

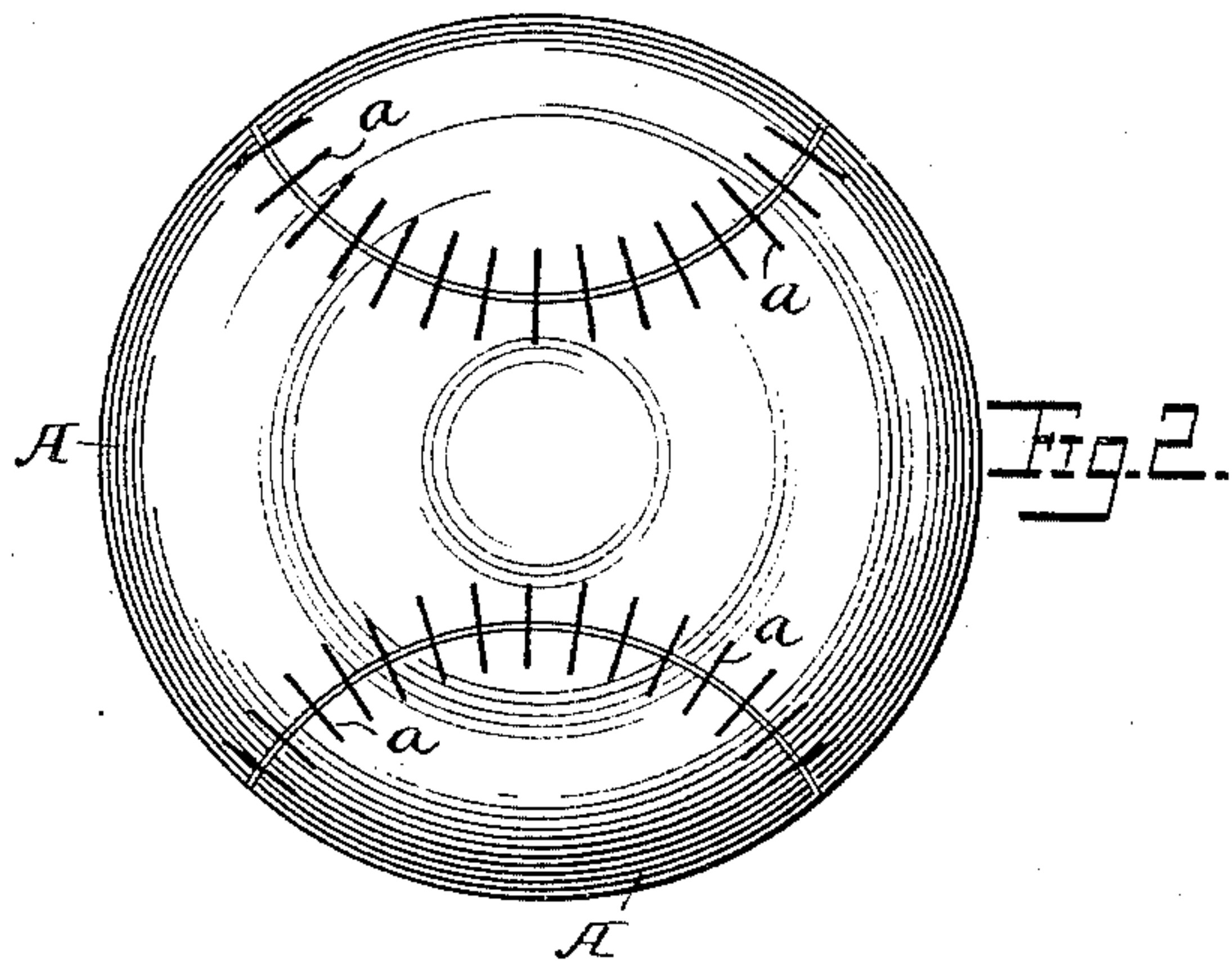
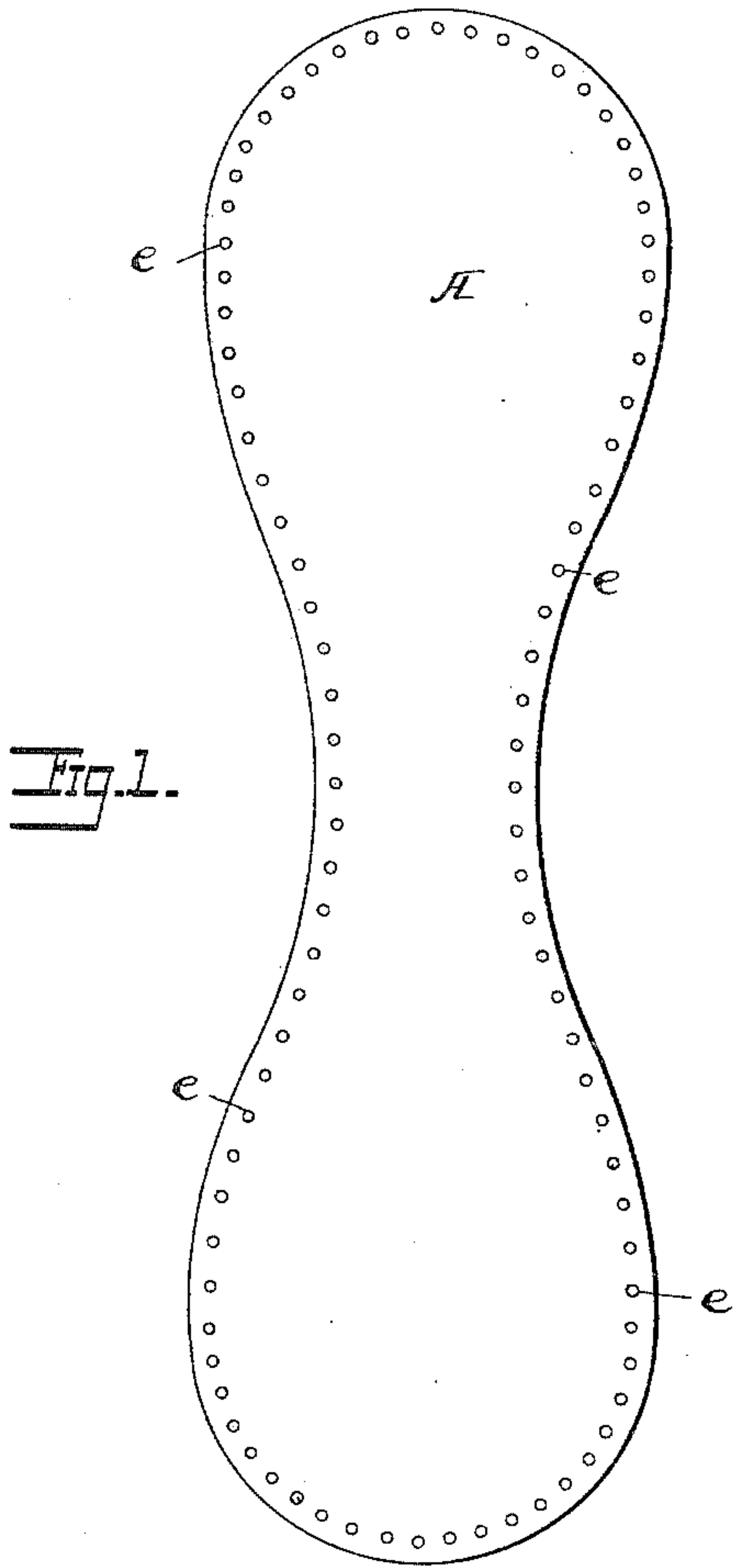
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

