Jan. 5, 1926. 1,568,893

M. F. GALLAGHER

SHOE

Filed August 15, 1922

Fig. 1.

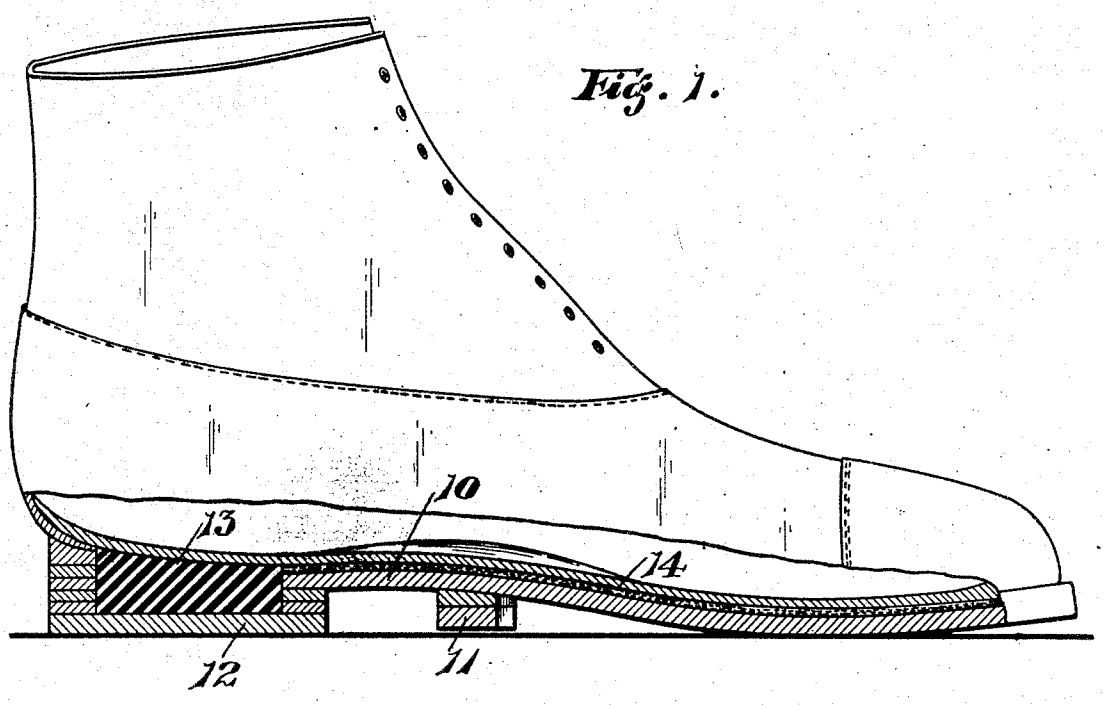
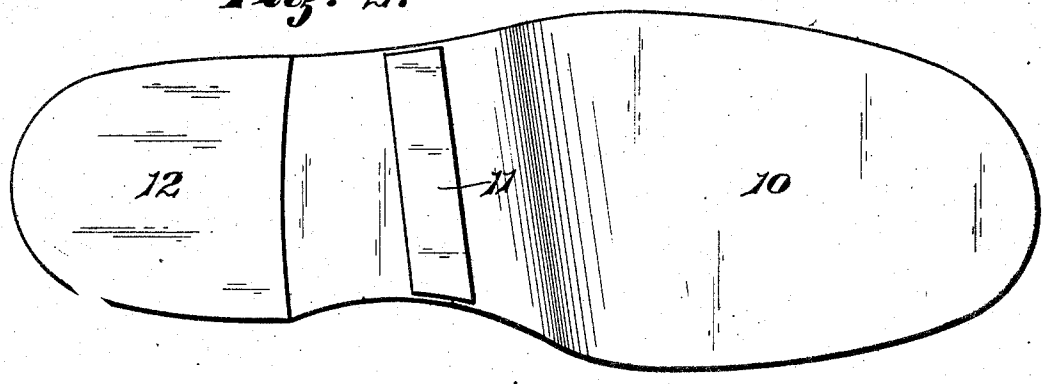



Fig. 2.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN F. GALLAGHER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

## SHOE.

Application filed August 15, 1922. Serial No. 581,925.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARTIN F. GALLAGHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city and county of San Francisco, and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoes, the object being to produce a shoe which will restore flat arches and relieve the pain usually present in such cases.

Experience shows that inside arch supports act merely to impose a painful pressure upon the arch of the foot and tend to crush down that part of the shoe between the heel and ball, so that in a short time the arch of the foot is without adequate support. Such inside arch supports are painful to the wearer and frequently do more harm than good.

In the present invention I provide an outside support for the arch in the form of a riser or strip fastened to the bottom of the shank of the shoe and adapted to contact with the ground. The shank of the shoe is thus prevented from flattening and adequate and lasting support is given to the arch of the foot.

Ordinarily a flat arch causes tenderness of the heel bones, and in combination with the present type of arch support I provide an inside cushion for the heel to relieve the pain on the heel bone. I also prefer to make the arched portion of the shoe more or less flexible by doing away with the metal or other stiffener commonly used in the shank of the shoe. By using a flexible portion at the shank of the shoe the action of the outside support will not be restrained and the pressure applied by the outside support when weight is disposed thereon will tend to restore the bones of the arch and give exercise and strength to the muscles of the arch.

One form which my invention may assume is exemplified in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 shows a side elevation of a shoe embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 shows a plan view of the bottom thereof.

The shoe shown in the drawing has a flexible shank portion 10, the bottom of which is provided with a lift or support 11 disposed about midway of the shank and adapted to contact with the ground when the shank is slightly depressed. The heel of the shoe has a leather portion 12 with a cushion 13 of rubber or the like inserted therein and disposed against the heel of the wearer. For greater comfort I may provide an inner cushion layer 14 extending throughout the sole of the shoe.

The action of the shoe is substantially as follows: The flexible shank portion is supported by the external lift 11, which prevents crushing or flattening of the same when worn by a person with broken or flat arches. There will be a certain pressure applied to the arch of the foot when weight is resting on the lift 11 and this will tend to restore the bones of the arch to proper position and exercise the muscles in a way to correct permanently the flattened arch.

Since flat arches usually cause tenderness of the heel bone, the cushion 13 in the heel of the shoe will afford relief from pain, as will also the inner cushion layer 14 in the sole.

Various changes in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein shown and described may be employed without departing from the spirit of my invention as disclosed in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A shoe having a flexible shank portion, a comparatively narrow support member arranged transversely across the bottom of said shank portion and fixed thereto at substantially the center thereof, said support member being of a thickness whereby it will remain out of contact with the ground except when said shank portion is depressed.

MARTIN F. GALLAGHER.