

(No Model.)

C. BALCOM:  
BOOT OR SHOE.

No. 605,623.

Patented June 14, 1898.

FIG. 1.

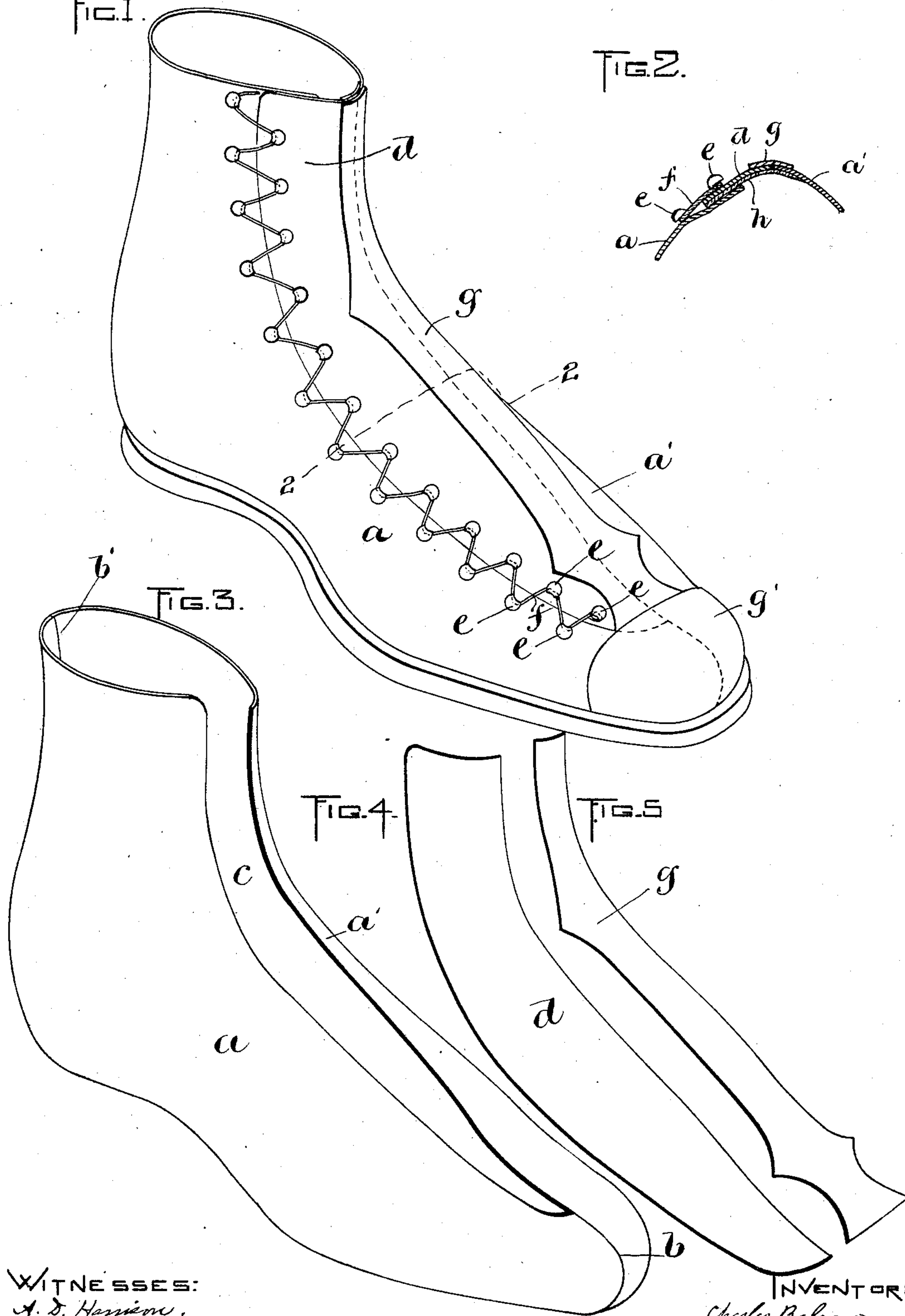


FIG. 2.