B. F. SHIBE.
BASE BALL COVER.

No. 442,147.

Patented Dec. 9, 1890.



Witnesses

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Inventor

B. F. Shibe

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Butler & Loomis

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

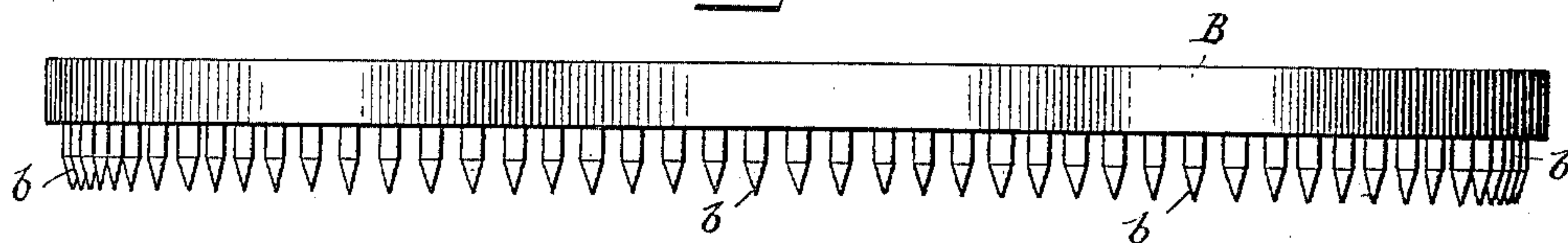


Fig. 4.

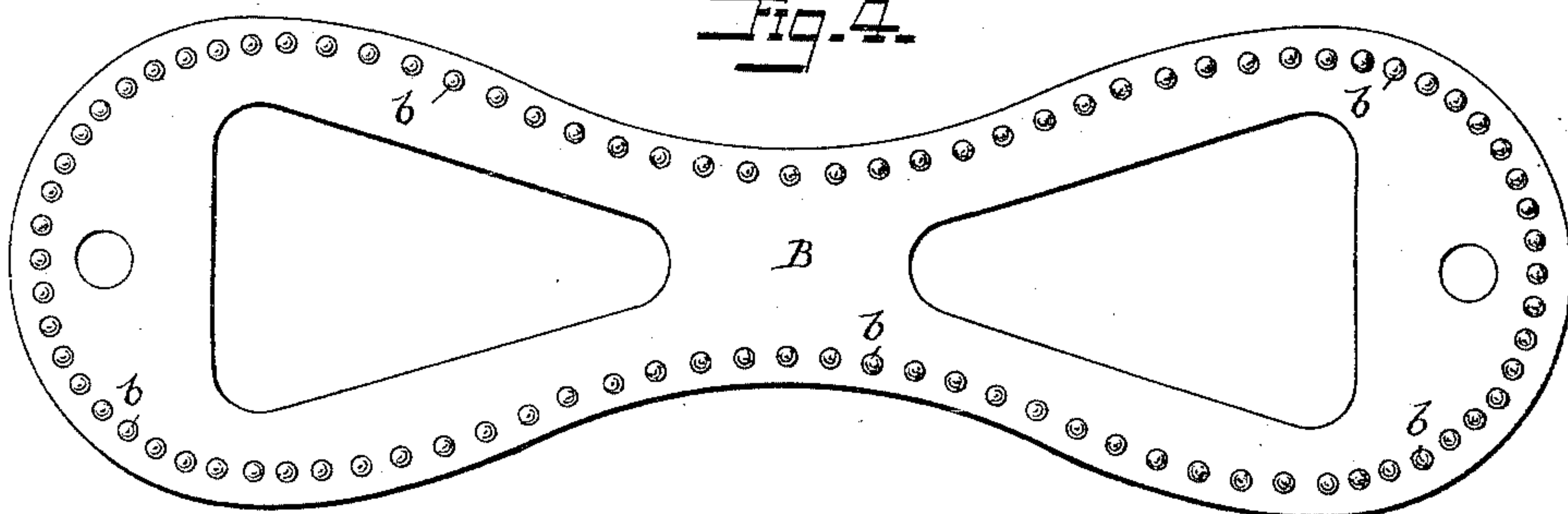
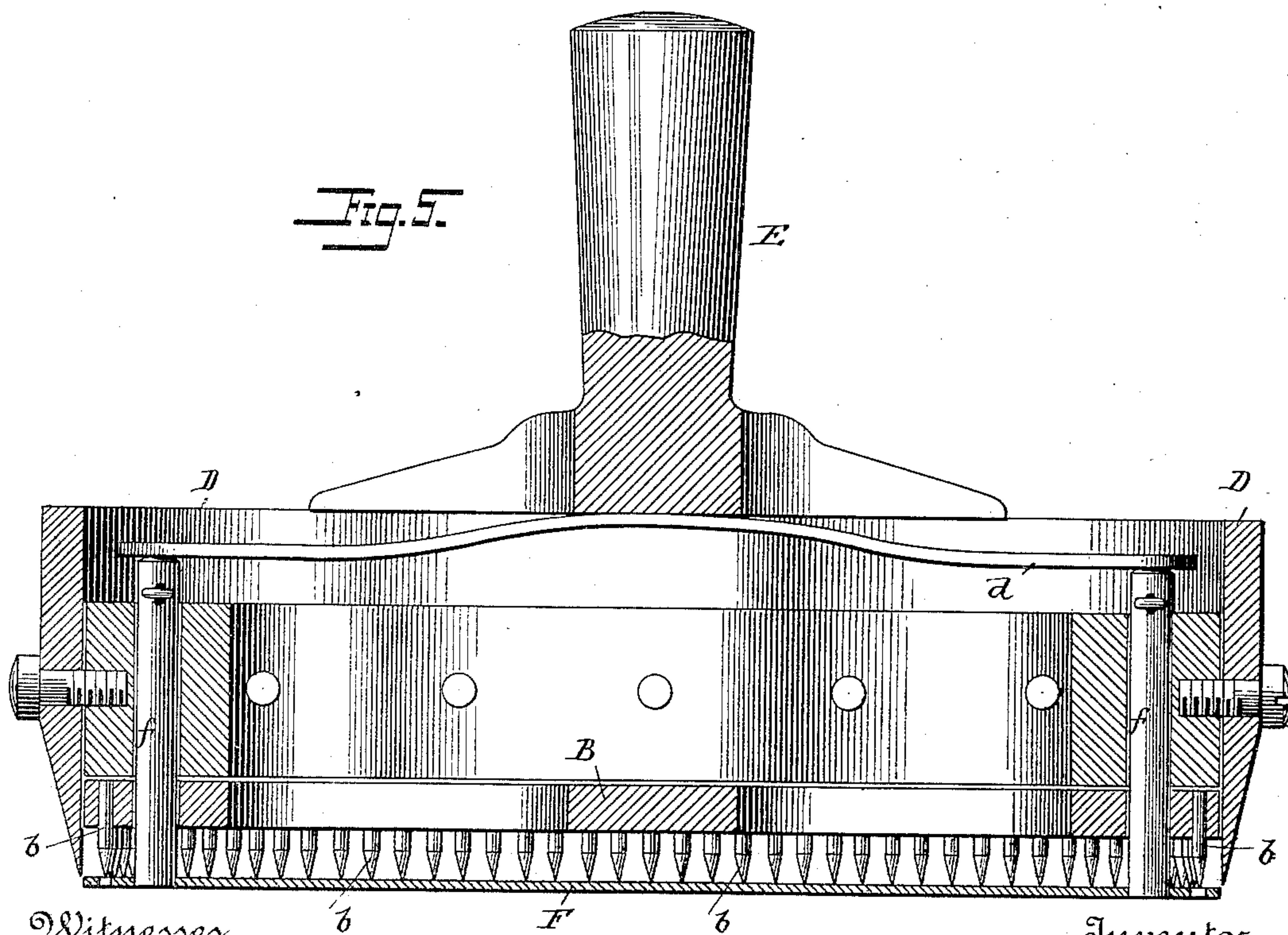


