

Feb. 4, 1930.

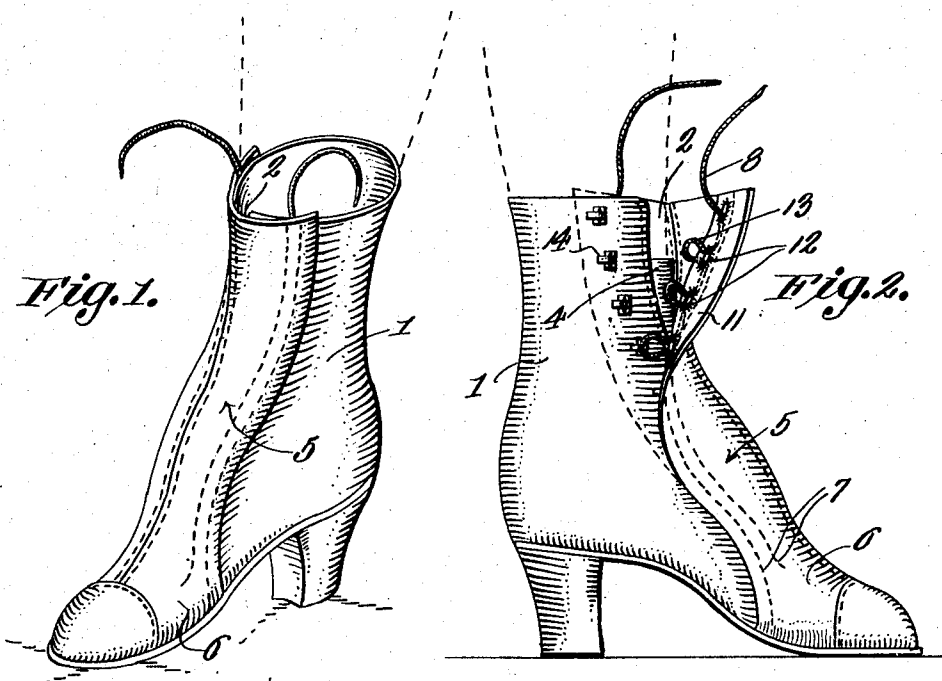
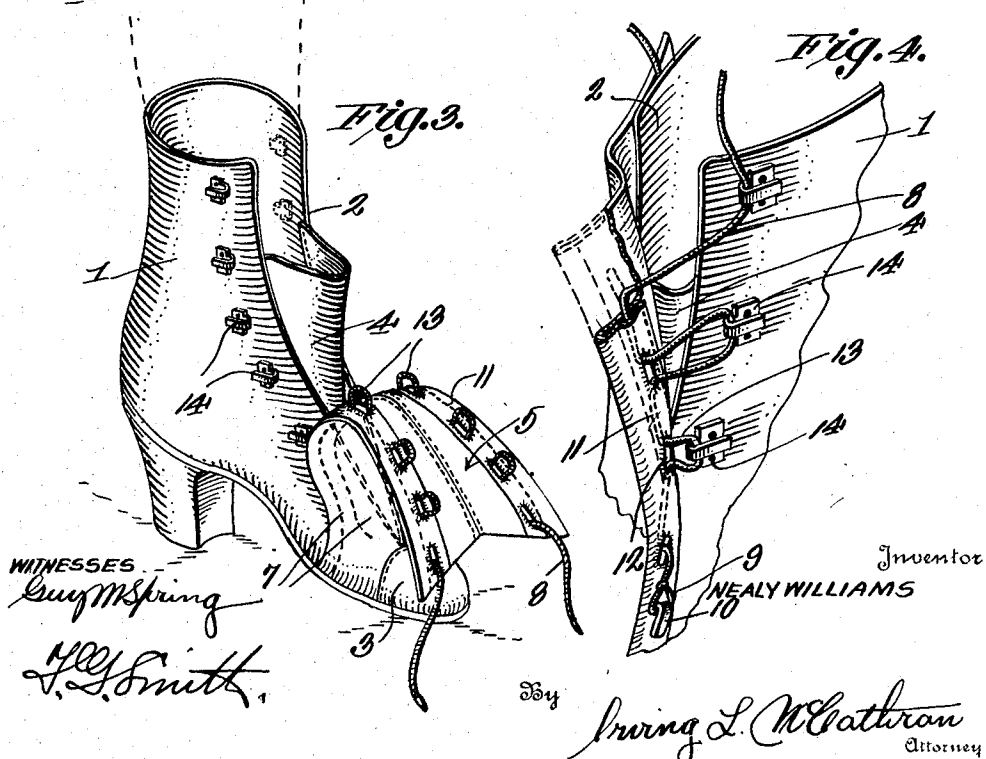
N. WILLIAMS

1,745,654

FOOTWEAR

Filed March 28, 1928

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FOOTWEAR

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Fig. 5.

