

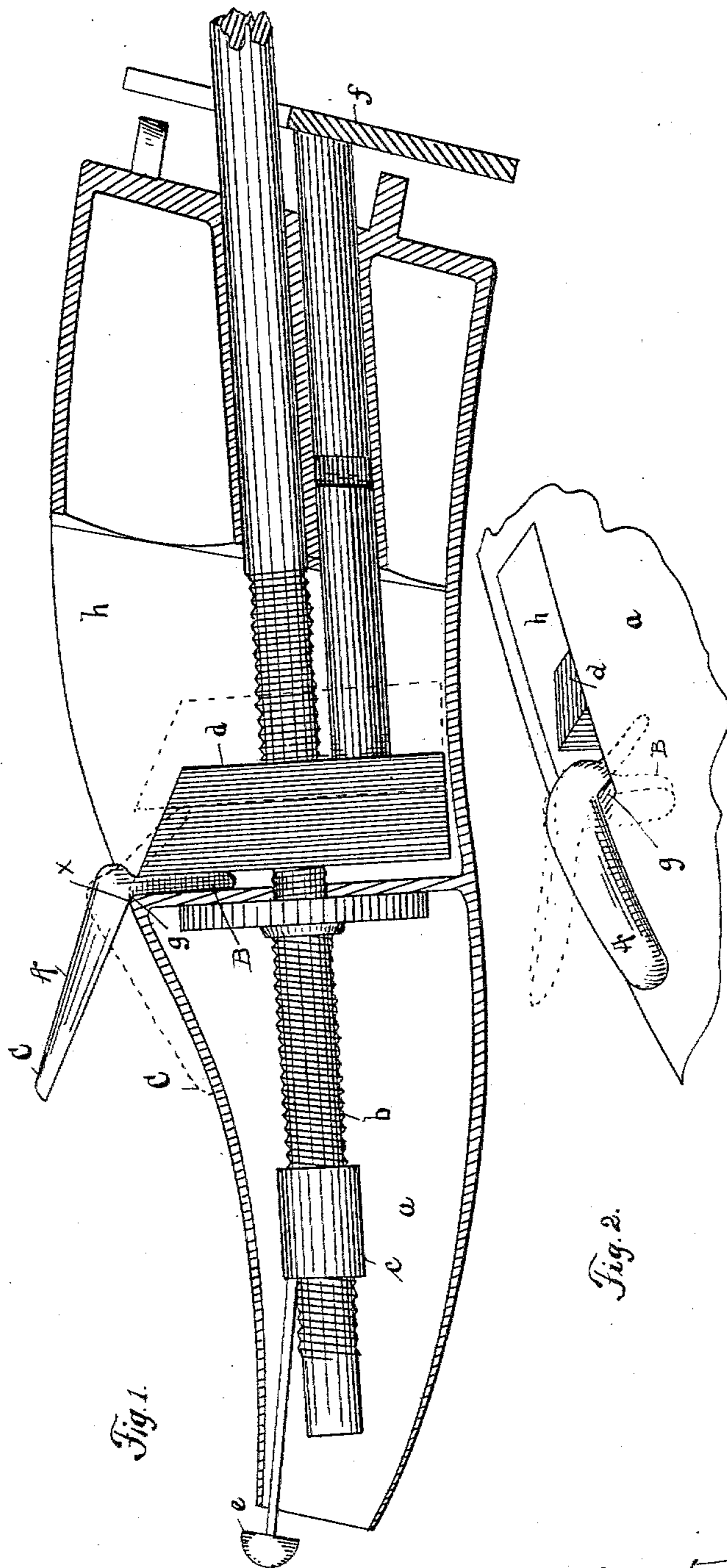
(No Model.)

J. C. GREEN.

INSTEP STRETCHER FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

No. 566,572.

Patented Aug. 25, 1896.



Witnesses
B. Johnson
A. Keithley

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. GREEN, OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

INSTEP-STRETCHER FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 566,572, dated August 25, 1896.

Application filed May 22, 1896. Serial No. 592,672. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. GREEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Peoria, in the county of Peoria and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Instep-Stretchers for Boots or Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to boot and shoe stretchers.

The object herein is to provide a stretcher with better means for stretching the instep-seams of footwear.

In the drawings herewith, Figure 1 is a sectional side elevation of a shoe-stretcher, showing my device applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of a stretcher, also showing the instep-stretcher.

In the figures, *a* represents the stretcher-body; *b*, a thread-bar lying therein; *c*, a block for spreading the portions of the body *a*. A block *d*, operated by the thread-bar *b*, is used to raise and lower an instep-stretcher (not shown herein) and is also used to operate the portion of the invention to which this application refers. A toe-stretcher *e* and a heel-stretcher *f* are also shown, but will have nothing to do with the operation of the device to be described. The parts thus alluded to have been used before and are protected in a former application of mine, bearing Serial No. 581,339, filed February 29, 1895, but the part to which I would now direct special attention is the instep-stretcher A, which is a tongue substantially of the form shown, which rests by its inner curve at *x* upon the edge or point *g* of the body *a*, which edge is left by the opening *h* within which the block *b* moves. As may be seen, the said stretcher A is designed to rock upon the edge *g*, and its heel B depends or hangs within the opening *h*, and the toe or forward end C thereof projects above and forward of the upper surface of the body. Now in the position shown by dotted lines in

Fig. 1 the stretcher is in its lowest position, the operating-block *d* being carried rearwardly to allow the heel B to hang freely. Using the point or edge *g* as the fulcrum for the tongue or stretcher A, the thread-bar *b* is turned in a direction to carry the block *d* forward or in a direction to depress the heel B and thus raise the forward end or toe C to the position shown by unbroken lines in Fig. 1. The position shown may be exaggerated to some extent in the drawings, but it shows the almost unlimited movement and the results which may be obtained thereby.

Different sizes of the tongue A may be used to acquire different results, and it is obvious that the said tongue may be pivoted to the body *a* and still produce the desired results. I have not described the operation or particular construction or location of the several other parts of the device, as they have been described and used heretofore; neither do they enter into the operation of the particular portions described, except as to the thread-bar *b* and block *d*.

I am not aware of a device of this character or of a device accomplishing anywhere near like the results of this device, and therefore—

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a device for stretching insteps of boots and shoes, a body or last *a*, forming the support or base, a tongue pivoted to or having its fulcrum on the said support or base, one extremity of said tongue being designed to come in contact with the portion to be stretched, the opposite extremity depending within the support or base and operated by suitable means whereby the said tongue is raised or lowered for the purposes set forth and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN C. GREEN.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR KEITHLEY,
C. JOHNSON.