Dec. 12, 1961 R. H. ADAMS 3,013,184

HOSPITAL BOOTIES

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FIG. 1.

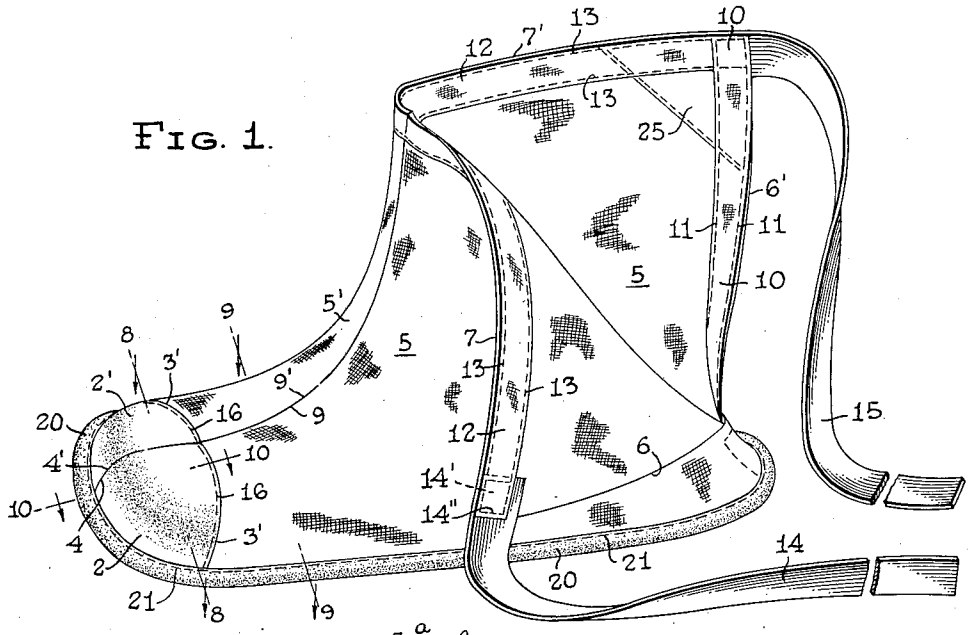


FIG. 4.

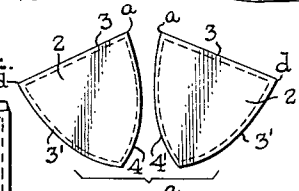


FIG. 2.

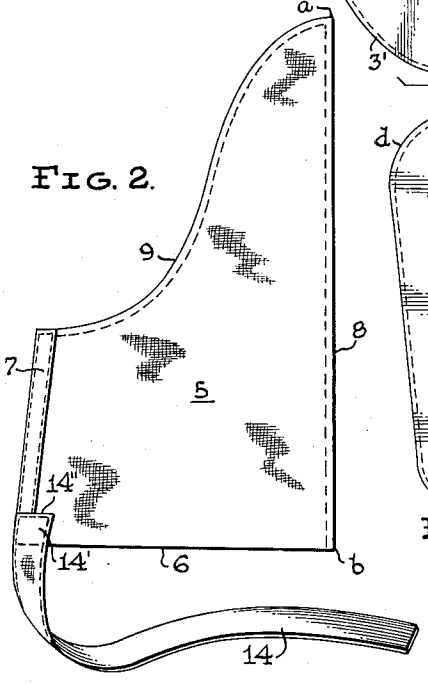


FIG. 3.

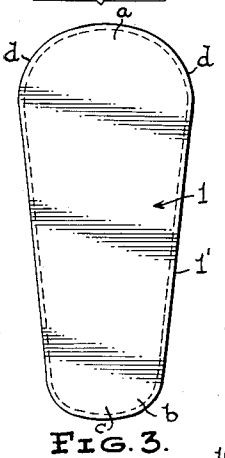
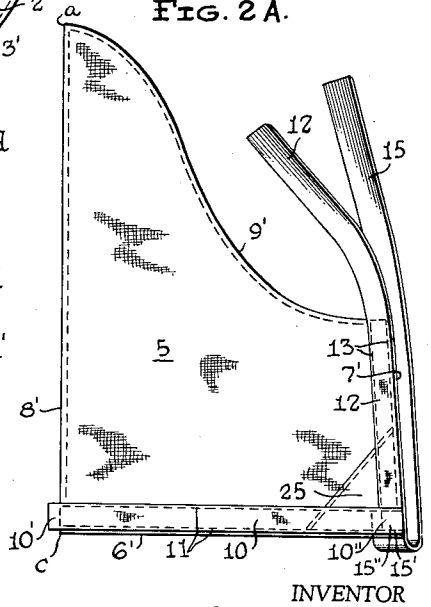


FIG. 2A.



