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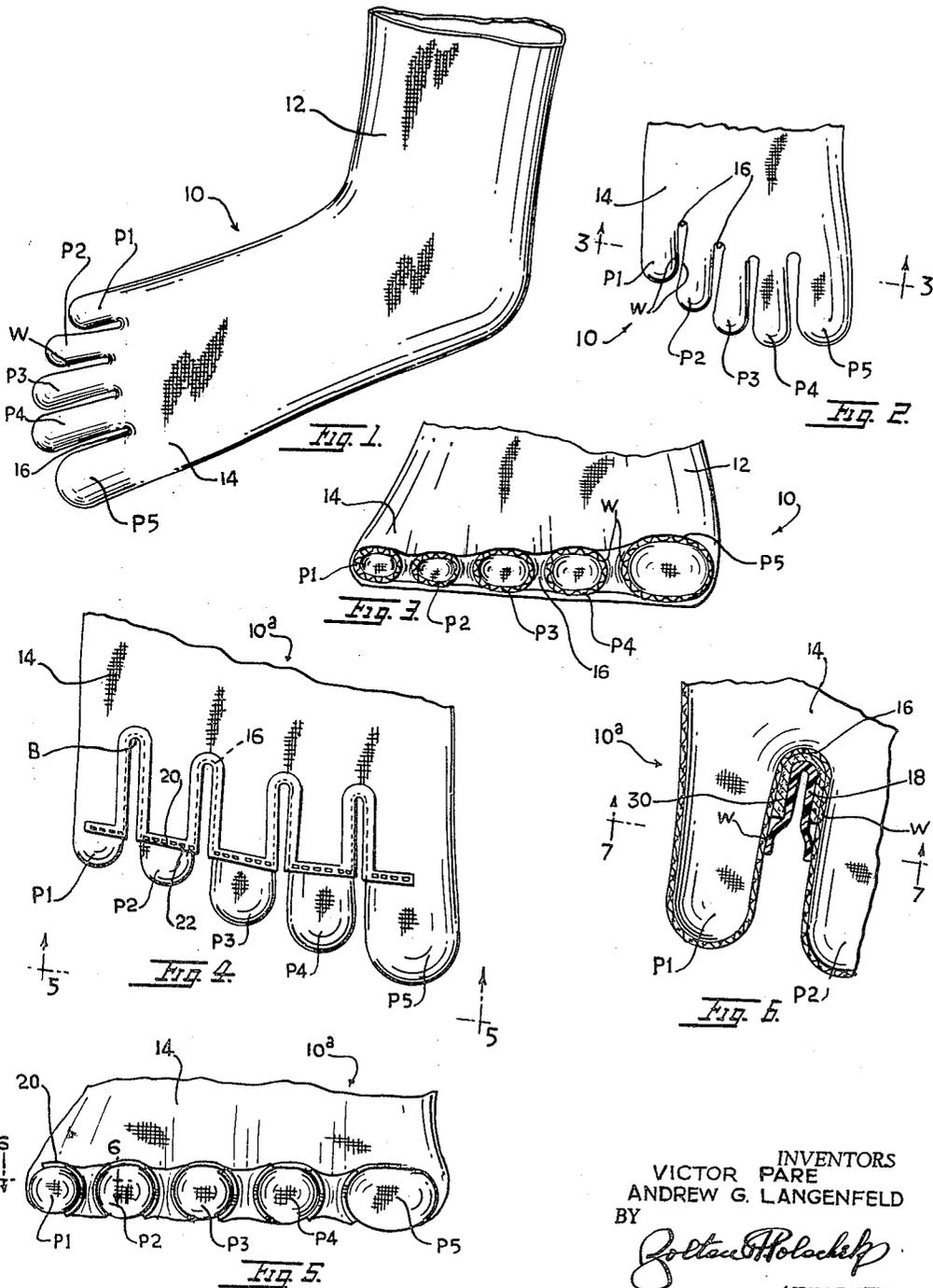
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STOCKING WITH SPECIAL TOE CONSTRUCTION

