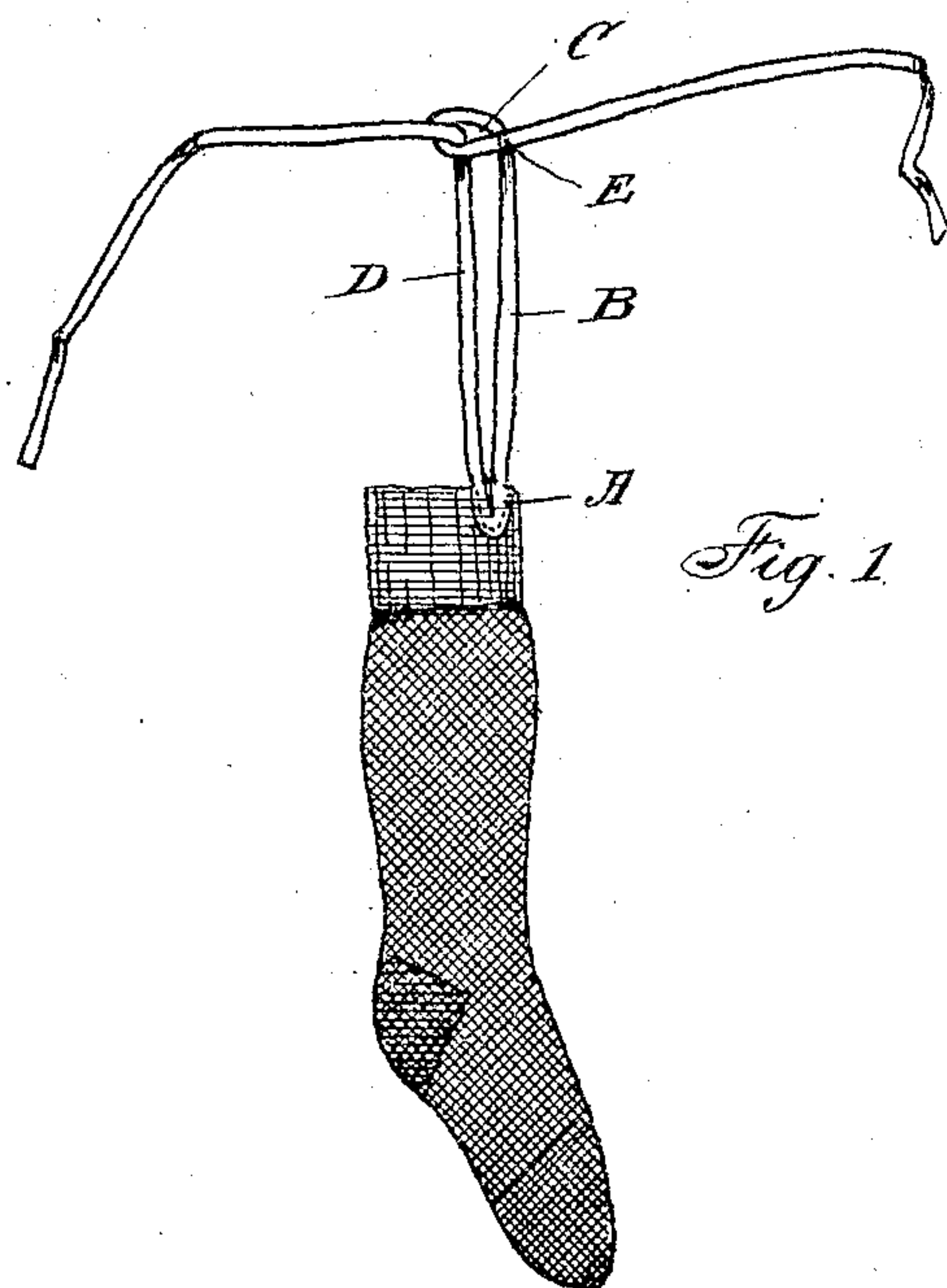
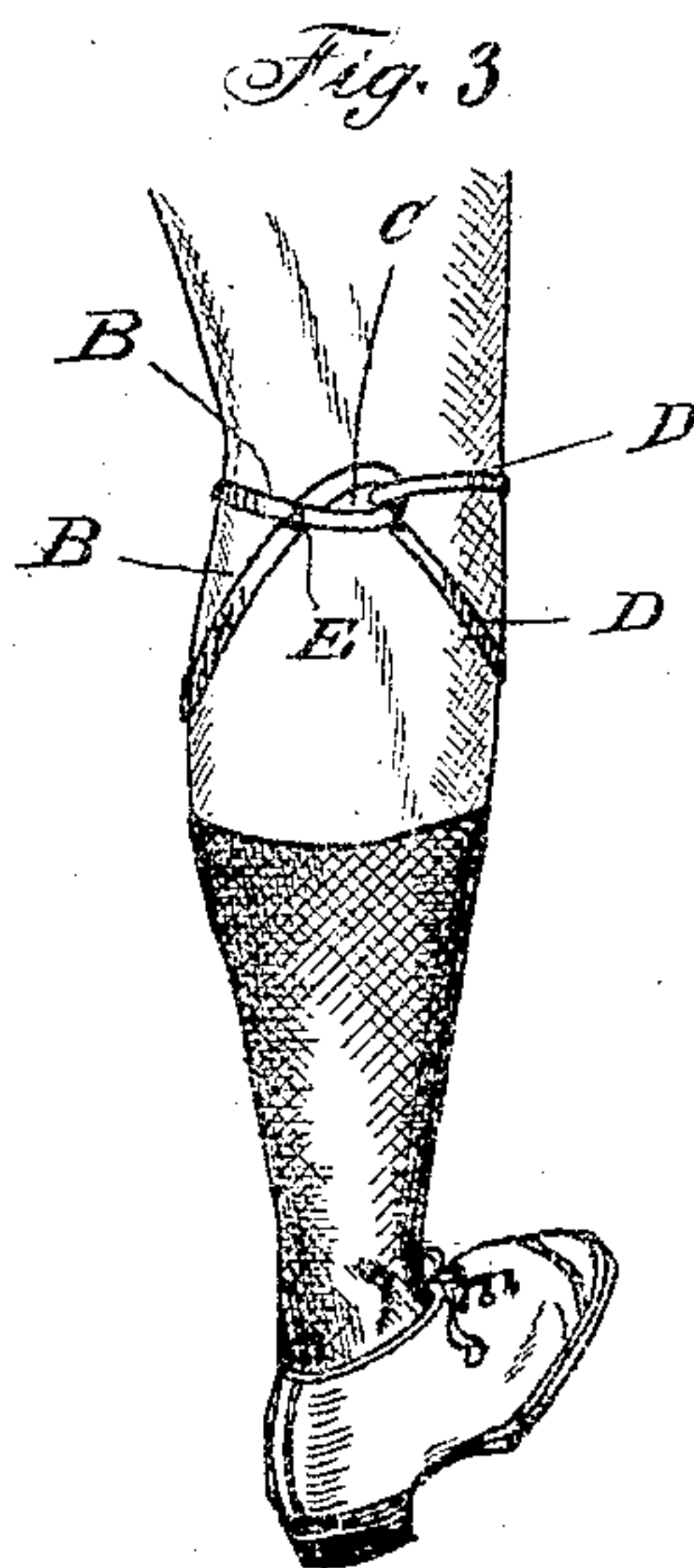
