

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT E. McCLURE, OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO THE McCLURE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 519,543, dated May 8, 1894.

Application filed July 11, 1893. Serial No. 480,176. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT E. McCLURE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sedalia, in the county of Pettis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to buckles of that class in which a loop or device is provided for retaining the free end of the strap when the latter is secured by the buckle.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and improved buckle of this class which will possess advantages in point of simplicity and inexpensiveness in manufacture, effectiveness and convenience in operation, ease of adjustment, durability, and general efficiency.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a buckle embodying my improvements, showing the strap secured. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the buckle. Fig. 4 is a detail end view. Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating a modification and showing the strap secured. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the buckle shown in Fig. 5. Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the buckle, illustrating variations in the relative construction.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the base plate, which is preferably of open or skeleton form embodying an open front portion, a , forming a front cross-bar, a' , and a rear opening, a^2 , forming a rear cross-bar, a^4 . Pivotaly mounted upon the base plate A is an upper plate or member, B, preferably of corresponding skeleton or open form and having a cross-bar, b , dividing the plate into a main or rear portion, B' , and an outer projecting portion, B^2 , which latter forms a free lifting end and extends outwardly over and beyond the front end of the base plate A.

The pivotal connection between the plates A and B is preferably formed by means of gudgeons or nibs, b' b' , projecting laterally

at the rear end of the upper plate and having bearings in eyes formed in upwardly projecting ears or lugs, a^5 a^5 , provided at the sides of the base plate at a point a suitable distance in rear of the front cross-bar a' . The rear end of the base plate is bent or turned upwardly to form a retaining link or member, C, which extends transversely across the rear end of the base plate and projects above the rear cross-bar a^4 . This rear retaining link C is an integral part of the base plate, being formed by turning up the rear end of the latter, and is preferably disposed at an angle from the base plate, to more effectually secure and retain the free end of the strap. The retaining link may be arranged at any desired angle, or may project vertically at right angles to the base plate, as desired, and forms an open eye or loop, as at c , extending transversely across the rear end of the buckle.

In operation, the strap is passed upwardly through the opening a , over the cross-bar b , and downwardly again through the opening a , and its free end is carried rearwardly and passed through the fixed retaining link C.

The buckle may be secured in position by means of a strap, s , or other device secured in any suitable manner to the rear cross-bar a^4 .

In the modification shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the rear end of the base plate is widened at the rear cross-bar, as shown at w w , and the turned up rear end forming the retaining link C is of a corresponding width, so that the retaining link is wider than the base plate proper and has a greater width than the opening a . In this construction, the free end of the strap may be provided with a ring or similar device, R, of a width which will permit its passage through the fixed retaining link C but which will not permit it to pass through the opening a . The free end of the strap may thus be readily secured and at the same time the disengagement of the strap from the buckle, and its consequent re-threading when the buckle is open or closed, is entirely obviated.

I claim—

1. In a tongueless buckle of the class described, consisting of the base plate having the cross-bar a' and the rear cross-bar a^4 , and

the upper plate or member pivotally mounted upon the base plate in rear of the cross-bar a' and having the cross-bar b operating in conjunction with the cross-bar a' , substantially as shown, the fixed rear retaining link C forming a loop extending across the rear end of the base plate and projecting above the cross-bar a' at an angle to the base plate, the fixed rear retaining link being adapted to receive and retain the free end of the strap when the strap is secured by the cross-bars b and a' ; substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. An improved buckle of the class described, comprising a base plate formed with the front and rear cross-bars a' and a'' and having its rear end bent or turned upwardly to form an integral fixed retaining link, C, said fixed link being disposed at an angle to the base plate and forming practically a continuation of the latter and extending across the rear end of the base plate proper, over and above the rear cross-bar a'' and an upper plate or member pivotally mounted upon the base

plate and having the cross-bar b ; substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. An improved buckle of the class described, comprising a base plate embodying the opening a and the front and rear cross-bars a' and a'' and widened at its rear end, the widened rear end being bent or turned up to form an integral fixed rear retaining link, C, projecting above the rear cross-bar a'' and extending across the widened portion of the base plate, the fixed retaining link C being formed by the continuation of the widened part of the base plate and being of a greater width than the opening a ; and an upper plate or member pivotally mounted upon the base plate and embodying the cross-bar b ; substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

ALBERT E. McCLURE.

Witnesses:

J. R. LITTELL,
H. S. SHEPARD.