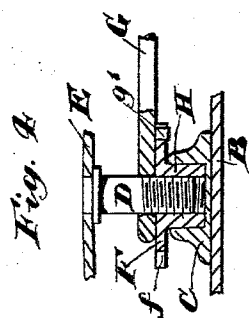
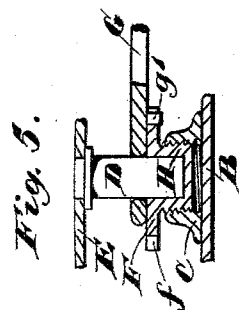
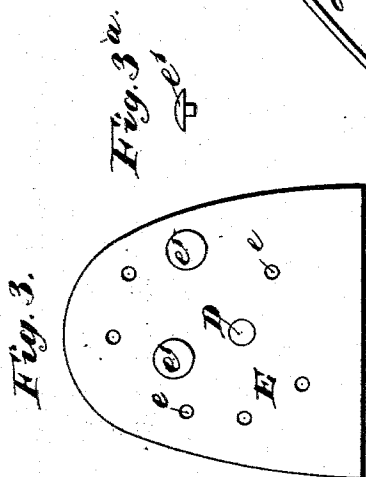
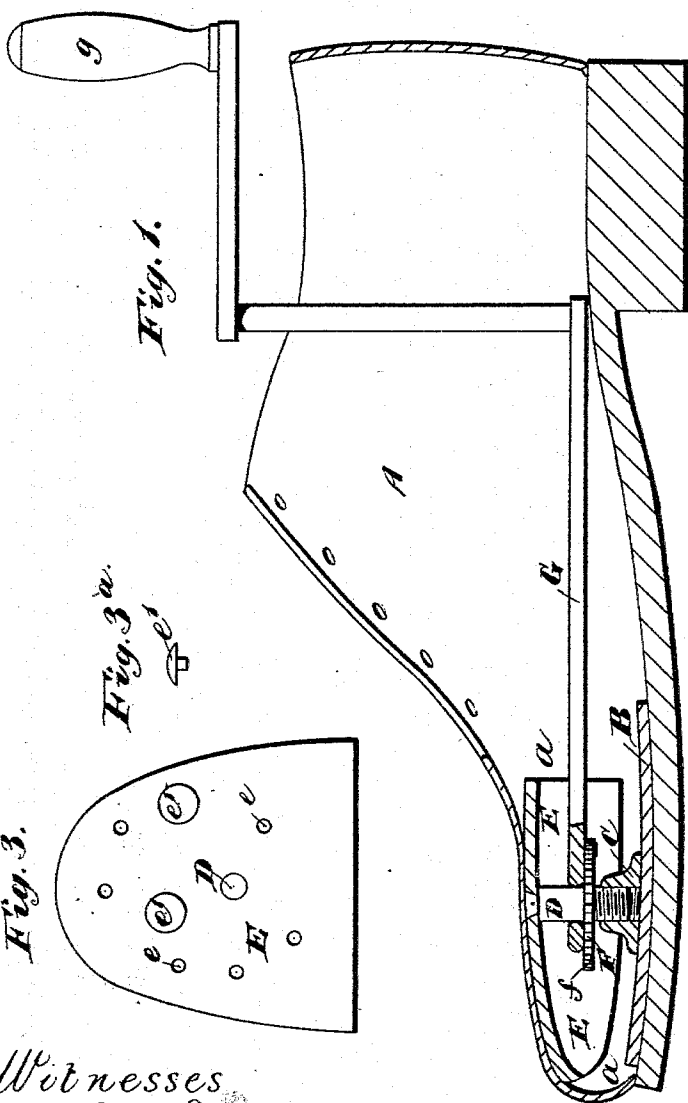
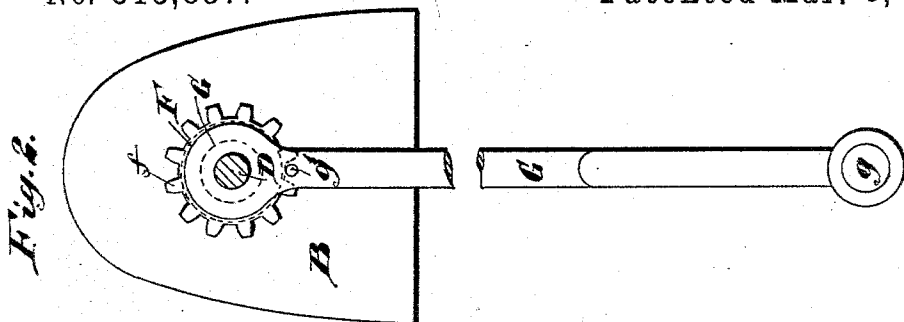


(No Model.)