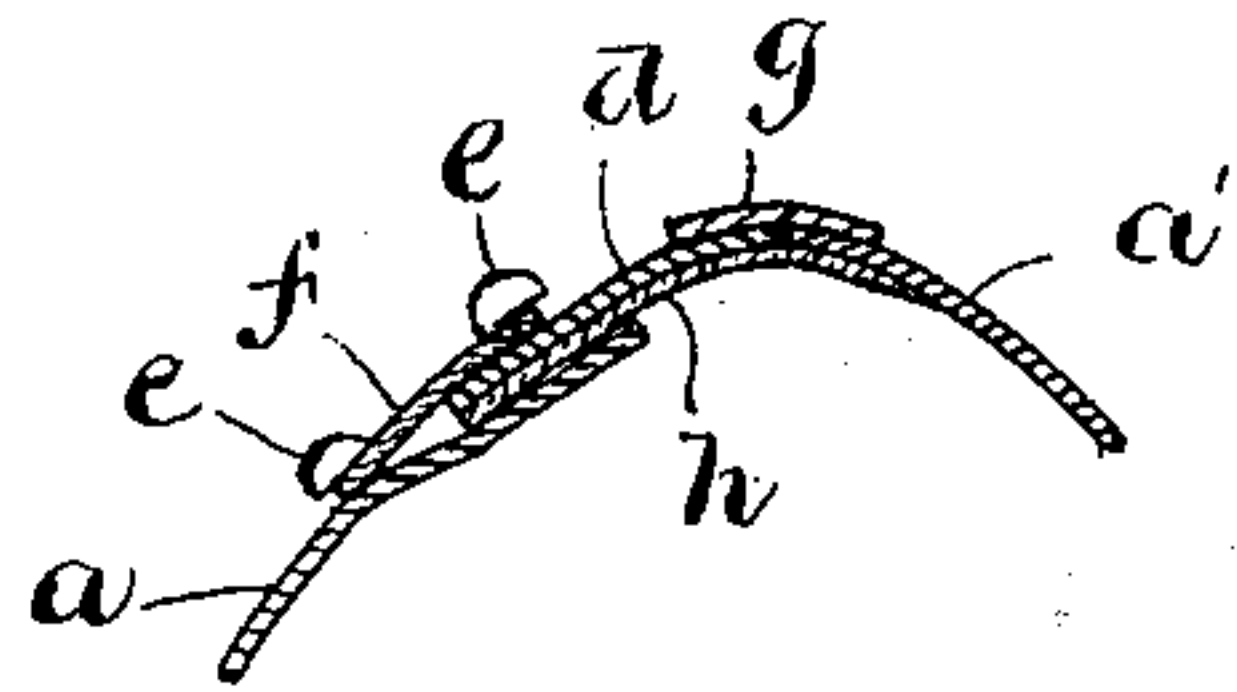


FIG. 3.

