

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

S. SILLS & J. E. WOOD.
HOSIERY.

No. 517,593.

Patented Apr. 3, 1894.

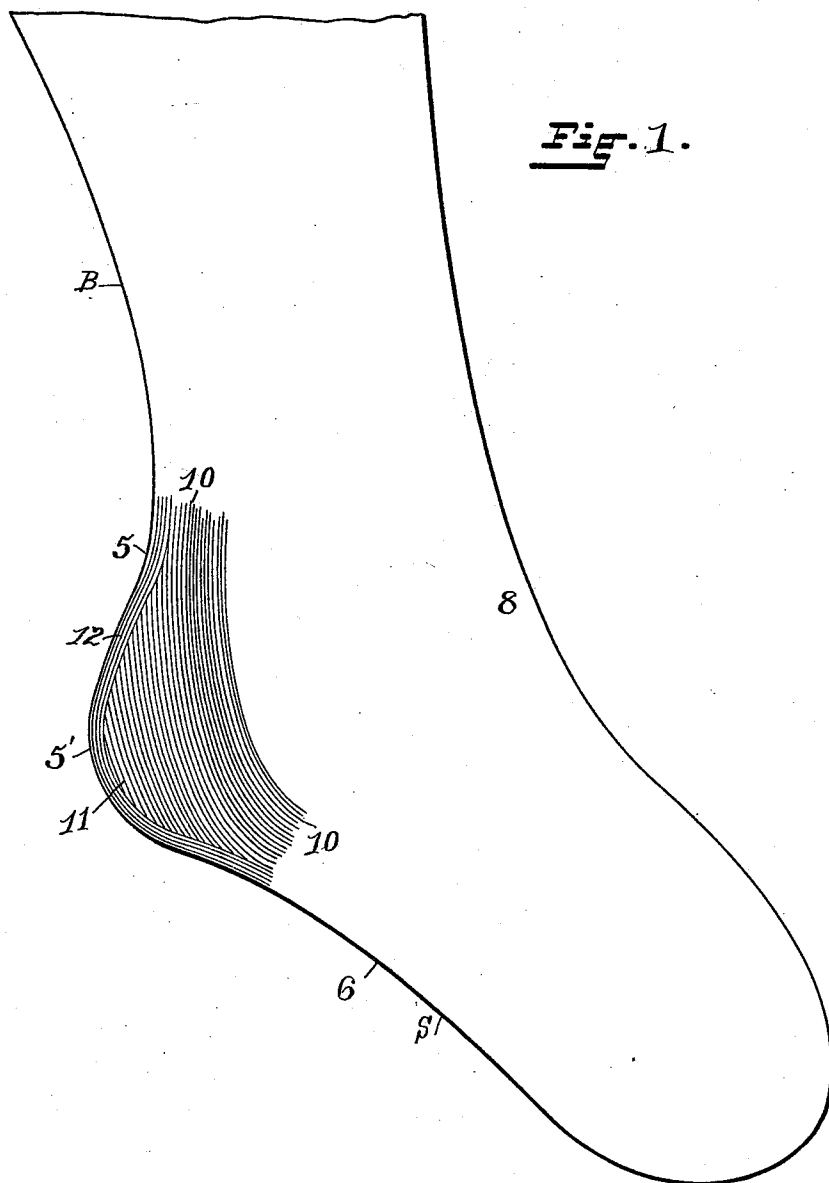


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES:

Henry J. Miller
Chas. H. Luther Jr.

INVENTORS

Samuel Sils and
John E. Wood
by Joseph A. Miller & Co.
Attys.

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Fig. 2.

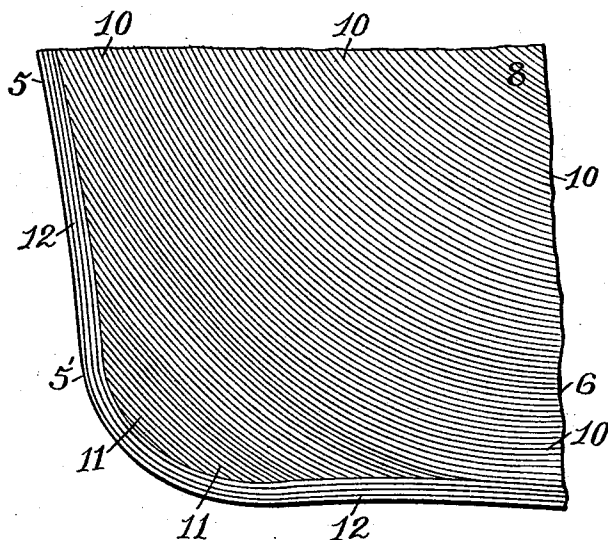
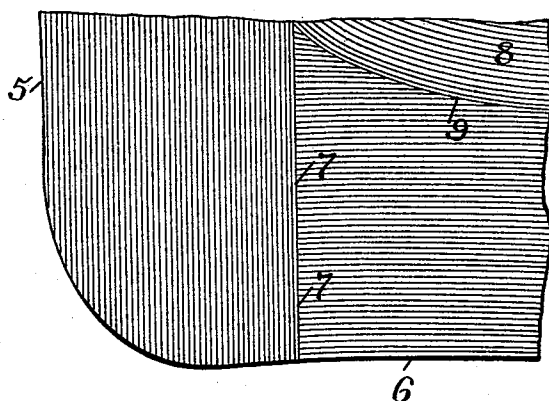


