C. HARDESTY.

FOOT TOE CUSHION AND SHIELD.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 16, 1914.

1,129,670. Patented Feb. 23, 1915.

Fig. 1.

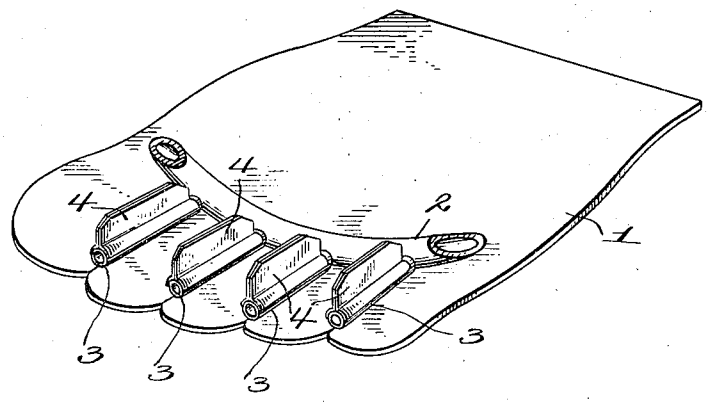


Fig. 2.

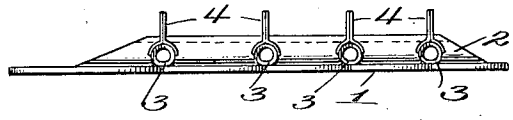
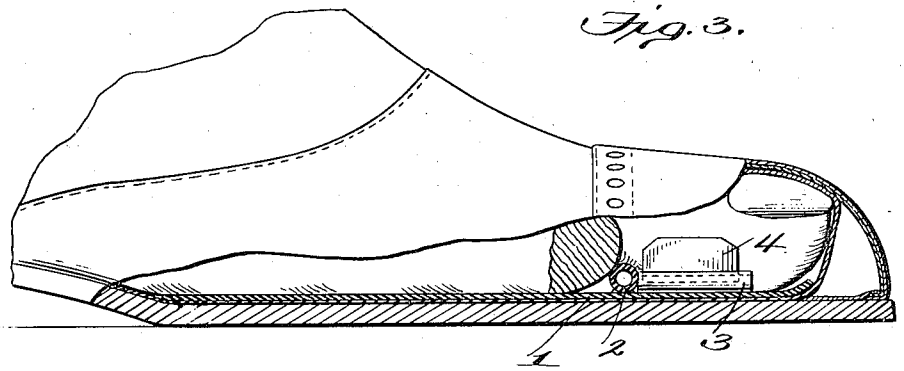


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

C. E. Parker

John L. Powers

Inventor

Charles Hardesty.

by. James L. Norris,

Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES HARDESTY, OF CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA.

FOOT-TOE CUSHION AND SHIELD.

1,129,670. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 23, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES HARDESTY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Clarksburg, in the county of Harrison and State of West Virginia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Foot-Toe Cushions and Shields, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved foot-toe cushion and shield to be worn within the stocking for the purpose of overcoming deformities of the toes and of the foot adjacent thereto and of arresting the tendency to malformation of the toes, calli and other foot trouble of like nature.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive device which may be conveniently fitted in any ordinary shoe and may be conveniently and comfortably used and which, in use, efficiently, certainly and reliably serves the purposes stated.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a foot toe cushion and shield in which the features of the invention are incorporated. Fig. 2 is a front elevation thereof, and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the device as in use.

Similar characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

In the embodiment shown, the device includes a sole piece 1 which may be formed of any suitable material and of any desired length and which has a transverse cushioning arch or ridge 2 arranged to fit under the toes along the lines where they join the sole and the foot. In the embodiment shown, this arch or ridge is in the form of a flexible tube. Extending forwardly from the arch or ridge and at substantially right angles thereto are longitudinal arches or ridges 3 which, in the embodiment shown, are also in the form of flexible tubes and which carry flexible division pieces 4 that fit between the toes. The blades or division pieces 4 may be of any suitable flexible material of the required thinness.

While there is a wide choice of materials from which the various parts of the device may be made, it is preferred that whatever materials may be selected should be treated to render them prophylactic. The ridge 2 forms an efficient support for the toes, preserving the natural arch thereof, and definitely spacing them from the sole thereby preventing any callous growths or adhesions between the toes and the sole, and holding the toes in the positions which are necessary to their proper growth and to the correction of deformities.

Uniform support for the toes in the directions of their length is provided by the ridges 3 which fit under and between the toes and, in connection with the blades 4, tend to hold the toes in alinement with the body of the foot and in straight or natural directions and to prevent crooking, bending or crowding thereof. Tne blades 4 also serve to prevent calli or adhesions between the toes.

The improved guard, while directly benefiting the toes or the fore portion of the foot, benefits the foot as a whole, since the majority of foot troubles may be traced to malformation of the toes which, it should be remembered, take the bulk of the weight and pressure in walking.

By the reasonably consistent use of the device for a suitable period of time, malformed toes will be measurably improved, or where no malformation originally exists, it will be effectively prevented, notwithstanding the tendencies of the prevailing styles of footwear to produce malformation.

The device takes up little space in the shoe and its use entails no discomfort or inconvenience.

Having fully described my invention, I claim:—

1. A foot-toe cushion and shield having a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and to support the toes and having blades projecting longitudinally from said arch or ridge and arranged to fit between the toes.

2. A foot-toe cushion and shield having a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and to support the toes, and other arches or ridges projecting longitudinally from said transverse arch or ridge and arranged to fit between the toes.

3. A foot-toe cushion and shield having a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and to support the toes, other arches or ridges projecting longitudinally from said transverse arch or ridge and arranged to fit

between the toes, and provided with relatively thin parallel projecting blades.

4. A foot-toe cushion and shield comprising a sole piece provided with a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and with means extending forwardly and longitudinally from said arch or ridge to fit between the toes.

5. A foot-toe cushion and shield comprising a sole piece provided with a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and with other arches or ridges extending forwardly and longitudinally from said arch or ridge to fit between the toes.

6. A foot-toe cushion and shield comprising a sole piece provided with a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and with relatively thin blades extending forwardly and longitudinally from said arch or ridge to fit between the toes.

7. A foot-toe cushion and shield comprising a sole piece provided with a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and with other arches or ridges extending longitudinally from said transverse arch or ridge and arnged to fit between the toes and with relatively thin blades mounted on said longitudinal arches or ridges and projecting upwardly therefrom.

8. A foot-toe cushion and shield having a transverse arch or ridge arranged to fit under the toes adjacent the sole of the foot and to support the toes and having means extending forwardly and longitudinally from said arch or ridge to fit between and space the toes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES HARDESTY.

Witnesses:
JOHN KOBLEGARD, Jr.,
JOHN J. McLEOD.