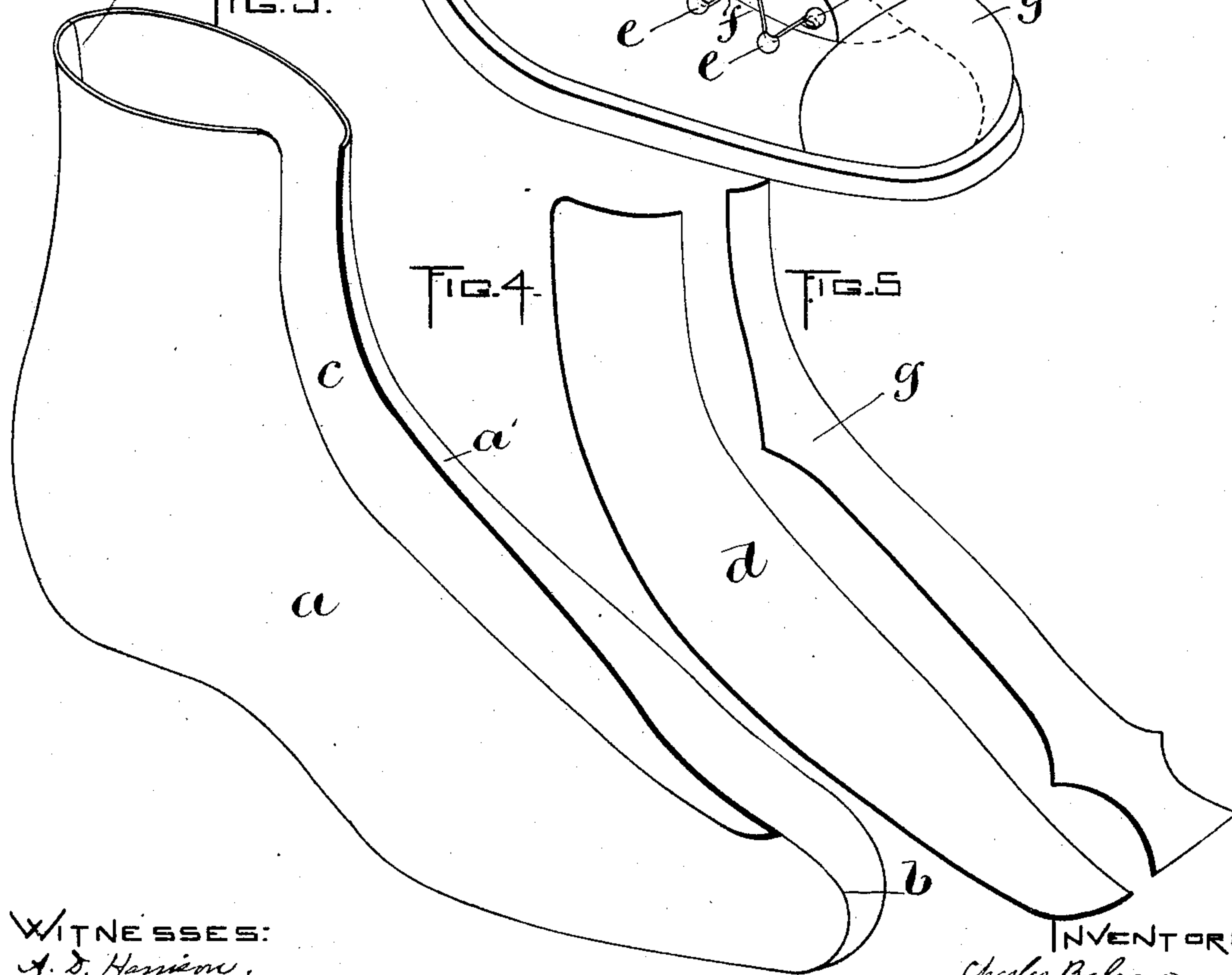
