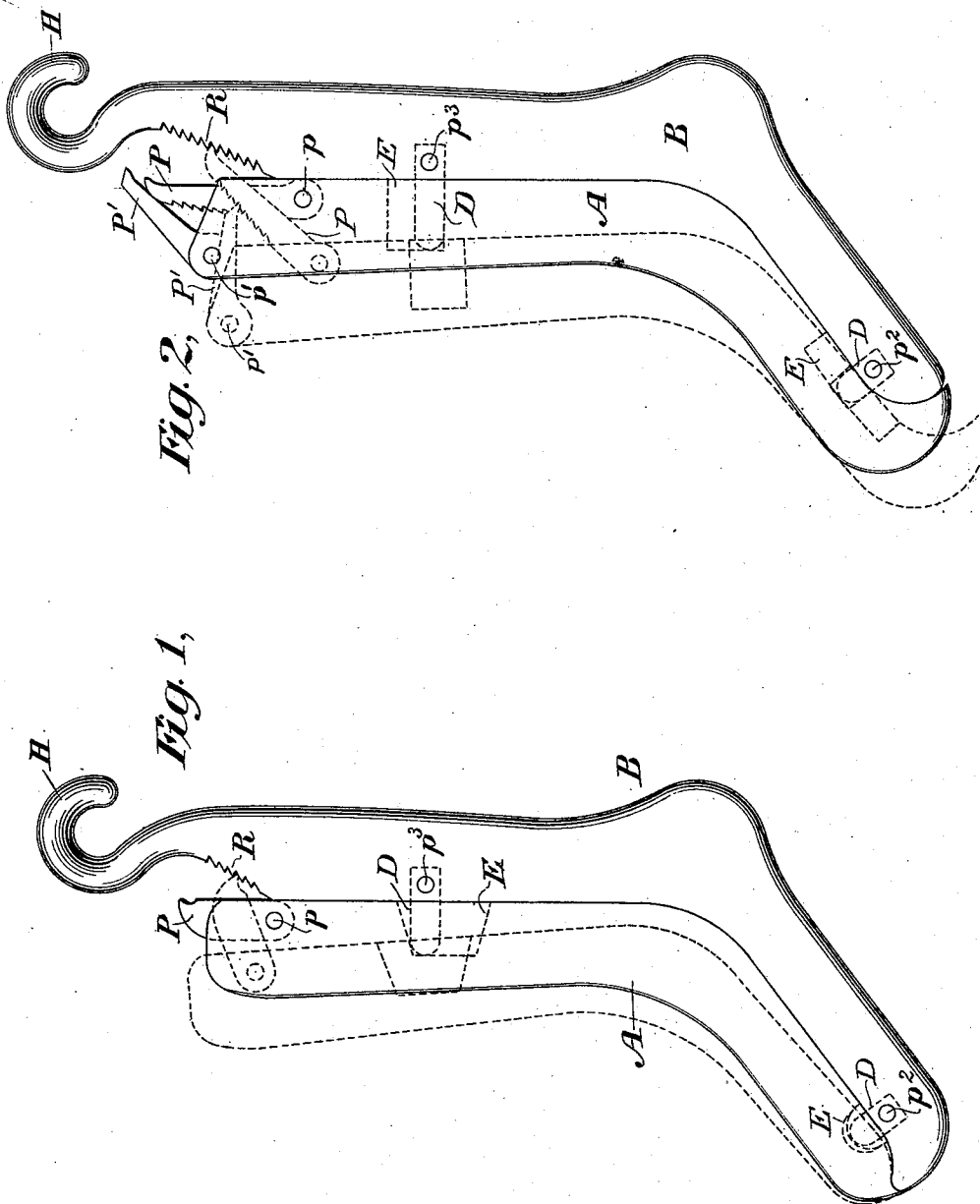


(No Model.)

L. G. ERICSON.
STOCKING STRETCHER.

No. 474,954.

Patented May 17, 1892.



Witnesses
C. E. Ashley
H. W. Lloyd.

Inventor
Lars G. Ericson
By his Attorney
Charles J. Kintner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LARS G. ERICSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

STOCKING-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 474,954, dated May 17, 1892.

Application filed December 16, 1891. Serial No. 415,247. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LARS G. ERICSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, county of New York, and State of New York, have made a new and useful invention in Stocking-Stretching Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is directed particularly to improvements in stocking-stretchers; and its objects are, first, to provide a simple, cheap, and efficient means for effecting this result; second, to provide a stretcher which can be used with wet stockings and not stain them, as is often the case with stretchers having metallic attachments.

