

No. 874,314.

PATENTED DEC. 17, 1907.

E. S. ELLIS.
SHOE BUTTON.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 21, 1907.

Fig: 1.

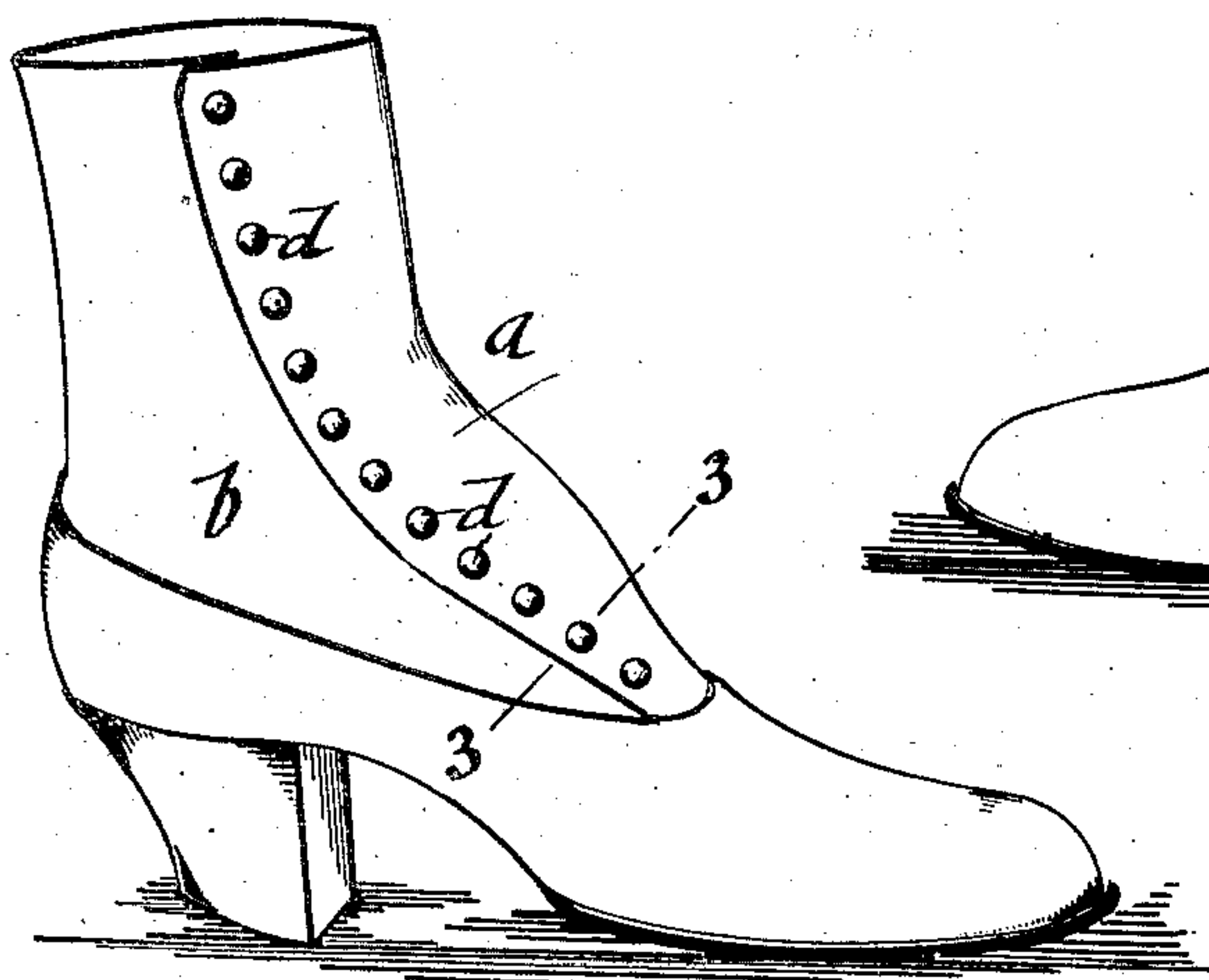


Fig: 2.

