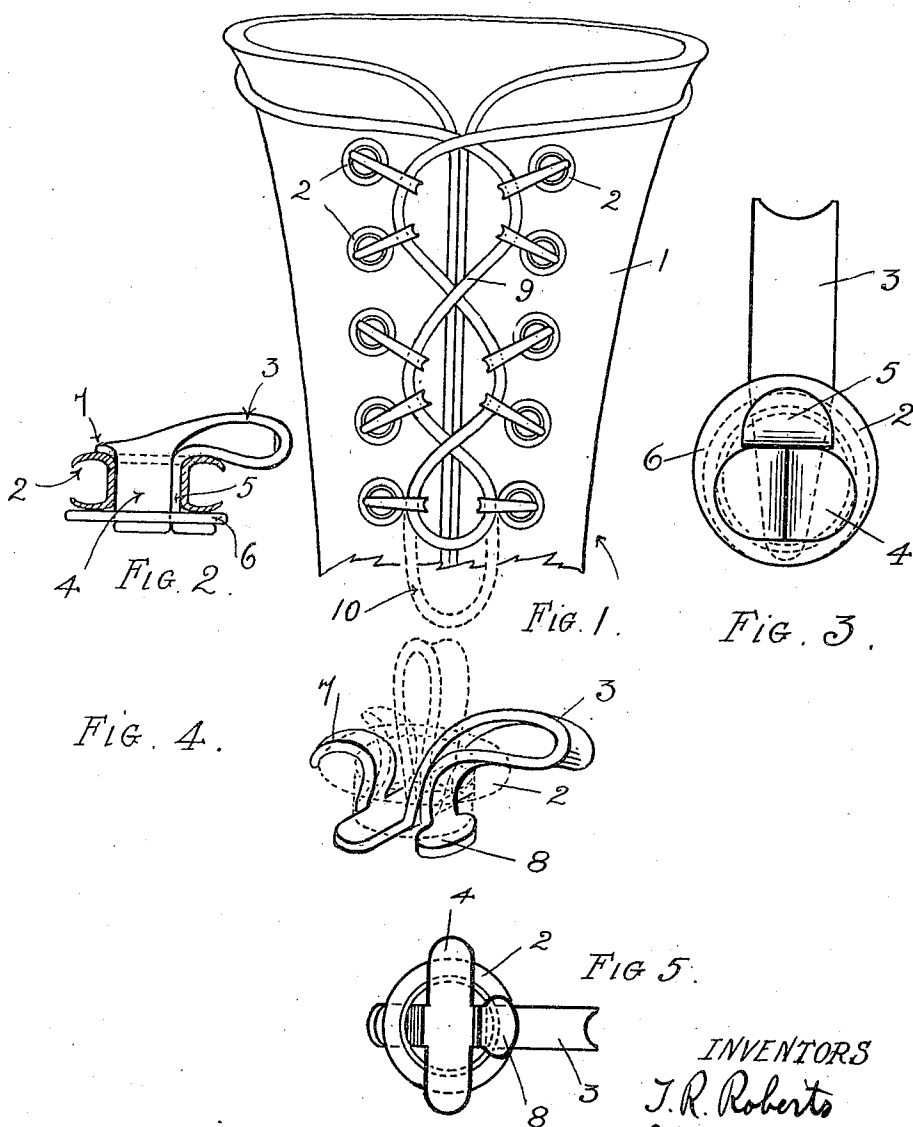


Aug. 19, 1924.

1,505,430

T. R. ROBERTS ET AL
FASTENING FOR FOOTWEAR AND THE LIKE

Filed April 13, 1923



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FASTENING FOR FOOTWEAR AND THE LIKE.

Application filed April 13, 1923. Serial No. 631,789.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, THOMAS RICHARD ROBERTS and EDMUND FOULKES OWEN, both of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, Province of Ontario, Canada, subjects of the King of Great Britain, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fastenings for Footwear and the like, of which the following is a specification.

In lacing boots and shoes with the present arrangement of eyelets, it is necessary to thread the lace through the eyelets, so that parts of the lace are outside the boot and parts inside. The parts of the lace inside the boot, when the boot is tightly laced, are often very uncomfortable. It is also common practice to pass the lace from inside to outside and vice versa between the adjacent edges of the upper of the boot, which prevents the drawing close together of the adjacent edges. It is also common to use hooks instead of eyelets at the top part of the upper, but these hooks are objectionable in that the clothing is often caught and torn thereby.

The object of our invention is to devise an arrangement in which the lace is altogether outside the boot, in which the lace may be drawn tight or loosened in a minimum of time, and in which there will be no parts on which clothing may be caught and torn.

We attain our object by means of the constructions hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a front view of the upper of a boot showing our invention applied thereto;

Fig. 2 a side view of one form of loop, the eyelet being shown in section;

Fig. 3 a plan view of the under side of the parts shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 a perspective view of the preferred form of loop showing in dotted lines the method of inserting it in the eyelet, and in full lines the position the parts occupy when secured in place; and

Fig. 5 a plan view of the underside of the arrangement shown in Fig. 4.

