

(No Model.)

F. RICHARDSON.

CLASP FASTENING FOR OVERSHOES.

No. 338,555.

Patented Mar. 23, 1886.

Fig. 1.

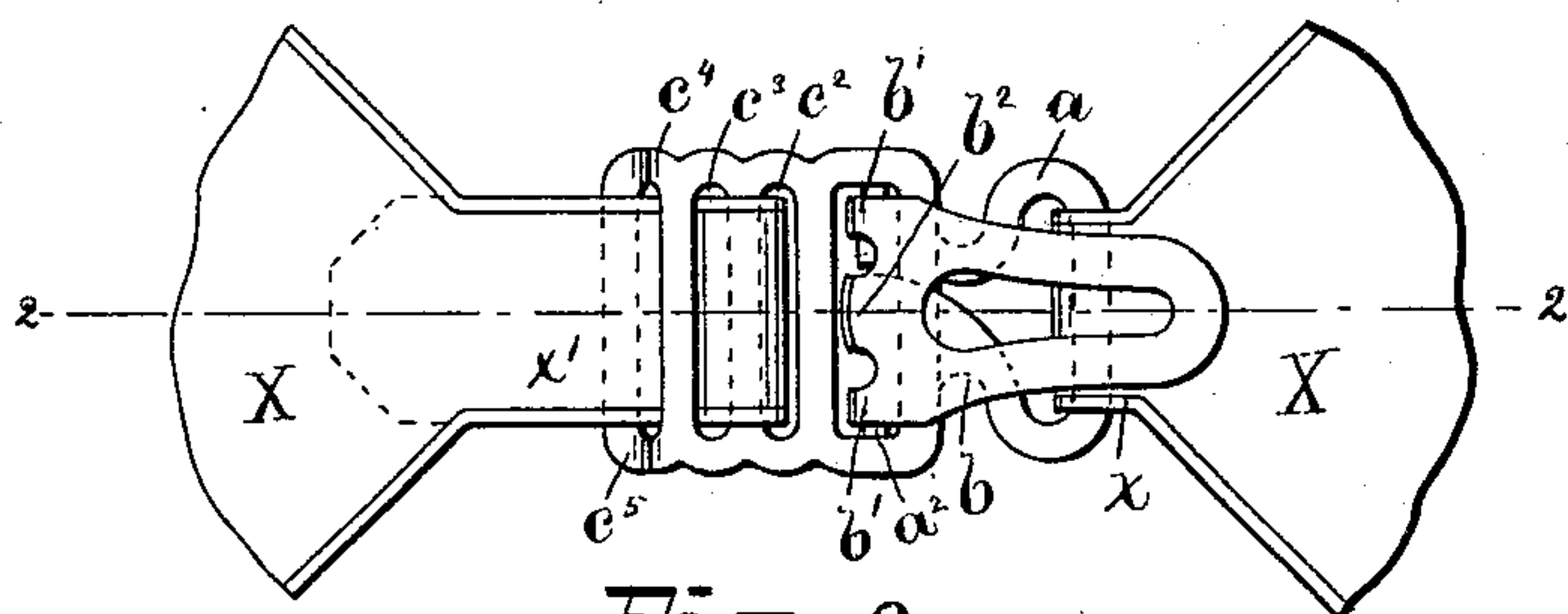


Fig. 2.

