

(No Model.)

L. W. BALLARD.
EAR AND NECK MUFF.

No. 548,738.

Patented Oct. 29, 1895.

Fig. 1

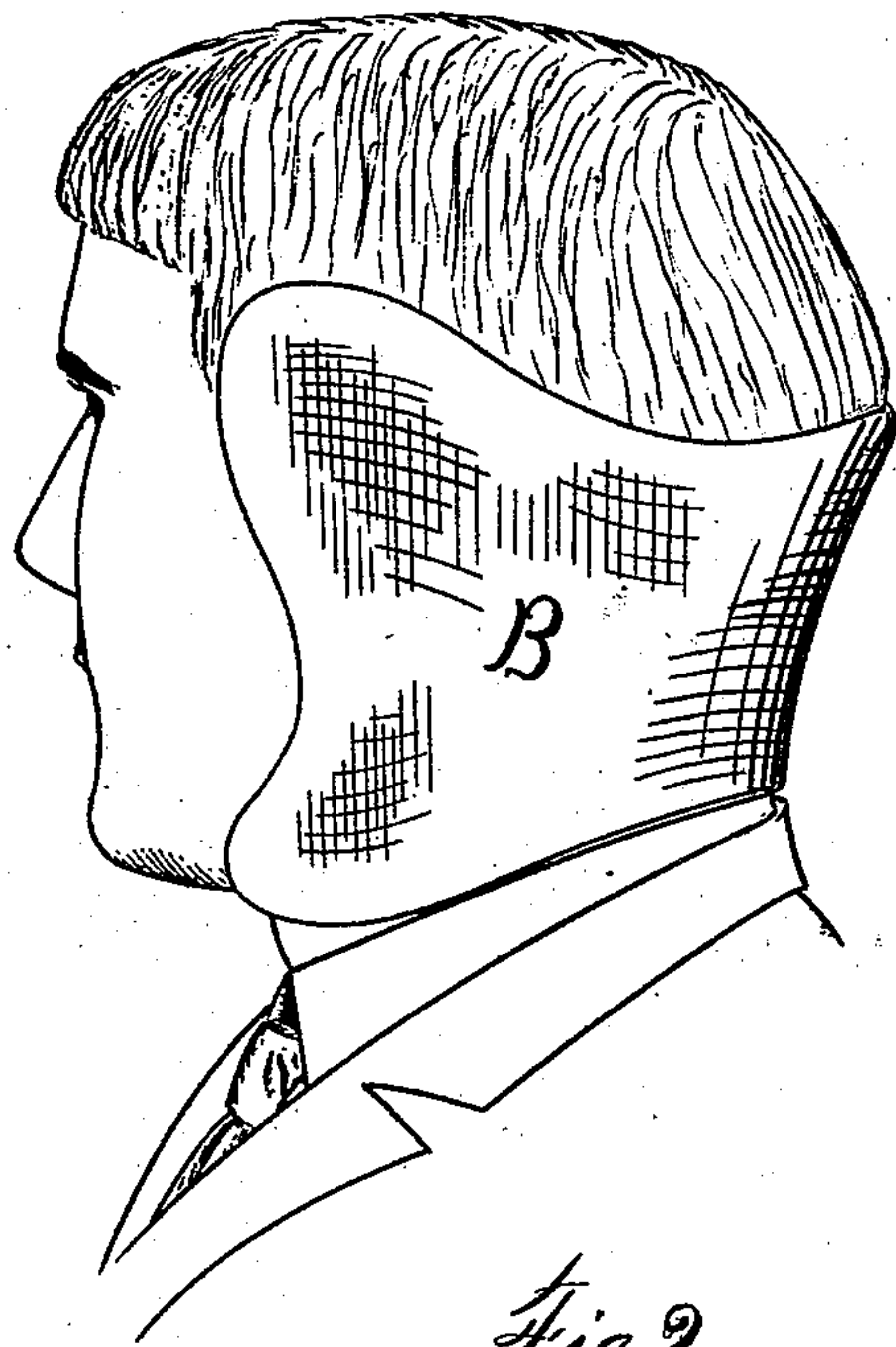


Fig. 3.