Filed April 2, 1963

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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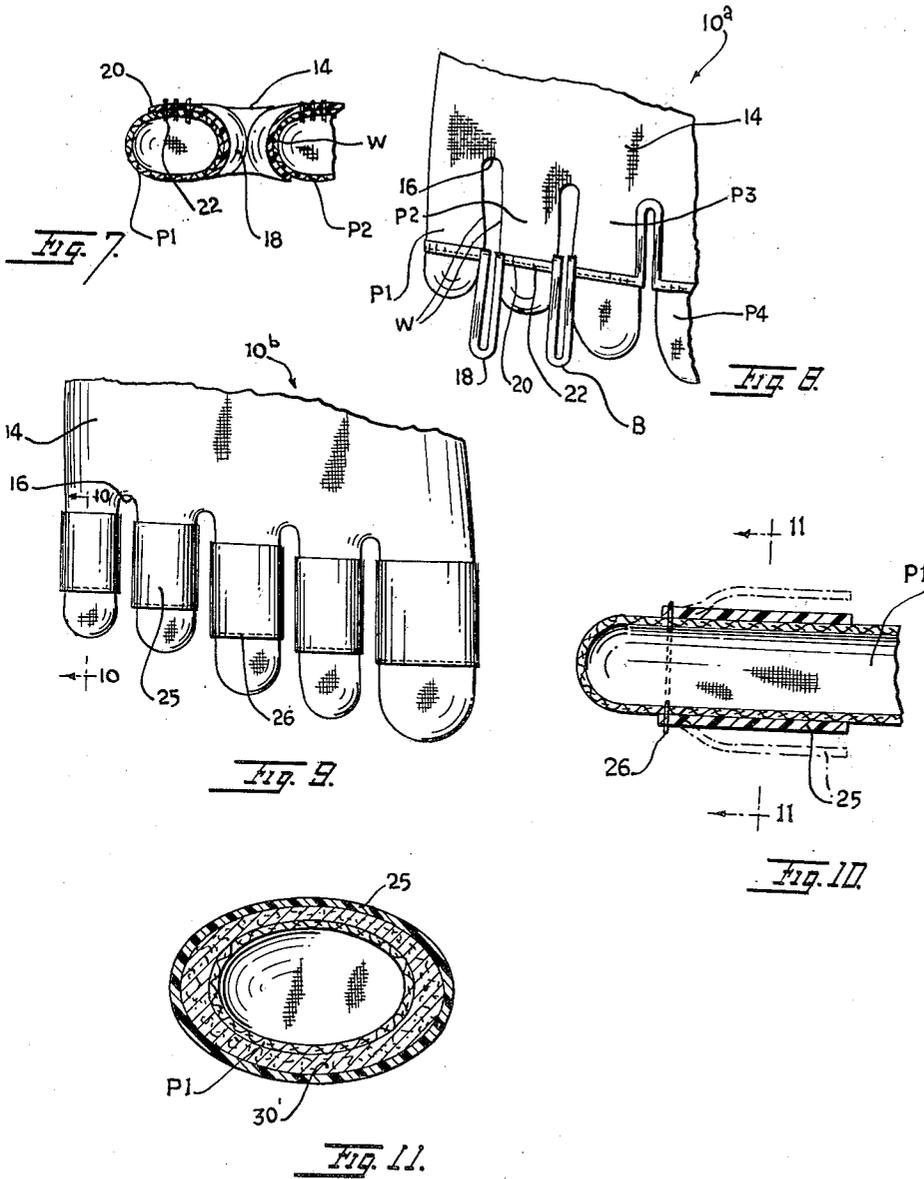
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STOCKING WITH SPECIAL TOE CONSTRUCTION
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This invention concerns an improved sock or stocking construction.

A number of foot ills and discomforts such as corns, chafing, irritation, excessive perspiration, fungus growth and distortion of the toes and feet, are caused by direct contact and rubbing between the skin of adjacent toes. The conventional sock or stocking has no provision for separating the toes of a foot from one another, and on the contrary, maintains the toes in close contact with each other.

The present invention has as its primary object provision of a foot garment such as a sock or stocking in which individual stalls are provided for enclosing each of the toes of a foot, for absorbing perspiration, prevention of chafing, etc.

A further object is to provide a foot garment of the character described, in which there is associated with each stall, a holder for a pad permitting application of medication to points between the toes or around the toes.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is an oblique side view of part of a sock or stocking embodying the invention.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the toe end of the sock of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 3-3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the toe end of another sock embodying the invention.

FIG. 5 is a front end view on an enlarged scale of the sock of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a sectional view on a further enlarged scale taken on line 6-6 of FIG. 5, with a pad shown inserted therein.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 7-7 of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary top plan view similar to a part of FIG. 4 showing pad holders displaced for receiving pads between the stalls.

FIG. 9 is a top plan view of the toe end of another sock embodying another form of the invention.

FIG. 10 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale taken on line 10-10 of FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view on a further enlarged scale taken on line 11-11 of FIG. 10.

Referring first to FIGS. 1-3, there is shown a foot garment 10 which may be made of cotton, wool, nylon, stretch material or other suitable porous fabric. The foot garment may be a sock or stocking having an ankle and leg portion 12 of any desired length. At the toe end 14 of the garment are five pockets or stalls P1-P5 formed integrally with the remainder of the garment. The stalls have different lengths and diameters for receiving and enclosing the several toes of a foot comfortably and snugly. Stall P1 encloses the smallest toe while stall P5 encloses the largest toe.

The garment is placed on the foot in conventional man-

ner, but the toes are individually fitted into the stalls. The web portions 16 at the base ends of the stalls where they join the toe end of the garment snugly abut the skin between the toes of the wearer. These web portions absorb perspiration and keep the skin clean and dry, thus preventing growth of fungus, commonly known as "athlete's foot." When socks or stockings having the described and illustrated construction are worn, the wearer will feel less foot fatigue over extended periods of time. The double layers W of cloth between the toes effectively prevent skin of one toe from chafing against skin of another in walking, as now occurs in conventional socks and stockings.