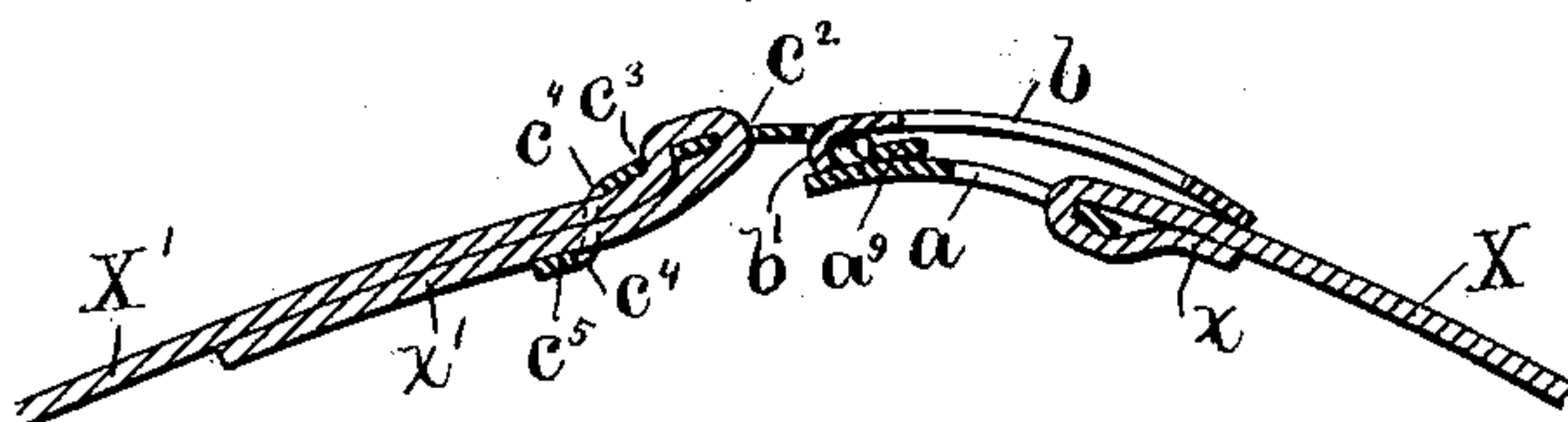


Fig. 6.

