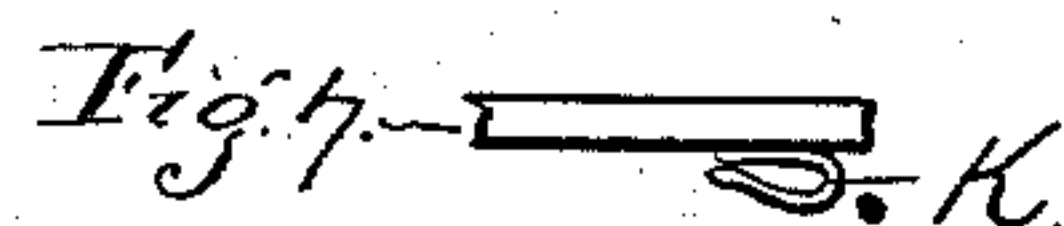
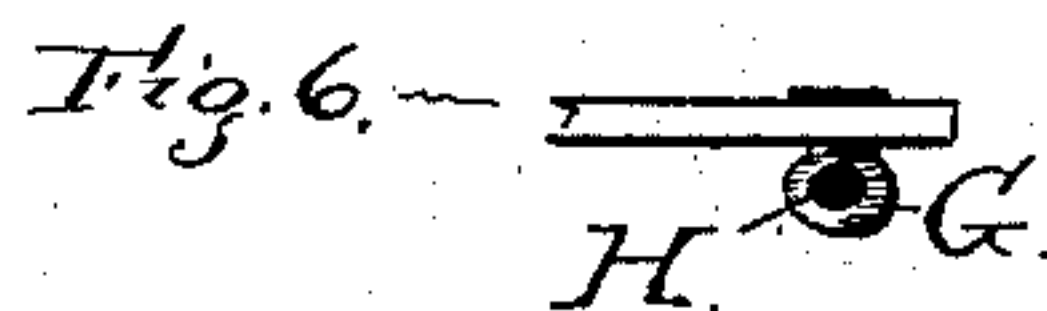
