To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED GLOVER, a citizen of Great Britain, residing at Kingston-upon-Hull, in the county of York, England, boot and shoe dealer, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Displaying Devices for Boots, Shoes, and the Like Foot-Coverings, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has reference to displaying devices for boots, shoes, and the like foot coverings and relates particularly to that class of device which is in the form of a stand or support provided with a clip for clipping and holding the boot, shoe or the like to be displayed, which clip is mounted on the ball of a ball and socket joint, or on a part of any suitable form of universal joint which allows of the clip being moved to a variety of positions so that the boot or the like held thereby can be displayed in almost any desired position, my invention having for its object to provide an improved clipping device whereby pivoted levers hitherto employed for gripping the boot or the like, are dispensed with, the main feature of my invention consisting in making the clipping pieces slidable whereby the device will so adapt itself as to clip and more securely hold different sizes and shapes of boots, shoes and the like suitable for a man, woman or child thereby dispensing with the necessity for employing a number of stands or supports having different sizes of clips for different sizes of foot coverings.

A further object of my invention is to provide means for automatically locking the clipping pieces at any given point so that when they close on the waist of the boot or the like they are locked in their closed position and securely hold such boot or the like, this locking of the clipping pieces when employed, dispensing with the necessity for employing a strong spring, or strong springs for imparting the required grip of the clip on the article, thereby minimizing the liability of injury to the material of which the boot or the like is made.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of my improved device, the clipping pieces being shown in their open or expanded positions ready for clipping a boot or the like; Figs. 2 and 3 are end and plan views respectively of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the device showing the clipping pieces in their normal or closed positions; Fig. 5 is an underside view of Fig. 3; Fig. 6 is a side view of a slightly modified form of device; Figs. 7 and 8 are end and plan views respectively of same; Fig. 9 is a sectional view on the line 1—2 of Fig. 8, and Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the device illustrated at Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9 applied to a boot for displaying purposes.

For the purpose of my invention I employ two sliding clipping pieces A and A' the outer ends of which are bent upwardly and then inwardly so as to form a pair of jaws a and a', the edges of which may in one form be toothed, or in another form plain and covered with rubber or any suitable material or substance for the purpose of preventing injury to the material of which the boot or the like is made. These clipping pieces are carried by a base plate B which is secured to any suitable form of stand or support. In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated such base plate as being mounted on a ball C which is engaged by a split socket made up of two pieces D and D', one of the pieces (D) being in one piece with or attached to a suitable rod or the like E which constitutes the stand or support when provided with a base piece on which it can stand, or with a clipping device or other arrangement whereby it can be clipped or otherwise secured to a projection or to a shelf or other suitable form of support, the other piece (D') being a loose one, the two pieces being nipped up to grip the ball C by means of a screw F which passes through a preferably plain hole in the loose piece D' and screws into a threaded hole in the fast piece D so that the ball can be securely gripped and the base B and the clipping pieces A and A' which slide thereon can be set at any suitable angle so that the object being displayed can be shown in a variety of positions.

The clipping pieces slide to and fro on the base plate B as before mentioned so that they can open out sufficiently far to grip the waists of boots or the like of different sizes, and such clipping pieces are prevented from lifting off the base plate and caused to work true thereon by any suitable means, one means consisting of providing the base plate with longitudinal slits or openings B and B' in which the inner ends or tails of the clipping pieces work, said tails being bent in a downward direction to pass through the openings in the base plate, the downturned ends having side enlargements a which project under
the edges of the longitudinal openings B, and B', and of providing guides on the base part B, said guides being in the form of enlargements b' bent in such a manner as to overlap the edges of the clipping pieces, but guides a' may also be formed on the clipping pieces themselves and overlap the edges of the base part, the accompanying drawings showing both the base part and the clipping pieces provided with guides.

The clipping pieces may be caused by any suitable means to automatically close on the waist of the boot or the like, one means consisting of a piece of spring wire, or of a strip in the form of a coil C with two straight ends g and g', the coiled part encircling the neck of the ball C of the joint and being so fixed as to be prevented from rotating, or being secured to any suitable fixed point, the two ends g, g' being connected to the bases of the clipping pieces or to projections thereon, the spring being in tension when the clipping pieces are drawn apart so that its tendency is to contract and draw the clipping pieces together.

The clipping pieces may be caused to work in unison so as to open and close simultaneously by means of a connecting bar or lever H or the equivalent thereof which is pivoted to the base plate B or to a separate plate J which is riveted or otherwise secured to the base plate, which latter is the form I have illustrated at Figs. 3, 4 and 5 of the drawings, said connecting bar or lever having preferably two downwardly projecting ends k, k' which pass through radial or other suitable holes a' and a', one in each of the clipping pieces A and A', or are pivoted to or otherwise suitably engage such clipping pieces.

If this bar or the like is employed, the two ends g, g' of the spring for bringing the clipping pieces together may be connected to the two projecting ends of such bar, or if spiral springs are employed, the free ends of such springs may be connected one to one projection (h) and the other to the projection h', the pull on the projections causing the closing of the clipping pieces; as however, the bar or the like causes the clipping pieces to work in unison, a pull on only one of the projections would be sufficient to cause the closing in of such clipping pieces.

For the purpose of locking the clipping pieces when they are closed to grip the waist of the boot or the like being displayed, I provide one of the outer edges of the base part, or one of the edges of one of the longitudinal holes in such base part (if longitudinal holes are formed) with teeth b', the accompanying drawings at Figs. 3, 4 and 5 showing the teeth formed on one edge of the holes in the base plate, and I pivot to one of the clipping pieces a lever catch K the nose of which engages with the teeth b' on the base plate, said catch having a spring k formed on it which bears against a projection k' on the clipping piece and keeps the nose of the catch in engagement with the teeth b', said catch having if desired, a finger plate k" which on being pressed causes the nose part to leave the teeth when the clipping pieces are required to be drawn apart.

In the modified form of device illustrated at Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the drawings, the bar H for causing the clipping pieces A and A' to work in unison is dispensed with and a toothed wheel H so mounted on the base plate B as to be capable of rotating freely, is substituted for it. The plates of the clipping pieces A, A' are situated one above the other and have elongated slots B' B' in them, the metal at one side of each slot having teeth b' b' for the teeth on the wheel H to mesh with. The base plate B has its sides turned over the plates of the clipping pieces and the edge of one side is provided with teeth b' and the spring actuated catch K has teeth k' at one side to engage with the teeth on the edge of the base plate.

With my improved device not only will the clip hold different sizes and shapes of boots and the like, but with the locking device embodied will hold them more securely than existing devices for a similar purpose and with the least possible liability of injury to the surface of the object held, such locking device dispensing with the necessity for employing violent springs for imparting to the clip the necessary grip for holding the boot or the like.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a shoe-stand, the combination, with a base-plate provided with a toothed rack, of two jaws for engaging the shoe provided with slides carried by the said base-plate, a coupling-device connecting the said slides so that they slide in opposite directions simultaneously, and a catch pivoted to one of the said slides and engaging with the said rack.

2. In a shoe-stand, the combination, with a base-plate provided with a toothed rack and having two longitudinal openings arranged side by side, of two jaws for engaging the shoe provided with slides having projections which engage with the said openings, a coupling-device pivoted to the base-plate between its said openings and connected at its opposite ends with the said slides, and a catch pivoted to one of the said slides and engaging with the said rack.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ALFRED GLOVER.

Witnesses:

LOUIS E. KIPPAX,
FRED. H. RHODES.