

No Model.)

E. W. STEAD.
LAST.

No. 400,876.

Patented Apr. 2, 1889.

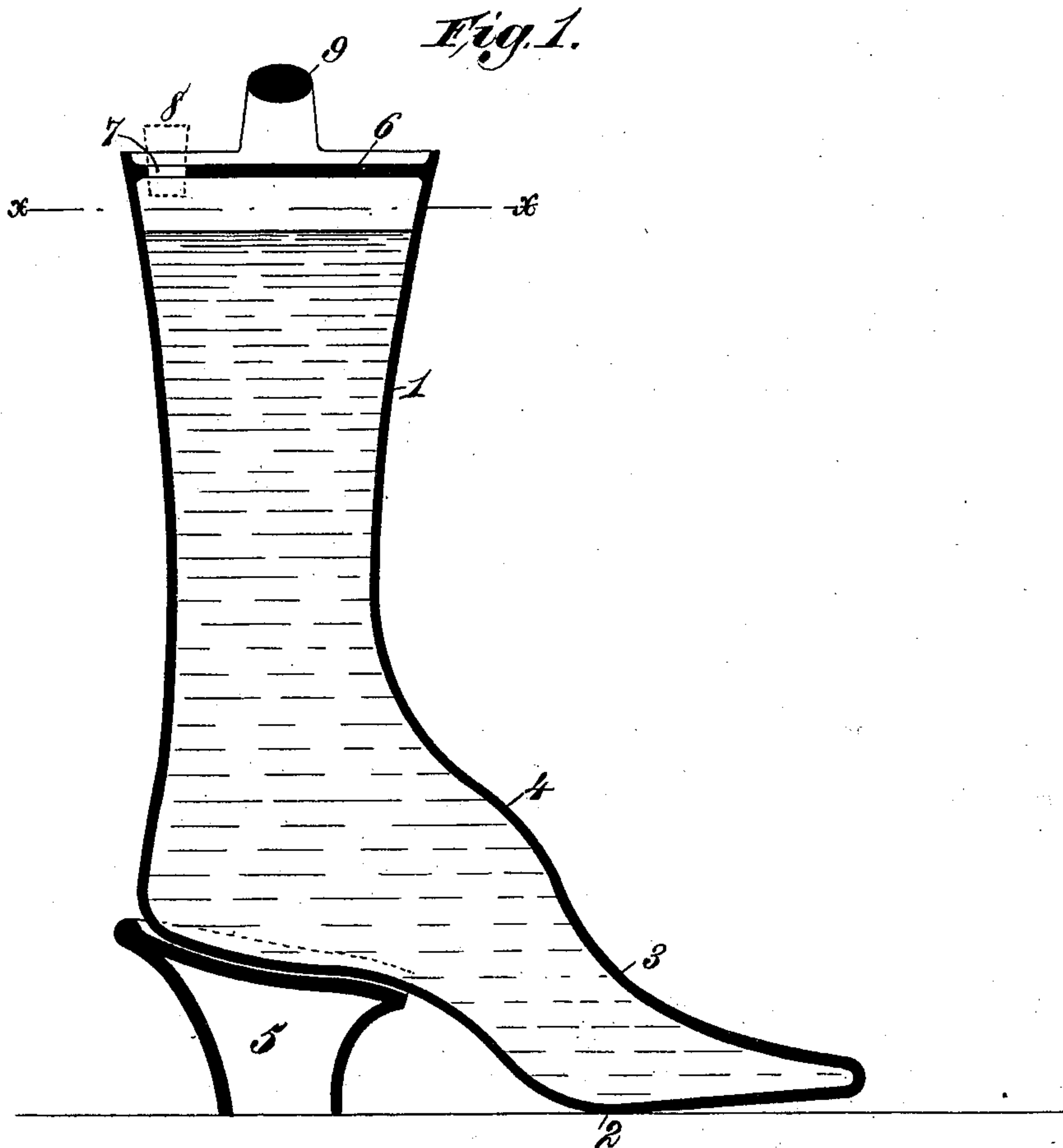
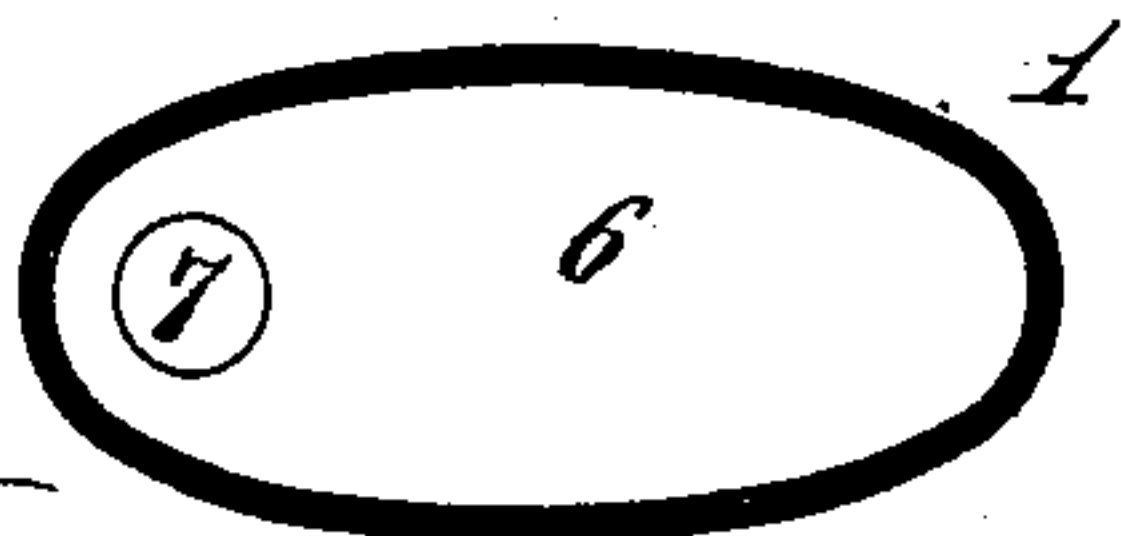


