A. D. FRENCH.

FOOT SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 12, 1910.

970,910.

Patented Sept. 20, 1910.

Fig. 1.

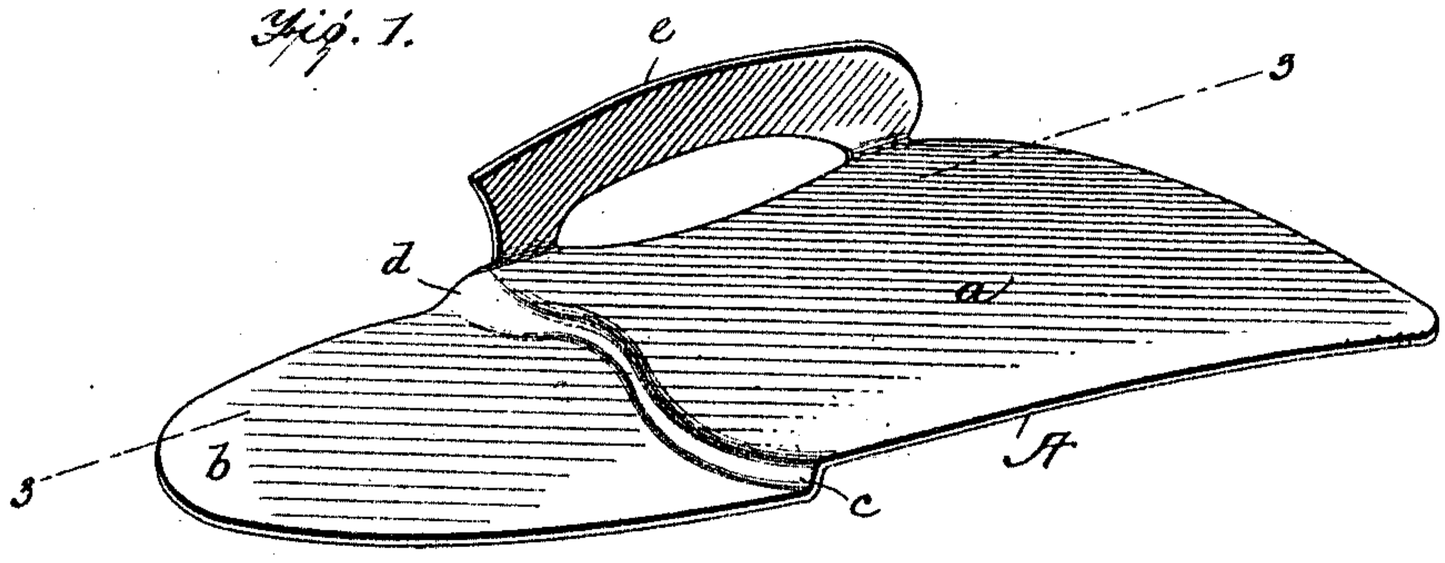


Fig. 2.