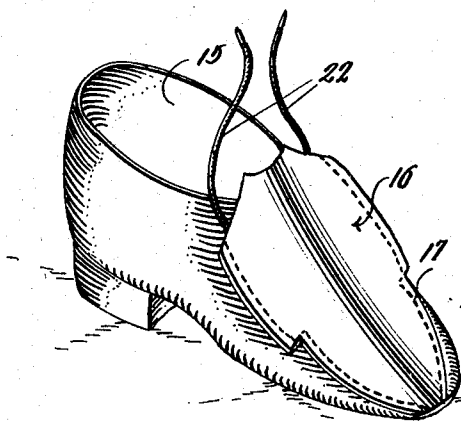


Fig. 8.

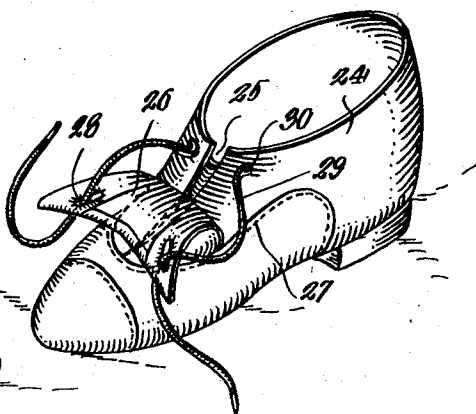


Fig. 6.

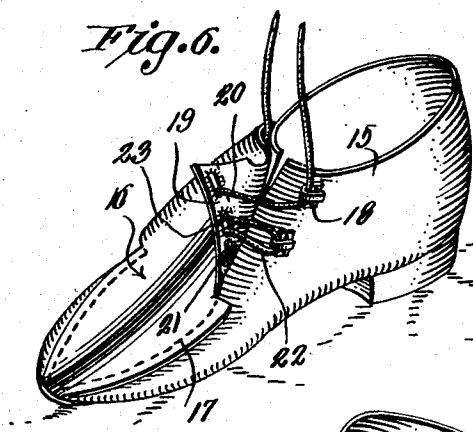
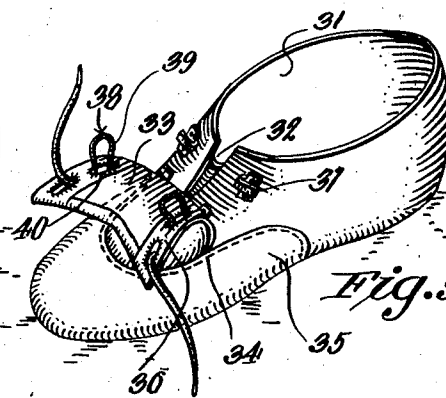
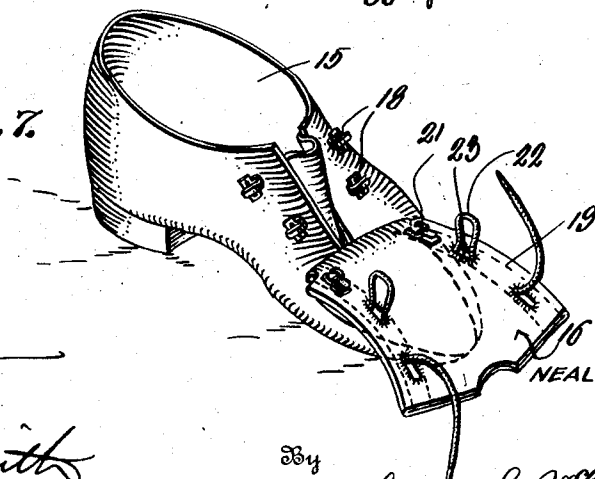


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES

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Fig. 10.

