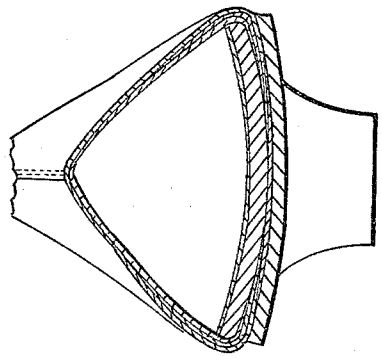
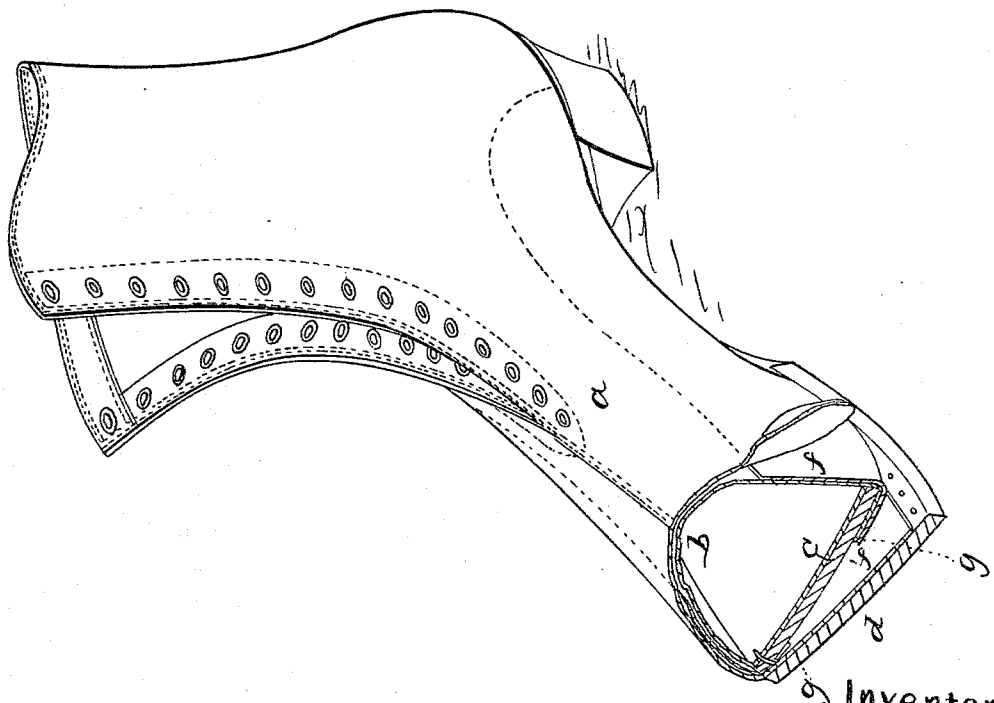
L. C. Tower.

Water-Proof Shoe.

No. 87,310. Patented Feb. 23, 1869.





Witnesses:

J. R. Davis

W. J. Creedman

Inventor:

L. C. Tower

By Dewey Fraser & Co.

Attys

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United States Patent Office.

LEWIS C. TOWER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 87,510, *dated February* 23, 1869.

IMPROVED WATER-PROOF BOOT AND SHOE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS C. TOWER, of Rochester, in the county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Water-Proof Shoes and Boots; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a shoe with the foot in section, showing my improvement.

Figure 2 is a front view of the toe-part of the shoe.

My invention consists in combining, with the shoe, a water-proof shield, resting between the soles, and coming up between the upper leather and lining, and also a layer interposed between the thickness of leather which constitutes the sole, two shields, layers, or linings, overlapping at the edges or seam, whereby the foot is protected from water, but still not so far as to prevent free passage of perspiration, as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings, the shoe is represented as made in the usual way, with upper leather *a*, cloth lining *b*, and outer and inner soles *c d*, connected in the ordinary manner.

Between the soles, in the process of making, is inserted a shield or lining, *f*, of India-rubber cloth, or other water-proof material, extending up, between the upper leather and lining, to about the height shown, and passing from the heel, around the toe and sole of the foot, to the heel again. The lower edge of this strip or shield *f*, intervenes between the soles *c d*, as shown at *g*.

If desired, however, the water-proof material may be made to enclose the entire upper part of the shoe.

f' represents a water-proof layer interposed between the thicknesses of leather which constitute the sole.

It will be seen that the two shields, layers, or linings *f f'*, overlap at the edges or seams, and form an impermeable joint.

I obtain two important advantages:

First, by the shield passing between the soles, no water can enter, unless it comes above the top of the shield, which is not the case under ordinary circumstances, but the feet grow wet from water entering at the soles.

Second, at the same time, the shield extending only part way up, the top of the shoes is left free, and there is no impediment to the passage of perspiration.

No dampness or moisture can reach the sole of the foot from below, owing to the layer *f'*, which is interposed between the inner and outer soles of leather.

The great superiority of this arrangement, over a water-proof lining not fitting between the soles, but covering the whole upper, is apparent.

In the latter case, no protection would be made against water entering at the soles, while the perspiration would be retained, thereby producing disease.

What I claim as my invention, is—

The employment of an elastic strip or shield, *f*, extending from the heel, around the toe and sole of the foot, to the heel again, its edge intervening between the soles, in combination with a water-proof layer *f'*, interposed between the thicknesses of leather which constitute the sole, the two shields overlapping at the edges or seam, and forming an impermeable joint, for the exclusion of moisture, when constructed and arranged as set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LEWIS C. TOWER.

Witnesses:

J. A. DAVIS,

W. J. CREELMAN.