My invention will be fully understood by referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 illustrates in side elevation my improved device, and Fig. 2 is a similar view of a preferred form thereof, designed to stretch a stocking in the direction of its length as well as its width.

The stretcher is of the conformation of a stocking, as shown, and is divided into two flat-sided longitudinally-separable parts A and B, the part B having dowels D D secured to its inner face by pins $p^3 p^3$, while the part A is provided with corresponding grooves or channels E E on its inner face, into which the dowels D D are adapted to fit, as shown. These grooves or channels E E are of sufficient depth and width in the direction of the length of the part A as to permit the dowels D D, attached to the part B, to turn about the part A freely, as upon a pivot.

R R represents ratchet-teeth cut in the upper end of the part B, and P is a pawl pivoted to the upper end of the part A by a pin p.

H is a hook at the upper end of the part B for hanging the device and the stocking upon a clothes line or rack, so that the stocking will dry while held on the stretcher of a spreading or expansible nature. The stocking while wet is drawn over the stretcher when the parts are in the position shown in full lines. The parts A and B are then spread at their upper ends and the pawl P placed in engagement with the ratchet-teeth R. When the parts have been spread to the desired distance, as shown in dotted lines, the device is hung on

the clothes line or rack until the stocking is dry.

In the form shown in Fig. 2 there are two pawls P and P', pivoted to the part A by pins $p p'$, and the slots E E are of considerable length, so that the part A may slide past the part B, as shown in dotted lines, thereby stretching the stocking in the direction of its length, the pawl P, having ratchet-teeth on its back, into which the free end of pawl P' will fall, and hence lock the parts in any desired position, as shown. In this the preferred form of my improved stocking-stretcher the toe portion of the upper separable part A is made to overlap the lower portion, so that when the former is slid forward upon the latter, in the position shown in dotted lines, it will give to the stocking an increased length, and when in its rearward position, as shown in full lines, the two parts will snugly fit together.

I make all of the parts of wood or other non-corrosive material, thereby avoiding the evil effects due to the moisture in a wet stocking.

By the term "separable," used heretofore in this specification and in the claims which follow, I wish to be understood as meaning two absolutely-independent parts, which are so detachably secured together by the dowel-pins D D that they may be taken absolutely apart from each other, so that the two parts of the stretcher may be laid side by side, slid into position in the stocking, then placed in position, and afterward spread by the agency of the spreading apparatus.

Of course the leg portion of the device may be of any desired length and other means than pawls may be utilized for maintaining the spread and relative location of the separable parts A and B, and I am not limited to the details herein shown and described for accomplishing the results claimed.

I am aware that a stocking-stretcher has heretofore been devised consisting of three parts permanently joined to each other by hinges and provided with spreading devices located in the bottom of the foot and at the top of the structure. I am also aware that a stocking-frame has heretofore been devised consisting of two parts hinged permanently together by two parallel bars and provided with a ratchet and pawl for regulating the re-

lation of the parts, and I make no claim broad enough to include either of these structures, my claims being directed to distinctly separable parts.

5 Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

10 1. A stocking-stretcher composing two separable parts A and B, said angled parts, as shown, being held together by dowels secured to the part B and grooves in the part A, one dowel and its corresponding groove being near the toe, so as to constitute a pivot, about which the parts turn and the other like parts
15 at a point near the center of the leg portion of the stretcher, in combination with means at the top of the two parts for holding them in spread position, all substantially as shown and described.

20 2. A stocking-stretcher made of two separable parts united by means of dowels and elongated grooves, the upper part having a curved-toe portion, whereby a stocking may be

stretched in the direction of its length, substantially as described.

25 3. A stocking-stretcher made of two separable parts united by means of dowels and elongated grooves, the upper part having a curved-toe portion, whereby a stocking may be stretched in the direction of its length, in combination with means for holding said parts in
30 locked position when spread, substantially as described.

4. A stocking-stretcher made of two separable parts A and B, pivoted together by dowels
35 D and grooves E, and provided with pawls P and P' and ratchet-teeth R on the upper end of the part B, with additional ratchet-teeth upon the upper side of the pawl P, said parts being all connected together, substantially as
40 described.

LARS G. ERICSON.

Witnesses:

CHAS. J. KINTNER,
F. GRIESSMAN.