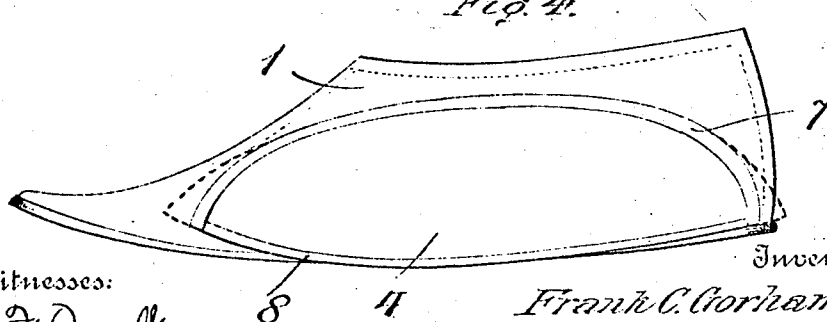
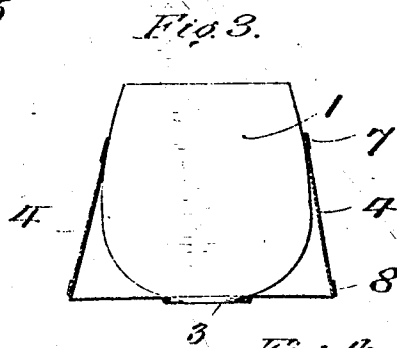
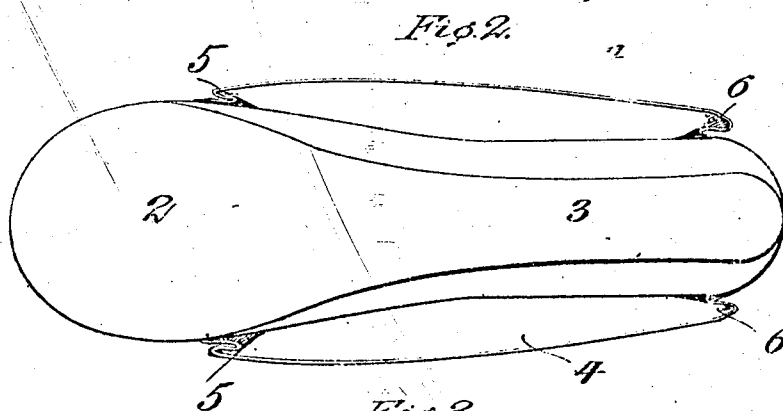
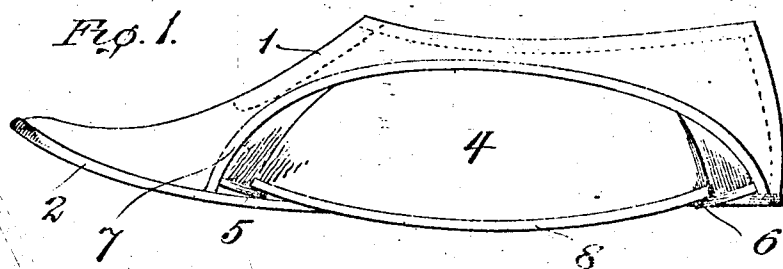


No. 895,451.

PATENTED AUG. 11, 1968.

F. C. GORHAM.
SWIMMING SHOE OR SLIPPER.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 6, 1967.



Witnesses:
C. J. Duwall.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK C. GORHAM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SWIMMING SHOE OR SLIPPER.

No. 895,451.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 11, 1908.

Application filed August 6, 1907. Serial No: 387,377.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK C. GORHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Swimming Shoes or Slippers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to what are commonly termed swimming-shoes or slippers and which usually consist of an ordinary canvas shoe or slipper provided with some form of wing or flap designed to close against the shoe-upper when the foot moves forward in the water and to open to lend resistance when the foot travels backward, whereby the latter acting like a web, serves to force the swimmer ahead with more than the usual speed and power.

Heretofore shoes or slippers such as I have described have been provided with flaps along the opposite sides for the purpose of aiding the wearer in propelling himself through the water, but in all such instances, where the flaps have been applied at the sides of the shoe or slipper, the former were so insignificant as to render but little real aid, and, furthermore, unless distended by some other means than the resistance of the water, were apt to lie close to the shoe and not open at the desired time, especially so when wet, which, was of course, their normal condition when in use.

