C. J. RANSOM.

FOOTWEAR.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 26, 1917.

1,281,655.

Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

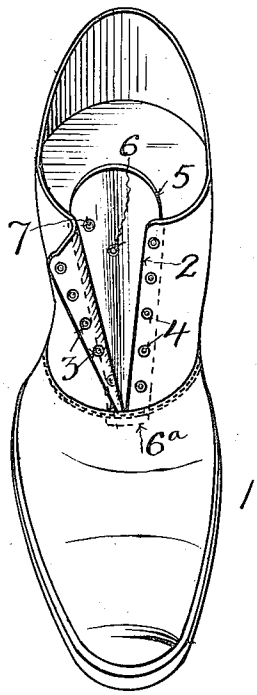


Fig. 1.

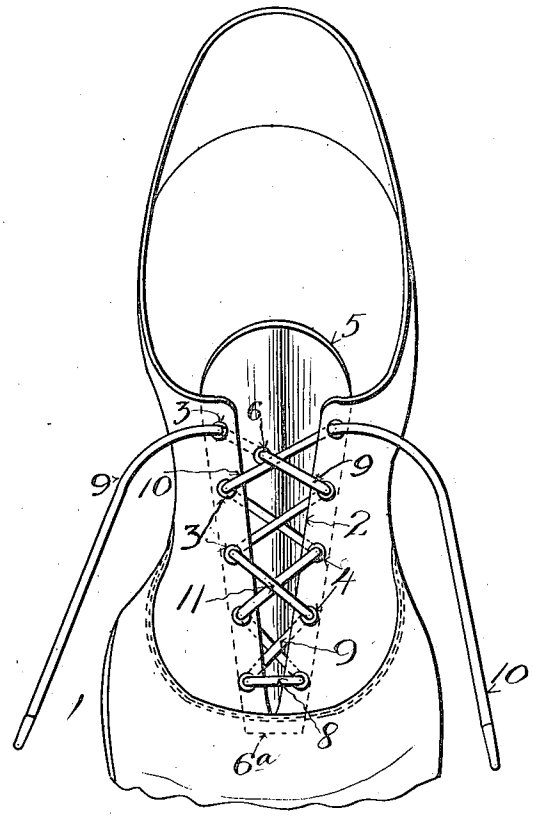


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

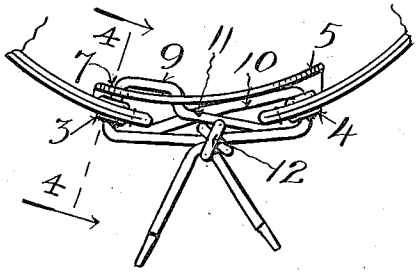
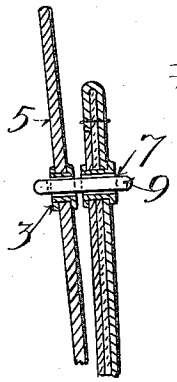


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOOTWEAR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES J. RANSOM, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Footwear, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to footwear and more particularly to means for holding the tongue of a shoe or Oxford tie in place. In footwear such as in shoes and Oxford ties it is a common thing for the tongue to work out of place and to turn or twist to one side leaving an open space under the lacing, and the displacement of the tongue to one side of the center line causes uneven strains upon the shoe upper which tend to draw the shoe or tie out of shape. Various ways have been proposed for keeping the tongue in place or in line but they have not been entirely satisfactory.

The object of the present invention is to provide simple and efficient means for holding the tongue in place and which means will be free of objectionable features. In the preferred form of my invention the utilization of the tongue holding feature adds nothing to the cost of the footwear as I utilize the usual elements of the footwear and the perforations in the tongue may be made at the time the tongue is cut out or blanked.

In the present arrangement the shoe strings or laces are utilized in a novel manner and coöperate with the tongue to hold the latter in place to prevent lateral displacement thereof.

In the drawing forming part of this application,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an Oxford tie showing the arrangement of the lace holes in the tongue,

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the lace in place and about to be drawn taut and tied,

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the upper portion of the tie with the lace drawn and tied, and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In the drawing I have shown an ordinary Oxford tie, the constituent parts of which are so well known that they require no detailed description herein. While I have selected an Oxford tie such as are worn by men nevertheless it is to be understood that my invention is equally applicable to women's footwear and to shoes as well as Oxford ties.