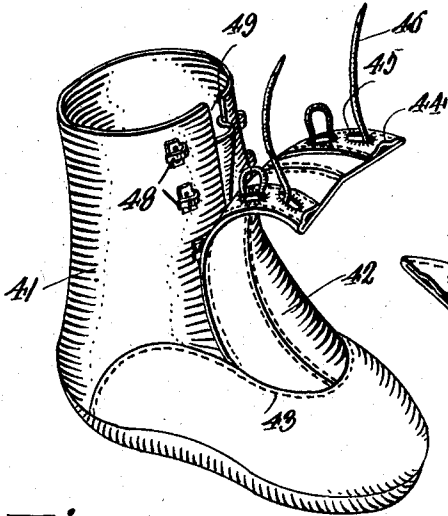


Fig. 12.

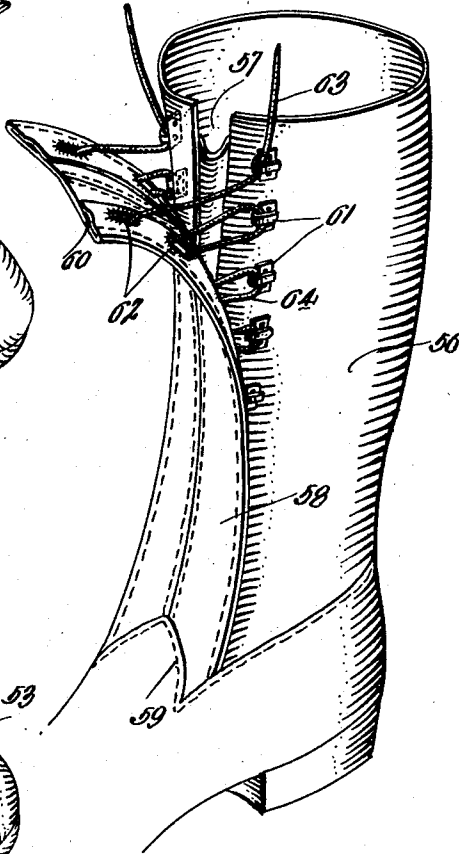
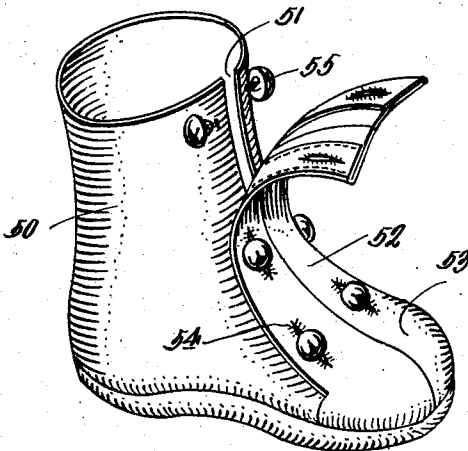


Fig. 11.



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Fig. 13.

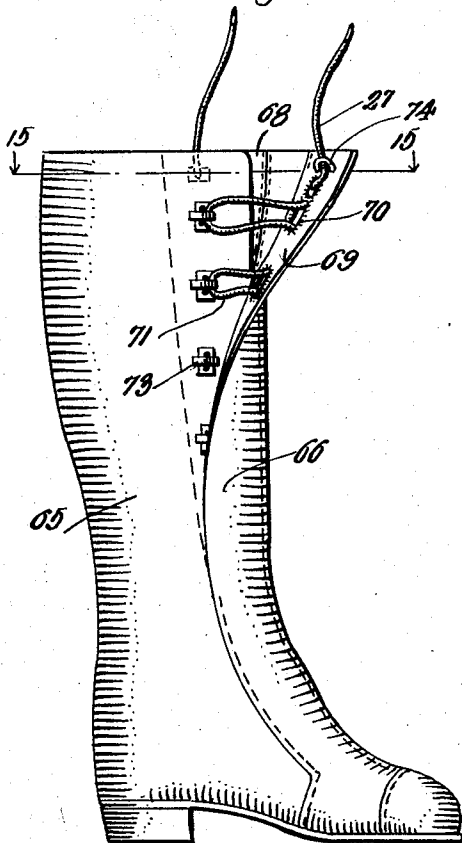


Fig. 14.