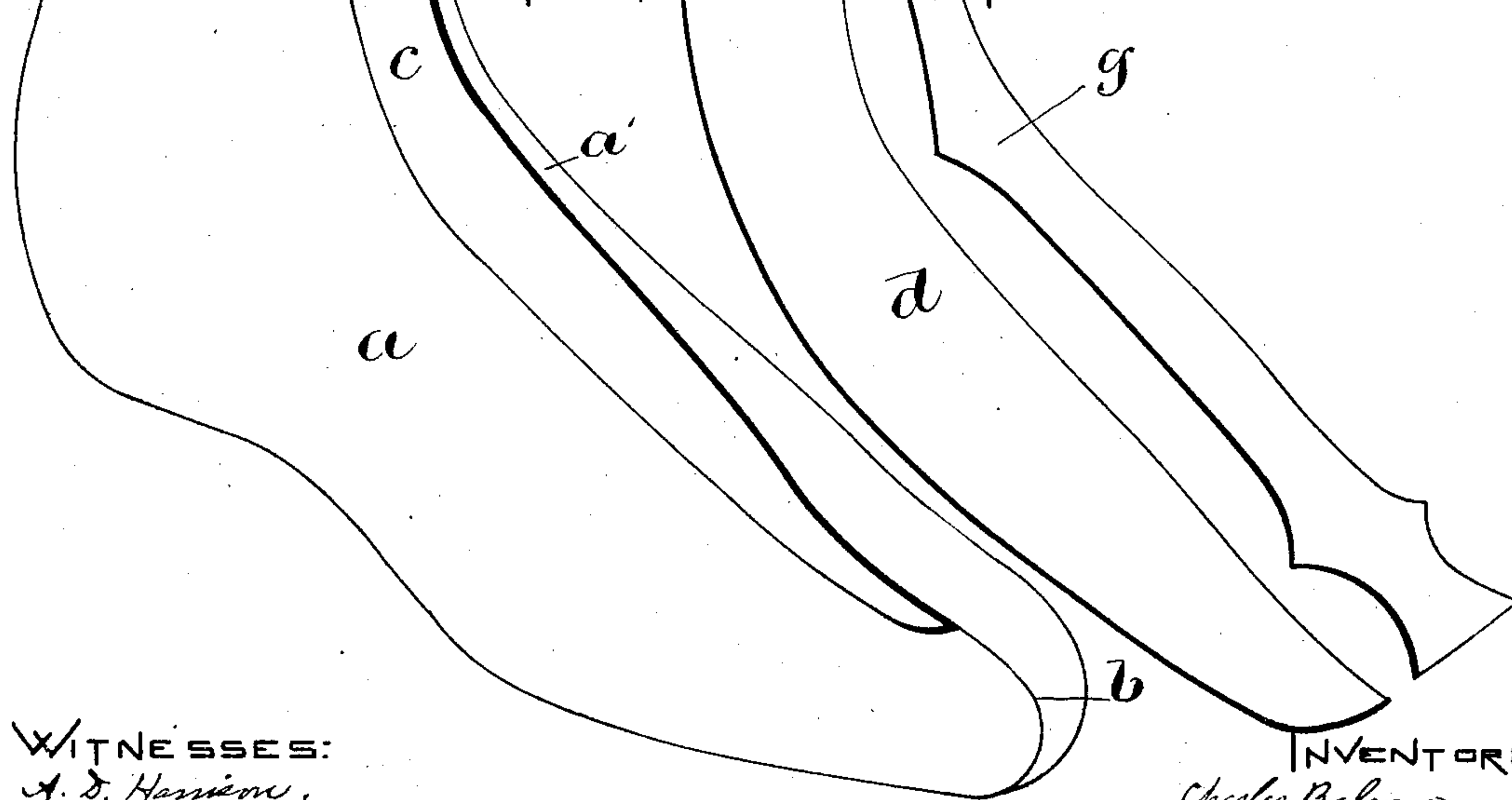


