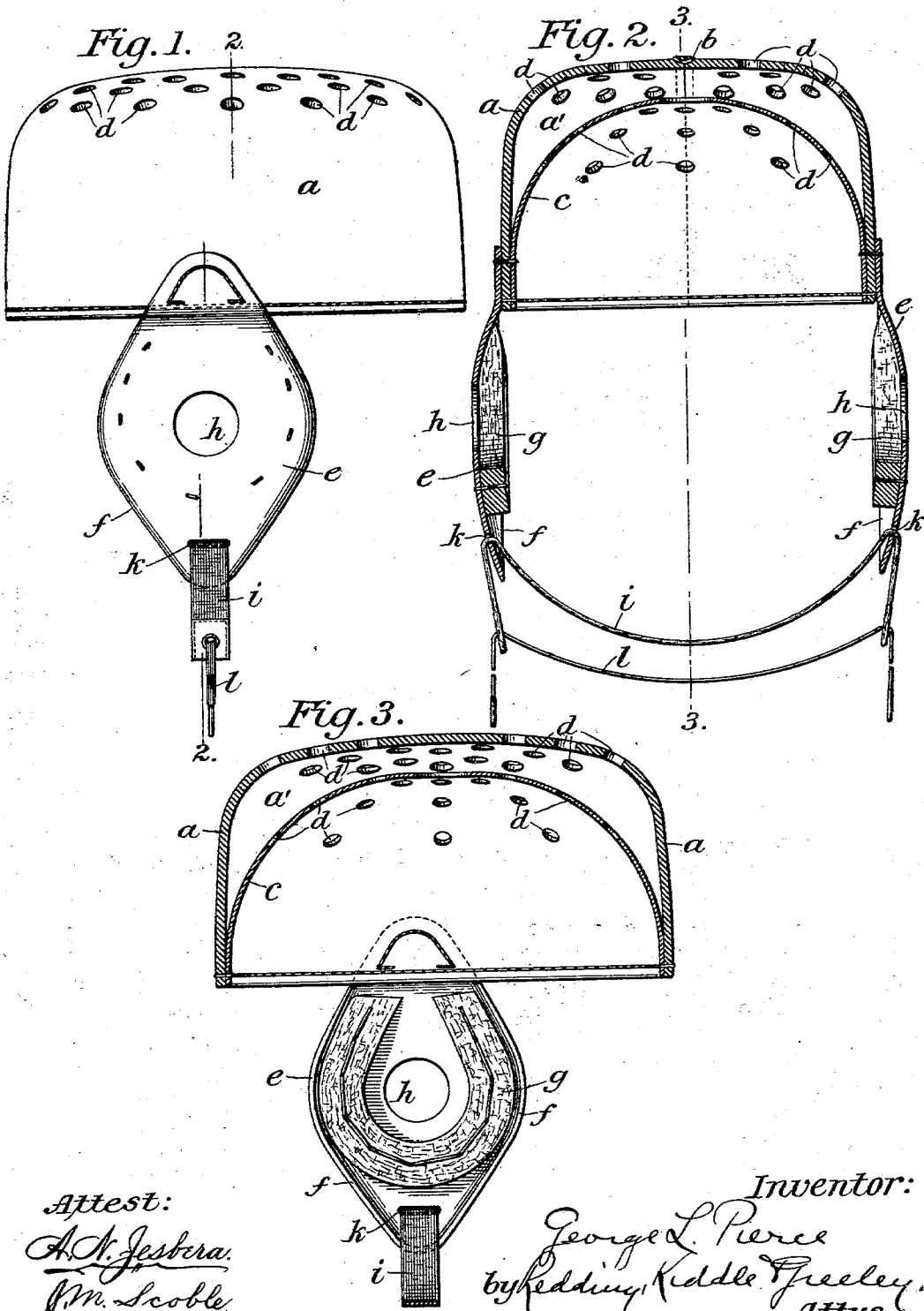


G. L. PIERCE.
HEAD HARNESS FOR FOOT BALL PLAYERS.
(Application filed July 9, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Attest:
A. V. Jesbera
J. M. Scoble

Inventor:
George L. Pierce
 by *Hedding Kiddle & Freeley*,
 Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. PIERCE, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO A. G. SPALDING & BROS., OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, AND NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

HEAD-HARNESS FOR FOOT-BALL PLAYERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 694,986, dated March 11, 1902.