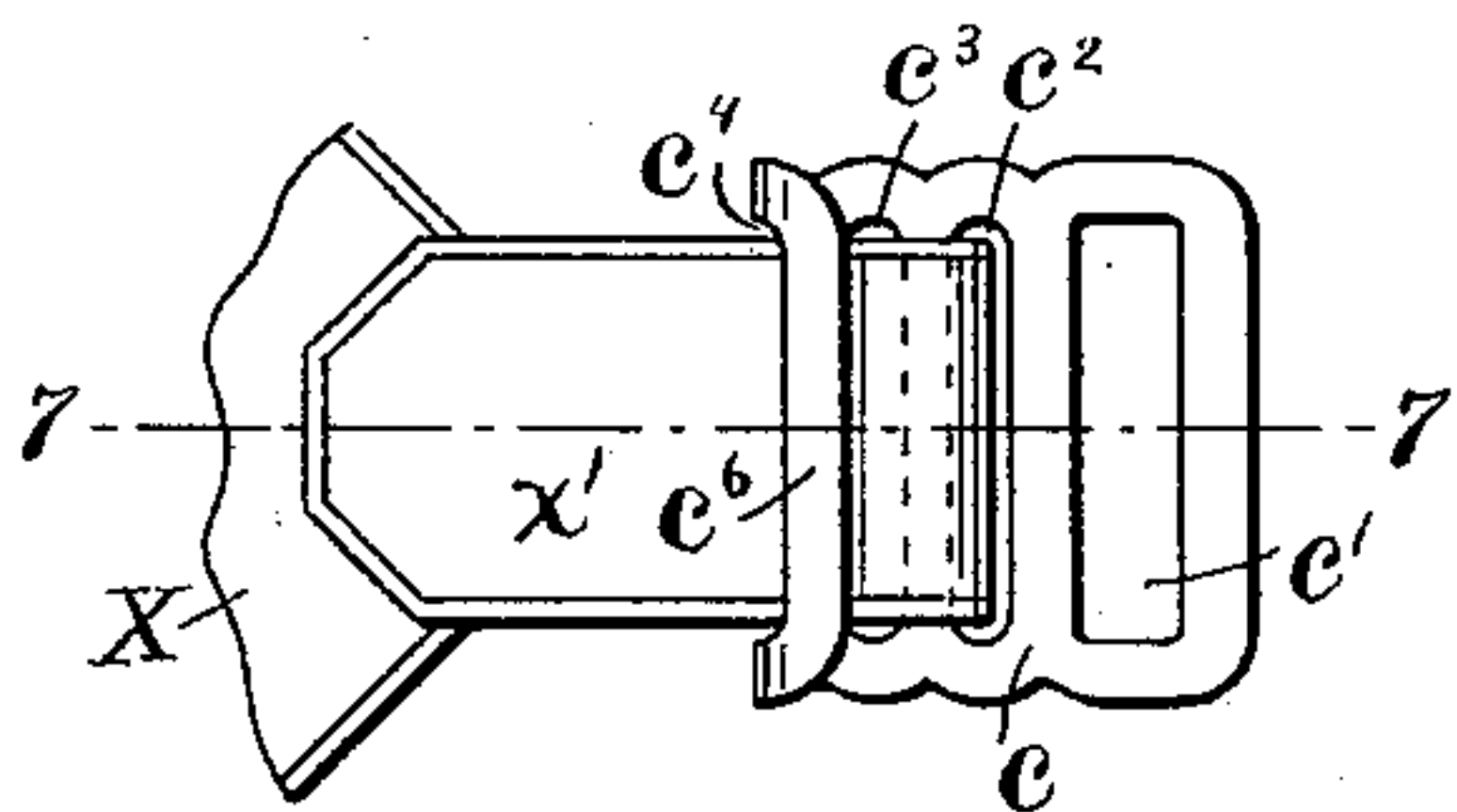


Fig. 3.

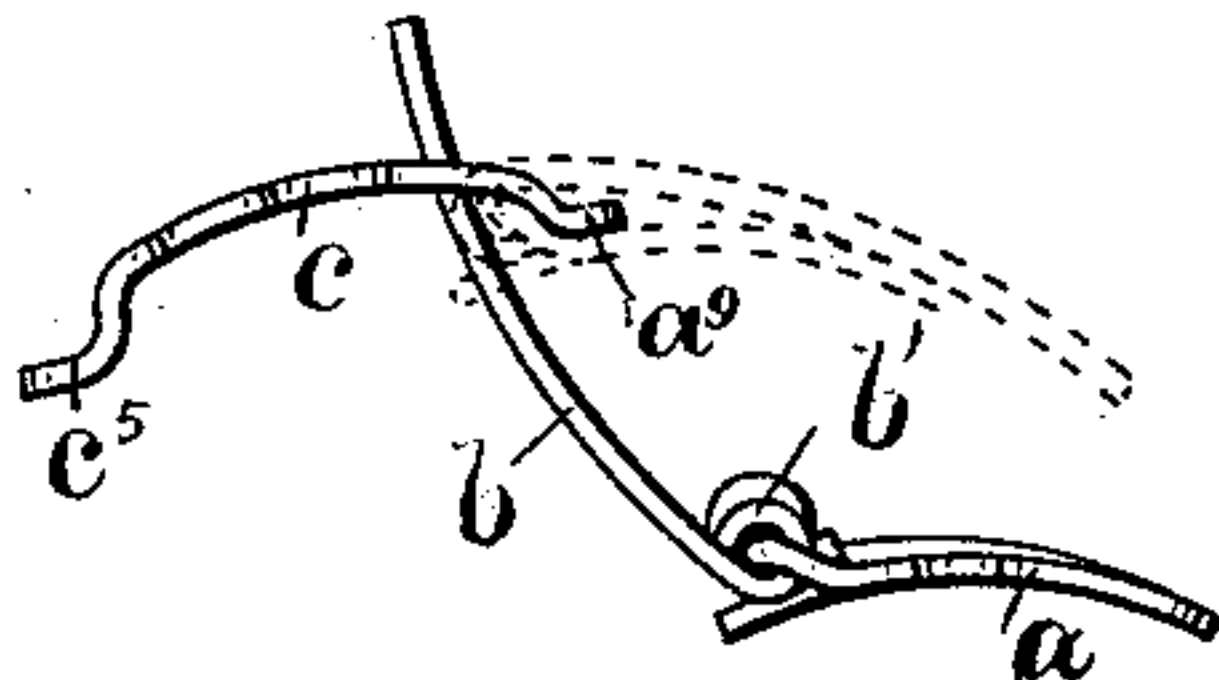


Fig. 8.