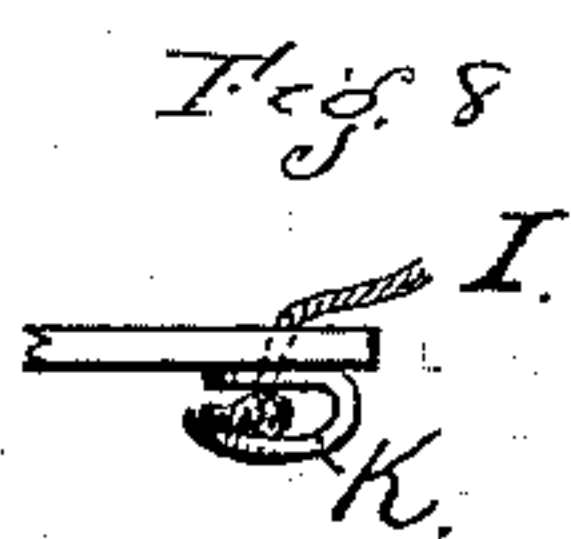
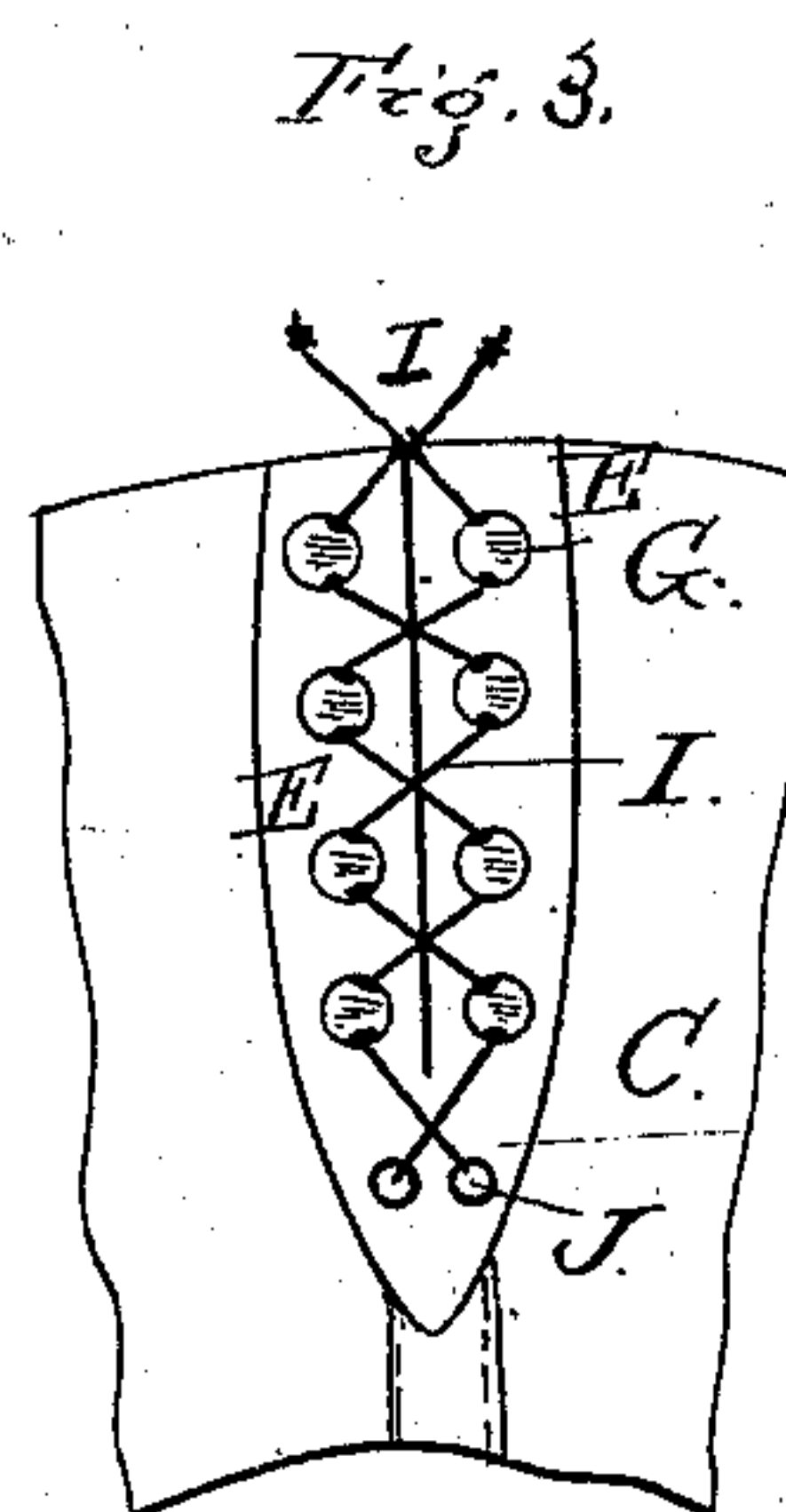
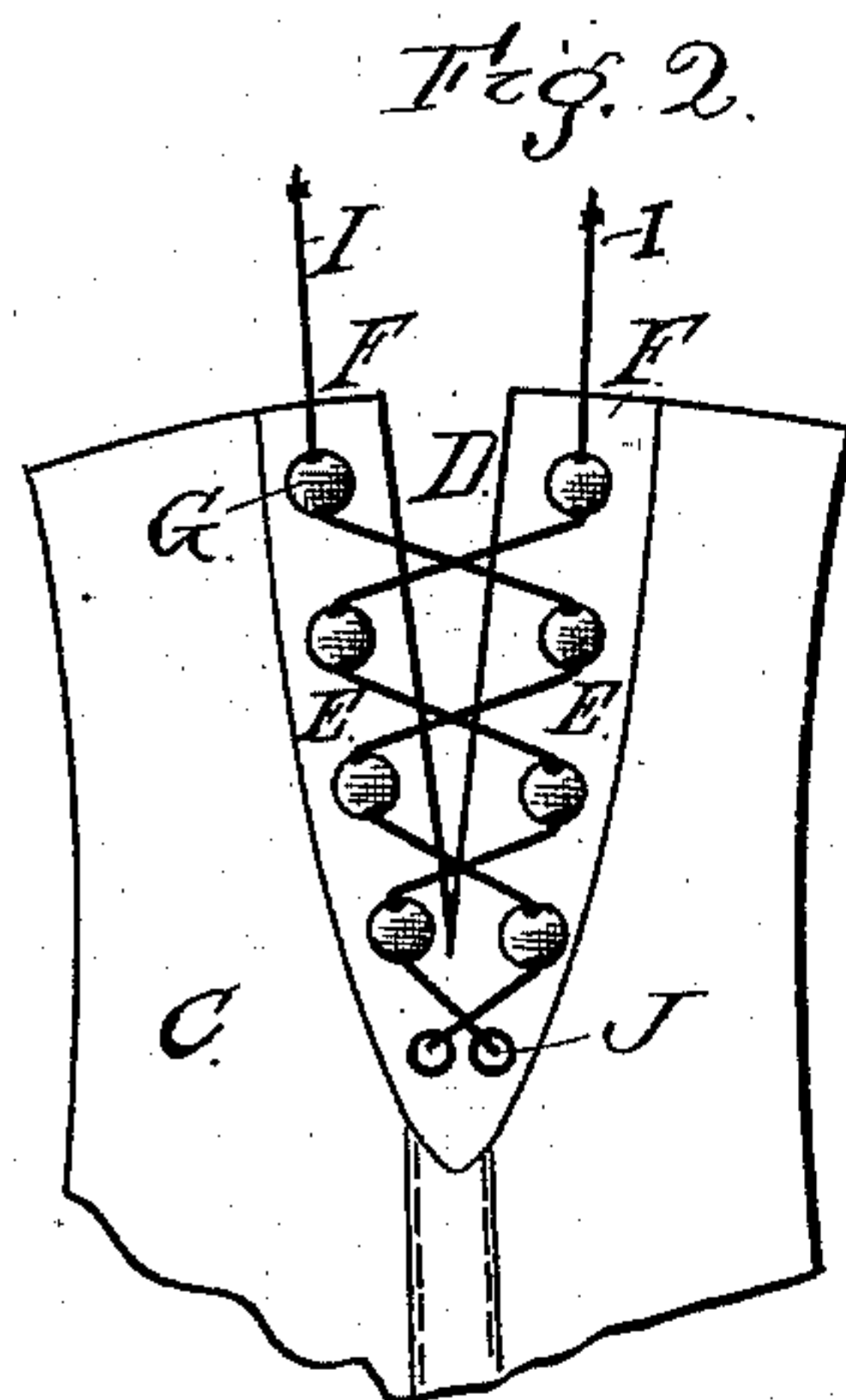
