

R. Wright,

Shoe Lace.

No. 102,352

Patented Apr. 26. 1870.

Fig. 1.

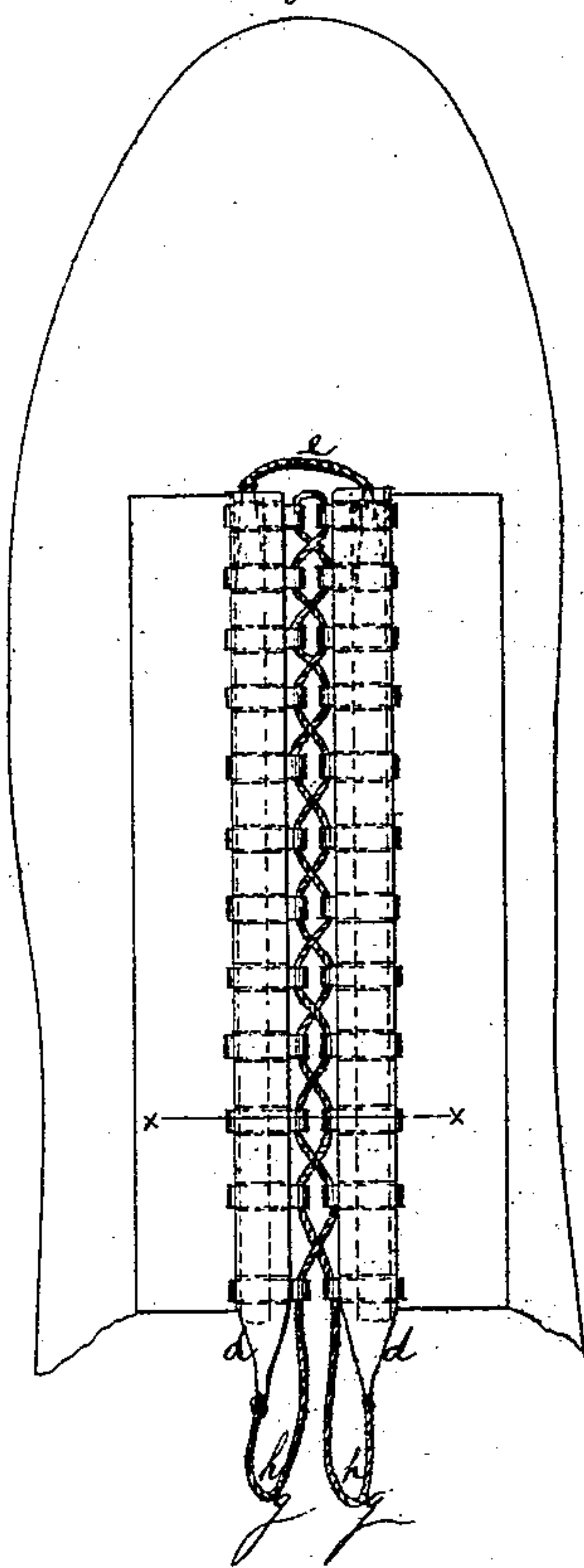
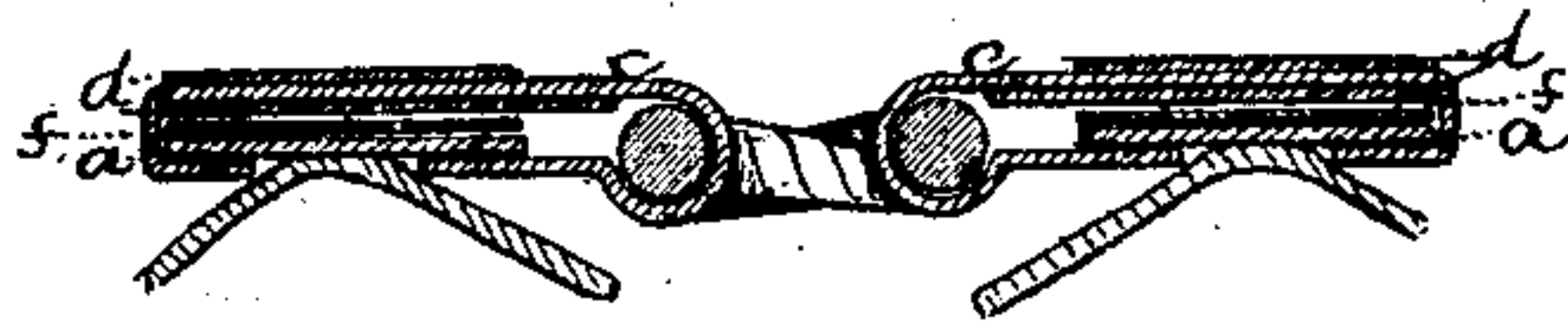