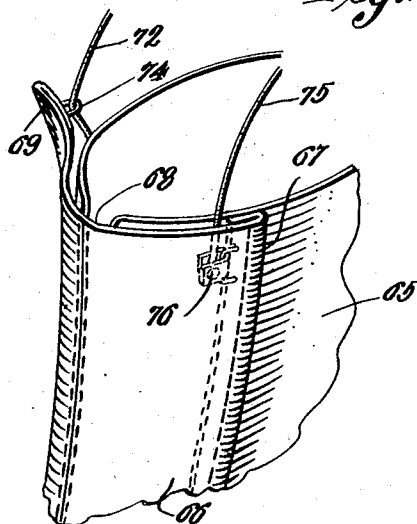
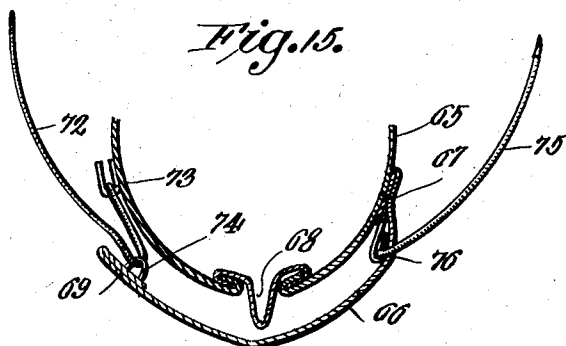


Fig. 15.



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FOOTWEAR

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This invention relates to improvements in articles of footwear and more particularly to improvements in shoes and boots of different styles:

5 One of the objects of the present invention is to provide an article of footwear so constructed that the same will be much more attractive in appearance than articles of footwear of the same kind and particularly as
10 regards the appearance of the front of the upper of the shoe or the like. Shoes or boots of the ordinary types employing laces or buttons as the closing or fastening means for the open front of the upper are ordinarily
15 unattractive due to the fact that the fastening or closing means is visible and detracts from the artistic appearance of the article of footwear, as a whole. Therefore the present invention has as one of its important objects
20 to provide a closure for the open front of the upper of an article of footwear, which closure may be fashioned to present a highly attractive and ornamental appearance and in which the mechanical fastening means for
25 adapting the closure to span and close the open front of the upper will be concealed entirely from view thus rendering the shoe embodying the invention far more attractive than similar shoes provided with the usual
30 closing means for the open front of the upper.

Another disadvantage presented by articles of footwear in which the open front of the upper is closed by shoe laces or buttons, is that, in the former type of article of footwear the upper must be provided with an interior tongue to span the opening in the front of the upper, and, in the wear of the article of footwear, the tongue soon becomes wrinkled or creased and soon gains an unsightly appearance. Furthermore, in this type of shoe, as also in the buttoned type, there is extreme likelihood of the entry of rain or snow into the shoe inasmuch as the sides of the upper at the open front thereof
45 overlap the tongue which tongue is located inwardly with respect to the said sides and rain or snow lodging against the upper between the margins of its open side will tend to enter the shoe or other article of footwear rather than draining off from the same.

Therefore the present invention has as a further important object to provide an article of footwear of the type including an upper open at its front, in combination with a novel form of spanning and closing flap for the said open front of the upper, together with novel means whereby the marginal portions of the flap may be anchored to the upper at the opposite sides of its open front, the means employed for this purpose being such as to be completely concealed from view by the flap and therefore, in no way detracting from the artistic appearance of the closure.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in an article of footwear embodying an upper open at its front, and a spanning and closing flap positioned to exteriorly overlap and span and close the open front of the upper, an extremely simple and inexpensive means whereby the two marginal portions of the flap may be securely anchored in position closing the open front of the upper, the means being of such character that the coacting parts thereof may be conveniently and quickly mutually engaged and disengaged and one of said elements being adjustable so that the said flap may be suitably tensioned when it is secured in closing position.

Another object of the invention is to provide an article of footwear having an upper open at its front, and a means for spanning and closing said front which means will be of such a character and so arranged as to positively preclude the entrance of rain or snow into the article of footwear about the margins of the said closing means.

Another object of the invention is to provide an article of footwear embodying an exterior closure flap for the open front of its upper, and drawstrings associated with the upper of the article of footwear and with said flap for tensioning the flap in closed position spanning and covering the open front of the upper, the invention contemplating such an arrangement of the drawstrings that the same will be completely concealed by the flap with the possible exception of the bow-knot which may be tied in the ends of the

strings to maintain the strings suitably tensioned to hold the flap in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide novel means for anchoring the ends of the draw strings so that, in the event of breakage of any one of the strings, it may be readily removed and a new string substituted therefor and conveniently anchored in place.

