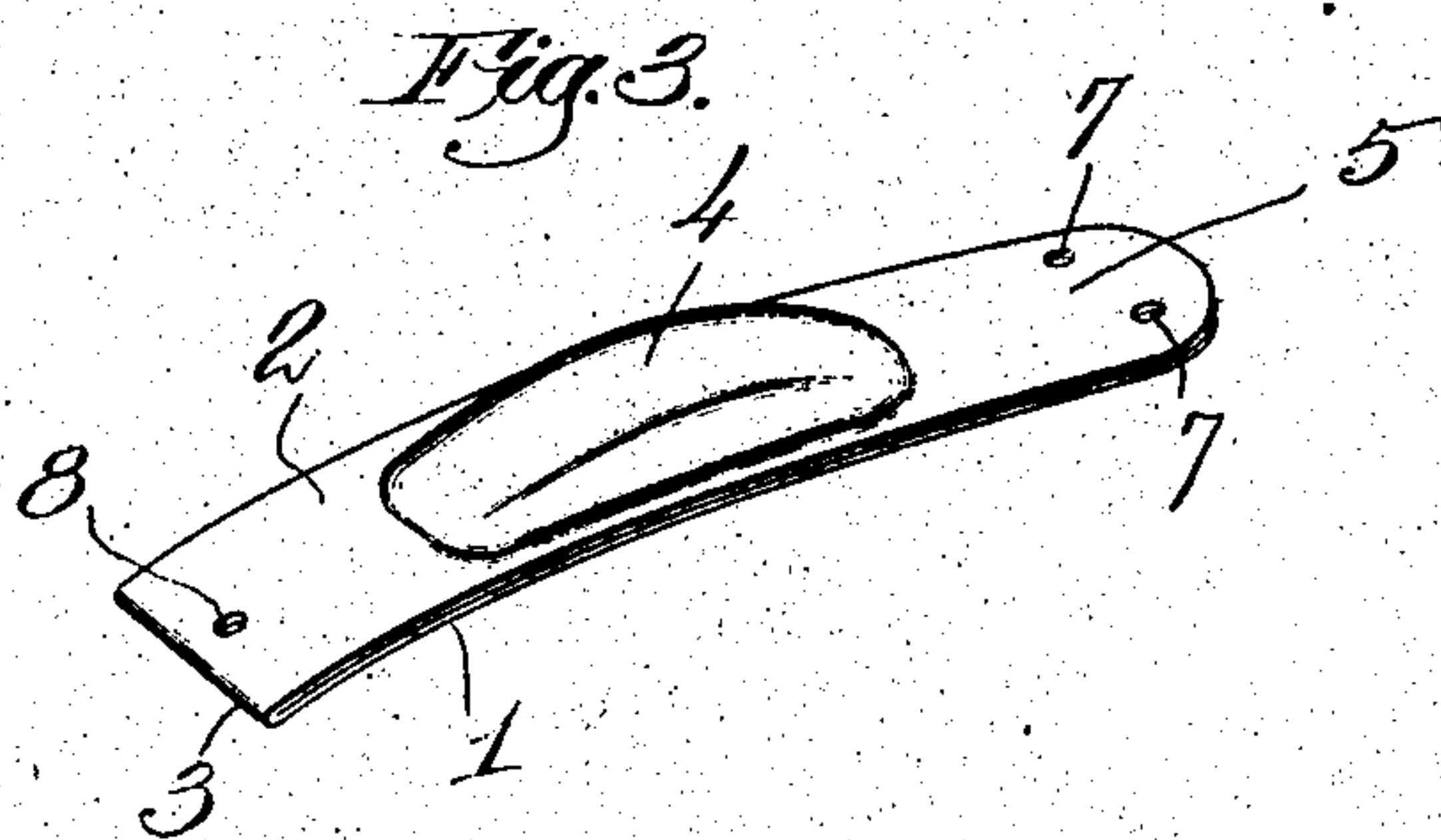
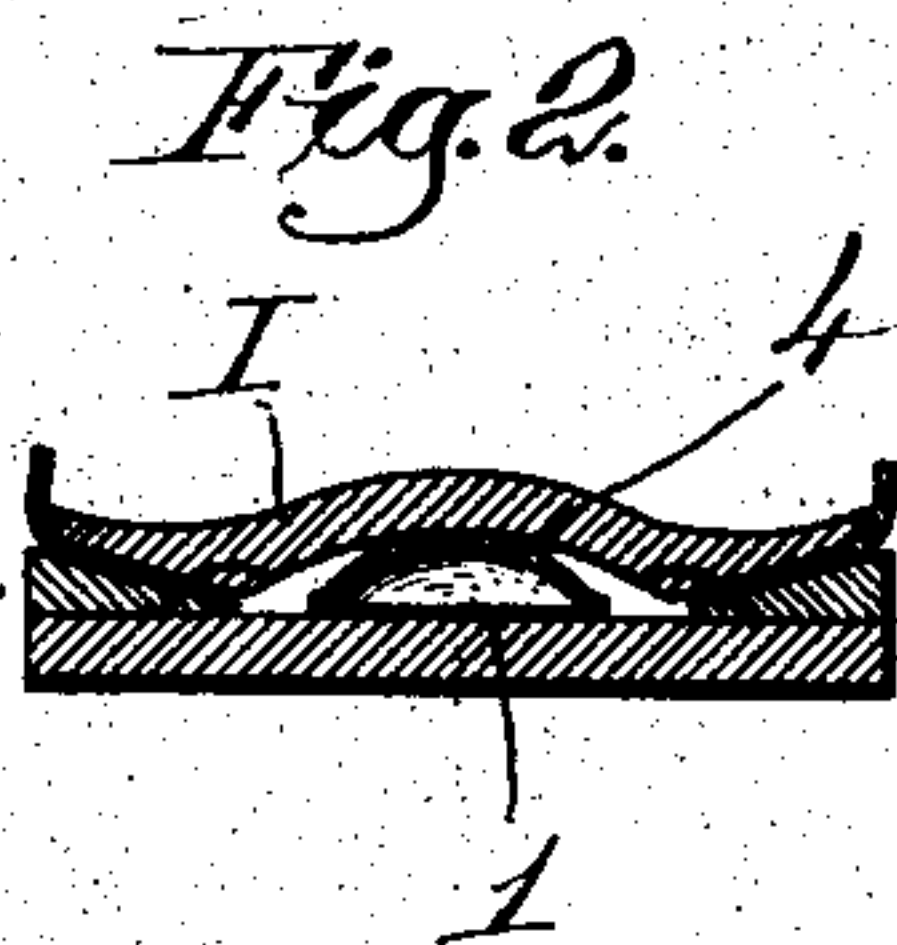