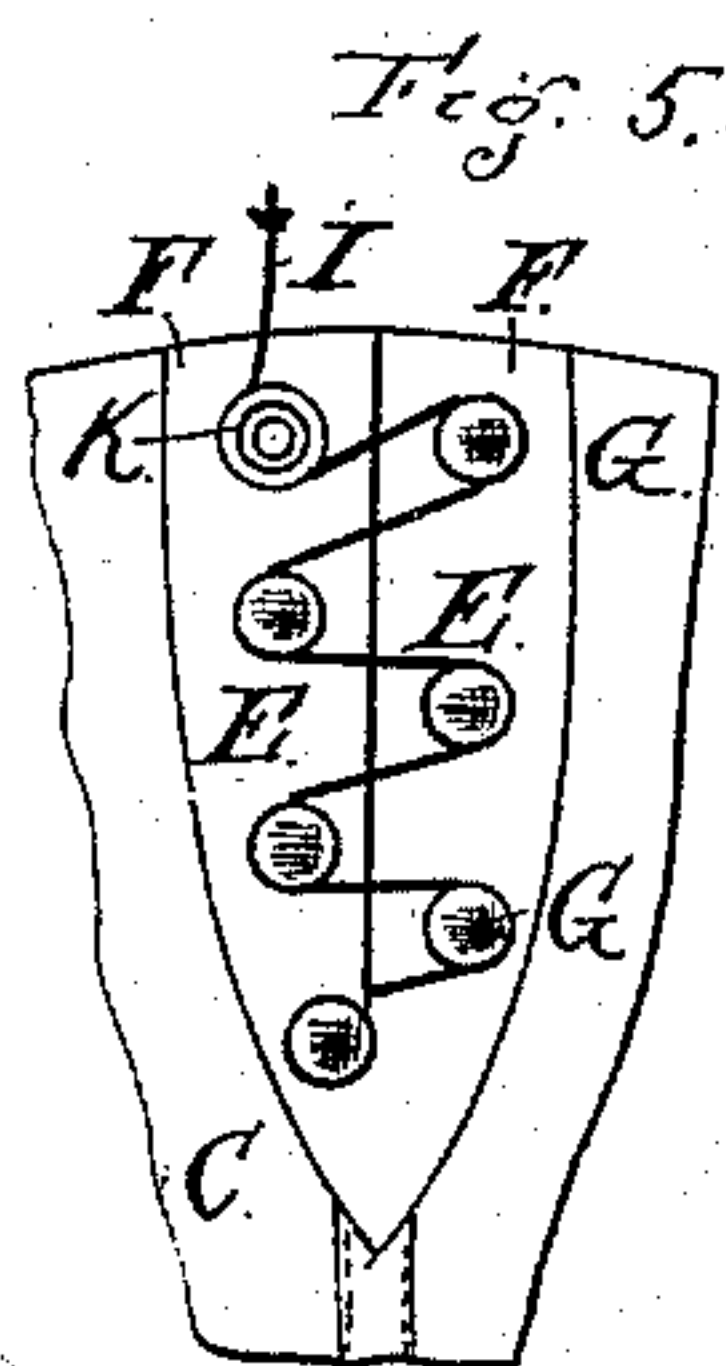
