

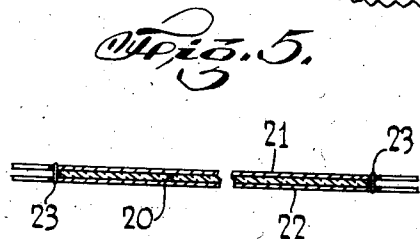
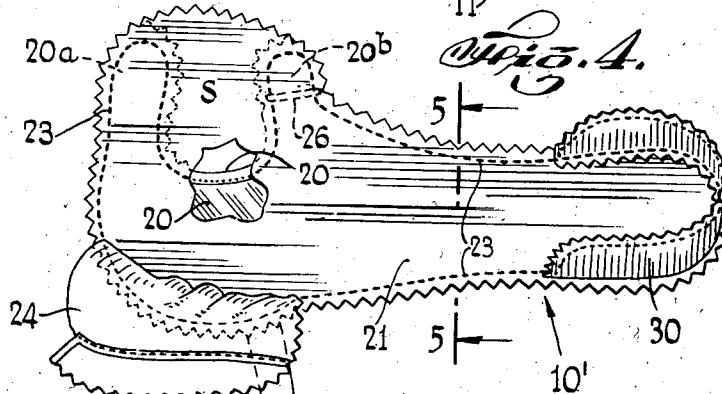
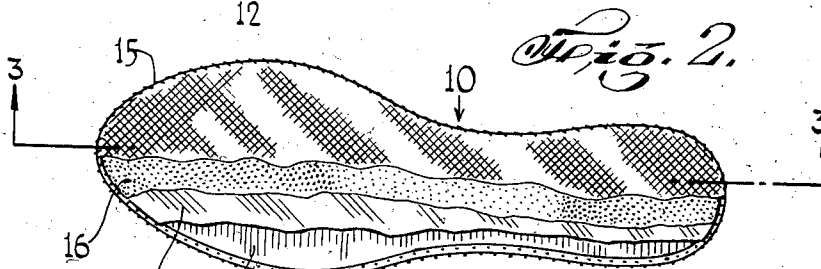
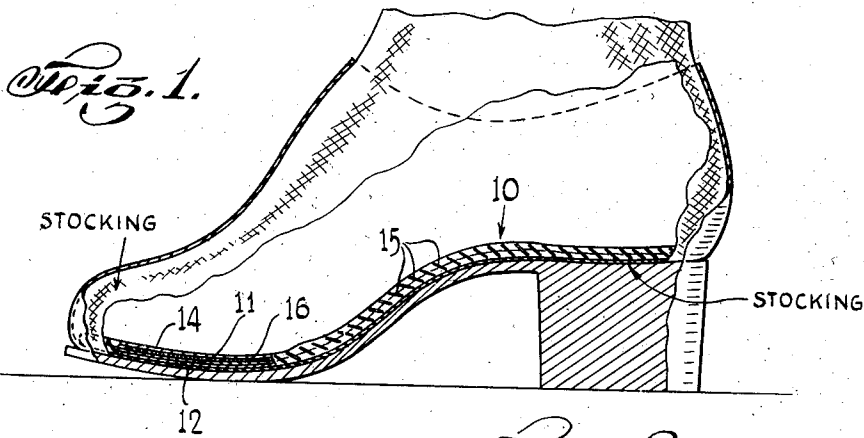
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2,244,844

FOOTWEAR INSERT

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FOOTWEAR INSERT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 36-8.5)

This invention relates generally to footwear. More particularly, my invention relates to an improved type of insert adapted for use with footwear.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a footwear insert of the character described which shall be sanitary, which shall protect the foot from irritation due to the frictional engagement of the shoe or slipper, which shall have a cooling effect on the foot and which shall also be adapted for use as a therapeutic agent.

Another object of my invention is to provide a footwear insert of the character described which shall comprise relatively few and simple parts, which shall be easy to assemble, relatively inexpensive to manufacture and which at the same time shall possess a high degree of effectiveness in use.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing, in which is shown one of the various possible embodiments of this invention,

Fig. 1 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along the longitudinal axis thereof and illustrating the positioning of the insert of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of an insert constructed in accordance with my invention with portions of the layers removed to reveal the construction thereof;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken substantially on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view, partly in perspective, of a modified form of my invention; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken substantially on the line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

Referring now in detail to the drawing and more particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, there is disclosed a footwear insert constructed in accordance with my invention and comprising a plurality of superimposed layers of material having the form of an insert 10. The insert 10 comprises a relatively thick inner layer 11 of Cellophane, Celluloid or similar material designed so that it will hold its shape and at the same time be sufficiently resilient to prevent cracking. An outer layer 12 of oil silk material is disposed on one side of the layer 11 and a second outer layer

14 of cheesecloth, gauze or similar open weave or porous material is disposed on the opposite side of the layer 11 from that of the layer 12. The three layers 11, 12 and 14 may be permanently joined at their peripheries by any suitable means such as, for example, the stitching 15. If desired, a pad 16 carrying any suitable medication may be interposed between the cheesecloth layer 14 and the Cellophane layer 11. The said pad 16 may be of a size coextensive with the insert 10 or it may be made of such size as to treat only certain local areas of the foot. The medication provided in the pad 16 may be of the type fully described in my co-pending application, Serial No. 282,523, filed July 1, 1939, for Therapeutic plastic composition. It is also noted in Fig. 3 of the drawing that the medicated pad 16 may be built up to a higher level in the area of the arch of the foot, if desired.