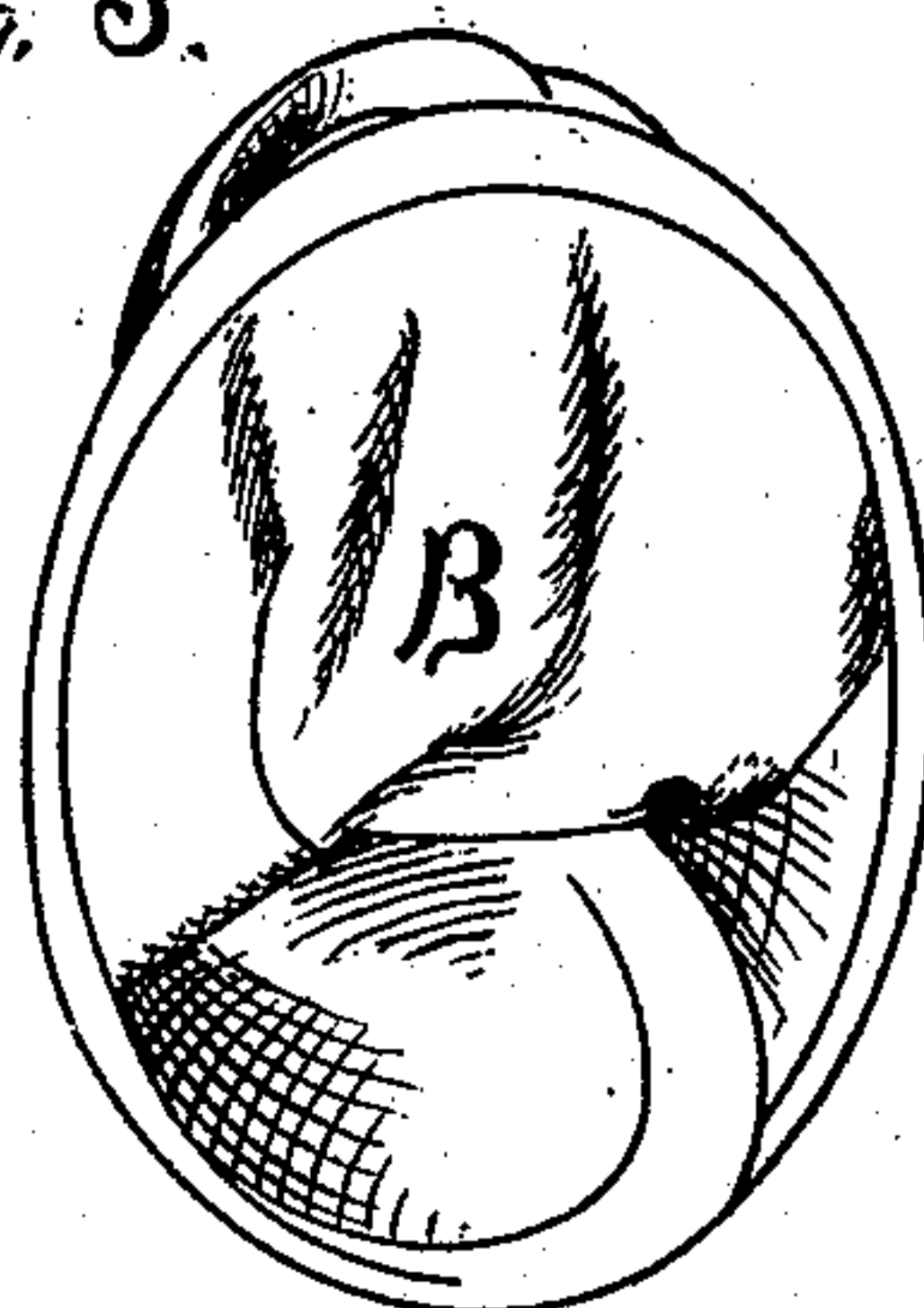
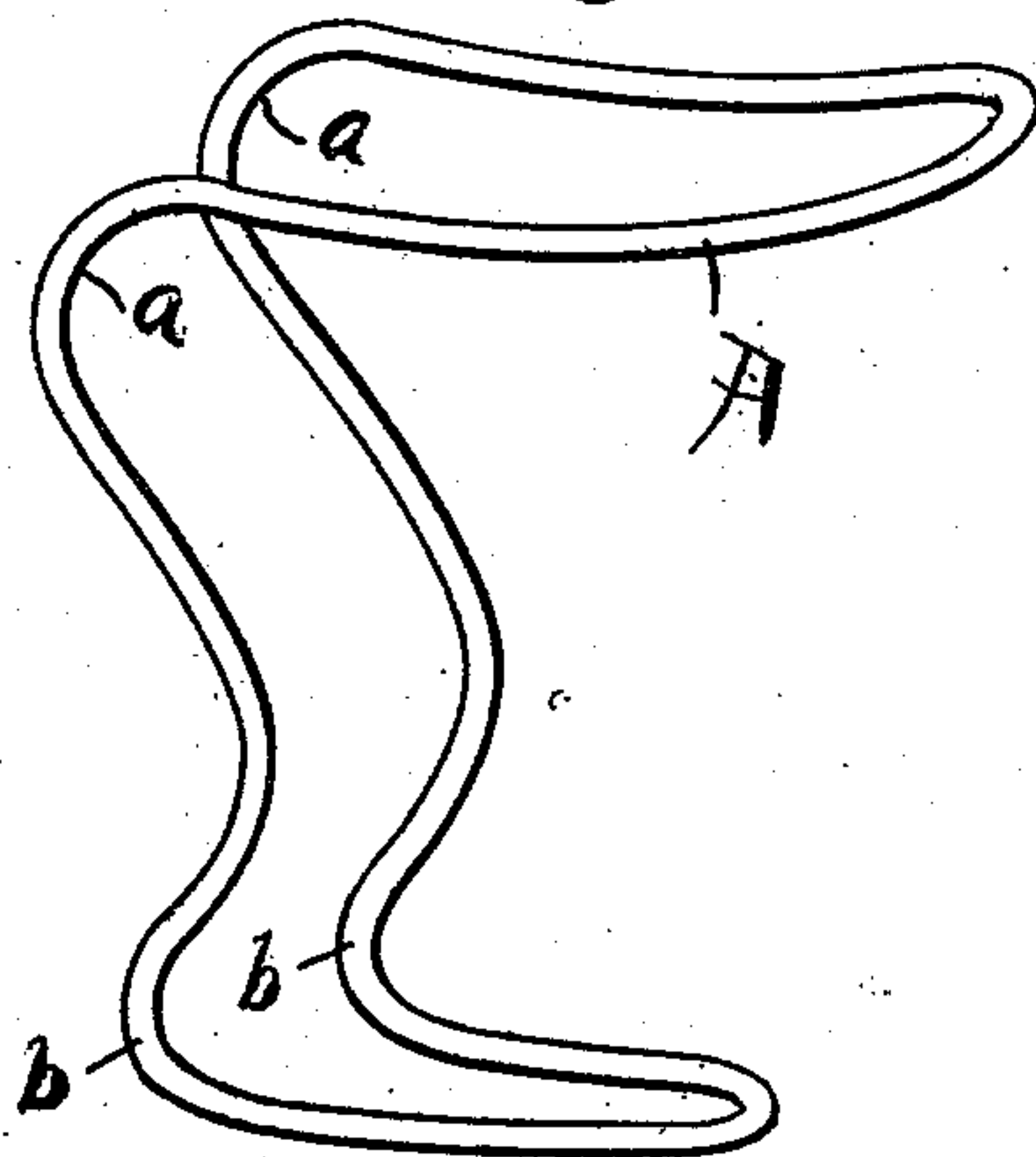