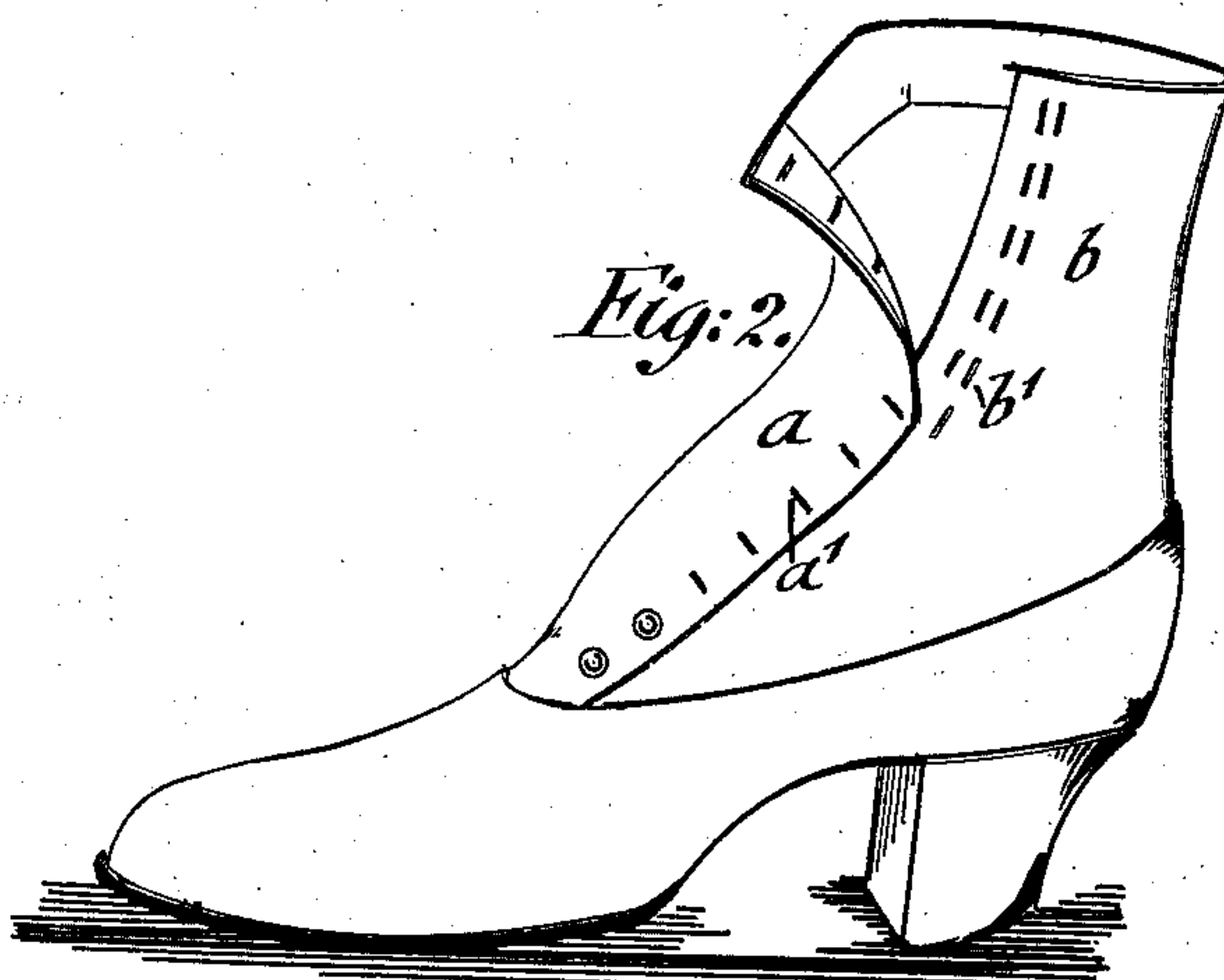


Fig: 3.