When the insert 10 is used without the medicated pad 16, the same may be inserted in the shoe to lie between the stocking of the wearer and the shoe insole or the same may be placed between the foot of the wearer and the stocking, with one of the outer surfaces 12 or 14 directly contacting the bare foot. When the insert is used with the medicated pad 16, it should then preferably be placed between the stocking and the foot with the cheesecloth layer 14 directly contacting the bare foot.

In Figs. 4 and 5, I have shown a modified form of my invention in which the insert 10' comprises the same type of inner layer 20 made of Cellophane, Celluloid or similar material and which is cut to substantially the same shape as a shoe insole with the exception of the front toe portion thereof which is provided with a pair of spaced projecting portions 20a and 20b with a cut out area S therebetween, the function of which will soon become apparent. A pair of outer layers 21 and 22 are provided which may be made of oil silk material and which are disposed on opposite sides of the layer 20. The layers 21 and 22 may be attached to each other by the peripheral row of stitching 23 to form a pocket in which the layer 20 is held captive. It is noted that the portions of the outer layers 21 and 22 overlying the space S are not cut out as was the case with the layer 20 and there is thus formed a portion of the laminated sole structure coextensive with the said space S which is thinner, more pliable and softer than the remainder of the insert 10'. By the above described construction, it is seen that when the insert 10' is positioned between the stocking and the bare foot, assuming it to be the

right foot, the area between the projections 20a and 20b may be folded over to overlie the toes so that should the wearer have a corn, the same would not be unnecessarily compressed as would be the case if the relatively stiff Cellophane layer were to directly overlie the corn.

If desired, a cup-shaped flap 24 may be attached at the front toe portion on the side opposite to that of the extensions 20a and 20b, the said flap 24 being permanently attached to the insert 10' by any suitable means such as a row of stitching. This cup-shaped flap is designed to be in the area of the foot where bunions occur, so that a suitable medicated pad such as the type disclosed in my said co-pending application may be inserted underneath the flap 24 to overlie the said bunion and thus relieve the same.

For the purpose of maintaining the flap 24 and the area S in proper position, a tape 25 may be provided, one end of which is attached to the insert 10' adjacent the flap 24, the said tape being designed to be wrapped around the foot and the end received in a corresponding suitable loop 26 disposed adjacent the projection 20b. If desired, there may also be provided an upstanding heel protecting flap 30 of similar laminated construction as that of the insert 10'.

While in the Figs. 4 and 5 form of my invention, I have shown the outer layers 21 and 22 of the same material, namely oil silk, it is understood that this form of my invention may also be made in accordance with the disclosure shown in Figs. 1 to 3 in which one layer may be of cheesecloth and the other layer may be of oil silk. It is also noted that in the Fig. 4 form of my invention, a medicated pad 16 may also be employed in a manner similar to that described in connection with the Figs. 1 to 3 form of invention. In this latter case, instead of the cheesecloth layer, the top layer 21 of oil silk may be perforated to permit the medicament to directly contact the bare foot.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a

device in which the several objects of this invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiments above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawing is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

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

1. As an article of manufacture, a footwear insert comprising a relatively thick layer of Cellophane and a pair of relatively thin layers of oil silk disposed on opposite sides of said Cellophane layer, said layers being substantially of the shape of an insole with the exception of a portion thereof adjacent the toe portion extending outwardly beyond the normal sole contour, said Cellophane layer being provided with a cut out notch disposed inwardly from the edge of said outwardly extending portion to provide an area relatively thinner and softer than the remaining portions of said insert for the purposes set forth.

2. As an article of manufacture, a footwear insert comprising a relatively thick layer of Cellophane, a pair of relatively thin layers of oil silk disposed on opposite sides of said Cellophane layer, said layers being substantially of the shape of an insole with the exception of a portion thereof adjacent the toe portion extending outwardly beyond the normal sole contour, said Cellophane layer being provided with a cut out notch disposed inwardly from the edge of said outwardly extending portion to provide an area relatively thinner and softer than the remaining portions of said insert for the purposes set forth, and a foldable flap attached to said insert at the opposite side thereof from said extending portion.

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