INVENTOR
RALPH H. ADAMS

BY Reuben J. Carlson

ATTORNEY

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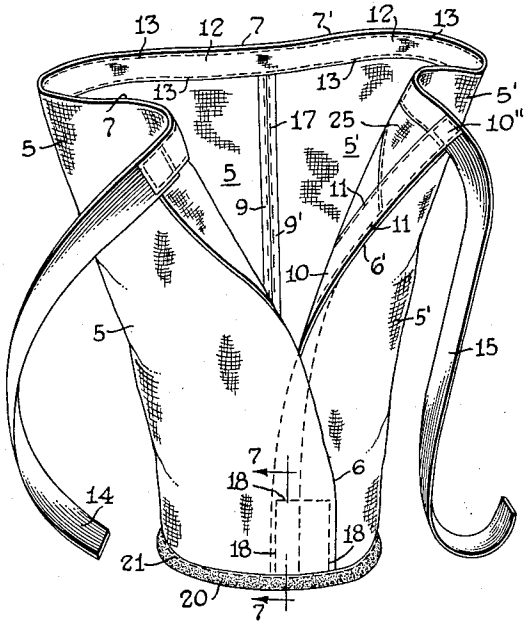


FIG. 5.

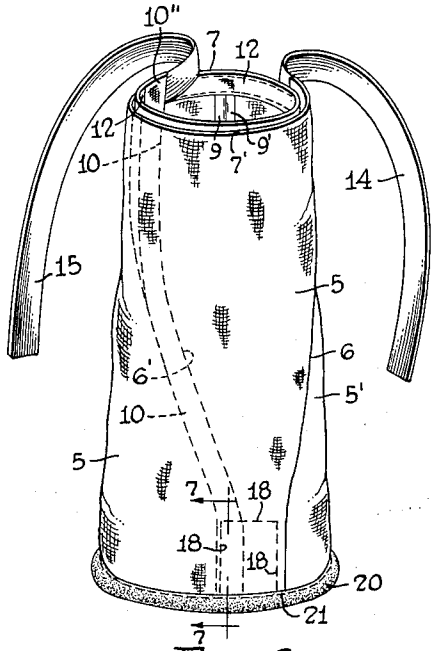


FIG. 6.

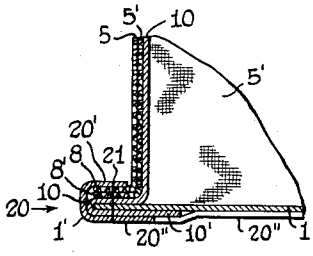


FIG. 7.

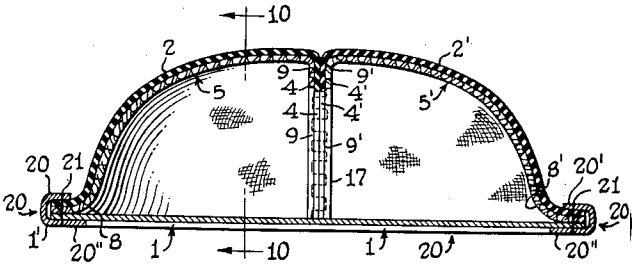


FIG. 8.

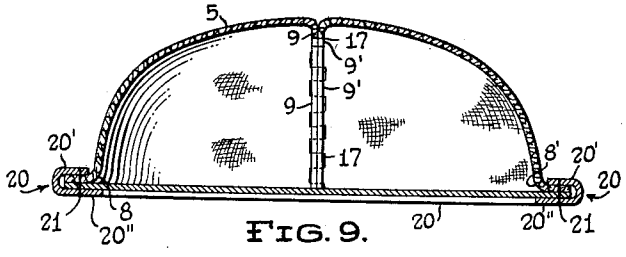


FIG. 9.

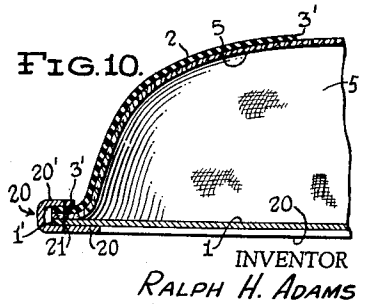


FIG. 10.

INVENTOR
RALPH H. ADAMS

BY Reuben J. Carlson

ATTORNEY

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FIG. 11.

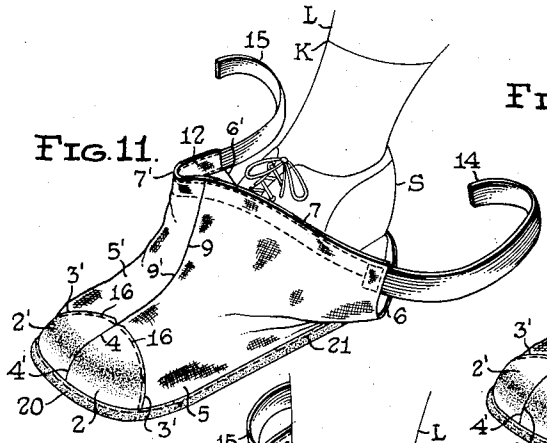


FIG. 12.

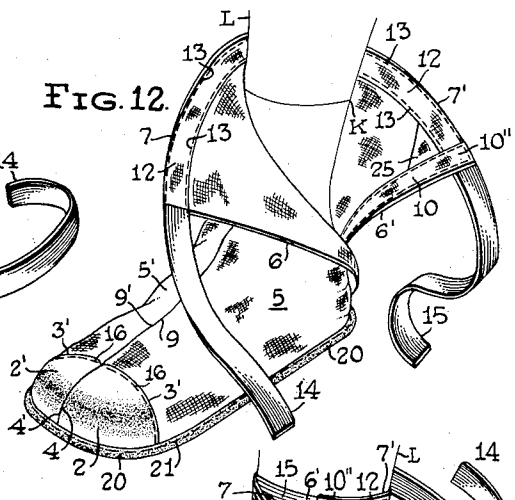


FIG. 13.