Fig. 2



WITNESSES

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LUTHER W. BALLARD, OF ALLIANCE, OHIO.

EAR AND NECK MUFF.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 548,738, dated October 29, 1895.

Application filed January 7, 1895. Serial No. 534,023. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUTHER W. BALLARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Alliance, in the county of Stark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ear and Neck Muffs; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a view showing my improvement placed in proper position for use. Fig. 2 is a detached view of the frame or skeleton. Fig. 3 is a view showing the muff folded.

The present invention has relation to ear and neck muffs; and it consists in the novel construction hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the frame or skeleton, which when extended is substantially of the form shown in Fig. 2, and is preferably formed of a single piece of wire. To the frame or skeleton A is attached the cloth or felt material B, which material is stitched so as to properly cover the frame and conceal the wire and at the same time hold the cloth in an extended position, substantially as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The frame A is provided with the forward and upward extended curves *a*, which are so formed and located that when the frame has been properly covered a portion of the cloth or felt will be extended forward, so as to cover the ears of the wearer. The lower portion of the frame or skeleton A is provided with the curves *b*, which are so located that they will come partially around the neck.

It will be understood that by my peculiar formation of the frame or skeleton A the muff when finished will cover the ears and the back part of the neck. For the purpose of providing muffs that can be fitted to different persons the frame or skeleton A should be formed of spring-wire, and the wire should be of such material that it will normally remain in the position bent to fit the particular person for which it is intended.

It will be understood that various kinds of material can be attached to the frame or skeleton without departing from the nature of my invention. It will also be understood that by my peculiar arrangement the muff can be

quickly attached and detached, and when attached it will not become accidentally displaced.

By my peculiar arrangement the front of the neck is not covered, thereby leaving the throat without close covering, which is injurious, inasmuch as the wearer is more liable to throat trouble if the neck is closely covered.

With the elasticity of the frame or skeleton and the flexibility of the cloth or felt material the ears and neck will be closely covered, or, in other words, the muff proper will fit closely upon the neck and ears, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The back part of the muff will be extended downward upon the neck, so that an overcoat collar will overlap the back part of the muff.

When it is desired to carry the muff in a pocket, it may be folded substantially as illustrated in Fig. 3 and placed in a receptacle, which receptacle is formed of a size and shape to properly hold the muff when in a folded condition.

The cloth or felt material B is attached to the frame by lapping a portion over the wire of the frame, and two thicknesses of material may be employed and the thicknesses stitched together close to the inner edges of the wire frame A. The frame is bent upon its rear portion so as to conform with the back part of the head and the back part of the neck, the lower member of the frame conforming to the neck and the upper member conforming to the shape of the head.

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

An ear and neck muff, comprising the skeleton spring-wire frame A, and the cover B, said frame consisting of the upper and lower portions, conforming with the shape of the head and neck of the wearer, and the curved side portions connecting the front ends of the upper and lower portions, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

LUTHER W. BALLARD.

Witnesses:

A. S. McDONALD,
C. E. FORDING.