To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN LIPINSKI, a subject of Russia, residing at Leavenworth, in the county of Leavenworth and State of Kansas, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Lace-Fastening Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in lace fastening devices. It is adapted for use in connection with shoes, gloves, corsets and the like.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and efficient lace fastening device which may be easily and quickly laced and unlaced; which will be efficient in operation and with which the lace will be securely held.

A further object of my invention is to provide a lace fastening device which may be economically and quickly applied to the article with which it is to be used.

The novel features of my invention are hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing which illustrates the preferred embodiment of my invention, as applied to a shoe,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of a shoe provided with my invention, the lace being shown unlaced.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, the lace being shown laced.

Figure 3 is a front elevation of one of the hooks and a part of the flap to which it is attached.

Figure 4 is a cross section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Figure 5 is a cross section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Figure 6 is a front elevation of one of the studs and a portion of the flap to which it is secured.

Figure 7 is a cross section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Figure 8 is a cross section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Similar reference characters designate similar parts in the different views.

1 designates the front flaps of a shoe, each flap being provided with one or more eyelets 2, in which is adapted to be laced in the usual manner an ordinary shoe lace 3.

Secured to each flap 1 above the eyelets 2 are one or more studs 4, shown in detail in Figs. 6 to 8 and provided each with a transverse eye 5, through which the lace 3 is adapted to extend and to be slidably mounted.

Secured to each flap 1 is an ordinary lace hook 6 adapted to be releasably engaged by the lace 3 and located, preferably, intermediate of and out of alinement with the adjacent stud 4 and eyelet 2. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, each hook 6 is located, preferably, at the inner side of a straight line connecting the adjacent stud and eyelet 2.

As shown in the drawing, two studs 4 and two hooks 6 may be secured to each flap 1, one stud being above the other and the hooks being disposed alternately with respect to the studs.

In the operation of my invention, the lace 3 is extended in the ordinary criss-cross fashion through the eyelets 2, one end of the lace being then passed through the studs 4 of one flap 1 and the other end of the lace being passed through the studs 4 on the other flap 1, as shown in Fig. 1.

That portion of the lace 3 between the lower stud 4 and upper eyelet 2 of each flap is then made to engage the hook 6 on the opposite flap 1, as shown in Fig. 2.

That portion of the lace 3 between the two studs 4 of each flap 1 is then made to engage the adjacent hook 6 of the opposite flap, as shown in Fig. 2, following which the ends of the lace 3 are then drawn upwardly through the studs 4 and are tied together as shown in Fig. 2.

In unlacing, the lace is untied and released from the hooks 6, thereby giving the lace sufficient slack for the removal of the shoe.

By having the hooks 6 disposed out of alinement with the straight lines connecting the upper eyelets 2 and the adjacent studs 4, the hooks do not interfere with the manipulation of the lace, but permits it to be freely grasped for the purpose of hooking it over the hook of the opposite flap.

As the lace is always in engagement with the studs 4, by being slidably mounted in the eyes 5 thereof, it is retained in convenient form for manipulation.

I do not limit my invention to the structure shown and described, as modifications, within the scope of the appended claims, may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a lace fastening device, two members having lace engaging means, two studs
provided each with a transverse eye adapted to have a lace slidably mounted therein, said studs being secured respectively to said two members, and two lace engaging devices mounted respectively on said two members intermediate of said studs and said lace engaging means, each of said lace engaging devices being adapted to be releasably engaged by that portion of the lace which is mounted in the stud of the opposite member.

2. In a lace fastening device, two members having lace engaging means, two studs each having a transverse eye adapted to receive a lace, said studs being respectively secured to said two members, and two lace engaging devices mounted respectively on said two members intermediate of said studs and said lace engaging means, each of said devices being located out of alignment with the adjacent stud and lace engaging means.

3. In a lace fastening device, two members having lace engaging means, two studs each having a transverse eye adapted to receive a lace, said studs being respectively secured to said members, and two lace engaging hooks respectively mounted on said members intermediate of said studs and said lace engaging means, each hook being located out of alignment with the adjacent stud and lace engaging means.

4. In a lace fastening device, two members having each an eyelet adapted to receive therethrough a lace, two studs respectively secured to said members and having each a transverse eye for receiving said lace, and two lace engaging devices respectively mounted on said members intermediate of said studs and said eyelets, each device being disposed out of alignment with the adjacent stud and eyelet.

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5. In a lace fastening device, two members each having an eyelet adapted to receive a lace, two studs respectively secured to said members and having each a transverse eye for receiving said lace, and two lace engaging devices respectively mounted on said members intermediate of said studs and said eyelets, each device being disposed out of alignment with the adjacent stud and eyelet.

6. In a lace fastening device, two members having each an eyelet for receiving a lace, two studs respectively secured to said members and having each a transverse eye for receiving said lace, and two hooks respectively mounted on said members and adapted to releasably engage said lace and disposed intermediate of said studs and said eyelets.

7. In a lace fastening device, two members having each an eyelet for receiving a lace, two studs respectively secured to said members and having each a transverse eye for receiving said lace, and two hooks adapted to releasably engage said lace and respectively mounted on said members intermediate of said studs and said eyelets, each hook being disposed out of alignment with the adjacent stud and eyelet.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

JOHN LIPINSKI.