While the accompanying drawings and the description which is to follow, constitute a disclosure of the preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be understood that various changes may be made within the scope of what is claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe of the type commonly known as a lady's high shoe, the view illustrating the shoe equipped with the flap embodying the invention and the flap being closed;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the shoe with one side of the flap partly open;

Figure 3 is a perspective view illustrating both sides of the flap in the positions which they will assume, as contemplated by the invention, when the fastening elements for the flap are mutually separated;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view, partly in section, illustrating the flap of the shoe partly open and illustrating the manner in which the tying cord is arranged upon the flap and engaged with the anchoring elements upon the upper, the view likewise illustrating the means provided for anchoring the lower ends of the said cords or drawstrings;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a low shoe embodying the invention, the flap being shown in closed position;

Figure 6 is a similar view illustrating one side of the flap swung to open position;

Figure 7 is a similar view illustrating the flap swung forwardly to full open position;

Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 7 illustrating a low shoe and a slightly modified form of flap;

Figure 9 is a similar view illustrating a further modification of the invention;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a baby's shoe equipped with the flap of the present invention, the flap being partly open;

Figure 11 is a similar view but illustrating a modified form of the means for maintaining the flap closed;

Figure 12 is a perspective view of a boot embodying the invention, the flap being partly open;

Figure 13 is a side elevation of a modified form of boot, the adjacent side of the flap being in partly open position;

Figure 14 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating the upper portion of the boot shown in Figure 13;

Figure 15 is a detail horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the line 15—15

of Figure 13 looking in the direction indicated by the arrows.

In that embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, in which the invention is embodied in a lady's high shoe, the shoe upper is indicated by the numeral 1 and the said upper is open at its front as indicated by the numeral 2, the opposite marginal portions of the upper being gradually converged toward each other and meeting substantially at the rear of the toe-cap 3 of the shoe as most clearly shown in Figure 3. The open front of the upper 1 is preferably spanned, from its lower end, to a point below its upper end, by a gusset 4 which may be of soft leather, cloth, or any other soft and flexible material found suitable for the purpose.

In this embodiment of the invention the closure flap for closing the open front of the upper, is indicated in general by the numeral 5 and the same comprises a lower portion 6 of such form as to extend over the vamp of the shoe upper, being united thereto, for the lower portion of its length, by lines of stitching 7, the forward end edge of the flap 5 being united to the rear side of the toe-cap 3 by the usual cross line of stitching. As illustrated clearly in the said Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, the flap 5 is of a width amply sufficient to span the open front 2 of the upper 1 and, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, it is designed, when in closed position, to conform more or less closely to the contour of the upper at the front thereof, it being understood that this flap may be given any desired ornamental marginal contour and may otherwise be ornamented. It will also be evident by reference to Figure 1 that the flap is to be marginally held in place against the shoe upper at opposite sides of the open front thereof so as to span and close the said open front, and the means which is employed, in this embodiment of the invention, for holding the flap in this position, will now be described.

The means referred to above comprises a pair of drawstrings which are indicated by the numeral 8 and each of these strings is anchored at one end as at 9 to a hook or other similar fastening element 10 upon the inner face of the flap 5 at one side of said flap and at the lower end of the flap, the connection of this end of each drawstring with the respective fastening element 10 being a separable one so that the drawstring may be disengaged from the fastening element when replacement of the string is required. From the fastening element 10 the drawstring 9 is led through a hem 11 which is formed at the corresponding side of the flap 5 by overturning and stitching the marginal portion of the flap, and the inner wall of this hem is formed at intervals with short slots or openings 12 through which portions of the drawstring