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL SILLS AND JOHN EDWIN WOOD, OF THORNTON, RHODE ISLAND.

HOSIERY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,593, dated April 3, 1894.

Application filed April 3, 1893. Serial No. 468,799. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, SAMUEL SILLS and JOHN EDWIN WOOD, both of Thornton, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hosiery; and we hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention has reference to stockings, or socks.

The object of the invention is to construct a stocking, or sock, in which no side seams are used.

Another object of the invention is to construct a sock, or stocking, formed from the material without boarding or stretching.

The invention consists in certain peculiar steps in the process of construction to produce a new and useful article of hosiery as will hereinafter be more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 represents a portion of a stocking indicating our improved construction. Fig. 2 represents an enlarged view of the heel-portion of the improved stocking to more clearly indicate the lines of knitting, Fig. 3 representing a similar view of a portion of an ordinary stocking.

Similar letters and numbers of reference designate corresponding parts throughout.

Stockings and socks have heretofore been constructed with heel-portions, similar to that illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawings, in which the lower leg-portion 5 was stopped at the under surface of the heel and joined together by a heel-seam, the sole 6 being joined to this heel-portion by the seam 7 and to the instep-piece 8 by the seam 9; variations of this construction have been made, but in all of them the seam 9 and seams extending therefrom toward the heel of the stocking are prominent. In order to produce a better appearance in the lower portion of the stocking which is not secured by the knitting, the stockings are stretched or boarded to produce what is known as the fashioned heel, giving a narrow appearance to the ankle portion by forming a rearwardly-extending heel-pocket, and dressing or stiffening preparations are some-

times applied to preserve this appearance for a time, when the stockings are wet the material returns to its natural position and a baggy appearance is produced at the back of the ankle.

Our desire has been to form a stocking in which no seams 7 and 9, or their equivalents, are necessary, and to add to the heel-portion sufficient material to form a rearwardly-extending heel-pocket, or fashioned heel, which will retain its shape after washing,—in our construction we continue the lines or wales of knitting 10—10 from the leg-portion 5 to the sole 6—6 and also to the instep 8, curving these lines to correspond with the general direction of the stocking by the introduction or withdrawal of extra wales in places to secure the fashioning of the heel. The heel-pocket 5' is formed by inter-knitting with the lower leg-portions material which extends in the same general lines, as at 11—11, and furnishing the edges with the seam-strip 12 of the same material, after the knitting operation the seam strips or selvages of the opposite portions of the fabric are joined together by sewing. This stocking is knit on a machine having a single row of needles and provided with mechanism for narrowing, or widening, by skipping the predetermined number of needles as the carriages move across, or by adding these needles. The knitting of the stocking is started in the usual way for flat knitting, at the top; after a piece about two inches long is knit it is doubled over to form the welt, the knitting then proceeds as usual. On reaching the narrowest portion of the ankle the stitches at the selvages 12 are carried outward by fashioning points during the widening of the heel by the introduction of extra wales, and are carried inward by said points during the narrowing of the heel by the withdrawal of said extra wales as usual in widening and narrowing at the selvages of knit fabrics by fashioning points. After being thus knitted the blank is folded lengthwise and the selvages or seam-strips, 12—12 are joined at their edges by sewing forming the seam B S,—in actual practice it is found that when stockings thus formed are pressed the wales 10 will be slightly curved. The improved stocking thus formed is more com-

fortable than the ordinary one from the fact that the only seam is at the back at B and in the center of the sole at S, and this is not prominent, although necessarily shown so in the drawings, while the fashioned heel is important to the fit and appearance.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

- 10 1. The method herein described of forming the heels of stockings knit as flat webs, said method consisting in adding extra wales to widen the fabric, in withdrawing said wales

to narrow, and then joining the edges, substantially as described.

2. A stocking having a back seam and a heel-pocket consisting of additional wales adjacent to said seam.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

SAMUEL SILLS.
JOHN EDWIN WOOD.

Witnesses:

HENRY J. MILLER,
M. F. BLIGH.