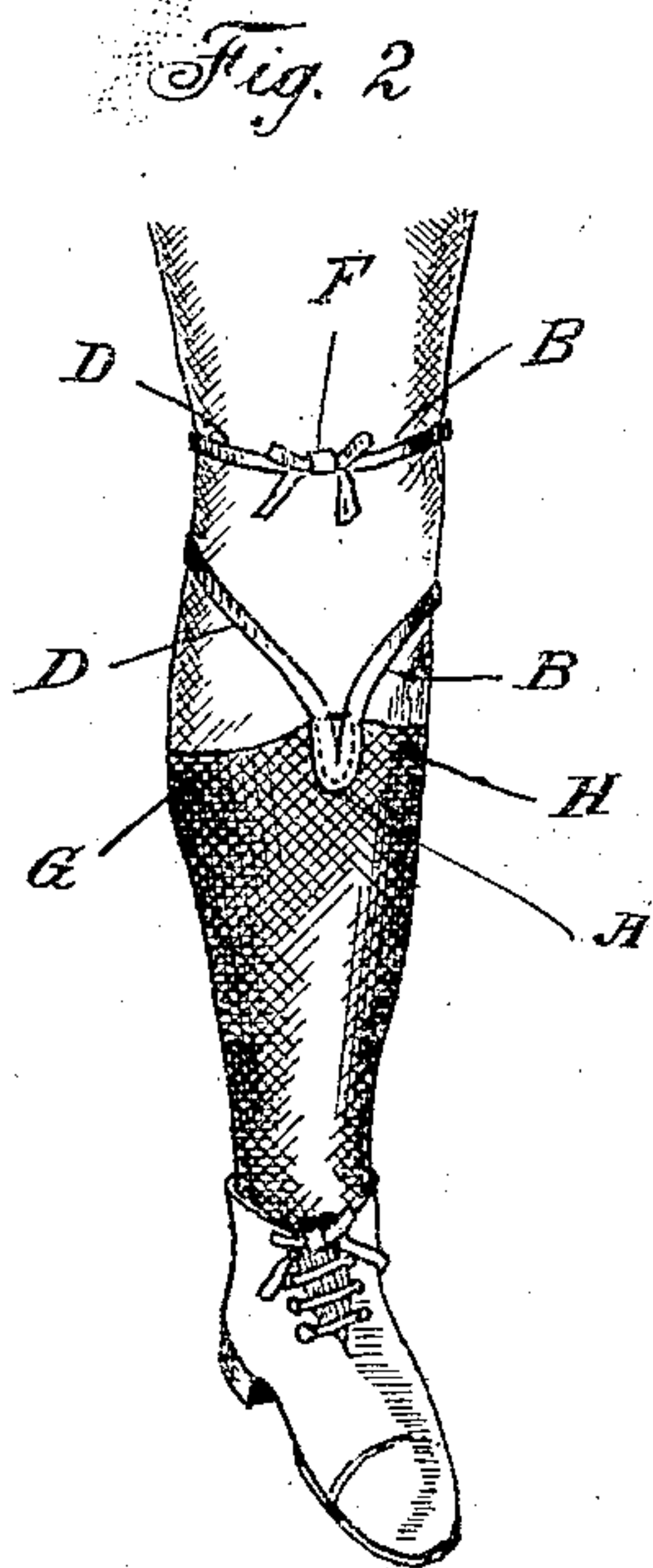