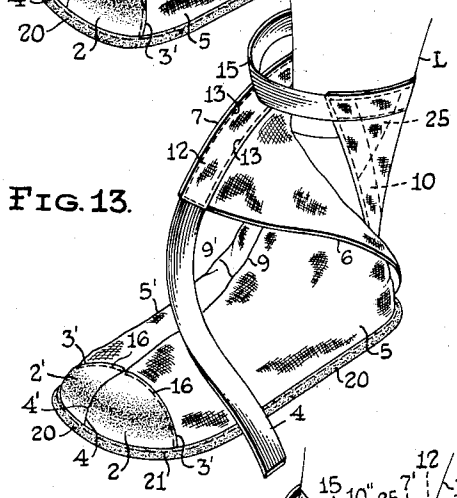


FIG. 14.

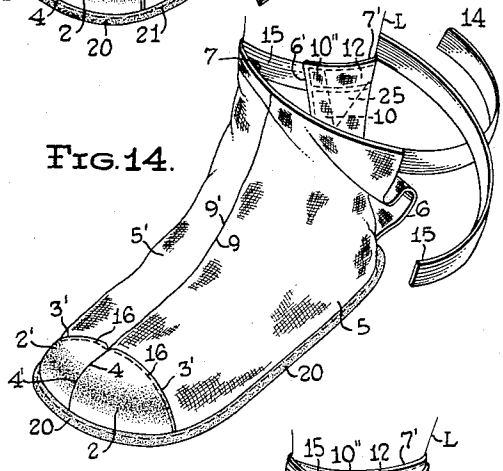


FIG. 15.

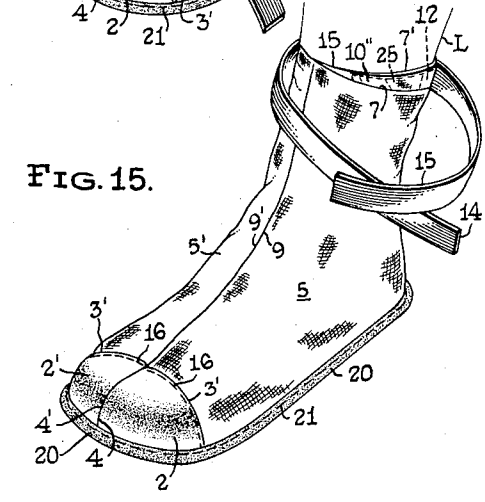
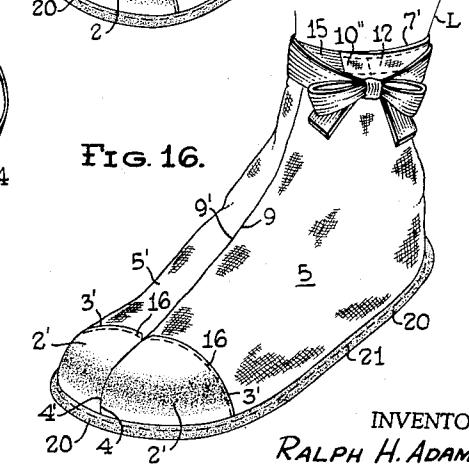


FIG. 16.



INVENTOR
RALPH H. ADAMS

BY Reuben J. Carlson

ATTORNEY

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3,013,184

HOSPITAL BOOTIES

Ralph H. Adams, Wolfeboro, N.H., assignor to Apasco Corporation, Wolfeboro, N.H., a corporation of New Hampshire

Filed May 5, 1959, Ser. No. 811,055
5 Claims. (Cl. 317—2)

This invention relates to hospital booties designed to be worn over the shoes and socks of hospital personnel.

Continuing vigilance must be exercised by hospital administrators and hospital surgeons, physicians, nurses and attendants to prevent the spread of infection within the hospital; and which may otherwise endanger the health and normal recovery of patients whose sickness or injuries have left them in a constitutionally weakened condition and unable to resist infection attack. Even though floors, walls and equipment may be kept as clean and infection-free as good housekeeping practice permits, with visitors quarantined to limited public areas, the shoes and socks of doctors and nurses may present a serious source for the spread of infection when they attend the seriously ill and constitutionally weakened patients, if adequate measures are not taken to isolate this source of infection.

The problem of controlling the spread of infection stemming from the feet and footwear of doctors and nurses is aggravated by the total impracticality of requiring doctors and nurses to remove their normal footwear, sterilize their feet, and re-apply sterilized footwear before attending each constitutionally weakened patient.

This invention is directed to a practical solution for the control of staff-spread infection stemming from the shoes and socks of doctors and nurses and other specialized personnel, whose duties bring them into the frequent presence of constitutionally weakened patients brought into the operating pavilion or confined in rooms or wards for the seriously sick. In accordance with this invention, a lightweight bootie is provided which can be quickly and conveniently drawn over the shoe and sock of hospital personnel to provide a sterile insulating shield in which the shoe and sock of the wearer is fully encased and confined, and to thereby isolate any infection or germs which may be associated with the wearer's shoes, socks and feet. These hospital booties are designed and adapted to withstand repeated sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration, and may be handled and sterilized in the same manner and in the same washing and sterilizing equipment as used by the hospital to sterilize hospital sheetings, linens, towels, hospital gowns and like textile supplies.