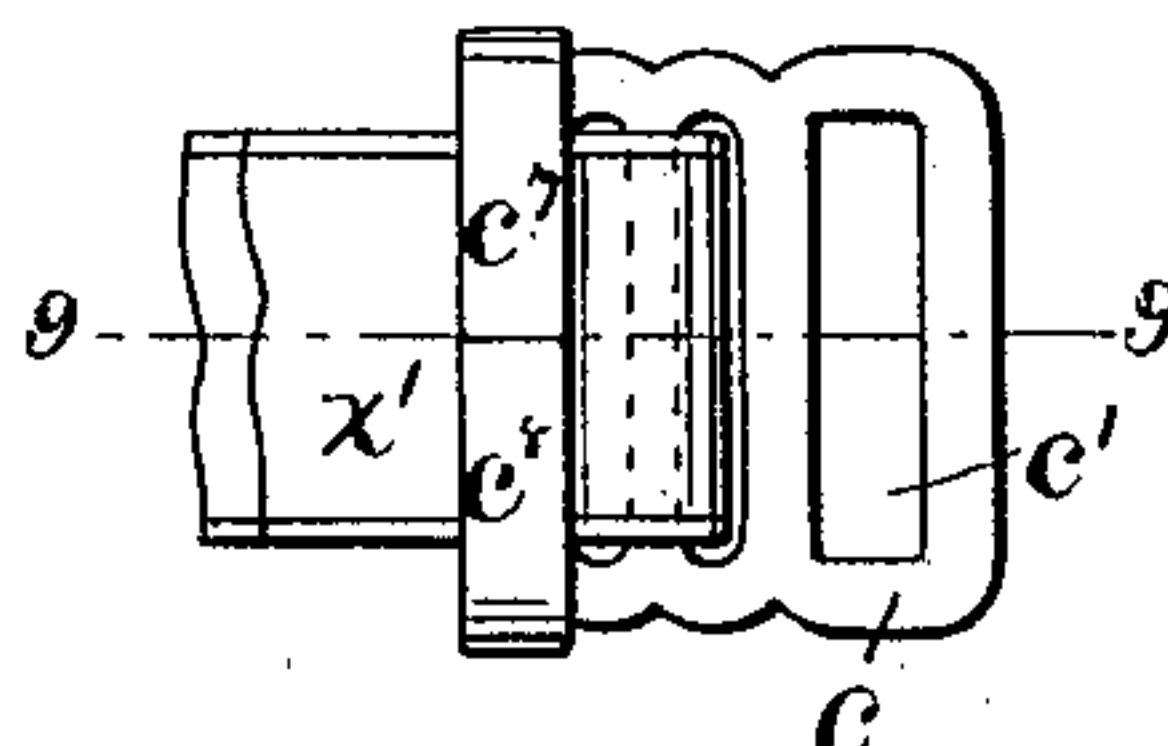


Fig. 7.