may be looped as indicated by the numeral 13 and inserted in the manner shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 of the drawings. A series of hook members 14 is secured to the upper 1 of the shoe at each side of the open front 2 and these hook members are preferably horizontally disposed and are located adjacent the margins of the sides of the upper in the manner illustrated in Figures 2, 3 and 4. It will be evident by reference to these figures that the looped portions 13 of the drawstrings are engaged with the hooks 14 and that the upper end portions of the drawstrings are led through the uppermost one of the slots 12 of the respective series and engaged with the uppermost one of the respective series of hooks 14. Therefore by forming the loops 13 and engaging the loops with the hooks 14 and then pulling upon the ends of the drawstrings in substantially the manner in which the ends of a shoe lace are pulled in tightening the same, the flap 5 is caused to assume the closed position illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings resting snugly against the front of the upper and spanning and closing the open front portion 2 thereof. The projecting ends of the drawstrings may then be tied together in a bowknot or otherwise, as will be readily understood, and in this manner the shoe upper is neatly adjusted about the foot of the wearer. It will also be evident by reference to Figure 1 of the drawings that the flap, when closed, occupies such a position that it constitutes an exceptionally attractive closure for the open front of the upper of the shoe and greatly enhances the attractive appearance of the shoe as a whole. It will also be evident by reference to the said Figures 1 to 4 inclusive that the drawstrings may be readily loosened, when their upper ends are united, and the loops 13 may be disengaged from the hooks 14 thus permitting the flap 5 to be swung downwardly to the full open position shown in Figure 3 whereupon the shoe may be readily removed from the foot or applied thereto. It will further be evident that in the event of breakage or wearing of either of the drawstrings, the same may be readily replaced by disengaging the ends 9 thereof from the securing hook 10 and withdrawing the broken or worn string through the hem 11 after which a new string may be readily inserted through the hem and anchored at its lower end to the hook 10 and successive portions thereof drawn through the slots 12 to provide the loops 13.

From the foregoing description of this embodiment of the invention and from an inspection of Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, it will be evident that the invention contemplates an extremely neat, artistic, and dressy closure for the front of the upper of a high shoe and that the means provided for holding the closure in position is invisible. It will also be understood that inasmuch as the flap 5 extends

entirely across the open front of the upper and a considerable distance to each thereof and is located wholly exteriorly of the upper of the shoe, there is little likelihood of moisture entering the shoe by way of the open front of the upper.

Figures 5, 6 and 7 of the drawings illustrate the embodiment of the invention in a low shoe, and in these figures the upper of the shoe is indicated by the numeral 15 and the flap which corresponds to the flap 5, is indicated by the numeral 16 and is united at its margin and at its lower portion by a line of stitching 17 to the upper from the lower side of the open front of the upper preferably to the tip of the toe portion of the upper. Hooks 18 corresponding to the hooks 14 of the previously described embodiment are secured by stitching or otherwise to the opposite sides of the open front of the upper 15, and the portion of the flap 16 above the stitched marginal portion 17 is provided at its opposite sides with hems 19 in which are arranged drawstrings 20 corresponding to the strings 8 of the previously described embodiment, these drawstrings being anchored each at its lower end to a hook 21 corresponding to the hook 10 of the previously described embodiment and threaded through the respective hem 19 and formed with loops 22 corresponding to the loops 13 which are drawn through openings 23 corresponding to the openings 12 in the inner walls of the hems 19. It will be evident by reference to the said Figures 5, 6 and 7 that precisely the same principles are involved in this embodiment of the invention as in the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive and previously described and it will likewise be evident that the flap 16 in this embodiment may be of any desired marginal contour and formed in any desired ornamental manner.

Figure 8 of the drawings illustrates a somewhat different form of the invention and in this figure the invention is illustrated as embodied in a low shoe the upper of which is indicated by the numeral 24 and is open at its front as indicated by the numeral 25, the flap which corresponds to the flaps 5 and 16 of the previously described embodiments, being indicated by the numeral 26. In this embodiment, the flap 26 is preferably united to the upper 24, along its lower edge, by the seam 27 which unites the vamp along its upper and rear edges, and the said flap is provided in each upper corner with an opening indicated by the numeral 28, and the drawstrings, which are indicated by the numeral 29, are secured each at one end as at 30 to the upper 24 at a respective side of the open front 25 thereof, the points of attachment of the drawstrings 29 to the upper being relatively close to the upper edge of said upper. The drawstrings are led through the openings 28 and may be tied in a knot, in securing the flap

26 in place against the front of the upper and closing the same.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 9 the invention is disclosed in connection with a low shoe the upper of which is indicated by the numeral 31 and is provided with an open front 32, the flap, which in this embodiment is indicated by the numeral 33, being secured at its lower end by the line of stitching 34 which unites the upper and rear portion of the vamp 35 to the rear portion of the upper. This flap is provided along its side edges with hems 36 which correspond to the hems 11 and 19 of the previously described embodiments and hook members 37 corresponding to the hook members 14 and 18 of the previously described embodiments are secured to the upper 31 at opposite sides of the open front 32 thereof, drawstrings 38 being anchored each at one end to the upper 31 at a respective side of the open front 32 thereof and adjacent the lower end of the flap 33 and threaded through the respective hem 36 and looped, at intervals, as at 39, through openings 40 corresponding to the openings 12, the loops being engageable with the hooks 37 and the drawstrings being adapted to have their ends tied in a bowknot or otherwise as in the previously described embodiments.