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Robert Emmett,

Percy B. Hills.

Inventor:
Eldred W. Stead.
By *James L. Norris*
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELDRED W. STEAD, OF STOKE NEWINGTON, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, ASSIGNOR
TO RALPH LEES, OF CREWE, COUNTY OF CHESTER, ENGLAND.

LAST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 400,876, dated April 2, 1889.

Application filed November 15, 1888. Serial No. 290,944. (No model.) Patented in England August 8, 1887, No. 10,855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELDRED WILSON STEAD, timber-merchant, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at 11 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, in the county of Middlesex, England, have invented a certain new or Improved Last for Warming and Drying Damp Boots, (for which I have obtained a patent in Great Britain, No. 10,855, bearing date August 8, 1887,) of which the following is a specification.

It is customary in drying damp or wet boots for persons to expose them to the dry heat from a fire, which is objectionable in that the leather is thereby damaged, and, besides, the internal moisture is not thoroughly extracted except by excessive and injurious heat.

The object of my invention is to provide novel, simple, and efficient means for drying and warming boots on their interiors and to expel the moisture by radiation without injury to the soles or uppers. This object I accomplish by the novel construction or rigid shell, as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of the hollow last or shell; and Fig. 2, a transverse sectional view on the line $x x$, Fig. 1.

In order to enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe the same in detail, referring to the drawings, wherein—

The numeral 1 indicates the leg portion, 2 the sole part, and 3 the upper, including the instep part 4 of the hollow last or shell, which in general configuration or shape conforms to the interior of a boot. The last may or may not be provided with a heel or heel-support, 5, and the upper end of the hollow leg portion is provided with a horizontal diaphragm, 6, which

closes such upper end of the leg portion and contains an orifice, 7, adapted to be opened and closed by any suitable tightly-fitting stopper, 8. The top portion of the leg is furnished with a handle, 9, to extend somewhat above the ordinary walking-boot for convenience in withdrawing the hollow last or shell from the boot, and the whole is preferably formed integral of glass; but it may be made of stoneware, earthenware, thin metal, or any other material suitable for the conditions required. It is desirable that the leg be of sufficient length to extend slightly above the ordinary walking-boot for the purpose of providing means to grasp and hold the last or shell while cleaning and polishing the boot thereupon.

The invention provides a very simple and efficient device for warming and drying damp or wet boots, and greatly facilitates the cleaning and polishing of the same. In practice the lasts are made in a variety of shapes and sizes to properly fit the interior of the variety of shoes and boots usually manufactured.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A damp-boot drier consisting of a hollow hot-water-containing last formed of heat-conducting material integral with the hollow leg, the instep, the upper, and the sole shaped to fit the interior of the sole, upper, and leg of a boot, and the hollow leg formed at its top with an upwardly-projecting handle, and a transverse diaphragm containing a stoppered filling-aperture, substantially as shown and described.

Dated this 17th day of October, 1888.

E. W. STEAD.

Witnesses:

JNO. DEAN,
GEO. J. B. FRANKLIN.