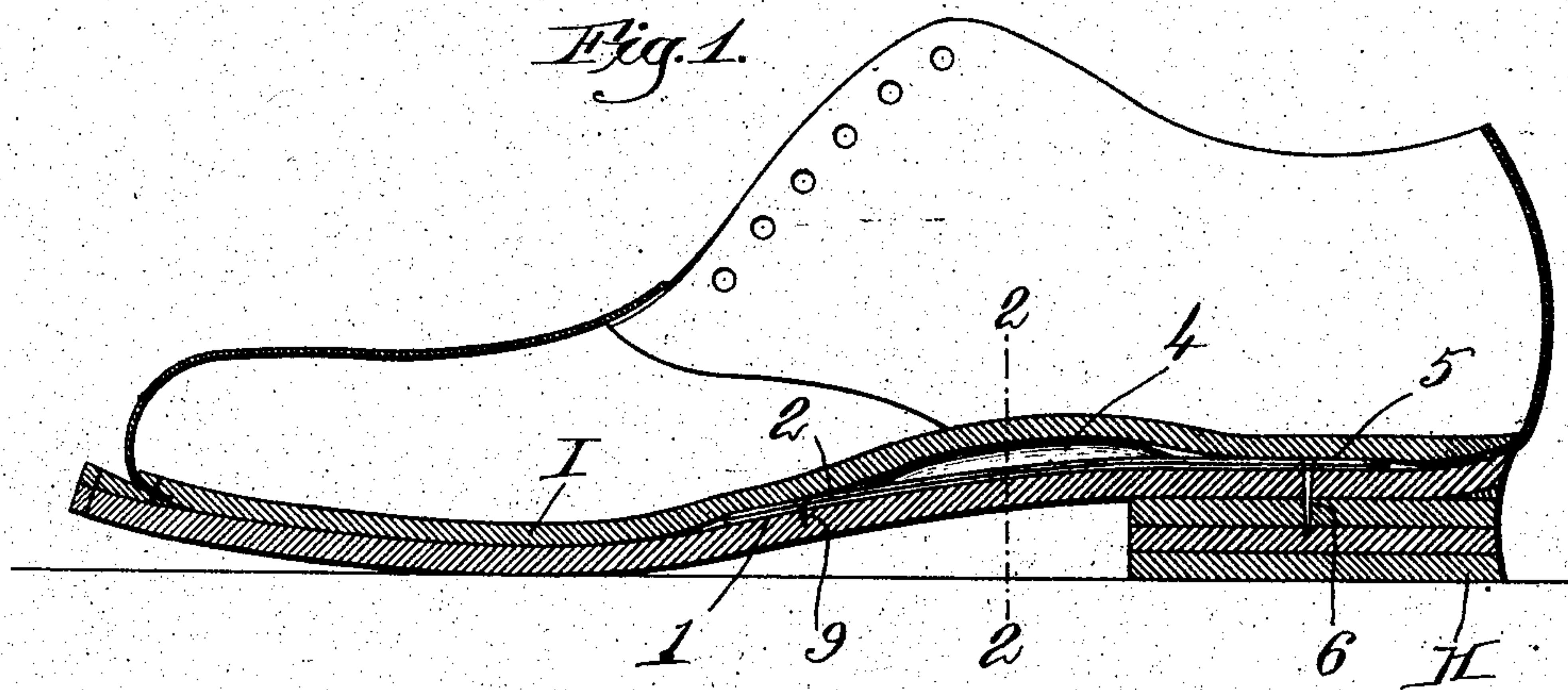


