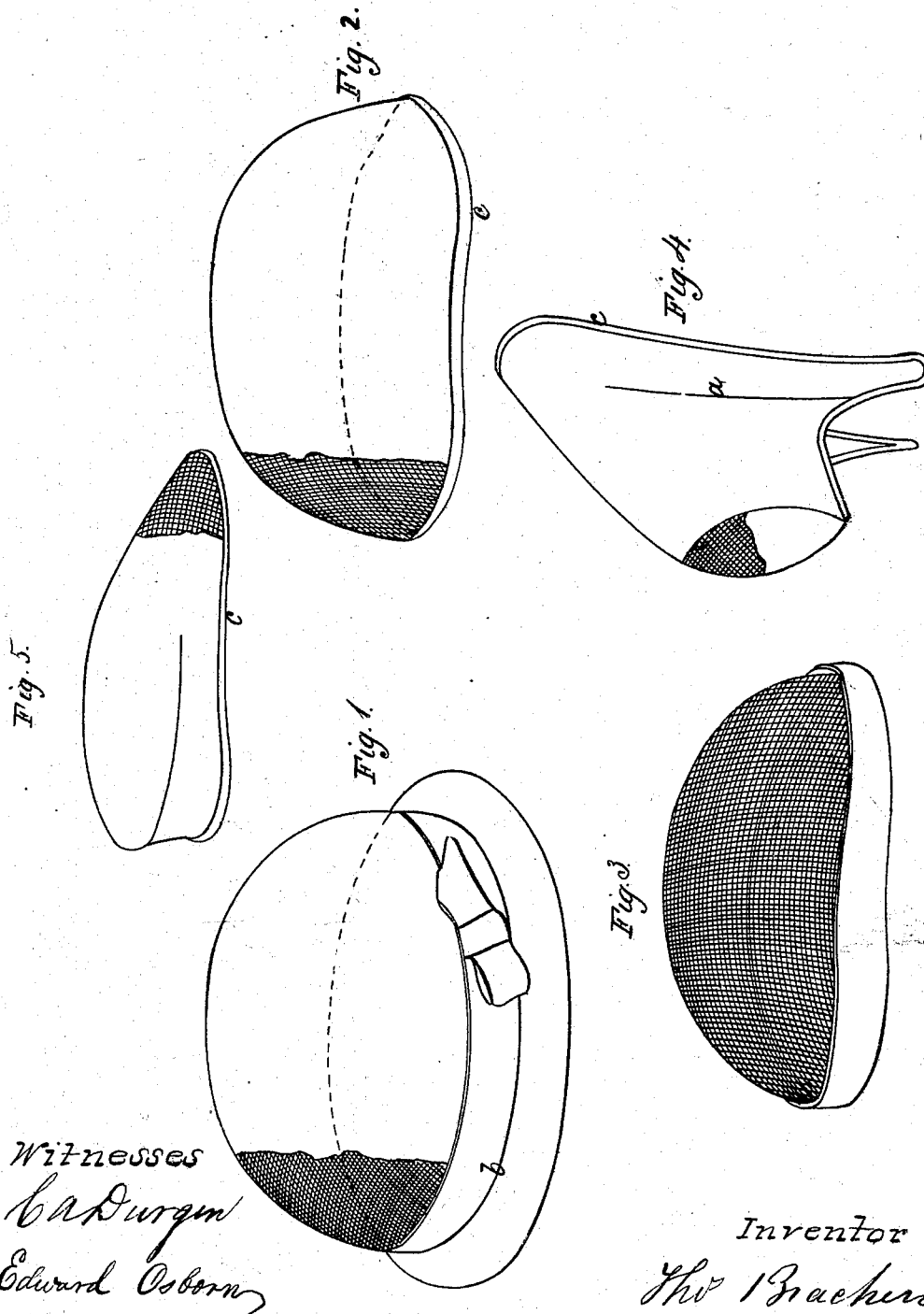


T. BRACHER.
COVERING FOR THE HEAD.

No. 48,510.

Patented July 4, 1865.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS BRACHER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN COVERINGS FOR THE HEAD:

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **48,510**, dated July 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS BRACHER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of Coverings for the Head, such as Bonnets, Hats, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, figures, and letters of reference thereon, making part of this specification.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a small hat. Fig. 2 shows a crown for the same. Fig. 3 shows a skeleton-frame of a brimless hat or cap. Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a lady's bonnet. Fig. 5 shows a side view of a child's cap.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the drawings.

My invention consists in improvements in the manufacture of coverings for the head.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe the operation.

I take wire-cloth from Nos. 36 to 45, hard wire, and, say, from twenty to forty mesh, and coat it well with gums dissolved with any chemical agents, or with any substance which is adhesive, for the purpose of uniting it with the outer material of the article and of preventing oxidization of the wire by the exudations from the head. I then form up the article to be worn upon a mold of the desired configuration, which mold is provided with a stretcher to draw the wire-cloth upon the mold and hold it at the edges *b c*, and to the surface of the mold where there are any angles, as shown at *a*, Fig. 4. The gums or adhesive substance to coat the wire and to form a union of the two substances of the article are applied with a brush, sponge, or in any suitable way, and, if desired, they may be mixed with any coloring-matter. The wire-cloth having been formed up over a mold of the desired shape and coated with gum or adhesive matter, as de-

scribed, and while upon the heated mold, with the adhesive substance in a melted or liquid state, I take the material which is to form the outer surface of the article and draw it over the wire-cloth, and by means of the stretcher hold the material to the heated mold until the wire-cloth and outer material are well united.

I would here remark that the operation of forming or shaping hats, bonnets, &c., which I use is fully described in Letters Patent for an improved method of making coverings for the head, issued to me December 3, 1861.

By the use of a heated mold of the desired shape or fashion and a stretcher or ring to hold the edges *a b c* of the material, and not to press upon any part of the surface, I am enabled to use velvets or any pile fabrics, embossed or figured goods, silks, satins, &c., without injuring the surface thereof, and with the same facility as in making up ordinary muslin or cloth hats.

I have used for coloring and covering the wire for ladies' hats, &c., to give the appearance of open-weave cloth, prior to coating the wire with the adhesive substance, white lead, white zinc, &c., in soluble glaas.

I am aware that coverings for the head have long since been made, in whole and in part, of wire, as described, as in the patent granted to J. W. Bryant, September 23, 1862, and that pile and other fabrics have been united to ordinary hat-bodies by means analogous to what is herein shown, but

I claim as a new and improved article of manufacture—

A covering for the head, made of open-weave wire-cloth, combined by adhesion with the material to form the outer surface of the hat, bonnet, &c., substantially as described, and for the purposes specified.

THOS. BRACHER.

Witnesses:

C. A. DURGIN,
EDWARD OSBORN.