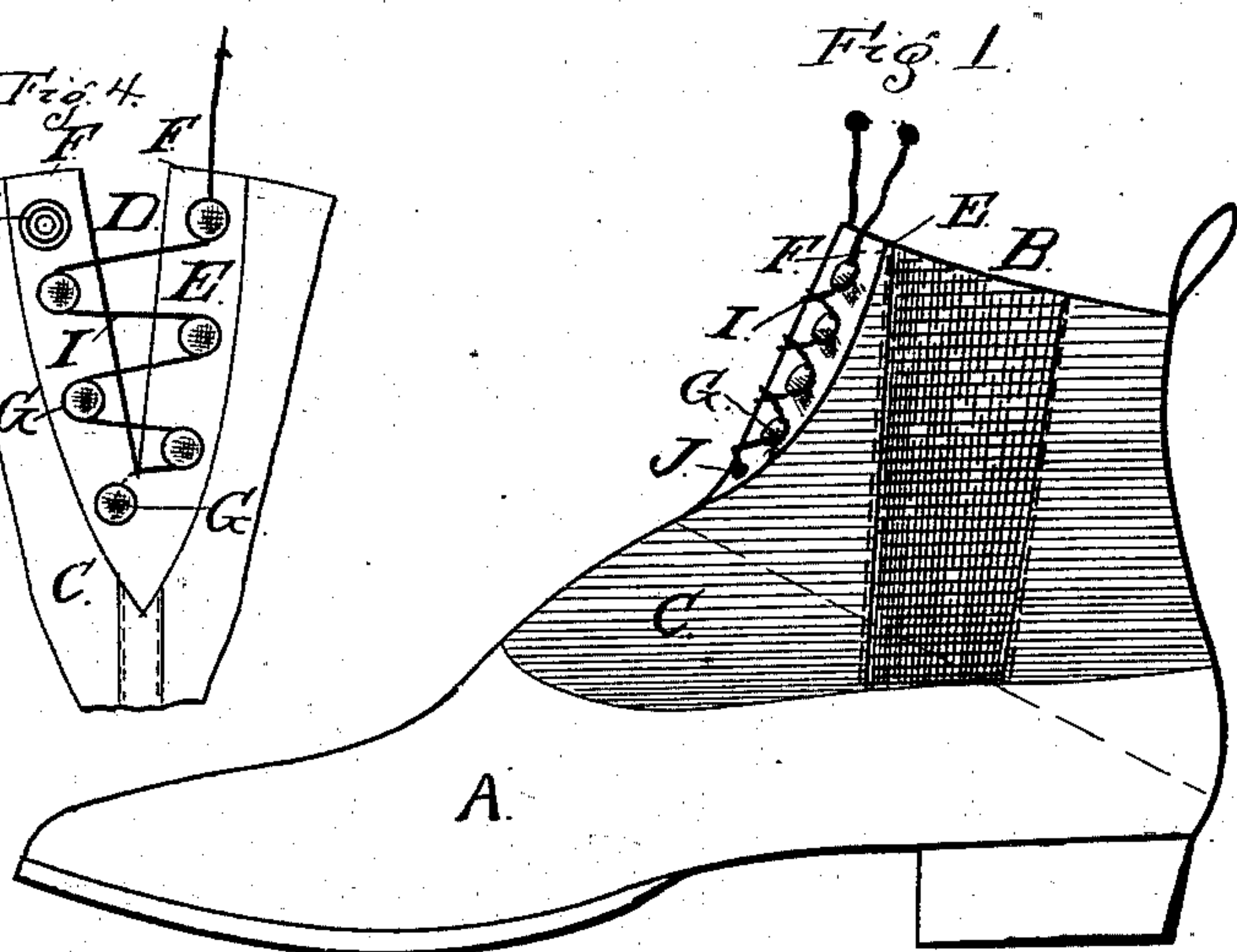
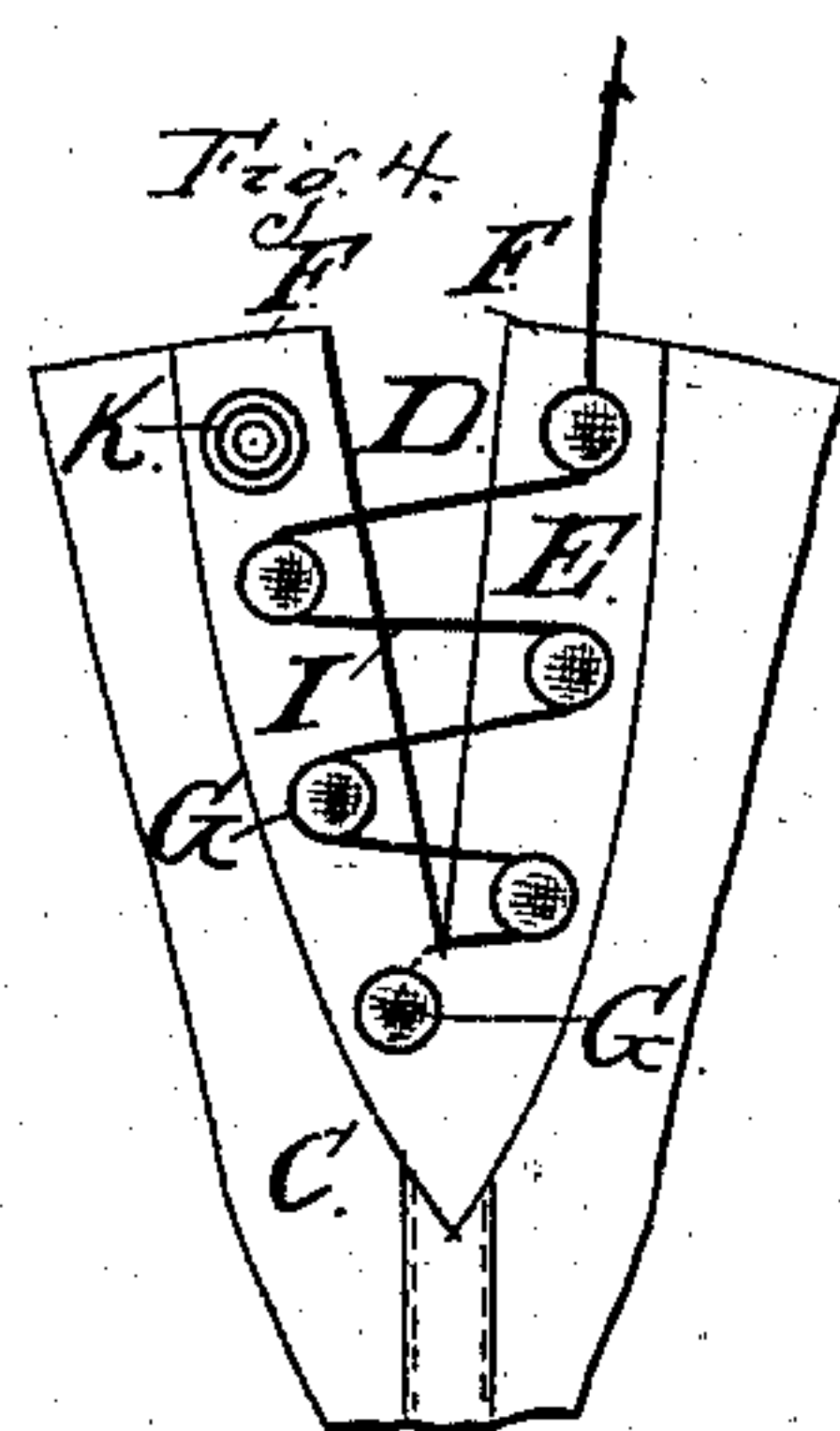