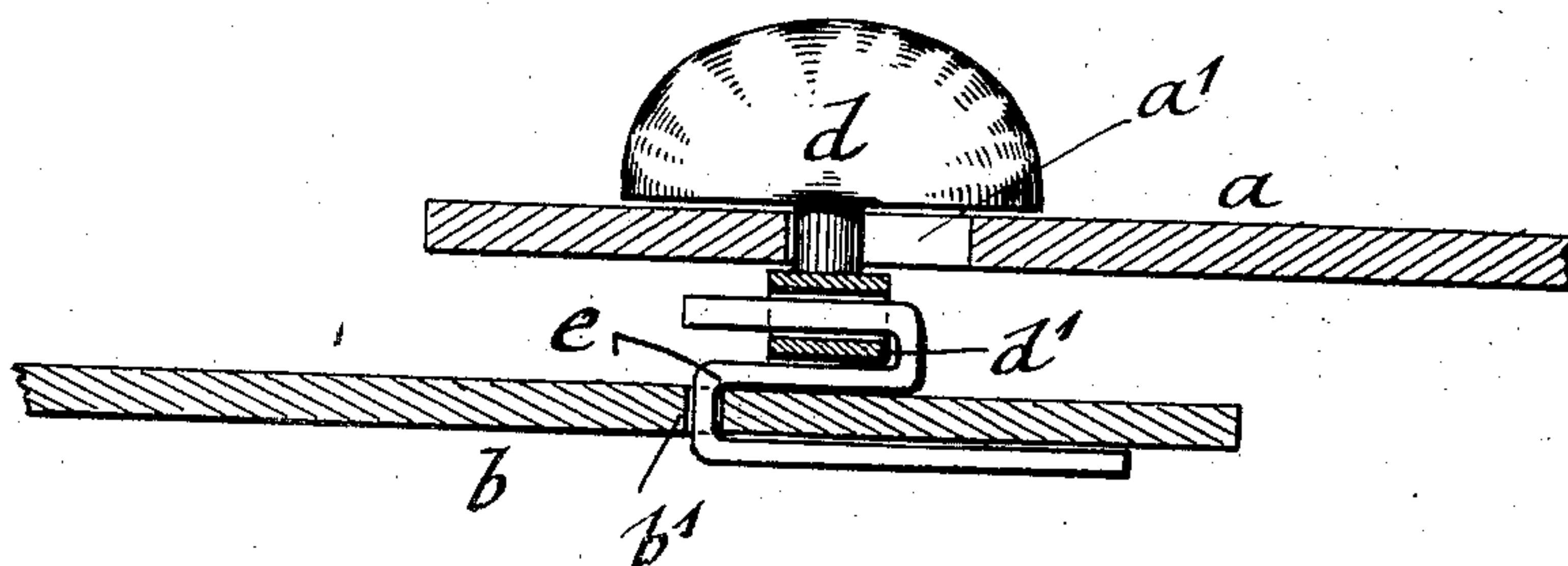


Fig: 4.

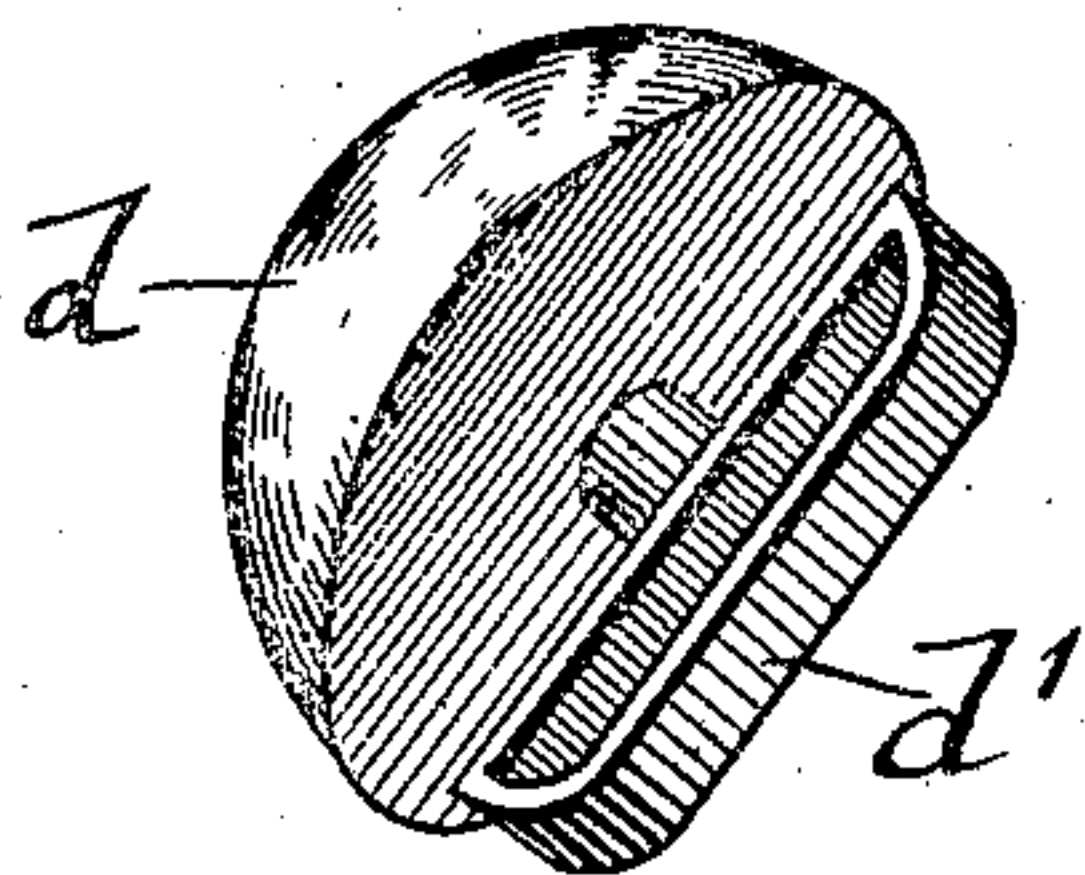


Fig: 5.