Figure 10 of the drawings illustrates the embodiment of the invention in a baby's shoe or boot and in the drawings the upper is indicated by the numeral 41 and the flap, embodying the invention, by the numeral 42, the flap being united at its lower portion by the line of stitching 43 which serves to secure the upper edges of the toe and vamp portions of the article. In this embodiment of the invention the flap 42 is provided with hems 44 corresponding to those previously described and provided with the openings 45 through which the drawstrings 46 are looped as at 47, the looped portions of the strings being engageable with hook members 48 secured to the upper 41 at opposite sides of the open front 49 thereof. It will be evident that this embodiment of the invention does not differ from that illustrated in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive and Figure 9 except that the article of footwear is intended for babies' wear.

Figure 11 of the drawings illustrates an embodiment also designed for use in infants' shoes or boots and this embodiment is somewhat different from the embodiment shown in Figure 10. In Figure 11 the upper is indicated by the numeral 50 and is provided with an open front 51, and the flap of the invention is indicated by the numeral 52 and, as shown in the said figure, preferably constitutes an integral extension of the toe-cap 53 and is provided adjacent its side edges with a series of buttonholes 54 whereby its marginal portions may be separably connected with buttons 55 attached to the upper 50 at the opposite sides of the open front 51.

Figure 12 of the drawings illustrates the embodiment of the invention in a boot and in this figure the upper is indicated by the numeral 56 and is provided with an open front 57 as in the previously described embodiments of the invention. The flap of the invention is indicated by the numeral 58, in this figure, and is united at its lower end by the line of stitching 59 which secures the upper edge of the vamp of the boot. The said flap 58 is provided at its opposite longitudinal margins with hems 60 corresponding to the hems of the previously described embodiments, and a series of hooks 61 is secured to the upper 56 at each side of the open front 57 thereof, the inner wall of each hem being provided with openings 62, and drawstrings 63 being anchored at their lower ends, in any suitable manner, such for example as that illustrated and described in the embodiment shown in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, these drawstrings being threaded through the hems 60 and looped through the openings 62 to provide loops 64 which are engaged with the hooks 61.

Figures 13, 14 and 15 of the drawings illustrate the embodiment of the invention in a boot and in these figures the upper of the boot is indicated by the numeral 65 and the flap, embodying the invention, is indicated by the numeral 66, the flap being stitched along one lateral edge as at 67 to the upper 65 of the boot at one side of the open front 68 thereof and extending across the said open front. At this point it will be evident that the flap 66, in this embodiment, is permanently united along one side to the upper of the boot at one side of the open front thereof, but the opposite side of the flap is provided with a hem 69 corresponding to the hems of the previously described embodiments and formed in its inner wall with a series of openings 70 through which are looped, as indicated by the numeral 71, successive portions of a drawstring 72, the looped portions being engageable with hooks 73 secured to the upper at that side thereof which is overlapped by the free side of the flap 66, the lower end of the said drawstring 72 being secured in any suitable manner as that previously described, between the upper and the lower portion of the flap 66. The upper portion of the drawstring 72 is led through an eye 74 secured upon the inner side of the flap 66 at the upper free corner thereof, and this portion of the said drawstring 72 is adapted to be tied in a bow knot or otherwise tied with a short string 75 which is anchored at one end as at 76 between the upper attached corner of the flap 66 and the portion of the upper to which it is attached.

From the foregoing description of the various embodiments of the invention illustrated in the drawings, it will be evident that, in each instance, the invention contemplates the provision of a flap located exterior-

ly of a shoe or other article of footwear and designed to be extended over the open front of the upper and connected thereto in position to span and close said front.

5 Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

10 An article of footwear including an upper, open at its front, a flap arranged exteriorly of the upper and attached at its lower portion thereto, the flap being provided at its lateral marginal portions with hems having each a series of openings in its inner side, drawstrings anchored at their lower ends with respect to the upper and threaded through said hems and having spaced portions of the lengths looped to extend through the said openings, and hook elements upon the upper at the opposite sides of the open front thereof and constituting means for holding the flap in position extending across the open front of the upper and closing the same.

20 In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

NEALY WILLIAMS.

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