

SHOE.

1,328,333.

Fig.1.



Chas. L. Griesbauer

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William L. Mann.

W. Schornborn,

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM L. MANN, OF GEORGETOWN, TEXAS.

SHOE.

1,328,333.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM L. MANN, of the United States Navy, a citizen of the United States, residing at Georgetown, in the county of Williamson and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to shoes and is designed to furnish an improved type of foot covering and aims especially to provide a boot or shoe made of leather, fabric or other suitable material constructed to subserve in a high degree the purposes of comfort, aid in correcting and preventing the minor ailments of the foot, prevent foot injuries during long hikes, military marching and sustained walking, or standing over a long period of time, and adapted to be easily and readily put on or taken off the foot.

Further and most important objects of the invention are,

First, to construct a boot or shoe which, not only is of simple construction but from an esthetic viewpoint has its market value enhanced.

Second, to construct a boot or shoe which keeps the rear or static portion of the shoe closely and snugly fitted to the foot thereby permitting the anterior or dynamic portion of the foot to be closely fitted and held from slipping forward toward the toe part of the shoe.

Third, to construct a shoe or boot which obviates the use of laces, hooklets or eyelets, and requires the adjustment of only one fastener to properly hold the foot within the shoe and greatly simplifies the maintaining of a snug, comfortable and close fit between the foot and shoe.

My invention consists of structural characteristics and relative arrangements of elements which will be hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the one sheet of drawings in which similar reference characters indicate the same parts in the several figures,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the invention as applied to the left foot;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same; and

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line III—III, indicated on Fig. 1.

In the drawings, 10 represents the sole having the usual arch or waist section 11 and provided with the common form of heel 12.

Attached to the sole 10 in the usual manner is an upper 13 which has its forward portion 14 forming the inner side of the instep section of the shoe continued or extended and cut in such a manner as to constitute an inner flap 15, and is designed and formed in such a manner as to lie smoothly and conform to the contour of the instep portion of a foot, and form a close and tight fit at its free edges with the inside of the upper of the shoe, as shown in Fig. 3. The free end 16 of the inner flap 15 is cut in such a manner that it converges preferably to a point about one-half inch in width to which is secured in any suitable manner one end of a strap 17. The inside of the upper 14 a short distance below the free end 16 of the inner flap 15 is provided with an opening or slit 18, through which is passed the continuation of the strap 17 for purposes to be presently described. Said opening or slit 18 is covered by a small piece of material or leather 19 extending from just below the slit 18 to a short distance above and sewed at its bottom and up both sides, the open top permitting the strap 17 secured to end 16 of inner flap 15, to pass through the upper 14, and thereby not only making a smooth inner surface to the interior of the shoe at this point but at the same time sealing said opening or slit 18 and aiding in the exclusion of water or mud from the inside of the shoe when in use.

The other side and forward portion of the upper 14 is likewise continued and so shaped and cut as to form an outer flap 20 adapted to fold over the instep of the shoe and overlap the inner flap 15 and extend over and on the outer side of the upper 13. Said outer flap 20 converges to a point 21 to which is attached or made integral therewith an extension or strap 22, and said outer flap 20 is so designed, proportioned and arranged as to permit it and its edges to closely and snugly fit and come in contact with the contiguous and outer portions of the upper and instep of the shoe.

An inner tongue 23 forming a continuation of the vamp 24 may be provided for preventing the entrance of moisture at the junction or line of connection of the overlying or superimposed inner and outer flaps 15 and 20, when the class of shoe, to which the invention is applied is of the "Blucher" type as illustrated in the drawings.

On both sides of the shoe at the arch or

waist section 11 of the sole 10 and a short distance forward of the front line of the heel 12 is anchored or secured a short strap or other suitable means 25 to which is preferably attached a ring or support 26, carrying an anti-friction roller 27, and said straps 25 may be stitched to the sole or insole simultaneously with the upper and according to any one of the well known methods employed in shoe making.

