No. 837,870. PATENTED DEC. 4, 1906.

F. MYERS.

ORNAMENTAL SHOE LACE GUARD.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1906.

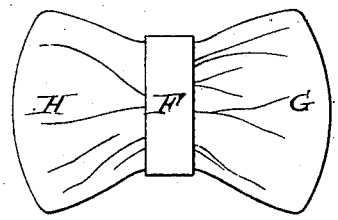

Fig. 1.

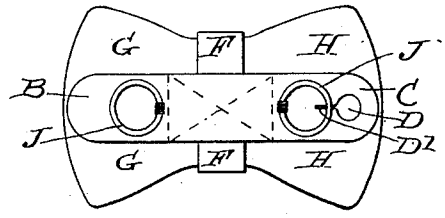

Fig. 2.

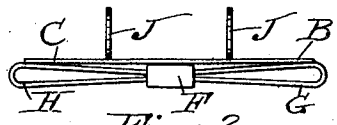

Fig. 3.

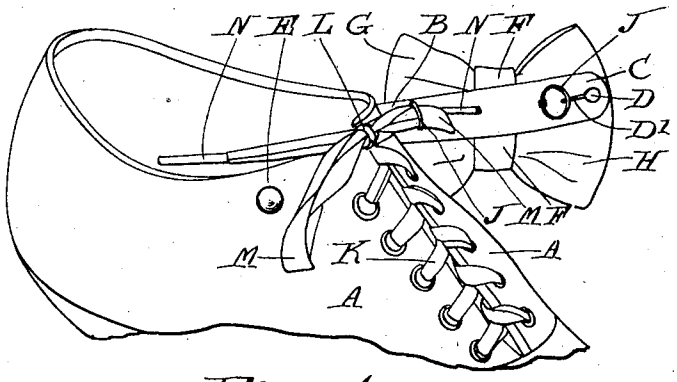

Fig. 4.

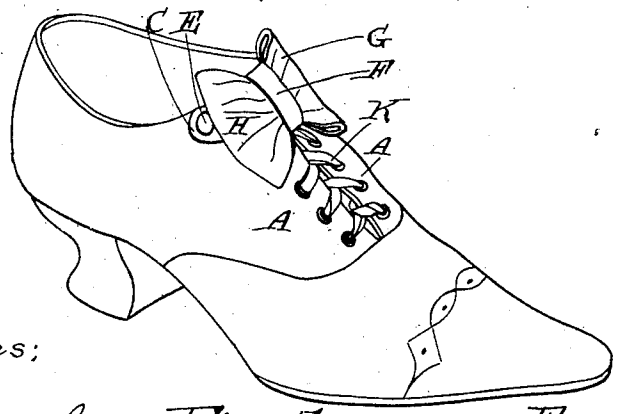

Fig. 5.

Witnesses:

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ORNAMENTAL SHOE-LACE GUARD.

No. 837,870. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 4, 1906.

Application filed March 26, 1906. Serial No. 308,060.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCESCA MYERS, gentlewoman, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at 59 Beaconsfield Parade, St. Kilda, in the county of Bourke, State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia, have invented a new and useful Improved Ornamental Shoe-Lace Guard, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to laced shoes or boots. The objection to these in the past has been that the laces on ladies' shoes or boots by the rubbing of the dress-bottom front used frequently to work loose or, worse still, actually become untied. In addition to this, they were sometimes unsightly.

The object of my invention is to provide a combination which not only overcomes the foregoing defects, but also conceals the said laces and acts as an ornament.

My combination may take the form of a bow or any other suitable attachment; but for the sake of convenience I have illustrated a bow.

Referring to the drawings which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a front view of my combination. Fig. 2 is a back view of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan of Fig. 1. The lace-supporting rings are for the convenience of illustration shown outstanding at right angles to the foundation-piece. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a laced shoe, portion of which has been broken away. The free end of the bow is hinged back. Fig. 5 shows, on a reduced scale, a shoe complete. The bow is in place.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar or corresponding parts where they occur in the several views.

My invention includes a shoe or boot, the front ends of the upper A of which are drawn together by a lace or laces. To one side of the top of the said upper A and outside the said upper is attached one end (hereinafter called the "fixed" end B) of a foundation-piece. Its length, width, and thickness will depend upon conditions. Its fixed end B is attached to the upper in any desired manner. The other end of the said foundation-piece (hereinafter called the "free" end C) has therein a buttonhole D and expansion-slit D'. This passes over a button E, attached to the upper-top, or instead of a button being used to secure the free end of the said foundation-piece I may employ any other speedy means of attachment and detachment. I do not limit myself to attaching the foundation-piece by a button at one side only. The said foundation-piece near its middle is attached to the back of a gathering-strip F. Within this gathering-strip, which constitutes a loop, is held the ornamental bow consisting of the two loop ends G and H. Said bow is preferably not secured to the ends of the foundation-piece and is of sufficient size to conceal practically the entirety thereof, thus enhancing the sightliness of the device.

To the back of the foundation-piece are attached two lace-supporting rings J. They are preferably stitched to the said foundation-piece or may be attached thereto in any well-known way. It is not essential that plain rings be employed, since the main idea is to provide spaced securing means constructed to retain the laces at the rear of the foundation-piece, thus obviating the awkward necessity of passing the laces through from one face of the piece to the other.

On reference to Fig. 4 it will be seen that the lace K is both knotted and looped, the knot being marked L, the lace-loop M, and the lace end N. One of the lace-loops and one of the lace ends are placed in their supporting-ring.

In practice my invention is used as follows: The shoe or boot having been drawn upon the foot, the lace K is strained and the two portions of the upper thereby drawn together. The said lace is then knotted, as seen in Fig. 4. The lace-loops M and the lace ends N hang over the side of the upper, and when the said lace-loops and lace ends and my combination are in the position shown in Fig. 4 the left-hand lace-loop M and lace end N are threaded into the left-hand lace-supporting ring J, while the right-hand lace-loop and lace end are threaded into the right lace-supporting ring. The free end C of the foundation-piece, which carries with it the free end H of the bow, is then drawn down to the upper and the buttonhole D passed over the button E.

By my combination the lace is concealed, the knot is protected, the lace ends and lace-loops are supported, and an ornament is added to a shoe or boot which materially enhances its appearance.

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

1. In a device of the character described, the combination with a shoe having a lace-

closure, of a foundation-piece, means for detachably securing said piece over the upper end of said closure, an ornamental member carried at the front of the foundation-piece, and a lace-securing device projecting from the rear face of said piece and constructed to receive the lace ends in rear thereof.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination with a shoe having a lace-closure, and with the lace thereof, of a foundation-piece, means for detachably securing said piece over the upper end of the closure, an ornamental member carried at and concealing the front of said piece, and a lace-securing device projecting from the rear face of the foundation-piece at either side of the middle thereof and constructed to receive the lace ends in rear of said piece.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination of a shoe having a lace-closure, of a foundation-piece, means for detachably securing said piece over the upper end of the closure, an ornamental member carried at the front of said piece, and spaced lace-securing rings projecting freely from the rear face of the foundation-piece.

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

FRANCESCA MYERS.

Witnesses:

CECIL MCSLASTRICE,

GEORGE A. U'KEN.