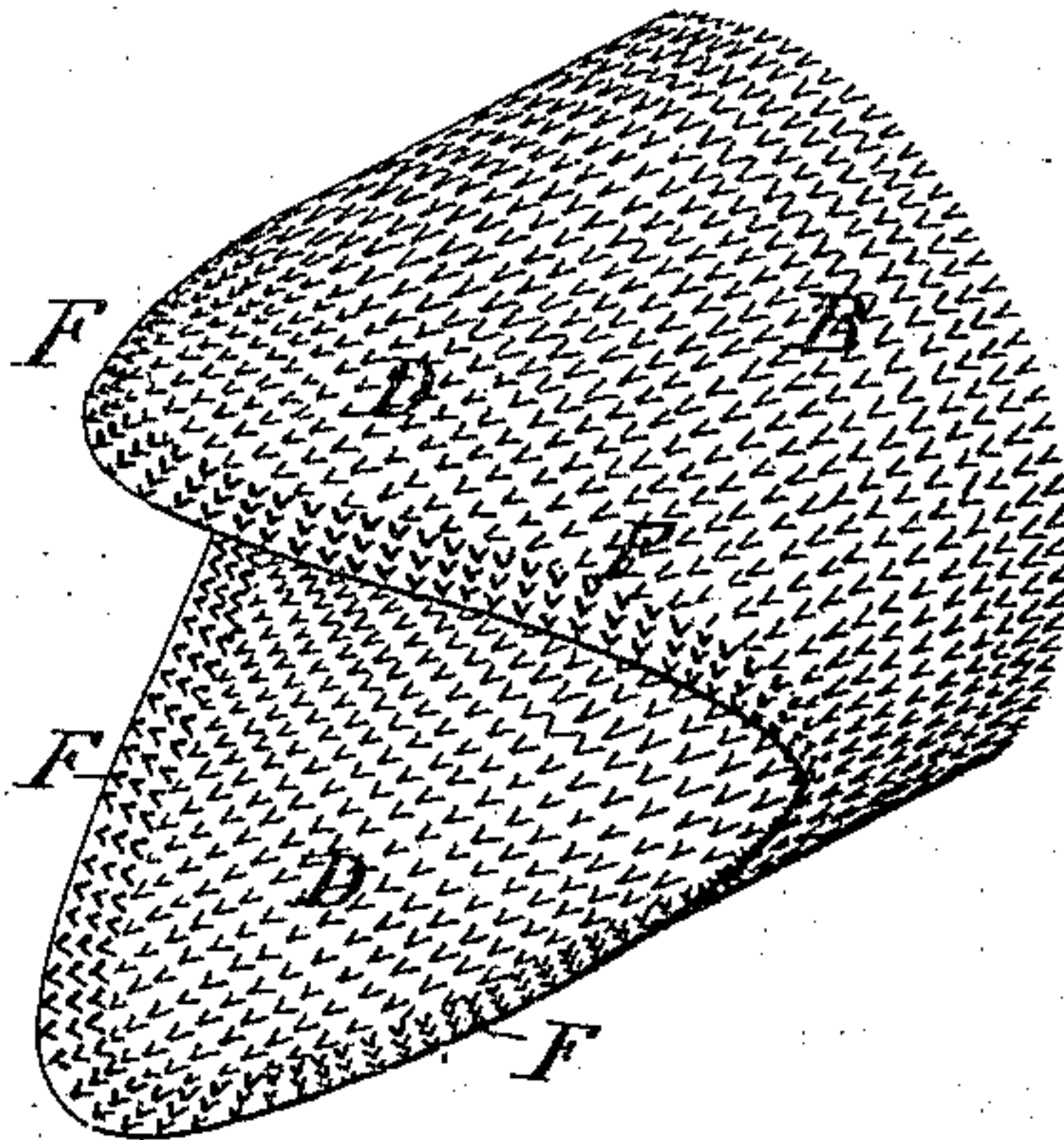
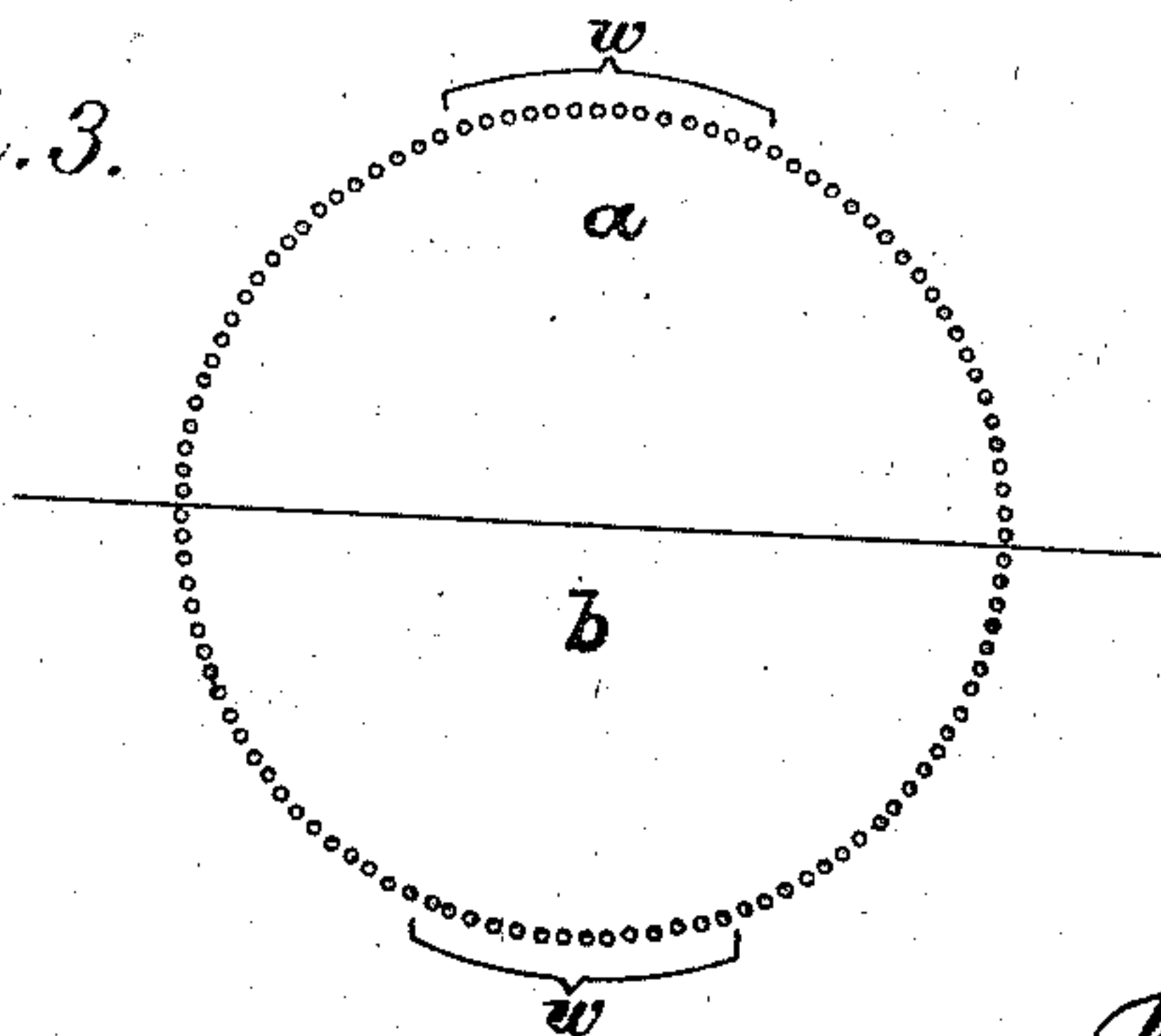