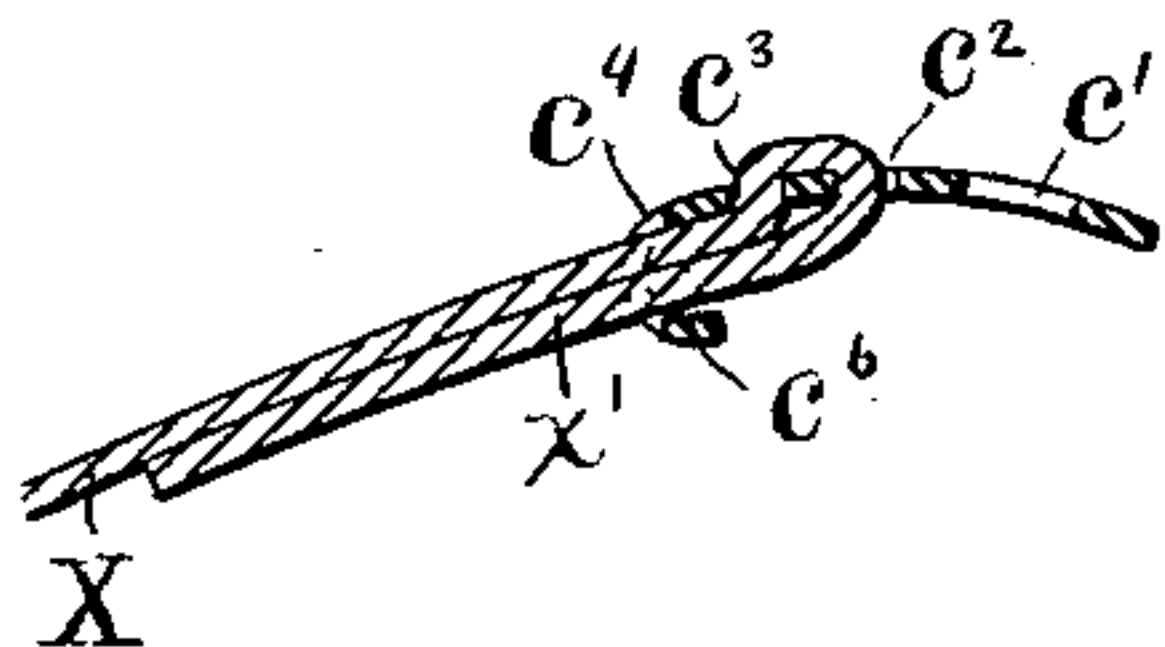


Fig. 4.