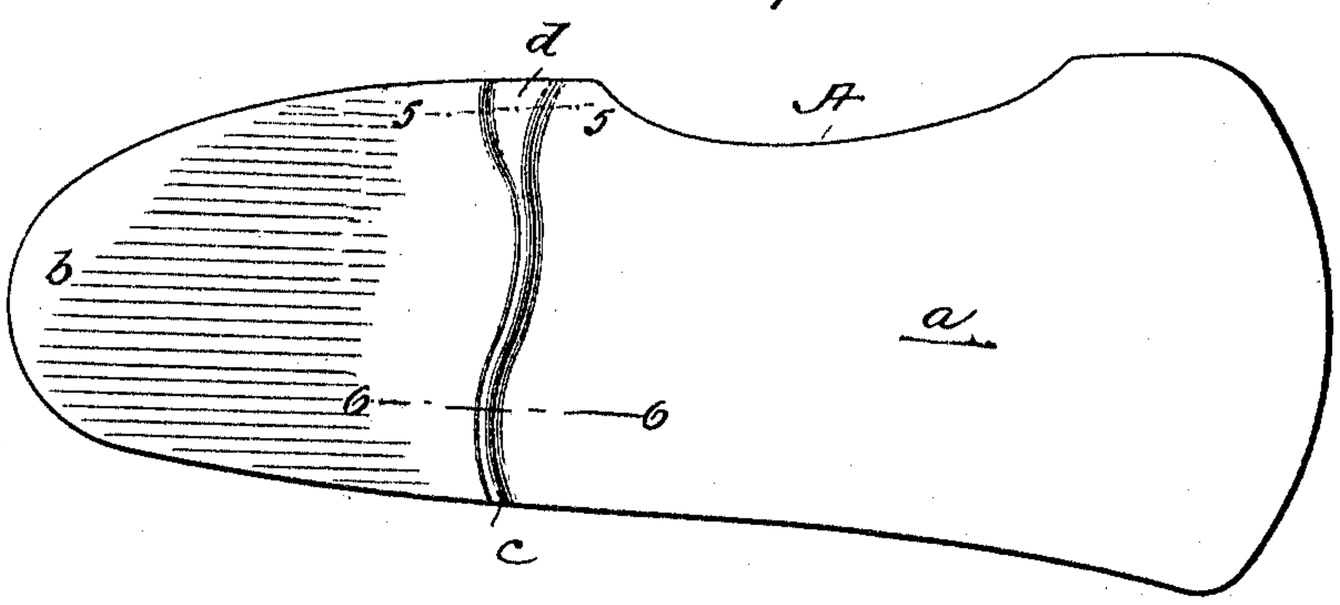


Fig. 6

Fig. 3.

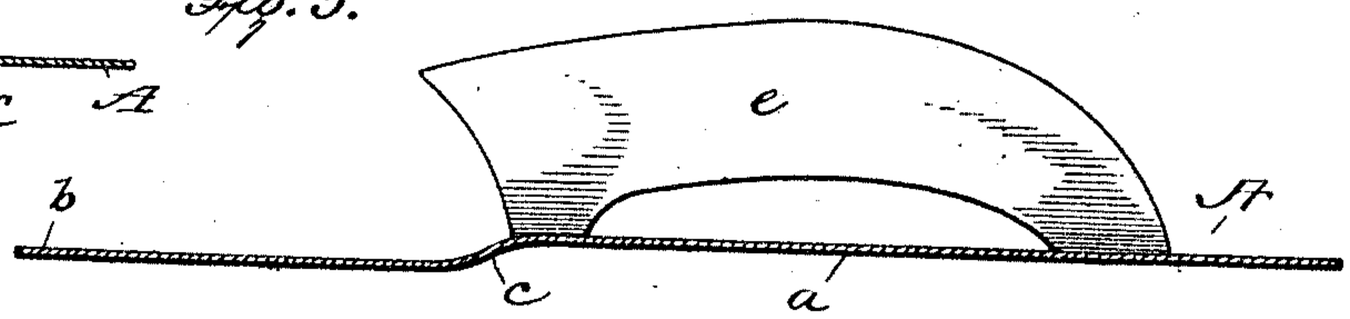


Fig. 5.

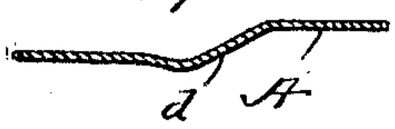
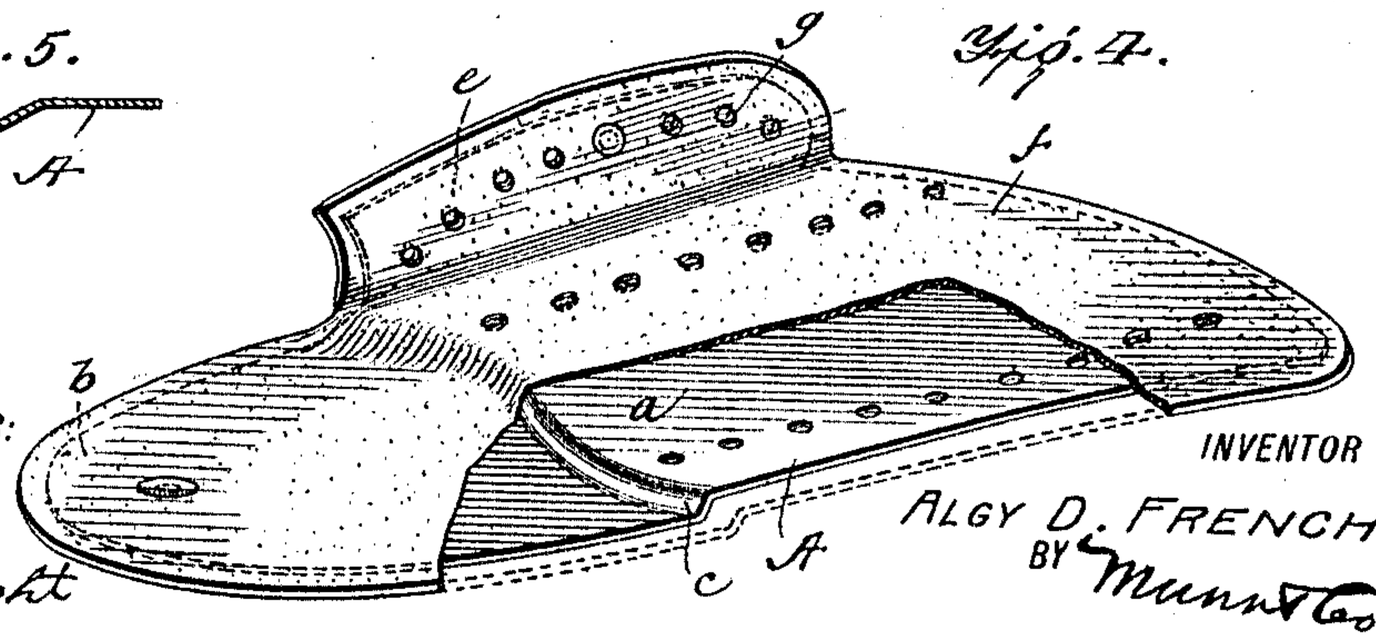


Fig. 4.