The parts of the shoe being constructed and arranged as herein indicated, the manner of applying and using the same is as follows: After the inner and outer flaps 15 and 20 have been spread apart and the foot properly inserted and seated in the shoe, the free end of the strap 17 connected with the inner flap 15 is pulled taut and passed downwardly and through the ring or support 26 and under the roller 27 on the same side of the shoe, and then upwardly and over the outer flap 20 and instep portion of the shoe. The free end of the other strap 22 is then likewise passed downwardly and through the other ring or support 26 and under its roller 27 and upwardly over the outer flap 20 and instep of the shoe and around the top section of the upper 13, passing the same preferably under a retaining or sustaining piece 28 secured to the back on the shoe as indicated in Fig. 1. After pushing the foot properly forward into the shoe and folding the inner and outer flaps 15 and 20 over the instep of the foot, the straps 17 and 22 are drawn and made comfortably taut over said instep and their free ends secured together by a buckle 29, or any other expedient.

From the foregoing disclosure of the construction and arrangement of the parts of the shoe and their coöperation, it will be seen that the foot is not only snugly, firmly and uniformly held in place in the shoe and prevented from sliding forward toward the toe part of the shoe but at the same time the arch of the foot is properly sustained and supported by a pressure reacting against and uniformly distributed over the entire surface of the instep, due to the described arrangement of the coöperating inner and outer flaps 15 and 20 and their coacting straps 17 and 22, and hence all the functions, objects and advantages recited in the statement of the invention have been fully, cheaply and efficiently carried out and accomplished with the simplest possible construction, for the reason said straps 17 or 22 not only perform the function of securely holding the foot within the shoe and from slipping forward in the same but most effectively support the arch of the foot.

What I claim is:

1. A shoe comprising a sole, an upper
65 attached to said sole, means for adjustably

engaging a strap attached to the shoe on each side of the upper, an inner flap extending from one side of the forward portion of the upper and so constructed and arranged as to be adapted to form the inner section of the instep portion of the shoe, an outer flap extending forwardly from the opposite side of the upper from that of the inner flap and constructed and arranged to be superimposed over the inner flap and form the outer portion of the shoe instep, a strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the inner flap and adapted to adjustably engage the means on the shoe nearest to the inner flap and extend upwardly over the instep of the shoe, and a second strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the outer flap and adapted to pass downwardly and adjustably engage the other means on the opposite side of the shoe and upwardly over the instep and around the back of the shoe to be engaged by the free end of the strap connected with the inner flap.

2. A shoe comprising a sole, an upper attached to said sole, a ring attached to the arch section of the sole on each side of the upper, an inner flap extending from one side of the forward portion of the upper and so constructed and arranged as to be adapted to form the inner section of the instep portion of the shoe, an outer flap extending forwardly from the opposite side of the upper from that of the inner flap and constructed and arranged to be superimposed over the inner flap and form the outer portion of the shoe instep, a strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the inner flap and adapted to pass downwardly and loosely through the ring on the sole nearest to the inner flap and upwardly over the instep of the shoe, and a second strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the outer flap and adapted to pass downwardly and loosely through the other ring on the opposite side of the shoe and upwardly over the instep and around the back of the shoe to be engaged by the free end of the strap connected with the inner flap.

3. A shoe comprising a sole, an upper attached to said sole and having a side opening, a ring attached to the arch section of the sole on each side of the upper, an inner flap extending from one side of the forward portion of the upper and so constructed and arranged as to be adapted to form the inner section of the instep portion of the shoe, an outer flap extending forwardly from the opposite side of the upper from that of the inner flap and constructed and arranged to be superimposed over the inner flap and form the outer portion of the shoe instep, a strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the inner flap and adapted

to pass through said opening in the upper and downwardly and loosely through the ring on the sole nearest to the inner flap and upwardly over the instep of the shoe, 5 and a second strap having one of its ends connected to the free end of the outer flap and adapted to pass downwardly and loosely through the other ring on the opposite side of the shoe and upwardly over the instep and around the back of the shoe to 10 be engaged by the free end of the strap connected with the inner flap.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM L. MANN.