These improved hospital booties are admirably adapted for convenient and rapid application over the shoes and socks of doctors, surgeons, nurses and attendants as they enter the anteroom of the operating pavilion, examination room or ward where the seriously sick are brought or confined. These improved booties can be readily removed from the wearer's feet after leaving the presence of the constitutionally weakened patient, and placed in the soiled laundry bag or basket and then washed and sterilized in the laundry room of the hospital in the same manner as sheets, pillow cases, gowns and other hospital linens. The convenience of application and removal of these hospital booties to and from the shoes, encourages doctors and nurses to use them.

The sole section of this bootie which supports the shoe of the wearer, is formed from relatively flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity. The bootie upper is formed from a relatively wear resistant and sterilizable material, such as strong cotton cloth, which extends above the sock line of the wearer, and is designed to completely enclose the shoed foot and sock of the wearer to provide an infection isolating protective

shield. A strip of flexible material of high electrical conductivity is directly connected to the sole section and extends above the sock line of the wearer, so that when the bootie has been fully applied to the wearer's foot, the upper end of the conductive strip makes positive conductive contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg. The person wearing these booties is thus fully grounded to the hospital floor or any other surface on which the bootie may be placed and which may be electrically charged. These booties are also provided with a toe guard formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity which is directly secured to the conducting sole section to thereby ground the bootie when the toe thereof is placed in contact with an electrically charged object. These booties are therefore particularly adapted to be used and worn by operating surgeons, attendant nurses and anesthetists in the operating pavilion whose atmosphere is often charged with explosive gases.

The ease and facility with which these improved hospital booties may be washed and sterilized insures a clean and electrically conductive undersurface for the sole section, so that the wearer's leg is reliably grounded through the conductive sole section. In hospital footwear heretofore commonly worn in operating pavilions, it has been found in as many as one third of the cases tested, that the grounding ability of the footwear is ineffective, either due to the fact that insulating grime has been permitted to collect on the underface of the sole as a result of the difficulty and inconvenience of cleaning such footwear, or because such footwear is not designed to positively maintain grounding contact with the wearer's leg.

Hospital booties made in accordance with this invention may be formed from relatively inexpensive material and from relatively few parts, may be manufactured by the employment of relatively few and quickly executed operations, by mass production methods and at relatively low cost. These improved hospital booties may be shipped and stored in relatively limited space, are light in weight, and can be repeatedly worn, washed and sterilized many hundreds of times before they are worn out.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent as the disclosure proceeds.

Although the characteristic features of this invention will be particularly pointed out in the claims, the invention itself, and the manner in which it may be carried out, may be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a hospital bootie made in accordance with this invention;

FIGS. 2 and 2A are plan views of the paired side sections which when assembled together form the upper part of the bootie;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the bootie sole;

FIG. 4 is a plan view of the two sections which form the toe guard for the bootie;

FIG. 5 is a rear elevational view of the bootie as the same would appear prior to its application to the foot and leg of the wearer;

FIG. 6 is another rear elevational view of the bootie as it would appear after the upper part thereof has been wrapped around the leg of the wearer;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary cross section of the heel part of the bootie as the same would appear when viewed along line 7—7 of FIGS. 5 and 6;

FIG. 8 is a transverse section taken across the toe portion of the bootie as the same would appear when viewed along line 8—8 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 9 is another transverse section taken across the instep part of the bootie as the same would appear when viewed along line 9—9 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary longitudinal section of the

toe part of the bootie as the same would appear when viewed along line 10—10 of FIGS. 1 and 8;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the bootie in the process of being applied over the shoe of the wearer;

FIG. 12 is a perspective view of the bootie as applied to the shoe of the wearer and showing the upper part of the bootie in the process of being wrapped around the leg of the wearer;

FIG. 13 is a view similar to FIG. 12 showing the upper part of the bootie partially wrapped around the leg of the wearer;

FIG. 14 is a view similar to FIG. 13 showing the upper part of the bootie at a further stage of application to the leg of the wearer;

FIG. 15 is a perspective view similar to that shown in FIG. 14 showing the upper part of the bootie as it would appear when substantially fully wrapped around the leg of the wearer, but prior to tieing of the tie bands thereof; and

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of the bootie as completely applied to the foot and leg of the wearer and as worn by the wearer.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings and specification.

Hospital booties constructed in accordance with this invention are formed from relatively few parts which can be readily assembled by stitching operations and manufactured at relatively low cost. The sole member or section 1 of the bootie as shown in FIG. 3 is composed of relatively flexible, tough and wear resistant sheet material characterized by high electrical conductivity. The sole section 1 can be made of such material as natural or synthetic rubber of high electrical conductivity and which is vulcanized or otherwise treated to withstand repeated washings and autoclave sterilizations without deterioration. The flexible rubber composition from which the sole section 1 is formed may be strengthened and reinforced by a tough and heat resistant textile fabric embedded therein.

The sole section 1 may have an over-all thickness in the order of one-sixty-fourth to one-eighth of an inch, and is shaped to the approximate contour of the bottom face of the wearer's shoe S which is to rest on the inside face of the sole section, and is made of sufficient oversize to permit convenient and ready insertion of the wearer's shoe into the bootie without being clumsy or excessively oversized when worn. The sole section 1 is also sized to provide a sufficient welting margin 1' to permit adequate stitching securement of the upper part of the bootie thereto.