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. SHIBE, OF BALA, ASSIGNOR TO THE AMERICAN PATENTS COMPANY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BASE-BALL COVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 442,147, dated December 9, 1890.

Application filed February 6, 1890. Serial No. 339,408. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. SHIBE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bala, Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Manufacture of Base-Balls, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the manufacture of base-balls; and it consists in the improvements in base-ball coverings fully set forth hereinafter, whereby such coverings may be effectively applied without the necessity of employing the skilled labor heretofore required. The method of applying such coverings is set forth in my pending application, Serial No. 332,811, filed December 6, 1889.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan illustrating a base-ball covering-section marked or perforated in accordance with my improvement. Fig. 2 is a view illustrating the ball complete. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the marking device. Fig. 4 is a plan of the marking device. Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation of the marking device combined with a die.

In the manufacture of base-balls the coverings have heretofore been made of two sections of the form shown in Fig. 1, placed upon the body portion and stitched along the edges, as shown in Fig. 2. Prior to sewing the edges together the sections of the cover are held upon the body of the ball by means of basting-stitches or other means of fastening, and the operator determines the position of the stitches *a* by her eye, after first making punctures or holes for the thread by means of an awl, while the sections are upon the body. These operations require the services of expert sewers, greatly advancing the cost of the ball, inasmuch as the attempt of any one not skilled in the work to perform this operation would result in drawing or wrinkling portions of the cover, impairing the quality of the ball and rendering it unsalable or depreciating its value.

In order to overcome the above-set-forth objections, I make each section *A* of the usual form and provide it with a series of punctures or marks *c* at proper distances apart adjacent to the edge to indicate the points where

the stitches are to be placed. The sections thus marked or perforated are placed upon the body and secured thereon, as usual, by basting-stitches or other means of fastening, and the operator then punctures the openings, if the spaces are only marked or indicated; or, if they have been already perforated, the operator sews directly through the perforations.

Inasmuch as the operator does not have to depend upon her or his eye or own judgment for the position of the stitches, each stitch is made in the proper position, and every stitching-point upon the edge of one section is so connected with the corresponding stitching-point upon the edge of the opposite section that there is no side draft upon either section, but the edges are drawn together by stitches substantially at right angles, so that there is no wrinkling or puckering, and the cover of the ball lies perfectly flat along the edges throughout the entire extent of the seam.

One of the main advantages of the covering above described is that by its use the manufacture of base-balls can be carried on with the services of inexperienced operators, it being only essential that they shall be able to properly place the stitches at the points indicated by the marks or perforations in the sections, so that the balls are not only made much more cheaply than those manufactured in the ordinary manner, but they are also superior in quality to those made by the best experts.

It will be evident that the section *A*, cut out to the proper shape and marked or punctured as above described, will constitute articles of sale to be afterward used by the purchaser in making up the balls.

Different means may be employed for making or puncturing the sections. Thus in Fig. 3 I have shown a plate *B* provided with a series of points or pins *b*, arranged adjacent to the edge of the plate, as best shown in Fig. 4. These pins may be pointed, as shown, or they may be blunt. In the latter case their ends are coated or inked, so that when the device is applied to the section it will mark the position of the stitches thereon. When the section is to be perforated, the pins are prefer-

ably pointed and pressure is so applied as to force them through the material, forming the desired perforations or punctures.

If desired, the perforating or marking device may be combined with the die which cuts out the sections. A construction suitable for this purpose is illustrated in Fig. 5, in which D represents the die having the outline of the section and secured to a suitable head E, within which the puncturing device B is secured with the points of the pins but shortly above the plain of the edge of the die D, so that when the die is forced downward upon the leather the section will be cut from the latter simultaneously with the perforating or marking of the same along the edges. In order to clear the section from the die after the pressure has been applied, a clearing-blade F is used, the same being in such a shape as to fit within the cutting portion of the die and with perforations for the passage of the pins *b*, and this plate is made yielding by connecting it with two guide-rods *f*, which are pressed outward by the force of the spring *d*, so that when the device is raised the clearing-blade will be forced downward and force the section which has been just perforated out of the die and off from the pins. I do not limit myself, however, to the use of any specific devices in the manufacture of my improved ball-covering, as it will be evident that various devices may be employed for marking or puncturing the sections to secure the desired result.

As before stated, the marks or perforations are made a proper distance apart, by which is meant that they are so placed as to indicate the same arrangement of the stitches at different parts of the ball that would be made by an expert operator in sewing in the ordinary manner. Thus it will be seen in Fig. 1 that the marks are closer together at the ends than at the centers of the sides, and vary in distance at the intermediate portions, so that the unskilled operator is properly guided in placing the stitches at the distances which experience has proved to be most desirable. The points or pins of the die are of course correspondingly arranged.

I claim as my invention—

The blank for base-ball covers herein specified, consisting of sections each provided with a series of marks or perforations along the edges, concentrated at the ends of the blank, and gradually spaced more and more widely up to the center, whereby the stitches draw normally across the abutting edges, thus preventing the side draft and wrinkles, as in expert sewing, substantially as shown and described.

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

BENJAMIN F. SHIBE.

Witnesses:

HARRY C. KOCHERSPERGER,
C. PERCY WILLCOX,