

E. C. PARSONS.
STOCKING.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 15, 1911.

1,044,567.

Patented Nov. 19, 1912.

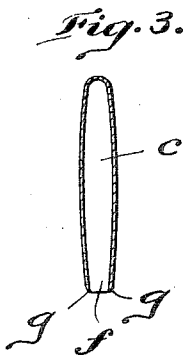
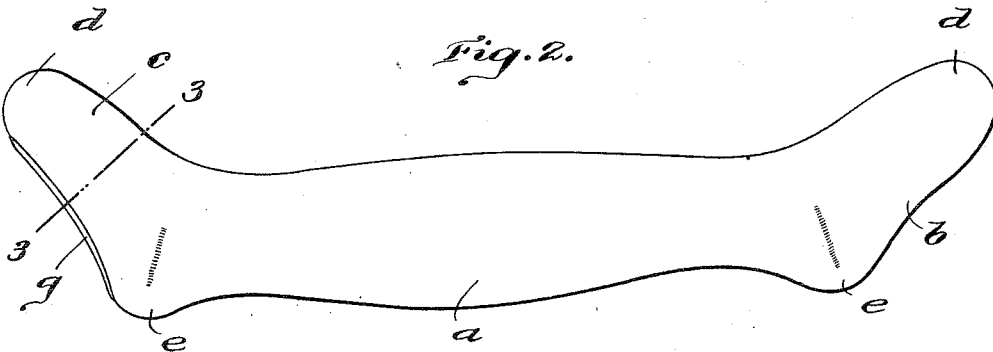
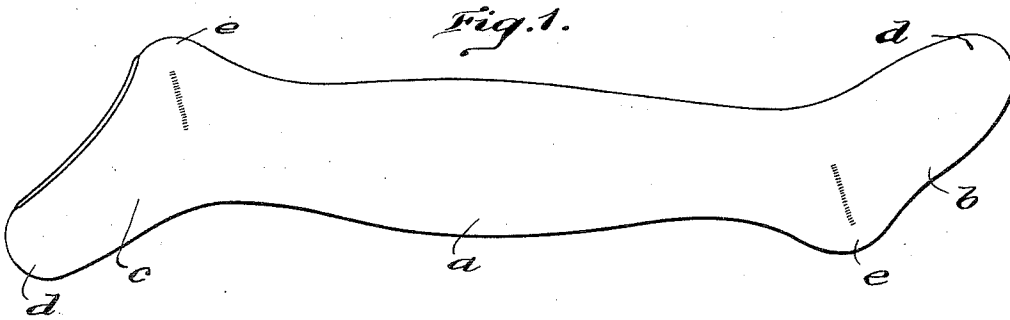
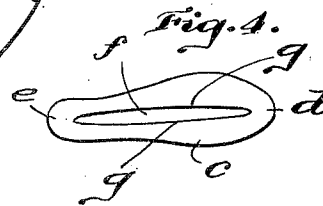
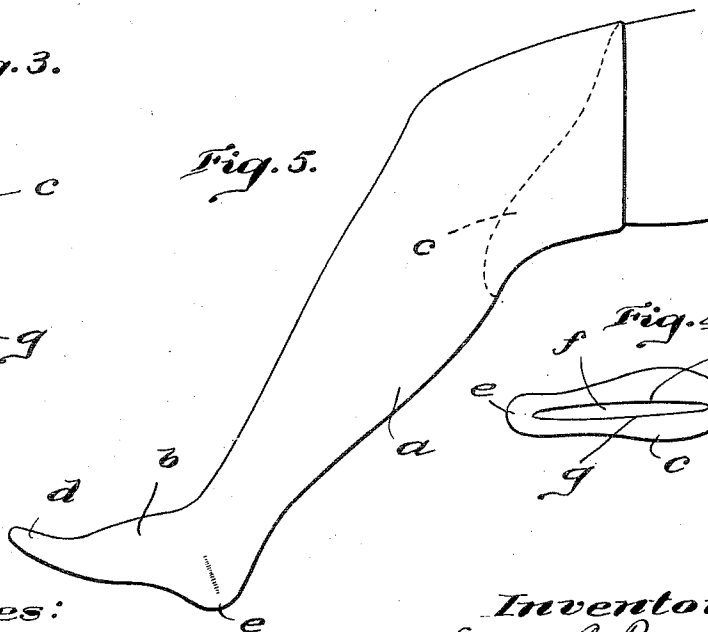


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMMA C. PARSONS, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

STOCKING.

1,044,567.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMMA C. PARSONS, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stockings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hosiery, and has for its main purpose to furnish an article of this nature having capacity for at least double the amount of wear of an ordinary stocking of the same quality, and of which the cost of manufacture and the cost to the user are not materially greater than the corresponding costs of an ordinary stocking of the same grade and quality. I accomplish this object by making the stocking with two foot portions, each having its own toe and heel, and both united to a single leg portion, preferably at opposite ends thereof. The two foot portions referred to may be so made as to point either in the same direction or in different directions from the leg portion, to meet different conditions of use and to suit the taste of the user.

