This invention relates to improvements in hosiery drying forms, and the principal object of the invention is to provide a form which while not departing in the main from the accepted stocking-form standards does depart in the toe portion to an extent affording a greater conformity in the toe portion of the finished stocking with the normal shape of the corresponding portion of the human foot. It is desirable to give the toe portion of the stocking a width and bluntness conforming as closely as possible to the normal shape of the human foot while not interfering with the accepted standard form in which hosiery is commonly marketed, and it is the principal object of the present invention to provide a form which while giving a finished article which in essential respects corresponds with hosiery finished on the forms now in common use will, nevertheless, so shape the toe as to afford a maximum comfort in that part to the wearer.

In the attached drawings:

Fig. 1 is a stocking form or board made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a view of a stocking finished on my forming board;

Fig. 3 illustrates the manner in which a stocking finished on the form may be folded to give a finished article which in general appearance is the same as the stocking finished on a forming board of the usual type;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the form, and Fig. 5 is a plan view.

Referring to the drawings, my stocking form may conform in general shape to the normal stocking form in the leg portion and in the major portion of the foot as indicated at 1 and 2 respectively. The toe 3, however, instead of terminating in the plane with the rest of the form is provided with a rounded transverse enlargement 4 which may be in the form of a separate piece attached after the manner shown in Fig. 1 to the flat board or may be an integral part of the form. Preferably this transverse portion 4 at its forward end 5 is square with the plane of the flat portion of the board and extends an equal distance on both sides so as to give a perfectly square toe in the finished stocking, and so also that there may be no distinction between right and lefthand stockings as boarded on this form. The broad forward end 5 of the toe piece 3 lies in a plane 6--6 Fig. 4, which is disposed at right angles to the plane of the foot portion 2 and bisects the said foot portion, being disposed substantially equidistantly from and between the opposite edges 6 and 7 respectively of the said foot portion 2, so that when a stocking is finished on the form the broadest portion of the toe of the stocking will be disposed substantially in line with the center of the foot portion of the stocking, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

The stocking is applied to the form in the usual manner, and when dried and stretched on the form gives a finished stocking of the general form illustrated in Fig. 2, in which the toe instead of being flat and in the plane of the rest of the stocking is spread transversely. By taking the transversely pressed toe, however, and folding it as shown in Fig. 3 so that the major portion thereof lies flat against one side of the foot of the stocking, the stocking assumes in contour the general shape of a stocking finished on the usual flat forming board, this appearance being accentuated to some extent by pressing down the folded-over toe flap against the side of the stocking. With the exception of the toe, the stocking corresponds in all respects to a stocking finished on the usual form, and when the toe is folded as described, the article has the same pleasing appearance of an article finished on the type of board now in common use. The stockings of a pair being laid together in the usual manner may have the toe portions folded against the adjacent faces so that the fold is entirely invisible except when the stockings of the pair are separated.

A stocking boarded on my form, however, has the great advantage of fitting naturally and without pressure upon the toes of the wearer, and is in all respects more hygienic. Not only is undue pressure taken off the foot, but the stocking similarly relieved, with the result that it wears longer and gives better service.
I am aware that stocking forms having transverse toe portions have been suggested, but so far as I am aware, no form has been provided which gives the usual flat finished shape to the stocking and affords a transverse toe portion which when folded in as described gives a finished article not departing in marked degree and in contour from the accepted stocking shape.

I claim:

1. A stocking form consisting of a substantially flat body including both leg and foot portions and having at the toe a rounded transverse extremity whose forward edge extends substantially at right angles to the plane of the said foot portion of the form in a plane bisecting the said foot portion of the form.

2. A stocking form consisting of a substantially flat body including both leg and foot portions and having at the toe a transverse extremity whose forward edge extends substantially at right angles to the plane of the said foot portion of the form in a plane bisecting the said foot portion of the form and which merges into the said flat foot portion in advance of the ankle.

3. A stocking form consisting of leg and foot portions, said leg portion and a part of said foot portion being formed as a flat body, the part of the foot which is included in the flat body consisting of a heel and ankle portion and a part in advance of the ankle, the foot portion also including a toe portion consisting of a rounded transverse body, the forward edge of which extends substantially at right angles to the plane of said foot portion and in a plane bisecting the said flat foot portion, said rounded body tapering from its outer end toward the opposite sides of the flat part of the foot in advance of the ankle.

CARL LOVEN.