J. F. GRAHAM.  
STOCKING SUPPORTER.  
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 20, 1907.

917,591.

Patented Apr. 6, 1909.



WITNESSES

*Robt. Klotz*  
*H. R. Wright*

INVENTOR

*John Frederick Graham*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN FREDRICK GRAHAM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## STOCKING-SUPPORTER.

No. 917,591.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 6, 1909.

Application filed September 20, 1907. Serial No. 393,873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN FREDRICK GRAHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at 715 West Monroe street, Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stocking-Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

The main objects of this invention are to provide an improved and inexpensive form of stocking supporter which may be made of washable, non-elastic material, which may be permanently attached to the stocking, and which is readily adjustable to fit the wearer's leg without the use of metal fastening or adjusting means; and to provide a device of this class which is free from the pressure which is always present with the usual elastic garter, and which, though made of non-elastic material, will readily adapt itself to the movements of the muscles of the wearer's leg so as to avoid interference with such movements. These objects are accomplished by the device shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a stocking provided with supporting means constructed according to this invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation showing the same applied to the wearer's leg. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation illustrating the method of connecting the strands of the supporter at the back of the leg.

In the form shown in the drawings, the garter consists of a single strip of flexible material, such as tape or cord, and of a length more than sufficient to twice encircle the wearer's leg. This is doubled upon itself at a point about midway of its ends, the fold A being then sewed or otherwise fastened to the selvage of the stocking. The strip thus forms two strands each connected at one end to the stocking in such manner that when pulled taut in alinement with its attached part, each of said strands will extend upwardly across the upper edge of the stocking adjacent to its point of attachment thereto. The strand B is formed into a loop C at a certain point intermediate of its ends, said loop being of suitable size to permit the strand D to pass loosely through it. The parts of the strand B are sewed together, or otherwise secured, at E, so as to prevent accidental shifting or opening of the loop C.

The operation of the device shown is as follows:—It is preferred that the point of attachment of the garter to the stocking, des-

ignated A in the drawings, be at the front of the stocking. Then the strands B and D are passed around behind the leg in opposite directions, as in Fig. 2. At the back of the leg the strand D is passed through the loop C, and the free ends of the strands are then passed in opposite directions around the leg, as shown in Fig. 3, the upper part of each strand passing back around the same side of the leg as its lower part, instead of continuing around the leg in one direction. The two ends of the strands are then tied or otherwise fastened together at the front of the leg. The upper ends of the strands thus form a slip noose encircling the leg, and on account of the loose sliding of the strand D through the loop C, said noose may readily expand or contract in diameter to suit the movements of the muscles of the leg. Neither strand passes entirely around the leg. But by coupling them together by means of the loop, and returning each strand around its respective side of the leg, a snugly fitting band is formed above the calf, with two strands descending therefrom and each secured to the stocking. A downward pull upon the stocking is distributed equally upon both the strands B and D, and tends to tighten the band which is formed by the upper parts of the strand.

When in position on the wearer's leg, the garter may be regarded as forming a large loop above the stocking, two bights or bends at opposite sides of the loop being brought together around the wearer's leg and connected so as to be relatively slidable by means of the small loop C.

Experience has proven that this form of garter is capable of supporting the stocking in a satisfactory manner without inconvenience to the wearer, even though the wearer engage in active athletic exertion. The garter holds its place and exerts a mild, but firm tension upon the stocking, and it is immaterial for the efficiency of the garter whether the strands be round or flat.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. The combination of a stocking and a garter comprising two flexible strands, each secured to the stocking at one end, means on one of said strands whereby said strands may slidably engage each other at a point above their points of attachment to the stocking, the free ends of the strands being of sufficient length to permit them to be fastened to-



gether so as to completely encircle the leg of the wearer above said means.

2. The combination of a stocking and a garter comprising two flexible strands, each secured to the stocking at one end, a loop on one of said strands extending toward one side and adapted to slidably engage the other strand at a point above their points of attachment to the stocking, the free ends of the

strands being of sufficient length to permit them to be fastened together after completely encircling the leg of the wearer above said loop.

JOHN FREDRICK GRAHAM.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR WATSON MAY,  
THEODORE PURSELL ELLIOTT.