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.



WITNESSES:

A. D. Harrison,  
P. W. Pezzetti.

INVENTOR:

Charles Balcom  
by Wright, Brown & Quincy Attys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES BALCOM, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF FORTY-NINE ONE-HUNDREDTHS TO WILLIAM W. CROOKER, OF SAME PLACE, AND C. A. L. BROWN, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## BOOT OR SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 605,623, dated June 14, 1898.

Application filed May 22, 1897. Serial No. 637,728. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES BALCOM, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boots or Shoes; of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates particularly to boots or shoes which are secured by lacings; and it has for its object to provide a boot or shoe of this class which shall be adjustable to the foot and capable of being extended and contracted practically along the entire distance from the toe to the ankle of the wearer, so that the shoe may be adjusted to all parts of the foot between said points.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a boot or shoe embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a section on line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a perspective view of the upper as it would appear if removed from the sole and separated from the flap or fly which covers the elongated opening and from the stay-piece which covers the seam uniting said flap to the upper. Figs. 4 and 5 represent, respectively, perspective views of the flap and stay-piece.

The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, *a* and *a'* represent two pieces which constitute the main or body portion of the upper, said pieces extending continuously from the toe to the heel and each covering practically one side of the foot. The pieces *a* and *a'* are united at the heel of the boot or shoe by a vertical seam *b'* and at the toe portion of the shoe by a short seam *b*, which extends from the sole along the median line of the shoe over the location commonly occupied by the toe-cap, said seam being so short that it does not extend materially back of the toes of the wearer, so that the parts united by said seam form only a toe-receiving cap or casing. The pieces *a* and *a'* are separated or disconnected from each other from the upper end of the seam *b* to the ankle-opening by an elongated opening *c*, as shown in Fig. 3. This opening extends along the median line

of the foot from the toe-receiving casing, formed by the united forward ends of the pieces *a a'*, to the ankle-opening and makes all portions of the upper between said casing and the ankle-opening adjustable, so that the shoe can be accurately fitted or adjusted not only over and along the instep, but between it and the toes of the wearer. I thus secure a degree of adjustability which has not been attained heretofore, so far as I am aware, this increased adjustability being due to the extension of the opening *c* forward practically to the toes of the wearer.

*d* represents a fly-piece or flap which is united to the piece *a'* at one edge of the opening *c* by a seam which is practically a continuation of the seam *b*. The said flap is formed to extend across the opening *c* and overlap the corresponding edge of the piece *a*.

To adjustably connect the flap *d* with the piece *a*, I provide said parts with alternating lacing hooks or projections *e*, which are arranged to engage a single lacing-cord *f*, which extends in a zigzag direction from the lower end of the flap *d* to the upper end of the piece *a*, as shown in Fig. 1. It will be seen that this arrangement of the lacing hooks and cord enables the flap *d* and the corresponding portions of the upper to be adjusted along the entire length of the opening *c*.

*g* represents a stay-piece which is arranged to cover the seam *b*, said stay-piece being stitched at one edge to the piece *a'* and at its other edge to the flap *d*.

*g'* represents a toe-cap which covers the seam *b* and the portions of the pieces *a a'* united thereby.

The flap *d* is provided with a lining *h* of a material adapted to form a tight joint by bearing on the outer surface of the piece *a* and thus prevent the admission of dust, a suitable material for this lining being chamois-skin. It will be seen that said lining is pressed firmly against the outer surface of the piece *a* by the devices which fasten the flap to said piece, so that dust is effectually excluded from the crevice between the flap and the piece *a*.

I claim—

1. A boot or shoe upper comprising, first,



the two side pieces *a a'* extending continuously from the toe to the heel and having their forward ends united by a short seam *b*, terminating below the instep portion, the said  
5 pieces being separated above said seam by an elongated opening *c*; and secondly, the flap or fly *d* attached to the piece *a'* along one edge of said opening and extending across the latter overlapping the corresponding edge  
10 of the piece *a*, and means for adjustably securing the flap to the piece *a* along the entire distance from the toe to the ankle.

2. A boot or shoe upper comprising, first, the two side pieces *a a'* extending continuously from the toe to the heel and having their  
15 forward ends united by a short seam *b*, terminating below the instep portion, the said pieces being separated above said seam by an elongated opening *c* extending over the  
20 instep portion and to the upper ends of the said side pieces; and secondly, the flap or fly *d* attached to the piece *a'* along one edge of said opening and extending across the latter overlapping the corresponding edge of the  
25 piece *a*, the said flap and the piece *a* having alternating studs or lacing-engaging projections whereby they may be adjustably con-

nected along the entire length of the opening *c* by a lacing-cord.

3. A boot or shoe upper comprising, first, 30 the two side pieces *a a'* extending continuously from the toe to the heel and having their forward ends united by a short seam *b*, terminating below the instep portion, the said pieces being separated above said seam by 35 an elongated opening *c* extending over the instep portion and to the upper ends of said side pieces; and secondly, the flap or fly *d* attached to the piece *a'* along one edge of said opening and extending across the latter over- 40 lapping the corresponding edge of the piece *a*, said flap having a lining of dust-excluding material such as chamois-skin arranged to bear on the outer surface of the piece *a*, and means for adjustably securing the flap to the 45 piece *a*.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 14th day of May, A. D. 1897.

CHARLES BALCOM.

Witnesses:

C. F. BROWN,  
WM. W. CROOKER.