The article of footwear 1, herein shown, has the usual lace engaging members at each side of the front opening 2 and they are here shown as a row of eyelets 3 at one side and as a row 4 of eyelets at the opposite side, of the front opening. It is to be understood that the lace engaging members may consist of lacing hooks.

The tongue 5 of the tie is shown stitched at its lower end 6 in the usual manner, the remaining portion of the tongue preferably being free or unattached to the upper of the tie. Ordinarily the upper portion of the tongue may twist or shift to one side of the central position after the lace has been drawn and tied and the present invention relates to the means for preventing this twisting or shifting.

In Fig. 1 I have shown the simplest form of means with which the lace may be engaged for the purpose of holding the tongue in position, but I do not wish to be limited to this specific form. I have shown an aperture 6 nearly in the middle line of the tongue and in its upper portion, and this aperture may be formed by providing an eyelet in the tongue as shown. There is another such aperture 7 nearer one side of the tongue and slightly higher up and this may be formed by providing an eyelet in the tongue.

The lace may be laced through the eyelets 3, 4 in any way which will accomplish the purpose indicated herein and in the drawing I have shown the tie laced in a common way by crossing the opposite runs of the lace to form an X at each intersection. Starting at 8 the lace extends straight across between the lowermost eyelet 3 and the lowermost eyelet 4. One run 9 of the lace is then carried from the lowermost eyelet 3 across the opening 2 and up through the second eyelet 4. The other run, 10, is carried from the lowermost eyelet 4 across the opening 2 and up through the second eyelet 3. There is a cross or X formed at 11 where the opposite runs of the lace cross each other. This lacing operation is repeated in so far as the run 10 of the lace is concerned, until it is brought out through the topmost eyelet 4 at one side of the opening 2. The run 9 of the lace, however, after passing out through an eyelet 4, which may be the second from the top on one side, as shown, crosses over the run 10 of the lace

and it then passes down through the aperture 6 in the tongue, to the back thereof. It then passes across the back of the tongue and out through the aperture 7, and thence through the topmost eyelet 3. The lace may then be drawn taut and the ends tied, as shown at 12 in Fig. 3.

It will be noted that the aperture 6 is near and preferably just above one point of crossing of the opposite runs of the lace, and that the aperture 7 lies under or nearly under, the topmost eyelet 3 when the lace is drawn tight. The engagement of the run 9 of the lace through the tongue causes the lace to hold the tongue from shifting and it holds it in a central position.

If there should be a tendency for the tongue to shift to the right in the drawing the movement of the tongue in this direction will be prevented by the lace. In such case the tongue can not move to the right except by sliding on the run 9 of the lace but as this run crosses over the run 10 at the point 11 the tongue will be prevented from sliding along the run 9. There is thus no way in which the tongue can move downwardly or to the right. If there is any strain tending to move the tongue to the left in the drawing the movement will be resisted because the run 9 of the lace where it passes through the aperture 7 passes out through the upper eylet 3 which is in line, or nearly in line with the aperture 7.

The lace thus resists the shifting of the upper portion of the tongue either to the right or left.

The arrangement shown herein does not detract from the appearance of the footwear and it is a very convenient matter to carry the lace through the apertures 6, 7.

The cost, if any, of applying my invention to foot-wear is negligible.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

An article of foot wear such as a shoe or tie, said shoe or tie having the usual front opening, lace holes or eyelets along the opposite edges of said opening to receive the lace, a lace having its opposite runs passed in zig-zag form between said lace holes or eyelets so that said runs cross over said opening, and a tongue having its lower end secured to said shoe or tie and arranged to underlie said opening, said tongue having an aperture adjacent the point of crossing of the runs of said lace and an aperture adjacent one of said lace holes or eyelets of said shoe or tie, the lace passing back through said first tongue aperture and forward through said second tongue aperture, between its engagement with lace holes or eyelets on opposite edges of the shoe or tie, whereby said lace will prevent displacement of said tongue.

Signed this 13th day of July, 1917.

CHARLES J. RANSOM.