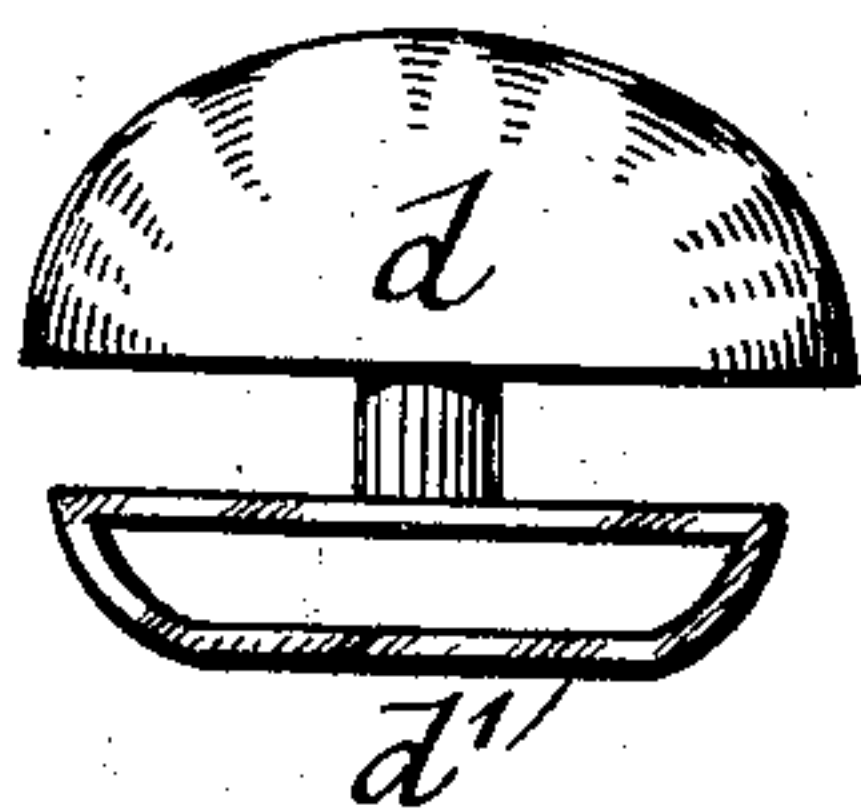
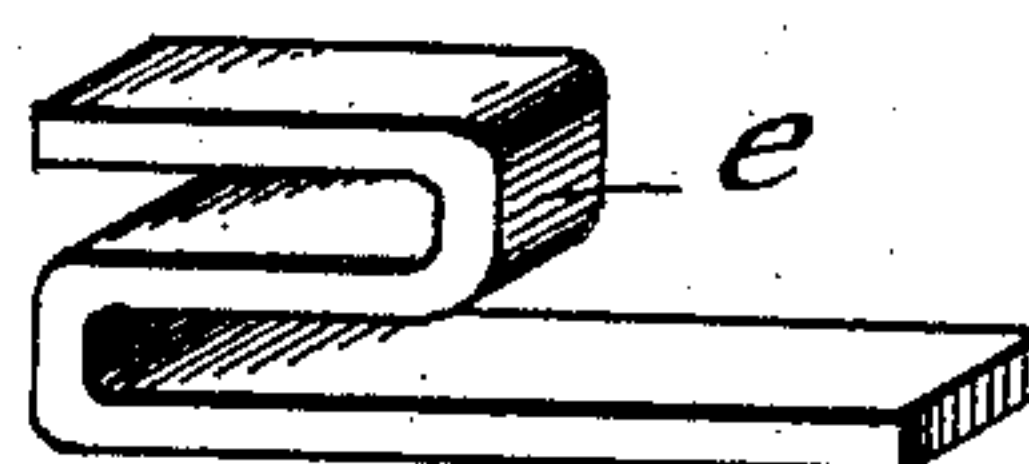


Fig: 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD S. ELLIS, OF UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.

SHOE-BUTTON.

No. 874,314.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1907.