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FOOT-SUPPORT.

970,910. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Sept. 20, 1910.**

Application filed January 12, 1910. Serial No. 537,644.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALGY DEEN FRENCH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Shelton, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Foot-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in foot supports, and more particularly to a support adapted to be inserted in an ordinary boot or shoe for supporting the foot so that the weight of the body will come in its natural position.

Due to the use of improperly constructed shoes, various forms of foot malformations often arise, among the commonest of which is a slight rolling of the foot inwardly along a longitudinal axis, which lowers the arch and produces what is commonly known as "flat-foot" or "broken arch." Various forms of arch supports have been provided which seek to prevent this lowering of the arch of the foot, but in so doing they transfer the weight of the body to the arch of the foot. This brings the strain and weight to an unnatural position and tends to weaken the muscles of the foot.

The object of my invention is to bring the weight of the body on the heel of the foot where it properly belongs and to prevent the foot from turning and thereby preventing the arch from lowering, rather than positively supporting the arch as commonly done, which latter takes the weight away from the heel.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement; Fig. 2 is a plan view with the wing omitted; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modification; Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawing, A represents a plate of any suitable material, preferably metal, having a flat front portion *a* and a flat rear or heel portion *b*. The plate A at the junction of the portions *a* and *b* is provided with an offset or shoulder *c* which has the effect of slightly depressing the rear or heel portion *b*. The offset or shoulder *c* extends on a compound curved line across the plate and terminates at the inner edge of the plate at a point farther forward than at the outer edge so that the rear or heel portion *b* extends farther forward on the inside of the plate than on the outside, forming an extension thereof. This extension of the rear or heel portion is slightly depressed as shown at *d*.

By forming the plate with a flat heel portion and providing the heel portion with an extension on its inner side, and at its front with an abutment which conforms to the front of the heel of the foot, the weight of the body is properly supported by the heel of the foot and longitudinal and lateral movement of the heel prevented.

The front portion *a* of the plate forms a rest for the bottom of the foot between the heel and ball of the foot, and is provided with an upwardly projecting extension or wing *e* on its inner side. This wing conforms to the inner side of the instep or arched part of the foot and its rear edge is inclined downwardly and forwardly so that when applied to a shoe or boot it will fit the forward end of the counter thereof on the inner side and form an extension of said counter. The extension or wing forms a brace or support for the inner side of the foot from the heel to the ball of the foot.

A foot support constructed as above described permits the weight of the body to be supported by the heel and effectually prevents the inward rotation of the arch of the foot, commonly known as "flat-foot" or "broken-down arch."

In Fig. 2 the wing or extension *e* is omitted, the construction otherwise is the same. This form of support will be very desirable in certain cases.

If desired, the support may be provided with a covering of leather or other suitable material *f* as shown in Fig. 4, and in order to afford ventilation and prevent undue perspiration the plate and its covering may be provided with registering openings *g* as is also shown in said figure.

It is to be understood that the support can be changed or modified to suit special cases of deformed or abnormal feet without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. As a new article of manufacture a foot support, consisting of a plate having a flat

front portion to extend under the arch of the foot and a flat rear or heel portion offset downwardly from the front portion on a compound curved line terminating at the inner edge of the plate at a point farther forward than at the outer edge, forming an extension for the heel portion, which extension is slightly depressed below the remainder of the heel portion, whereby an abutment conforming to the front of the heel is formed at the front of the flat heel portion of the plate, the front portion of the plate being provided at its inner edge with a wing having its rear edge inclined downwardly and forwardly, said wing forming a brace for the inner side of the foot from the heel to the ball of the foot.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a foot support comprising a plate having a flat front portion to extend under the arch of the foot and a flat rear or heel portion offset downwardly from the front portion on a compound curved line terminating at the inner edge of the plate at a point farther forward than at the outer edge, forming an extension for the heel portion, said extension being slightly depressed below the remainder of the heel portion, whereby an abutment conforming to the front of the heel is formed at the front of the flat heel portion of the plate.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a foot support, comprising a plate having a substantially flat front portion to extend under the arch of the foot, and a substantially flat heel portion offset downwardly from the front portion on a compound curved line, forming a depressed heel portion having at its front portion a shoulder or abutment conforming to the front of the heel.

ALGY DEEN FRENCH.

Witnesses:

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