R. T. BEAR.
BOOT OR SHOE STRETCHER.

No. 515,857.

Patented Mar. 6, 1894.



Witnesses
Albert Edward Pelly
Frank William Patterson

Inventor
Robert Treven Bear
by his Attorney
George Henry Rayner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT TREWEM BEAR, OF ST. GERMAN, ENGLAND.

BOOT OR SHOE STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 515,857, dated March 6, 1894.

Application filed April 5, 1893. Serial No. 469,080. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT TREWEM BEAR, steward, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at Sconnor House, St. German, Cornwall, England, have invented a certain new and useful Stretcher for Boots or Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a stretcher for boots and shoes, for expanding the upper at the toe, to ease the toes of the wearer and is especially intended for use by those having swollen toes, corns or the like.

The device consists of two plates, preferably of metal, one of which forms a base and is placed on the sole of the boot inside, being shaped to fit the toe, the other, which is fitted adjustably on it, is curved or bent into the shape of the upper at that part. The latter plate is adjusted vertically on the former by a screw action, operated by a loosely pivoted lever, capable of engaging with and being disengaged from a disk on the screwed part, turning the screw intermittently in either direction. The upper plate is preferably provided with a number of holes at suitable points in which can be placed small plugs, projecting slightly above, to ease the foot at any point where a corn may have grown. In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, reference is had to the accompanying sheet of drawings, in which—

Figure 1. is a vertical section of a shoe, having one form of my improved stretcher placed in position; Fig. 2 a plan of the device with the upper plate removed; Fig. 3 a plan of the upper plate; Fig. 3^a a view of one of the above mentioned plugs; and Figs. 4 and 5 are sections of two modifications.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 A is the shoe, in the toe *a* of which the device is placed, the plate B resting on the sole and forming the base plate of the device carrying the other parts. Fixed on the upper side of B is the socket C, provided with an internal screw thread, carrying the pin D, which can screw up or down in the socket. On the top of this pin the upper plate E is fitted, which is curved to follow the upper of the toe, so that by turning the pin D in the socket the plate E can be raised, expanding the toe *a* or lowered when to be removed. The plate E is prefer-

ably formed with a countersunk hole and the end of the pin D loosely riveted to it, so that the latter may turn freely in it. The pin D is furnished with the flange or disk F having a number of teeth *f*, by means of which it is turned. To operate the device the lever G is employed, cranked at its outer end and furnished with a handle *g*, which projects through the mouth of the boot or shoe so that the lever can be operated from the outside, the lever turning loosely on the pin D so that it can be raised slightly as well as turned. The pin *g'*, on the lever G is situated so that it can engage with the teeth of the flange, turning the pin D with the lever. Thus the lever by being turned on its pivot when the pin is engaged with the flange, raised and moved back to first position, the operation being then repeated, will turn the pin D intermittently in one direction raising or lowering it as desired. The upper plate E as shown in Fig. 3, is formed with a number of holes *e*, in which the plugs *e''* (shown in side elevation in Fig. 3^a) can be placed to act as corn easers, relieving the toe at the required points.

Fig. 4 shows a slightly modified construction in which a loose screwed socket H is employed, the pin D screwing into it. The toothed flange F for operating the device is formed on the socket H, which can turn loosely in the fixed socket. In this case the upper plate is fixed rigidly to the pin D.

Fig. 5 shows a similar arrangement, but instead of the pin being screwed it simply rests in the socket H, the latter screwing in and out of the fixed socket. This device can be readily applied by any person being easily put in proper position, the user employing his judgment in regulating the pressure.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A stretching device for boots and shoes consisting of a base plate, an upper curved plate mounted on the base plate and fitting the upper of the boot, a screwed socket and pin supporting the said upper plate and furnished with a flange, and a loosely pivoted lever, operated from the open end of the boot, engaging with and being disengaged from the said flange, turning it in either direction and raising or lowering the upper

plate, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. A stretching device for boots and shoes, consisting of two plates, one resting on the sole and the other bearing against the upper, the latter being carried on a screwed pin working in a fixed socket on the lower plate, and furnished with a toothed flange, turned by means of a loosely pivoted lever, capable of engaging with and being disengaged from the flange, substantially as described and shown.

3. In a device for stretching the uppers of boots and shoes, the combination of a base plate carrying a screwed socket in which a screwed pin turns supporting a curved plate

fitting the upper and furnished with a number of holes in which plugs can be inserted, with a toothed flange on the pin, operated by a loosely pivoted lever turning on the pin with a projection which can engage with and be disengaged from the flange, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 20th day of March, 1893, in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT TREWEM BEAR.

In presence of—

WALTER F. GOODWIN,
Chemist, 20 Cornwall Street, Plymouth.

ERNEST T. COCKS,
20 Cornwall St.