(No Model.)

M. DILLON.
SHOE.

No. 283,082.

Patented Aug. 14, 1883.



Witnesses.
E. P. Hough.
C. B. Jones.

Inventor.
Michael Dillon
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Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL DILLON, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 283,082, dated August 14, 1883.

Application filed April 20, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAEL DILLON, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Elastic and Lace Combination in Gaiter-Shoes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain improvements in that class of shoes in which the upper is provided on each side with an elastic gore; and the invention consists, essentially, in forming a vertical slit or opening in the front face of the upper from the top down to a certain defined portion, as hereinafter described; in re-enforcing each side of such slit or opening; in providing the flaps with lacing-buttons of peculiar construction, and with a hook or hooks at their top ends for securing the ends of the laces, all as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a shoe constructed according to my improvements. Fig. 2 represents the upper part of the front face of the upper with the flaps open and provided with a double lacing. Fig. 3 represents a similar view with the flaps closed. Fig. 4 represents the upper provided with a single lacing and with the flaps open, and Fig. 5 represents a similar view with the flaps closed. Fig. 6 shows a side elevation of one of the lacing-buttons; Fig. 7, a side elevation of the lace-retaining hook, and Fig. 8 a similar view of the hook with the lace end engaged therewith.

The object of this invention is to overcome various serious objections to the use of the side elastic Congress-gaiter shoe—viz., first, the difficulty many persons experience in putting on and taking off the same, owing to the clinging of the elastic around the ankle; second, to prevent or materially lessen the injurious compressing or binding of the elastic around the leg, which often impedes the free circulation of the blood and causes irritation of the ankle in warm weather and cold feet during the winter months; third, in preventing the crimp on the back of the shoe fitting too closely, and thereby injuring the tendons and eventually leaving callous spots, not easily removed; fourth, preventing the stretching

out of the gore before the shoe is worn out, which, as Congress gaiters are usually constructed, is caused by the frequent strain upon the elastics in putting on and taking off the shoe, and also to produce a shoe capable of use either as an ordinary Congress gaiter or lace shoe.

A represents a Congress gaiter provided with the customary elastic gores, B. In place, however, of constructing the front member, C, of the upper with a close surface from top to bottom, I form a vertical slit or opening, D, therein, which extends from the top down to the instep or portion where the natural bend of the foot will be located when the shoe is in use.