No. 815,327.

PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

W. H. BAYNARD.
SHANK PIECE FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 12, 1905.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BAYNARD, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO A. E. LITTLE & COMPANY, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS, A FIRM.

SHANK-PIECE FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 815,327.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed August 12, 1905. Serial No. 273,870.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BAYNARD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of No. 226 Newton street, Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Shank-Pieces for Boots and Shoes, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel and highly-efficient shank-piece or stiffener for use in boots and shoes, whereby additional strength is secured and a firm and lasting support is provided for the arch of the foot.

The common shank-piece as ordinarily used extends from the breast of the heel to the ball of the sole of the boot or shoe and is generally a strip of spring-steel or other suitable resilient metal. Such shank-pieces break down and permit the shoe to sag at the shank as there is nothing to hold the shank-piece firmly and securely in place, and, furthermore, the shank-piece itself is not possessed of sufficient strength or rigidity.

To persons troubled with "flat foot" or breaking down of the arch some firm and durable support is absolutely necessary for the arch of the foot, and such support is usually secured by means of plates inserted in the boot or shoe. Such plates are expensive and more or less uncomfortable and often hurt the foot of the wearer when in use. By my present invention the shank-piece provides a strong, firm, and comfortable arch-support which is a part of the shoe and which will not break down or sag during the life of the shoe, no matter how long that may be.

The various novel features of my invention will be fully described in the subjoined specification and particularly pointed out in the following claims.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a shoe, showing in elevation a shank-piece therein embodying my present invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional detail on the line 2 2, Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the shank-piece detached.

In carrying out my invention I take a strip of preferably spring-steel of suitable length and width and fold it upon itself to present two superposed parallel and contacting portions 1 and 2, the fold being made at 3 cen-

trally between the ends of the strip. Before folding the strip one of the portions is bent or molded in any convenient manner to present an elongated transversely-convex projection 4, herein shown on the portion 2 of the strip and so positioned that when the shank-piece is in the shoe (see Fig. 1) the projection 4 will be adjacent the inner sole 1 and will form an arch-support for the foot of the wearer. The projection does not extend to the ends of the folded strip, and the rear end of the latter has consequently a flat portion 5, which is inserted between the heel H and the heel part of the insole, and preferably the shank-piece is secured in place by fastenings, as nails 6, driven through holes 7 in the flat portion 5. A hole 8 is shown in Fig. 3 in the front end of the shank-piece, through which is driven a nail 9, Fig. 1, to secure the front end of the shank-piece in position.

It will be seen that the shank-piece is curved slightly in the direction of its length to conform to the slope of the shank of the shoe, and by extending the rear end of the shank-piece along the heel, as shown, a very strong and rigid shank-stiffening is provided, which will not break down and absolutely prevents sagging of the shoe at the shank.

The projection 4 provides a firm, comfortable, and very strong support for the arch of the foot, the shank of the boot or shoe being properly stiffened and supported at the same time.

The shank-piece combines great strength with light weight, owing to its mode of construction, and it is easily and cheaply manufactured.

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

1. A shoe-shank consisting of an elongated metallic strip centrally folded upon itself to bring the folded portions in contact with each other and having one of said folded portions molded to present a transversely-convex arch support and stiffener.

2. A shoe-shank consisting of an elongated strip of steel folded upon itself to bring the folded portions into parallelism and curved in the direction of its length, one of said folds being molded to present an elongated, transversely-convex arch-support.

3. A shoe-shank consisting of a strip of resilient metal folded upon itself centrally be-

tween its ends and having one of the folded portions bent to present an external, elongated and transversely-convex projection, the adjacent faces of the folded portions contacting.

4. A shoe-shank consisting of a strip of spring-steel folded upon itself, one of the folded portions being molded to present an external transversely-convex, elongated projection, leaving a flat adjacent portion at the end of the strip for attachment to the heel of a shoe.

5. In a boot or shoe, a resilient shank-piece consisting of a strip of metal folded upon itself and having the uppermost portion molded for a portion of its length to present a transversely-convex arch-support adjacent the inner sole, the shank-piece at its rear end

beyond said molded portion being extended between the heel and the inner sole and secured in position.

6. In a boot or shoe, a shank-piece consisting of a strip of resilient metal folded upon itself at the center and having a transversely-convex, elongated arch-support formed on the upper portion to sustain the inner sole at the arch, said shank-piece having a flattened rear end interposed between the inner sole and the heel and fixedly secured thereat.

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

WILLIAM H. BAYNARD.

Witnesses:

H. M. CUSHMAN,
M. J. SHEEHY.