1 is the upper of a boot, shoe, or the like, and 2 the usual eyelets. In each eyelet is rotatably mounted a lacing member through which the lace is passed. These lacing members may be formed in many different ways, a suitable form being shown in Figs. 2,

and 3, while our preferred form is shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

In the form shown in Figs. 2 and 3 the lacing member is formed of an integral strip of metal doubled back on itself to form a loop 3. One end of the strip is provided with two projections which are bent downwardly to form securing legs 4, and engage beneath the eyelet, and a lip or tongue 7 for engagement over the eyelet. The other end of the strip is bent downwardly to form a securing leg 5 to also engage beneath the eyelet. This device may simply be secured in position by passing the ends of the legs 4 and 5 through the eyelet and bending them outwardly to engage with the underside of the eyelet. We prefer, however, to provide a washer 6 below the eyelet, the washer having a T-shaped slot therein, the leg 5 passing through the head of the T and the legs 4 through the stem, and the ends of the legs bent to lie flat against the washer as illustrated in Fig. 3.

In our preferred form shown in Figs. 4, and 5, the lacing member is also formed from an integral strip of metal similar to the blank used in forming the construction previously described. Instead, however, of the projections or legs 4 being bent, the strip itself is bent to extend through the eyelet, and the tongue 7 therefore made somewhat longer in order that it may engage over the eyelet. The strip is doubled back as before to form the loop 3, and the end of the stem is formed with an enlargement 8.

This form is first bent into the shape illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 4, and inserted in the eyelet from below. The tongue 7 and loop 3 are then bent outwardly as indicated in full lines to prevent withdrawal of the device in one direction, while the ends of the projection 4 and the enlargement 8 prevent its withdrawal in the other direction.

It will be understood, of course, that in either form the lacing members are free to rotate under the action of the lace.

A suitable manner of lacing is shown in Fig. 1, the lace 9 being threaded through two lacing members at one side before being crossed over to the other side. With the lacing members shown, when it is desired to remove the boot, it is only necessary to untie the bow or knot and then draw on the lace

at 10 to bring it to the position shown in dotted lines, when the upper may then be easily opened up. When it is desired to lace the boot, it is only necessary to draw on the ends of the laces. It will be seen that no matter in which direction the lace is drawn, there is comparatively little frictional engagement therewith and therefore the lace will move freely. By threading the lace through two or more loop members before crossing to the other side, there is not so great a strain on any one loop member and therefore there is less danger of strain on the material of the boot.

From the above description it will be seen that we have devised a construction which will satisfactorily attain the object of our invention as set out in the preamble of this specification. It will be understood, of course, that the loop members may be formed of many different shapes or ornamented if so desired.

What we claim is:—

1. In boots, shoes and other footwear, the combination of a divided upper; a series of eyelets adjacent each meeting edge of the upper; and lacing members rotatably mounted in said eyelets and extending outwardly therefrom, said lacing members having openings therethrough through which a lace may pass, the openings through the lacing members being directed at substantially a right angle to the openings through the eyelets.

2. In boots, shoes and other footwear, the combination of a divided upper; a series of eyelets adjacent each meeting edge of the upper; and lacing members mounted in said eyelets and extending outwardly therefrom, said lacing members having openings therethrough through which a lace may pass, the openings through the lacing members being directed at substantially a right angle to the openings through the eyelets, each lacing member comprising a strip of metal doubled back on itself to form a loop, one end of said strip having a pair of projections

adapted to engage beneath the eyelet and a tongue adapted to engage over the eyelet, the other end of the strip being adapted to also engage beneath the eyelet.

3. In boots, shoes and other footwear, the combination of a divided upper; a series of eyelets adjacent each meeting edge of the upper; and lacing members mounted in said eyelets and extending outwardly therefrom, said lacing members having openings therethrough through which a lace may pass, the openings through the lacing members being directed at substantially a right angle to the openings through the eyelets, each lacing member comprising a strip of metal doubled back on itself to form a loop, one end of said strip having a pair of projections adapted to engage beneath the eyelet and a tongue adapted to engage over the eyelet, the other end of the strip having an enlargement adapted to also engage beneath the eyelet.

4. In boots, shoes and other footwear, the combination with an eyelet of a lacing member comprising a strip of metal doubled back on itself to form a loop, one end of said strip having a pair of projections adapted to engage beneath the eyelet and a tongue adapted to engage over the eyelet, the other end of the strip adapted to also engage beneath the eyelet.

5. In boots, shoes and other footwear, the combination with an eyelet of a lacing member comprising a strip of metal doubled back on itself to form a loop, one end of said strip having a pair of projections adapted to engage beneath the eyelet, and a tongue adapted to engage over the eyelet, the other end of the strip having an enlargement adapted to also engage beneath the eyelet.

Signed 16th day of February, 1923.

THOMAS RICHARD ROBERTS.
EDMUND FOULKES OWEN.

Witness:

JESSIE C. WEBSTER.