The upper part of the bootie is formed from a pair of half sections 5 and 5' which are shaped substantially as shown in FIGS. 2 and 2A and when stitched together provide the upper part of the bootie. The complementary side wall sections 5—5' are preferably formed from a strong and tough cotton textile fabric which is relatively light in weight and characterized by the ability to withstand repeated washings and autoclave sterilizations without deterioration.

The complementary side sections 5—5' have a height sufficient to extend from the sole section 1 to which they are attached to a point well above the sock line K of the sock worn by the wearer as shown in FIGS. 12 and 13. The upper edge of both side sections 5 and 5' each have an inturned reinforcing flap portion 7 and 7' which provides a finished top edge for the bootie, and vertical rear edges 6—6' which may be selvedged to prevent raveling. The side sections 5 and 5' are also provided with curvilinear instep edges 9 and 9' designed to be inturned and stitched together as shown in FIG. 9. The lower marginal edge 8 of the side section 5 is designed to be outturned and stitched to the welting margin 1' of the sole section 1 and has a length *a* to *b* sufficient to extend from a point *a* at the midsection of the toe portion of the sole section 1, around the side of the toe portion and side portion of the sole section and substantially around the heel portion to a point *b* of the sole section 1 as shown in FIG. 3. The complementary bottom margin 8' of the companion side section 5' is also designed to be secured to the opposite welting margin 1' of the sole section 1 and has a length *a* to *c* which approximately corresponds to the marginal distance between the point *a* and the point *c* of the sole section 1 as shown in FIG. 3. It will be noted that the length of the bottom rim portion 8 of the side section 5 as measured by the distance between its extremities *a* to *b*, is slightly greater than the marginal length 8' of the companion side section 5' as measured by the distance between its terminal ends *a* and *c*. Thus, when the upper part of the bootie is assembled from the side sections 5 and 5', the vertical rear margin 6 of the side section 5 will overlap the vertical margin 6' of the companion side section 5' as shown in FIG. 5.

The bootie is also preferably provided with a toe guard formed of two sections 2 and 2' patterned substantially as shown in FIG. 4. The toe sections 2 and 2' are composed of flexible and relatively tough and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, and characterized by the ability to withstand repeated washings and autoclave sterilizations without deterioration. The toe guard sections 2—2' can be made of the same material from which the sole section 1 is formed, such as natural or synthetic rubber reinforced by a textile fabric embedded therein, and suitably vulcanized or otherwise treated to provide the above characteristics, and may have a thickness in the order of one sixty-fourth to one-sixteenth of an inch. The toe guard forming sections 2—2' are each provided with outer marginal edges 3 designed to be stitched to the toe portion of the sole section 1 and together extend between the points *d*—*d* of the toe rim of the sole section, as indicated in FIG. 3. The toe guard sections 2—2' also present complementary longitudinal edges 4—4' designed to be inturned and stitched together in overlapped relation, and inner margins 3' designed to be stitched to the toe portions of the side sections 5—5' which form the upper part of the bootie.

A flexible grounding strip 10 is secured by a pair of stitchings 11 to the inside face of the side section 5' and preferably directly adjacent the rear vertical margin 6' thereof as indicated in FIG. 2A. The grounding strip 10 has an end extension 10' which extends beyond the bottom edge 8' of the side section 5' and which is designed to be secured in direct contact with the adjacent heel portion of the sole section 1. This securement may be affected by bending the end extension 10' into generally U-shaped form as shown in FIG. 7 and securing the same in direct contact with the marginal welt portion 1' of the sole section by the welt stitching as shown in FIG. 7.

The upper end of the grounding strip 10 extends to or beyond the upper inwardly folded flap portion 7' of the side section 5' so that the upper terminal end thereof will make direct conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg L. To further insure such grounding contact, the upper end portion of the grounding strip 10 may have a terminal contact pad 25 of relatively high electrical conductivity stitched directly thereto as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2A. To further insure adequate grounding of the wearer's leg to the conductive sole section 1 and the hospital floor, a leg embracing grounding strip 12 may be secured by paired stitching 13 to the inside face of the upper inturned flap portions 7 and 7' of the side sections 5 and 5', and which may be applied thereto when the instep margins 9 and 9' of the side sections 5 and 5' have been stitched together. It will be noted that one end of the leg embracing grounding strip 12 is overlapped by and fixed to the upper end portion 10'' of the vertically extending rear grounding strip 11, so that a continuous electrical conductor is provided which extends from the bare skin of the wearer's leg L to the floor grounded sole section 1. Where the leg embracing

grounding strip 12 is used, the upper grounding patch 25 may be eliminated if desired.

The vertically extending grounding strip 10, the leg encircling grounding strip 12 and/or the grounding patch 25, are formed from a flexible material designed to withstand repeated washings and autoclave sterilizations and characterized by high electrical conductivity, and may be composed of a material such as electrical conductive natural or synthetic rubber reinforcing by a suitable fabric embedded therein. The vertical grounding strap 10 and the associated leg encircling grounding strap 12, may measure in the order of one-fourth to one inch in width, with a preferred width of approximately one-half inch, and may be made in the order of one sixty-fourth to one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, and together provide a continuous conductor between the bare leg L of the wearer and the sole section 1 as grounded to the hospital floor.

