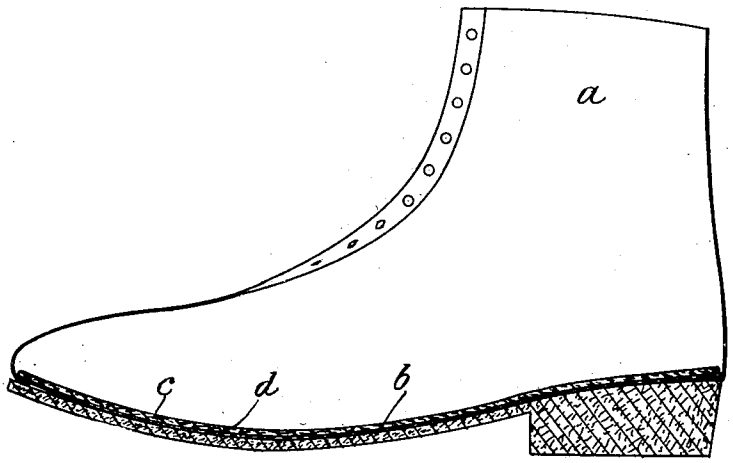
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ORTHOPEDIC BOOT OR SHOE

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Inventor:
Adolf Lettermann
by
Paul Frankland
Attorney

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ORTHOPEDIC BOOT OR SHOE

Adolf Lettermann, Berlin, Germany

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2 Claims. (Cl. 12—142)

This invention relates to the manufacture of orthopedic boots and shoes.

In my prior patent specification No. 1,856,394 I have described an elastic pad for taking foot impressions which impressions may be used as permanent foot supports. Now I have discovered a method for making orthopedic boots and shoes in which the said pad is firmly fastened and afterwards shaped according to the foot of the wearer.

For this purpose a flat elastic envelope having the outline of a human foot is filled with a mass which is solid at the temperature of the human body and melts at a temperature that can be sustained by the human body, and then the envelope is closed, as described in my said copending application. The pad thus obtained is then fastened, in the desired position, in a boot or shoe during its manufacture. For instance, the pad may be fastened above the inner sole by sewing, sticking, gluing or the like and may be overlaid, if desired, with the usual covering. From an orthopedic point of view, however, it is preferable to use the pad as the inner covering sole of the boot or shoe.

After the boot or shoe is finished, it is now, before putting it on, treated in the following manner:—

The pad in its position in the boot or shoe is first heated to a temperature above blood heat, for instance, by inserting an iron in form of a shoemaker's last, or the whole boot or shoe may be heated to a temperature above blood heat. The mass in the envelope thereby becomes plastic without the boot or shoe being altered. Now the boot or shoe is put on the foot and the still plastic mass is shaped under the pressure of the foot when walking.

The invention is illustrated in the annexed drawing in which a shoe made according to the invention is shown in vertical cross-section. *a* is the shoe, *b* is the usual inner sole, and *c* is the envelope filled with fusible material *d*. The envelope *c* is fastened to the inner sole *b* by sticking or sewing.

Every foot, whether healthy or ill, is supported in its natural functions by a boot or shoe constructed according to the present invention.

Of course, the fastening of the pad and the heating of the mass contained therein may be effected in any suitable way without departing from the scope of the present invention.

I claim:—

1. A boot or shoe having a fixed inner sole consisting of a flat elastic envelope filled with a mass which is solid at the temperature of the human body and melts at a temperature that can be sustained by the human body.

2. The method of manufacturing orthopedic boots or shoes which comprises fixing an elastic envelope filled with a mass, which is solid at the temperature of the human body and melts at a temperature that can be sustained by the human body, in a boot or shoe, melting the said mass, and putting the boot or shoe on a human foot.

ADOLF LETTERMANN.