The objects of my present invention are to increase the area of the flaps, while at the same time obviate any unsightliness by reason thereof and so construct them as to occupy merely their usual space along the sides of the shoe; and to so relatively form the shoe or slipper itself, as will cause the flap to readily distend itself the instant the resistance of the water occurs.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawing—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a swimming-shoe or slipper embodying my improvements; Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same; Fig. 3 is a rear elevation; and Fig. 4 is a side elevation illustrating a slightly modified form.

Similar numerals of reference indicate similar parts in all the figures of the drawing.

In carrying my invention into effect, I employ a shoe or slipper, preferably formed of canvas, and of the conventional shape, with

the exception of the sole, which, as will hereinafter appear, is so modified as to secure the objects of the invention. The shoe or slipper comprises the usual upper 1, and sole 2, the latter being either flexible or semi-flexible, as preferred, and of the usual shape, except that from about opposite the ball of the foot the sole merges into a rearwardly disposed narrow shank 3, extending to the heel. This shank, it will be observed, is relatively much narrower than the foot and, hence, the upper 1, so that the latter extends laterally at each side of the shank. The sole, however, being necessarily thin, many times being formed merely of heavy canvas, does not render the shoe or slipper uncomfortable to the wearer. By this peculiar shape and proportion given the sole, the sides of the upper when the shoe is worn, are convexed-shape or rounded, instead, as is usual where the soles are substantially as wide as the upper, rising in substantially vertical lines. As will be obvious, a shoe or slipper thus constructed, will absolutely prevent the flaps or wings from clinging closely to the sides of the foot and thereby becoming inoperative, but, to the contrary, there will always remain a divergent space between each flap or wing and the side of the shoe which will cause the flap or wing to open the instant the resistance of the water is encountered.

At each side of the shoe or slipper, is located a flap or wing 4, also preferably formed of canvas. This flap is designed to extend from the heel of the shoe or slipper to a point about opposite the ball of the foot or a trifle in advance thereof. The blank of canvas or other material from which the flap or wing is formed is cut somewhat longer than the space it is intended it shall occupy, and the surplus of material is taken up by one or more gathers or folds 5 and 6, it being preferred to locate such gathers or folds at the front and rear ends of the flap or merely at one of those ends, so as to offer little if any obstruction to the user of the shoe in walking. The upper edge of the flap or wing is preferably formed on a curved line, as shown, and stitched to the upper, a reinforcing-tape 7, being employed. A binding-tape 8, may also be employed at the lower edge of the flap or wing.

If preferred, the gathers or folds may be omitted, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing, and in this instance the flap or wing, is cut

somewhat longer than the space it is intended to occupy, (as indicated by dotted lines), and is simply stitched in position so as to lie substantially flat along the side of the shoe or slipper. In this latter construction, which

some might prefer on account of its neatness, the peculiar and novel shape given the sole of the shoe or slipper is particularly effective for the reason that otherwise the comparatively slight fullness given the flap or wing would result in a tendency to cling when wet to the upper and fail to open promptly.

By cutting the upper edges of the flaps or wings on a curve and stitching them to the upper on a curved line, the possibility of the flaps or wings turning backward when in use and by reason of the resistance of the water, is wholly obviated, and stays or other extraneous devices for this purpose are rendered unnecessary.

Having described my invention, what I claim, is:—

1. A swimming shoe or slipper provided

with a wing or flap having an upper attaching edge the ends of which terminate at the sole of the shoe or slipper near the toe and heel portion thereof, respectively, said wing or flap being provided at its ends with gathers and between said gathers with an ungathered or plain portion, substantially as shown and described.

2. A swimming shoe or slipper provided with wings or flaps having an upwardly curved attaching edge which begins at the sole of the shoe near the toe portion thereof and terminates at the sole near the rear end of the heel, said wings or flaps each being attached to the shoe so as to form gathers near each end.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK C. GORHAM.

Witnesses:

EDWARD HELLSTEM,
FRED H. HERZINGER.