The upper portions of the side sections 5 and 5' of the assembled bootie are designed to be wrapped around the wearer's leg and the grounding pad 25 and/or the leg encircling grounding strip 12 held in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg L by means of a pair of tie bands 14 and 15, which are formed from a tough and wear resistant material such as woven textile fabric presenting nonraveling edges. The tie band 14 has an end portion 14' thereof secured as by box stitching 14'' to the upper rear corner of the side section 5 and adjacent the top margin 7 and the rear margin 6 thereof as shown in FIG. 2; and the similar tie band 15 has an end portion 15' thereof secured by box stitching 15'' to the upper rear corner of the complementary side section 5' adjacent the upper margin 7' and the rear margin 6' thereof as shown in FIG. 2A. The tie bands 14 and 15 are of sufficient length so that they can be wrapped around the leg L of the wearer as shown in FIG. 15, and conveniently tied as shown in FIG. 16. The tie bands 14 and 15 as thus secured, serve to maintain the upper end of the vertical grounding strip 10 and/or the grounding patch 25 and/or the leg encircling grounding strip 12 in positive conducting contact with the bare leg of the wearer when the bootie is in wearing position.

In assembling the bootie from the sections shown in FIGS. 2, 2A, 3 and 4, the inner margins 3' of the toe guard sections 2 and 2' may be first secured as by stitching 16 across the toe portion of the respective side sections 5 and 5' as shown in FIG. 1. The marginal instep portions 9 and 9' of the side sections 5—5', and the corresponding longitudinal margins 4—4 of the toe guard sections 2 and 2', are then stitched together as by stitching 17 to provide a seaming bead positioned internally of the bootie as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, and providing a finished and longitudinally extending external instep seam as shown in FIGS. 11–16. The end portion 14' of the tie band 14 and the end portion 15' of the tie band 15 may then be secured by box stitching 14'' and 15'' to the upper rear corners of the respective side sections 5 and 5'.

The leg encircling grounding strip 12 may then be secured by paired line stitches 13 to the inside faces of the inturned flap portion 7 and 7' of both side sections 5 and 5', with the stitching emerging through the outer face of the side sections 5 and 5'. The grounding strip 10 may then be secured as by paired stitches 11 to the inside face of the side section 5' adjacent the inside face of the vertical margin 6' thereof, with the lower end extension 10' of the strip projecting beyond the lower marginal edge portion 8' of the side section 5'; and with the upper end portion 10'' of the vertical grounding strip 10 overlapping and stitched to the grounding pad 25 and/or the leg encircling grounding strip 12, as shown in FIG. 2A. As a further step in the assembly of the upper part of the bootie, the lower rear corner of the side section 5 is placed in overlapped relation to the exterior face of the lower rear corner of the side section 5', and the overlapped portions then secured together by box stitching 18 as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6.

The side sections 5—5', toe sections 2—2', the leg embracing grounding strip 12, the vertically extending grounding strip 10, and the tie bands 14 and 15 as thus assembled, provide the completed upper part of the bootie. By the use of a suitable supporting and clamping jig, the upper part of the bootie as thus assembled may then be secured as a unit to the welting margin 1' of the sole section 1 by placing the marginal edge portions 8 and 8' of the side sections 5 and 5' and the marginal edge portions 3 of the toe guard sections 2 and 2', in overlapped relation to the upper face of the welting margin 1' of the sole section. A welting strip 20, folded into U-shaped form, is then telescoped over the welting margin 1' of the sole section and over the adjacent out-turned bottom margins 8 and 8' of the side sections 5 and 5' and the bottom margins 3 of the toe sections 2 and 2', and these parts securely stitched together by welt stitching 21 as shown in FIGS. 1, 8, 9 and 10.

The end extension 10' of the vertical grounding strip 10 is also wrapped around the welting margin 1' at the heel end of the sole section 1, and the welt stitching 21 continued to secure the adjacent overlapped margins 8 and 8' at the heel end of the side sections 5 and 5' and the end extension 10' of the grounding strip 10, in unitary assembly to the heel end of the sole section 1, as shown in FIG. 7. It will thus be noted that the welt stitching 21 extends completely around the welting margin 1' of the sole section 1, so that the entire bottom end of the previously assembled top part of the bootie is secured to the sole section 1, and is surrounded by the welting strip 20. It will also be noted by referring to FIGS. 7, 8, 9 and 10 that the U-shaped welting strip 20 provides an upper flange portion 20' which overlaps the outturned margins 8 and 8' of the side sections 5 and 5'; as well as the margins 3 of the toe sections 2 and 2' and the end extension 10' of the vertical grounding strip 10. The U-shaped welting strip also presents a lower flange portion 20'' which overlies the outside face of the welting margin 1' of the sole section 1, and also overlies the terminal extension 10' of the vertical welting strip 10.

The U-shaped welting strip 20 is composed of a highly flexible, tough and wear resistant material of good electrical conductive properties, and which will withstand repeated washings and autoclave sterilizations without deterioration. The U-shaped welting strip 20 having the above characteristics may be composed of natural or synthetic rubber, reinforced by embedded textile fabric, and may be in the order of one-sixtyfourth to one-eighth of an inch in thickness, and prior to shaping into U-shaped form, may be approximately one-half to three-quarters of an inch in width.