Application filed June 21, 1907. Serial No. 380,036.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD S. ELLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Upper Montclair, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Buttons, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in shoe-buttons by which the shoe can be fastened without sewing on the buttons and which can be readily shifted on the upper so as to preserve the fit of the shoe and avoid gaps, whereby the shoe looks neat as long as it can be worn; and for this purpose the invention consists of a shoe-button composed of a button-head provided with a shank, a loop-portion at the lower end of said shank applied to the overlapping flap of the shoe, and a catch of **S** shape, formed of flat metal, the lower part of which is inserted into a slit in the underlapping part of the shoe, several parallel slits being arranged in the underlapping part of the shoe so as to permit the shifting of the catch into the next slit for tightening the shoe; and the invention consists further of certain details of construction which will be fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a shoe provided with my improved buttons and shown fully buttoned, Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a shoe showing the two lowermost buttons closed and the upper part of the shoe open, Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section on line 3, 3, Fig. 1, drawn on a larger scale, Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the button, Fig. 5 a side view of the same, and Fig. 6 a perspective view of the catch or fastener by which the button is fastened for closing the shoe.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents the overlapping and *b* the underlapping part of a button shoe. The overlapping part of the shoe is provided with a row of slits *a'* arranged at right angles to the edge of the overlapping part, said slits being cut through the leather without being hemmed and equal in length with the lower, loop-shaped portion *d'* of the button *d*, said loop-shaped portion being located at the lower end of the shank of the button, as shown clearly in Figs. 4 and 5.

For attaching the button to the overlapping part *a* of the shoe, the lower loop-shaped portion *d'* is pushed through the slit *a'* in the overlapping portion of the shoe, after which the button is turned for an angle of 90°, so that its loop-portion is at right angles, or approximately so, to the slit, whereby the button is held immovably in position. The head of the button may be provided with some indicating mark so as to indicate when it is properly placed and located in position.

The underlapping portion *b* is provided with a double row of small slits *b'*, which are arranged parallel to the edge of the underlapping portion. In place of two rows, three rows of slits may be arranged, if desired. Into a slit *b'*, nearest the edge of the underlapping portion of the shoe the longer arm of a catch or fastener is inserted, said catch being made of flat steel approximately in the shape of the letter **S**, which is flattened or depressed at the lower and upper ends. The shorter arm projects when the longer arm is inserted into one of the slits, in opposite direction and permits the engagement with the loop-shaped portion of the button when the latter is drawn over the shorter arm of the catch *c* and hooked on the same.

When the shoe becomes worn and loose-fitting the lower, longer arm of the catch *c* may be shifted into the second slit back of it so as to tighten the shoe at that point.

When it is desired to close the button, a suitable hook-shaped fastener or button hook is placed over the head of the button, with the finger resting against the side of the foot, the loop-shaped portion of the button brought over the upper arm of the catch so as to interlock with the same as shown in Fig. 3.

When it is desired to unbutton the shoe, the wearer takes hold of the button and gives it a slight turn. This slips the lower or loop-portion off the catch while still holding the button in the slit of the overlapping portion *a* of the shoe.

The advantages of my improved shoe-button are, first, that no sewing on of the buttons is necessary; second, that a button can never lose its grip or come off; third, that the catch for the button can be shifted from one to the other slit in the underlapping portion of the shoe, so that the shoe can be

made to fit after it has been worn for some time, thus dispensing with the necessity of removing the buttons and sewing them on again at a short distance from the original position; fourth, that the button always remains in position in the overlapping portion of the shoe without slipping out of the same, so that the slit does not become gradually enlarged, unsightly or torn and thereby the beauty of the shoe, as in button-shoes heretofore in use; and, fifth, that the appearance of the shoe is not changed by wear, but preserved, the shoe always looking smooth, neat and trim as long as worn.

15 Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The combination, with the overlapping part of a shoe provided with transverse slits
20 near its edge, of buttons provided with shanks and loop-shaped portions at the lower ends of said shanks passed through said slits, the lower underlapping portion of the shoe being provided with one or more
25 rows of slits, and S-shaped catches provided with a lower longer portion inserted into

said last-named slits and a shorter backwardly-bent portion adapted to interlock with the lower loop-shaped portions of the buttons.

2. The combination of the overlapping portion of a shoe provided with a row of slits near the edge, buttons inserted in said slits and provided with shanks and loop-shaped portions at the lower ends of said shanks passed through said slits, with the underlapping portion of the shoe provided with one or more rows of slits located at right angles to the slits of the overlapping portion, and S-shaped catches inserted into said slits and having longer lower portions and shorter upper portions, the latter being adapted to interlock with the loop-portion of the buttons.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDWARD S. ELLIS.

Witnesses:

ALGER JENKINS,
ERNEST M. MARSHALL.