FIG. 3.



Witnesses,
Alex. Barkoff,
John E. Parker,

Inventor,
Samuel Henshall,
by his Attorneys
Howson + Howson,

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL HENSHALL, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

ART OR METHOD OF KNITTING STOCKINGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 388,678, dated August 28, 1888.

Application filed October 27, 1887. Serial No. 253,518. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL HENSHALL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in the Art or Method of Knitting Stockings, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to make a stocking with a toe of more perfect shape than those produced by the methods at present in use. This object I attain in the manner which I will now proceed to describe, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side view of a part of a stocking having the toe portion formed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, a perspective view of the end portion of the foot before the toe is joined, and Fig. 3 a diagram illustrative of the manner in which my invention is carried out.

In making a stocking in accordance with my invention the leg A, heel A', and foot B are formed in any of the usual ways, and the tubular web of fabric which forms the foot of the stocking is completed up to the point at which the toe is to be formed, whereupon one half of the needles of the head—say the half *b*, Fig. 3—are thrown out of action, but retain their stitches. Successive courses of stitches are then formed upon the needles on the other half, *a*, of the head, and after each course of stitches one of the needles, first at one end of the set and then at the other end, is thrown out of action, so that the web produced is gradually narrowed in width. When this narrowing has proceeded to the desired extent—say until only the needles *w* remain in action—these needles are thrown out of action, but with the rest of the needles around the half *a* of the head are allowed to retain their stitches. The needles of the half *b* of the head are then brought into action, and a gradually-narrowing web is formed on these needles in the same manner as the like web had been previously formed upon the needles around the half *a* of the head. This being accomplished, all the needles of the head are thrown into action, and a number of courses of stitches around the

complete head are formed preparatory to proceeding with the knitting of a new stocking. The effect of this method of operation is to form on the upper and lower halves of the foot B tapering tongues D, the courses of stitches in which are parallel with those in the knitted tube forming the foot, and around the edges of these tongues is formed a band, F, the courses of stitches comprising which are at an angle to the courses of stitches forming the tapering tongues.

In order to complete the toe, the stitches on the adjacent edges of this band are united on an ordinary seaming-machine, the fact that the edge of the band presents a continuous course of stitches facilitating the application of the band to the machine and insuring the formation of a neat seam, so that the point of junction of the two parts of the toe is hardly perceptible. The seam, moreover, is directly around the front of the toe, instead of being over the top of the foot, as in that class of stockings in which the pocket or protuberance to form the toe is made wholly on one half of the knitted tube forming the foot.

The formation of the band F around the edges of the tapering tongues D D, besides attaining the advantage above set forth, enables me to impart to the toe that rounding form or appearance of fullness which is a desideratum.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The mode herein described of forming a toe upon a stocking, said mode consisting in forming upon the foot opposite projecting tapering tongues by narrowing the web first upon the needles of one half of the machine and then upon the needles of the other half, then forming stitches around the entire set of needles, and then uniting the adjacent edges of the continuous band thus produced, all substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SAMUEL HENSHALL.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM D. CONNER,
HARRY SMITH.