The entire bootie as thus assembled, is highly flexible and light in weight, and is composed of materials which will withstand repeated washings and the high temperatures of numerous autoclave sterilizations without substantial deterioration over extended periods of use. It has been found that booties constructed in accordance with this invention will withstand over two hunderd washings and high temperature steam sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration. When soiled or no longer sterile, they may be placed in a laundry bag or basket as normally used for soiled laundry, washed, laundered and sterilized by autoclave treatment as a group, and in the same manner as sheets, pillow cases, gowns and other hospital linens, and when fully cleaned and sterilized, may be handled in the hospital in the same manner as cleaned and sterilized sheetings and other hospital linens.

These hospital booties can be easily and quickly slipped over the shoes as normally worn by hospital surgeons, doctors and nurses and other hospital personnel, with the upper part of the booties conveniently and easily wrapped

around the leg of the wear and tied in position in a few seconds of time and with a minimum of inconvenience.

In applying the bootie over the shoe and sock of the wearer's foot, the toe portion of the wearer's shoe is first inserted through the open heel end of the upper part of the bootie and then pushed into the instep section thereof as shown in FIG. 11, until the sole of the wearer's shoe seats squarely on the inside face of the sole section **1** thereof. Where long socks or stockings are worn, the sock or stocking is downfolded so that the leg encircling grounding band **12** will be positioned above the sock line K.

The vertical margin **6'** of the side section **5'** is then wrapped laterally around the adjacent side of the wearer's foot and leg, as shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, so that the upper end of the vertical grounding strip **10** or its grounding pad **25** and/or the leg encircling grounding strip **12**, is in direct contact wtih the bare skin of the wearer's leg. The vertical margin **6** of the companion side section **5** is then folded around the wearer's leg in the opposite direction, as indicated in FIGS. 13 and 14, until the wearer's foot and leg are completely encased and sealed within the wrapped side sections **5'** and **5** as shown in FIG. 15. When this is accomplished, the vertical grounding strip **10** and/or the leg encircling grounding strip **12** will have at least some part thereof in direct contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg. The tie bands **14** and **15** are then wrapped around the wrapped upper portions of the side sections **5** and **5'**, and tied together in a bow knot adjacent the front of the leg as shown in FIG. 16.

When these sterilized booties are applied over the shoes and socks of the wearer, the shoes, socks and lower part of the wearer's legs are completely encased and sealed within the sterile booties in a manner to fully isolate germs and contagion, which inexorably surround the feet, socks and shoes, from escaping into the hospital atmosphere and thus endangering the recovery of constitutionally weak patients. The ease, speed and convenience with which these improved hospital booties may be applied over the shoes and socks of the wearer, encourages their use by hospital personnel, and overcomes the objections heretofore encountered among hospital personnel in the use of sterilized footwear.

These booties are made of sufficient height to insure that the upper end of the vertical grounding strip **10** and its grounding patch **25** and/or its leg encircling grounding strip **12**, extend substantially above the sock line K, so that when the top portion of the upper part of the bootie is wrapped around and tied to the wearer's leg L by the tie bands **14** and **15**, positive contact of these conductor strips with the bare skin of the wearer is assured.

Due to the ease and facility with which these hospital booties may be washed and sterilized, the underface of the sole section **1** and the underface of the welting strip **20** can be maintained in clean, sterile and in highly conductive condition when in contact with the hospital floor, thereby avoiding the difficulties encountered with hospital footwear heretofore used and intended to be conductive, but found to be rendered substantially non-conductive by foreign matter which clings to the soles thereof.

These improved booties are so constructed as to insure constant grounding of the wearer to the building floor, or to any object with which the sole section **1** or toe sections **2—2'** of the worn bootie may be placed in contact, thereby preventing the possibilities of explosions or fire resulting from sparks or electrical charges, and which conditions are particularly eminent in the gaseous atmosphere of the operating pavilion, and which have resulted from footwear heretofore worn by hospital personnel.

Booties constructed in accordance with this invention substantially contribute to the maintenance of a highly sanitary and infection-free environment in hospitals dedicated to the treatment of seriously sick patients, whose weak constitutions are particularly receptive to infection. These bodies are relatively inexpensive to manufacture and can be made in relatively few sizes to accommodate the feet of all hospital personnel.

While certain novel features of this invention have been disclosed herein and are pointed out in the claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions, and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A sterilizable, infection isolating and grounded bootie designed to be worn over the shoe of hospital personnel which includes, a sole section formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, a bootie upper formed from relatively strong and flexible material whose lower margin is fixedly secured to the marginal edges of said sole section, said bootie upper presenting a pair of side sections designed to extend continuously over the instep and above the sock line of the wearer and having free rear edge margins providing a rear opening through which the shoed foot of the wearer may be inserted into the bootie, said side sections of the bootie upper being of sufficient width to be wrapped in opposite directions and in overlapping relation around the wearer's leg to thereby fully encase the wearer's shoe and sock within the bootie upper, a grounding strip formed from flexible material of high electrical conductivity fixedly secured to the rear marginal edge of said sole section and to the inside face of one of said side sections adjacent the rear edge margin thereof and designed to extend above the sock line of the wearer, and tie bands for securing the top portion of said bootie upper in snug leg embracing position and in a manner to maintain the shoed foot and sock of the wearer fully encased in the bootie upper and to maintain said grounding strip in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg; the material from which said bootie is made being such as to withstand repeated laundry washings and sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration.