Application filed July 9, 1901. Serial No. 67,597. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. PIERCE, a citizen of the United States, whose residence and post-office address is borough of Brooklyn, in the city and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Head-Harness for Foot-Ball Players, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved head-harness or head-protector for foot-ball players which may be worn without discomfort and shall effectually protect the head and the ears against injury by blows or otherwise. In accordance with the invention the cover for the head comprises two shells of different depth which are secured together at or near their edges, the outer shell being of relatively hard and tough material and separated, except at its edges, from the inner shell, which may be of relatively softer material and adapted to fit upon the head of the wearer. The earpieces, which are attached to the head-cover, are so formed as to protect the ears against direct blows and also against being torn by glancing blows, while they are also made comfortable to the wearer.

The invention will be more fully described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of the improved head-harness. Fig. 2 is a view in transverse section on the plane indicated by the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view in longitudinal section on the plane indicated by the line 3 3 of Fig. 2.

The outer shell *a* is preferably made of sole-leather or other similar material which shall be sufficiently tough and hard to resist blows without being unduly heavy. It may be conveniently formed in two segments stitched along a central line, as indicated at *b*. The inner shell *c* is also preferably formed of leather or other similar material and is preferably softer and more pliant than the outer shell. It may be formed in one piece, and having less depth than the outer shell *a* is secured to said outer shell at or near the edge, so that a space *a'* is left between the two shells above

and about the head of the wearer. The inner shell is intended to fit upon the head of the wearer, and the space between the two shells is such that when the cover is supported by the head of the wearer no blow of ordinary severity can indent the outer shell sufficiently to bring it in contact with the inner shell. The impact of any blow upon the outer shell is thus distributed, and no injury results to the wearer. Both the inner and the outer shells are provided with numerous perforations, as at *d*, which afford free ventilation.

In a suitable position at each side of the head-cover is secured an earpiece *e*, which is preferably formed of relatively stiff leather and is cupped or has its edges turned inward, as at *f*, so that no blow upon the side of the head shall affect the ear. For the comfort of the wearer a substantially annular pad *g* is secured to the inner side of the earpiece, such pad being made of felt or other suitable material. Being annular and surrounding the opening *h* in the earpiece the pad does not interfere with the hearing of the wearer, while the inturned edges protect the ear from direct blows, as above stated, and also diminish the liability of the earpiece to be torn off by a glancing blow and the danger of injury to the ear of the wearer at the same time. The head-cover may be held in position upon the head of the wearer by any convenient means, but preferably by an elastic strap *i*, which is passed through suitable openings *k* in the lower ends of the earpieces, the ends of such elastic strap being fastened directly together or by a fastening-cord *l*.

It will be observed that when the head-harness is made in a workmanlike manner of leather or other similar material the head of the wearer will be amply protected against injury by blows, while at the same time it fits comfortably upon the head of the wearer and causes him no discomfort by reason of its weight or any lack of sufficient ventilation.

I claim as my invention—

1. A head-harness comprising an outer shell of relatively tough and hard material, an inner shell to fit upon the head of the wearer and of less depth than the outer shell, said shells being secured together at their edges, and

means to secure said shells upon the head of the wearer, substantially as shown and described.

2. A head-harness comprising an outer shell
5 of relatively tough and hard material, an inner shell to fit upon the head of the wearer and of less depth than the outer one, said shells being secured together at their edges and each
10 of said shells having numerous perforations for ventilation and means to secure said shells on the head of the wearer, substantially as shown and described.

3. A head-harness comprising an outer shell
15 of relatively tough and hard material, an inner shell to fit upon the head of the wearer and of less depth than the outer shell, said shells being secured together at their edges, earpieces of relatively hard material, secured to said shells, said earpieces being cupped, and
20 means to secure said shells and earpieces upon the head of the wearer, substantially as shown and described.

4. A head-harness comprising an outer shell of relatively tough and hard material, an inner shell to fit upon the head of the wearer and
25 of less depth than the outer shell, said shells being secured together at their edges, and an elastic strap connected to opposite sides of said shells, substantially as shown and described.

5. A head-harness comprising a protective
30 cover for the head, earpieces of relatively hard material secured to said cover, said earpieces being cupped, an elastic strap passed through openings in the lower ends of said earpieces, and a cord to connect the ends of
35 said strap, substantially as shown and described.

This specification signed and witnessed this 8th day of July, A. D. 1901.

GEORGE L. PIERCE.

In presence of—

ROSWELL S. NICHOLS,
LUCIUS E. VARNEY.