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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RUFUS WRIGHT, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 102,352, dated April 26, 1870.

IMPROVED LACING FOR SHOES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS WRIGHT, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Shoe-Lace; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of shoe-lacings in which the important or distinguishing feature consists of metal clasps sliding on ways formed on the edges of the quarters; and

The improvement consists in the arrangement of parts whereby the lacing presents substantially the appearance of the lacing of ordinary shoes; is little liable to cause pain to the feet of the wearer by undue pressure at any or separate points, and is adapted to be operated in such a manner that the quarters of the shoe may be drawn apart with slight adjustment of the clasps, all as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 represents a top view of a shoe provided with my improved lacing.

Figure 2 is a magnified cross-section of fig. 1, on the line *x x*.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

a is a strip of metal or other suitable material, which is made fast to the front of the quarter of the shoe on each side of the opening. These strips may be made of metal, whalebone, leather, or of any suitable material; they form ways on which a series of clasps, *c*, slide. These clasps are made of metal, or of other suitable material.

The ends hook under the ways *a*, and they are confined in a double tape, *d*, so that they are made to slide up and down on the ways *a* when the tape is drawn in either direction.

Attached to the upper ends of the tapes *d*, on either side, and connected together at their lower ends by the cord *e*, are other tapes *f*, which move on top of the ways *a* beneath the double tapes *d*.

g represents the lacing-cord, which passes through loops in the clasps, crossing from one side to the other as seen in the drawing, so that, when the ends of the cord are drawn upward, the sides or flaps of the shoe are drawn together, as seen in fig. 1.

The ends of the cord are fastened to the ends of

the double tape *d*, as represented. In this condition the shoe is fastened, all the clasps being drawn up and the cord tightened.

When in this position the loops *h h* may be fastened by buttons, a spring clasp, or in any other suitable manner.

Now, it will be seen that in drawing down upon the cord *e*, (the fastening cord *g* and tapes and clasp being in the position seen in the drawing,) the clasps with the tapes and fastening-cord will slide down on the ways sufficiently far to loosen the shoe, and allow the foot to be withdrawn.

In tightening the shoe upon the foot the tapes *d* are drawn upward first, which brings the clasps into the position seen in fig. 1, after which a pull is given more directly on the cords *g g*, which serve to draw the clasps toward each other and tighten the shoe.

The advantage of this arrangement, especially in long lacings, (as, for instance, ladies' and childrens' boots,) must be obvious to all.

It will also be seen that, by drawing the clasps downward to or near the middle of the ways *a*, the crossed cord will be slackened sufficiently to allow the quarters to be separated to permit the insertion of the foot.

Another and much greater advantage consists in the adaptability of the crossed cord to be tightened to just the required degree to suit the condition or size of the feet.

I am aware of other inventions in this class, in which metal clasps are provided, which slide on round ribs or ways formed at the edge of the quarters, but my invention does not pertain to that construction.

Having thus described my invention,

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The shoe-lacing herein described, consisting of the metal strips or ways *a* attached to the upper surface of the quarters, the clasps *c*, the double tapes *d*, the tapes *f* connected by the cord *e*, and the lacing-cord *g*, arranged to connect said clasps in the manners specified, all operating as set forth.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 4th day of January, 1870.

RUFUS WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. MABEE,
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