In the accompanying drawings wherein I have illustrated stockings embodying my invention, Figure 1 shows the form in which the two foot portions extend in opposite directions. Fig. 2 shows the form in which the two foot portions extend in the same direction from the leg portion. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, showing the admission opening through one of the foot portions. Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the foot portion in which the admission opening is formed. Fig. 5 represents the stocking in use.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

The stocking consists of a tube or leg portion *a* and two foot portions *b* and *c* integrally united with the leg portion and disposed at opposite ends thereof. Each of these stocking feet has its own toe *d* and heel *e*. At one end of the article thus made there is left an opening *f* through which the foot and leg of the wearer may be inserted. As here shown this opening is formed in the bottom of the foot portion *c*, the other foot portion *b* being complete and without openings of any sort. The edges *g* of the opening *f* are finished in such a way that they will not ravel and that they may be caught together with sufficient security

when the portion *c* is worn on the foot. The exact location of the opening *f* is not material, provided only that it is near one end of the article and so formed that the wearer's foot may be easily inserted.

In first using the stocking the latter is applied in such a way that the wearer's foot occupies the foot portion *b*, the other foot portion *c* being disposed in any manner most convenient, either by being extended along the upper part of the leg, or by being turned in, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 5, the latter being the preferred way. When the unoccupied foot part is thus turned in the article has the appearance of the ordinary stocking, the extra thickness formed by the turned in portion being unnoticeable, and being in any event concealed by the outer clothing of the wearer. At the same time this turned in portion performs a useful function in thickening and strengthening that part of the stocking to which the usual hose supporters are attached, such turned in portion taking the place of the usual band of extra thickness, known as a welt, or the band of ribbed webbing usually united to hosiery at the open end to take the pull of the supporter.

When the foot portion *b* becomes worn out, it may be cut off and thrown away, or slit open, and the opening *f* of the portion *c* is closed. The stocking may then be reversed and worn with the other end up, the foot portion *c* then receiving the wearer's foot. If the opening *f* is formed in the bottom or sole of this foot portion, which is the preferred location, it is capable of being closed rapidly, easily and securely by even the most unskillful needle worker by a few stitches. It is in such a position that it is concealed when this foot portion is occupied by the foot of the wearer, and is at the same time not subjected to strains and severe wear, so that there is no tendency for it to open and for the connecting stitches to pull out or break.

When the foot portions are so made as to project to opposite sides, as indicated in Fig. 1, the reversal of the stocking to substitute one foot portion for the other upon the foot of the wearer also causes the leg portion to be reversed, bringing that portion which was formerly at the front of the leg to the rear. In this way such parts of the leg as may have become worn in front are replaced by unworn portions and are more

or less concealed. When two foot portions extend in the same direction, as indicated in Fig. 2, the reversal of the stocking does not reverse the leg otherwise than by substituting one end for the other, and bringing the portion which was previously over the knee to a point at or near the ankle. In either case a comparatively unworn and uninjured part of the leg tube is substituted for the part which was previously over the knee of the wearer and was therefore the part most subjected to wear. Each of these arrangements will have its own uses and be preferred by some classes of purchasers, consequently I desire to include them both within the scope of the appended claims.

It will be readily appreciated that owing to the complete concealment of the second foot, there is nothing to detract from the appearance of the stocking when being worn, and that the invention may be applied to a dress stocking equally as well as to those of more common wear. Also that the stocking may be worn with low shoes or pumps.

The essential principles of the invention may be embodied in all styles and grades of stockings, including half hose. It is also particularly applicable to children's hosiery, which is subject to severe wear. When adapted for the latter class of users it is feasible to make the leg tube of such length that the heel portion of the foot *c* lies over the knee cap of the wearer. The fullness of this heel portion provides a pocket for the knee, allowing the wearer's leg to bend without pulling and stretching the stocking, and therefore without making that portion which overlies the knee subject to such severe and rapid wear as in the case of the ordinary construction of stocking.

An article of hosiery embodying the present invention can be made with very little greater expense than the ordinary stocking having a single foot, and can be sold at only a slight advance over the price of such stock-

ings of the same quality. At the same time they provide capacity for at least double the amount of wear and double the life of the ordinary stocking. It is well known that when the foot portion of an ordinary stocking is worn out beyond repair, the leg portion is usually intact and capable of much more wear. My invention provides a means for utilizing the capacity for wear left in the leg portion after the first foot has become worn out, by providing a reserve foot capable of being quickly made ready for use when the first foot is discarded.

I claim,—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a stocking consisting of a single leg portion and two foot portions at respectively opposite ends of the leg portion, each foot portion having both heel and toe parts.

2. A stocking consisting of a leg portion, a complete foot portion at one end, and a foot portion at the other end having an opening adapted to receive the foot and leg of the wearer, each foot portion having both heel and toe parts.

3. A stocking consisting of a leg portion, two toe portions, and two heel portions, there being one toe and one heel united to form a foot portion at each end of the leg portion an opening being provided for the insertion of the foot of the wearer.

4. A stocking consisting of a leg and a foot portion at one end of the leg, said stocking having at the opposite end of the leg and on the forward side thereof a fullness adapted to receive the knee of the wearer and having an extension on the opposite side, said fullness or knee part and said extension constituting the heel and toe of a reserve foot portion.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

EMMA C. PARSONS.

Witnesses:

FREDERICK A. GREENE,
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