L. Hoffmeister,
Corset.

No. 41,069. Patented Jan. 5, 1864.

FIG. 4.

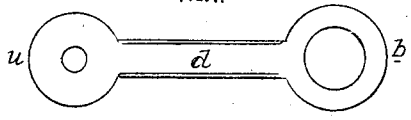


FIG. 5.

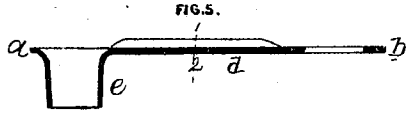


FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.

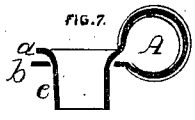


FIG. 8.

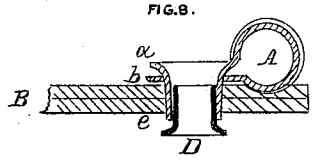


FIG. 9.

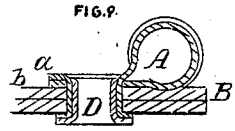


FIG. 1.

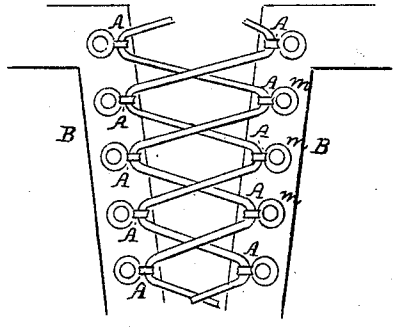


FIG. 2.

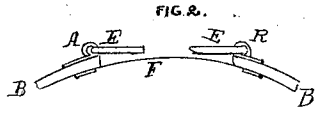
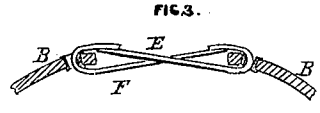


FIG. 3.



Witnesses: { H. Albert Seal. Edwin C. Foster.

Henry Howson
Atty for L. Hoffmeister

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LOUIS C. HOFFMEISTER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN EYES FOR LACING BOOTEES AND OTHER ARTICLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **41,069**, dated January 5, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS C. HOFFMEISTER, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Metallic Eye for Laces; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists of a strip of metal formed, bent, and otherwise constructed for attachment to boots, &c., substantially as described hereinafter, so as to form a cheap, substantial, and efficient eye for receiving the laces by which boots and other articles of wearing-apparel are secured.

In order to enable others to make and apply my invention, I will now proceed to describe the manner of constructing the same.

On reference to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a front view of part of a boot or other article of clothing with my improved eyes for laces; Fig. 2, a plan view of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a plan view illustrating the ordinary mode of lacing boots, &c. Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are views drawn to an enlarged scale, and illustrating the mode of manufacturing my improved eyes for laces.

In order that my invention may be readily understood, I will proceed to describe the manner of constructing the eyes.

I first take a thin plate of metal, and, by means of suitable punches and dies, cut from the plate pieces of the form represented by Fig. 4—namely, a piece consisting of two flat rings, *a* and *b*, connected together by a strip, *d*. I then, by suitable dies, form on the ring *a* a projecting annular flange, *e*, thereby reducing it to the form of an ordinary eyelet, as seen in Fig. 5. Another operation is to reduce the intermediate strip, *d*, to the form represented in Fig. 6, which is a transverse section on the line 1 2, Fig. 5, both edges of the strip being turned up so that it may be rounded underneath, for an object rendered apparent hereinafter. This last operation may, if deemed necessary, be accomplished prior to the formation of the eyelet *e*. I now bend the strip *d* so as to form the eye A, causing the eylet *e* to pass through the ring *b*, and the whole to assume the form represented in Fig. 7, after which the device is ready for attachment to the boot or other article of apparel, in the following manner: A hole of proper diameter is in the first instance formed in the fabric B, Fig. 8, and the eyelet portion *e* of the device passed through this hole, after which an ordinary eyelet, D, is inserted into the interior of *e*, when the whole is removed to a proper eyelet-machine and compressed to the shape seen in Fig. 9, the ring *b* being brought into contact with the upper surface of the fabric, the flange *a* bearing against the ring *b*, the lower edge of the eyelet *e* being turned up against the under surface of the fabric, and the eyelet D compressed and confined as it is within the eyelet *e*, serving to secure to the fabric the device which, as seen in Fig. 9, constitutes my improved eye for laces, the relative position of a number of these eyes, when attached to boots, corsets, &c., being shown with a lace in Fig. 1.

One of the advantages of my invention can be best described by referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the former representing a plan view of my improved eyes for laces, and the latter a plan view of the ordinary mode of lacing boots, &c.

In my improvement the situation of the eyes is such that the lace E is never in contact with the stocking F, whereas in Fig. 3 the lace, having to pass through ordinary eyelets, must necessarily bear against the stocking with such force as to cause a friction, which is well known to render the act of unlacing the boot a matter requiring tedious manipulation.

The freedom with which the lace will pass through my improved eyes will be understood when it is remembered that it has to bear against the rounded surface formed on the strip *d*, Figs. 4 and 6, this rounded and smooth surface preventing all possibility of the lace being cut.

Although I prefer the use of the eyelet D in the manner described, it will be evident that it may be dispensed with, and that the fastening may depend on the eyelet *e* alone.

The front of a boot furnished with my improved eyes may be ornamented by inserting into the eyelet-holes gilt-headed pins *m m*, Fig. 1, or glass beads of different colors.

Another advantage of my invention is that the eyes may be secured to boots and other

articles of wearing-apparel which have been previously furnished with ordinary eyelets.

The strength and cheapness of my improved eyes and their secure attachment to the fabric will be readily understood without explanation.

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

The within-described eye for laces, consisting of a strip of metal formed, bent, and constructed for attachment to articles of wearing-apparel, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS C. HOFFMEISTER.

Witnesses:
HENRY HOWSON,
JOHN WHITE.