2. A sterilizable, infection isolating and grounded bootie designed to be worn over the shoe of hospital personnel which includes, a sole section formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, a bootie upper formed from relatively strong and flexible fabric whose lower margin is fixedly secured to the marginal edges of said sole section, said bootie upper presenting a pair of side sections designed to extend continuously over the instep and above the sock line of the wearer and having free rear edge margins, providing a rear opening through which the shoed foot of the wearer may be inserted into the bootie, said side sections of the bootie upper being of sufficient width to be wrapped in opposite directions and in overlapping relation around the wearer's leg to thereby fully encase the wearer's shoe and sock within the bootie upper, a grounding strip formed from flexible material of high electrical conductivity fixedly secured to the rear marginal edge of said sole section and to the inside face of one of said side sections adjacent the rear edge margin thereof, a leg embracing grounding strip conductively secured to said first named grounding strip and to the inside face of said side sections and adjacent the top margin thereof, and tie bands for securing the top portion of said bootie upper in snug leg embracing position and in a manner to maintain the shoed foot and sock of the wearer fully encased in the bottie upper and to maintain said leg embracing grounding strip in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg; the material from which said bootie is made being such as to withstand repeated washings and sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration.

3. A sterilizable, infection isolating and grounded

bootie designed to be worn over the shoe of hospital personnel which includes, a sole section formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, a bootie upper formed from relatively strong and flexible fabric whose lower margin is fixedly secured to the marginal edges of said sole section, said bootie upper presenting a pair of side sections designed to extend continuously over the instep and above the sock line of the wearer and having free rear edge margins providing a rear opening through which the shoed foot of the wearer may be inserted into the bootie, said side sections of the bottie upper being designed to be wrapped in opposite directions and in overlapping relation around the wearer's leg to thereby fully encase the wearer's shoe and sock within the bootie upper, a toe guard formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, said toe guard having the front edge thereof fixedly secured to the toe margin of said sole section and the upper edge thereof secured to the outer face of the adjacent toe portion of said bootie upper, a grounding strip formed from flexible material of high electrical conductivity fixedly secured to the rear marginal edge of said sole section and to the inside face of one of said side sections adjacent the rear edge margin thereof and designed to extend above the sock line of the wearer, and tie bands for securing the top portion of the bootie upper in snug leg embracing position and in a manner to maintain the shoed foot and sock of the wearer fully encased in the bootie upper and to maintain said grounding strip in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg; the materials from which said bootie is made being such as to withstand repeated washings and sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration.

4. A sterilizable, infection isolating and grounded bootie designed to be worn over the shoe of hospital personnel which includes, a sole section formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, a bottie upper formed from relatively strong and flexible fabric whose lower margin is fixedly secured to the marginal edges of said sole section, said bootie upper presenting a pair of side sections designed to extend continuously over the instep and above the sock line of the wearer and having free rear edge margins providing a rear opening through which the shoed foot of the wearer may be inserted into the bootie, said side sections of the bootie upper being designed to be wrapped in opposite directions and in overlapping relation around the wearer's leg to thereby fully encase the wearer's shoe and sock within the bottie upper, a toe guard formed from flexible and wear resistant material of high electrical conductivity, said toe guard having the front edge thereof fixedly secured to the toe margin of said sole section and the upper edge thereof secured to the outer face of the adjacent toe portion of said bootie upper, a grounding strip formed from flexible material of high

electrical conductivity fixedly secured to the rear marginal edge of said sole section and to the inside face of one of said side sections adjacent the rear edge margin thereof, a leg embracing grounding strip conductively secured to said first named grounding strip and to the inside face of said side sections and adjacent the top margin thereof, and tie bands for securing the top portion of said bootie upper in snug leg embracing position and in a manner to maintain the shoed foot of the wearer fully encased in the bootie upper and to maintain said leg embracing grounding strip in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg; the materials from which said bootie is made being such as to withstand repeated washings and sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration.

5. A sterilizable and grounded bootie designed to be worn over the shoe of hospital personnel which includes, a sole section formed from a flexible and wear resistant rubber composition of high electrical conductivity, a bootie upper formed from relatively strong textile fabric whose lower margin is fixedly secured to the marginal edges of said sole section, said bootie upper presenting a pair of side sections designed to extend over the instep and above the sock line of the wearer and having free rear edge margins providing an opening through which the shoed foot of the wearer may be inserted into the bootie, said side sections of the bootie upper being designed to be wrapped in opposite directions and in overlapping relation around the wearer's leg to thereby completely enclose the wearer's shoe and sock within the bootie upper, a grounding strip formed from a flexible rubber composition of high electrical conductivity fixedly secured to the rear marginal edge of said sole section and to the inside face of one of said side sections adjacent the rear edge margin thereof, a leg embracing grounding strip formed from a flexible rubber composition of high electrical conductivity which is conductively connected to said first named grounding strip and to the inside face of said side sections adjacent the top margin thereof; and tie bands for releasably securing the top part of said bootie upper in snug leg embracing position and in a manner to maintain said leg embracing grounding strip in conducting contact with the bare skin of the wearer's leg; the materials from which said bootie is made being such as to withstand repeated washings and sterilization treatments without substantial deterioration.

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