In FIGS. 4-8 is shown another foot garment 10^a which is similar in construction to foot garment 10 and corresponding parts are identically numbered. To the foot garment 10^a are applied looped smooth, plastic bands 18. These bands are fitted between the abutting walls W of the stalls. Bight portions L abut the web portions 16. The bands have interconnecting cross bands 20 secured to the tops of the stalls P1-P5 by stitching 22. The bands 18 define loops between the stalls and can be pulled outwardly as shown in FIG. 8 to permit suitable pads, which are medicated or not, to be inserted between the stalls.

In FIG. 6, a fibrous pad 24 is shown inserted between adjacent walls W of stalls P1, P2 and at the web portion 16'. The band 18' holds the pad in place. A pad can be inserted between each pair of stalls or only between a single pair of stalls. If the pads are omitted, the bands 18 remain in place and supplement the anti-chafing construction of the individual stalls. The bands 20 may be integrally formed with the bands 18 and are preferably made of waterproof, tough sheet plastic material such as polyethylene, vinyl or the like.

In FIGS. 9-11 the foot garment 10^b is similar in construction to foot garment 10 and corresponding parts are identically numbered. Around each of stalls P1-P5 is secured a tubular strip or band 25 made of waterproof sheet plastic material. The strips are disposed around an intermediate portion of each stall between the web portions 16 and the free ends of the stalls. Stitching 26 is provided only at the forward end of each band and serves to hold tubular pads 30' inside the bands as shown in FIG. 11. The bands are open rearwardly all around the stalls.

The bands 25 preferably have some elasticity so that they will stretch as indicated by dotted lines in FIG. 10 to receive pads of different thicknesses. The bands 25 serve as anti-chafing members when not holding pads 30.

The foot garments 10^a and 10^b enable the application of medication either around the toes of a foot for treating corns, bunions and the like, or for application of medication to the web portions of a foot between the toes for treating fungus conditions. The medicated pads are readily removed from their plastic holders, which can be washed, or can be wiped clean with a damp cloth. The medicated pads can be replaced without the necessity of removing the garment from the foot of the wearer, since the beneficial application of medication occurs through the porous fabric of the stalls and web portions of the garment. If desired, the pad holding strips and bands can be made of porous cloth material, but non-porous plastic material is preferred, since they will prevent liquid medication from seeping into the shoes and into adjacent stalls.

The multiple stall construction of the foot garment increases foot comfort and sanitation. Shoes will remain cleaner and drier internally and substantially free of odors. The invention may be applied to socks and stockings for men, women and children.

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While we have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of our invention, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, and holders for pads between adjacent walls of adjacent stalls, each of the holders being a band arranged in the form of a loop with sides abutting adjacent walls of adjacent stalls and with a bight abutting the web between the adjacent stalls.

2. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, and holders for pads between adjacent walls of adjacent stalls, each of the holders being a band arranged in the form of a loop with sides abutting adjacent walls of adjacent stalls and with a bight abutting the web between the adjacent stalls, each of said holders being formed of waterproof flexible, sheet plastic material.

3. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, and holders for pads between adjacent walls of adjacent stalls, each of the holders being a tubular band encircling one of the stalls.

4. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, and holders for pads between adjacent walls of adjacent stalls, each of the holders being a tubular band encircling one of the stalls, each of the holders being formed of waterproof flexible sheet plastic material.

5. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall

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being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent walls, holders for pads between adjacent walls of adjacent stalls, each of the holders being a tubular band encircling one of the stalls, each of the holders being formed of waterproof flexible sheet plastic material, and stitching at a forward end of each band securing the band to one of the stalls.

6. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, a plurality of tubular bands, each of said bands being formed of waterproof plastic material and encircling one of the stalls, each of the bands being secured at only one end to the one stall and free from the one stall at its other end, and a resilient, porous pad inserted inside the band between the band and the one stall.

7. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, a plurality of bands formed into loops, each of the bands being inserted between adjacent walls of two adjacent stalls with sides of the band abutting said adjacent walls respectively and with the bight of the loop abutting the web between the adjacent stalls, and a resilient, porous pad inserted between the bight of at least one of the bands and the abutting web, each of the bands having ends of said sides secured to the adjacent walls of the adjacent stalls to retain the band in place between the stalls.

8. A foot garment having a tubular cloth body for fitting on a human foot, said body having an integral toe end with five tubular stalls for receiving individual toes of the foot, said stalls having different lengths and diameters, each stall having a closed free end, each stall being joined at its base end to the toe end of said body with a web between each pair of adjacent stalls, a plurality of bands formed into loops, each of the bands being inserted between adjacent walls of two adjacent stalls with sides of the band abutting said adjacent walls respectively and with the bight of the loop abutting the web between the adjacent stalls, and a resilient, porous pad inserted between the bight of at least one of the bands and the abutting web, each of the bands having ends of said sides secured to the adjacent walls of the adjacent stalls to retain the band in place between the stalls, each of said bands being formed of waterproof, plastic sheet material.

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