E represents a re-enforcing strip or strips attached to each side of the flaps F.

G represents the lacing-buttons, which, according to my improvement, have spherical or other shaped heads, and have a circular orifice or hole, H, extending therethrough, through which the lace is passed, as shown. These buttons may be of any desired number, but I find that three or four on each flap is amply sufficient to secure an opening that will relieve the elastics from tension when the shoe is being withdrawn from or placed on the foot. While a shoe of this construction may be provided with the ordinary lacing-hooks, still I find it far preferable to employ the buttons G, shown in the drawings, as by means thereof the laces I, when once strung, need never be removed from the shoes. Consequently the friction thereon is sensibly diminished, and they will last longer than they would were the ordinary lacing-hooks employed. When it is desired to use the lace I doubled, as in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, I clamp eyelets J through the lower part of the re-enforce E and the upper at that part, and pass the lace through the same and through the holes in the buttons. The two ends of the lace are then knotted to prevent their passage through the buttons when the flaps are pulled open. When it is desired to close the flaps a simple pull upon the ends of the lace will tighten the same and draw the flaps close together, as shown in Fig. 3. The lace ends can then be suitably tied together or slipped within a hook, K, attached to the upper end of either or both of the flaps F.

In lieu of employing a double cross-lacing

the lace may be threaded through the buttons and a knot formed in its lower end, which, when the lace is tightened, will bind against the lowest button and prevent its passage there-
 5 through. The upper end of the lace can then be secured within a hook, K, as shown in Fig. 5. To release the flaps, the upper end of the lace is released from the hook K and said flaps pulled apart, a knot formed on the upper end
 10 of the lace preventing the passage of said upper end through the upper button, as in the previously-described arrangement.

The lace draws evenly from the bottom with a very slight pull, and it can therefore be
 15 called a "draw-string." The opening in front of the upper avoids the difficulty heretofore experienced in this class of shoe in putting on and taking off, and renders these operations very easy. The binding on the ankle is also
 20 overcome, as it can be laced tight or loose to suit the wearer, and if the shoe bears tightly on the tendons, it can be readily eased by loosening the lace. The front opening relieves the shoe of the frequent strain on the gore in put-
 25 ting on and taking off the shoe, thereby avoiding the constant stretching of the gore and allowing the same being used for a greater length of time. The opening may be made either at the center or at the side of the upper, as de-
 30 sired, or as occasion may require.

By the construction above described I am enabled to use the shoe either as an ordinary Congress gaiter or as a lace shoe, as by tight-
 35 ening the lacing and securing the end or ends thereof the shoe can be drawn upon and removed from the foot by simply distending the elastic gores, as in ordinary Congress gaiters, in which case the lacing will not be interfered
 40 with or used, while by loosening the lacing the shoe can be removed from and placed upon the foot without distending the elastic gores,

and in such a use the elastic gores would be relieved from their customary functions, the shoe being retained in position on the foot
 45 by the tightening of the lacing, and adapted to be removed therefrom without straining the elastic by simply loosening the lacing.

I am aware that shoe-uppers have been provided with strips of elastic material and with a slit and means for lacing the flaps to-
 50 gether, but I am not aware of any shoe of a construction similar to that herein shown and described, whereby the same is interchangeably adapted for use as either a lace or elastic shoe, as desired. 55

I am also aware that it is not new to construct a lacing-button with a circular orifice or hole extending therethrough, and such I do not claim.

Having thus described my invention, what
 60 I claim therein is—

1. A shoe-upper having an elastic gore, B, on each side, a slit or opening, D, extending from the top of said upper down to the instep, and having re-enforce E, having eyelets J, and
 65 buttons G, having circular orifice or hole H, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. As an improvement in Congress gaiters, the shoe herein described, having its upper provided with elastic side gores, B, central
 70 slit or opening, D, extending from the top down to the instep, and provided with flaps F, having re-enforce E, buttons G, having central hole or passage, H, hook, K, and lace I, substantially as and for the purpose set forth. 75

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

MICHAEL DILLON.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH D. PLUNKETT,
 HUGH DAILEY.