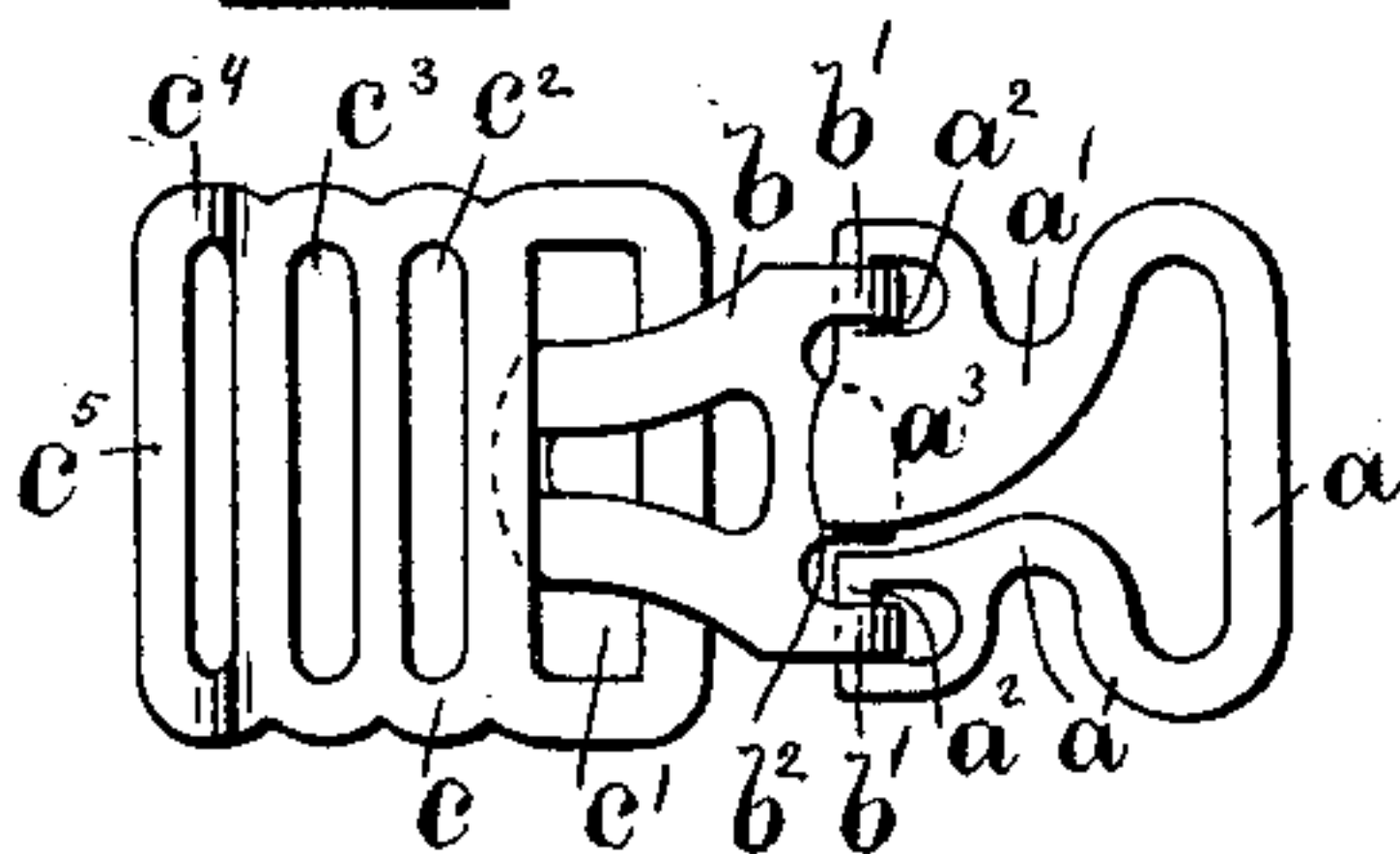


Fig. 9.

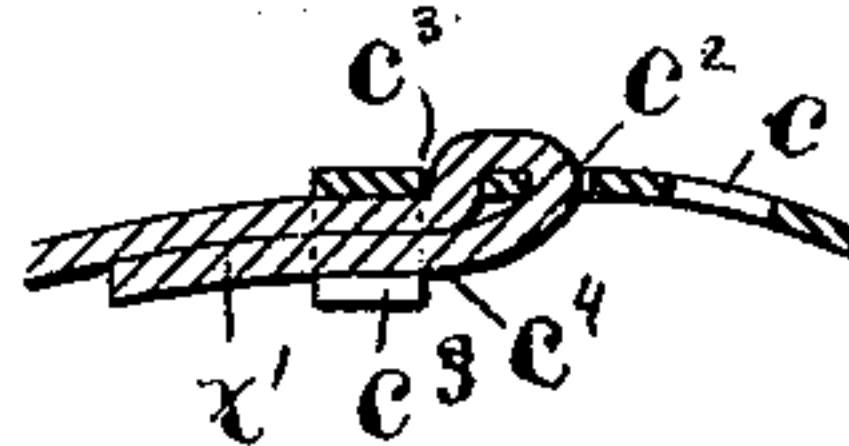


Fig. 5.

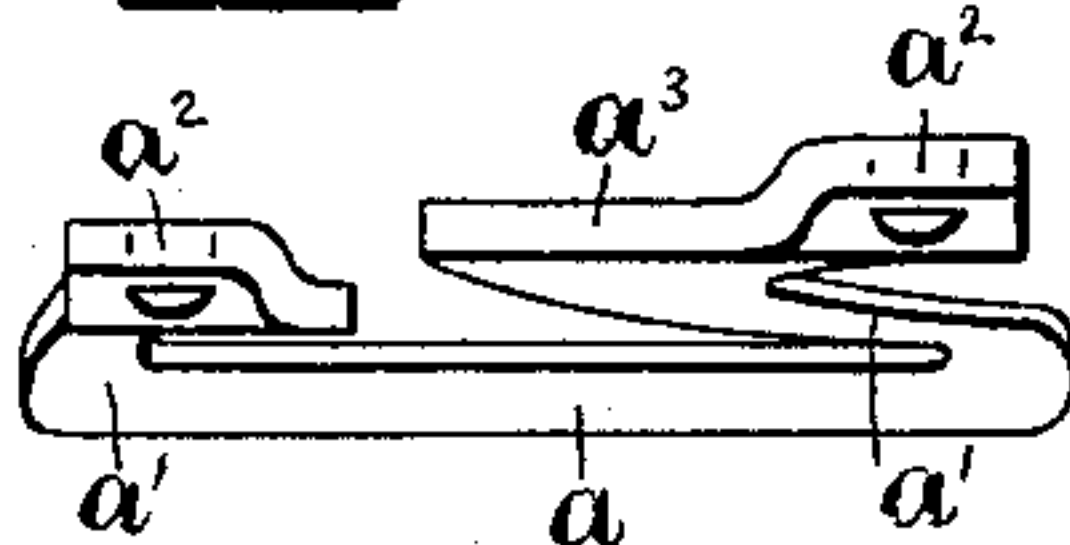
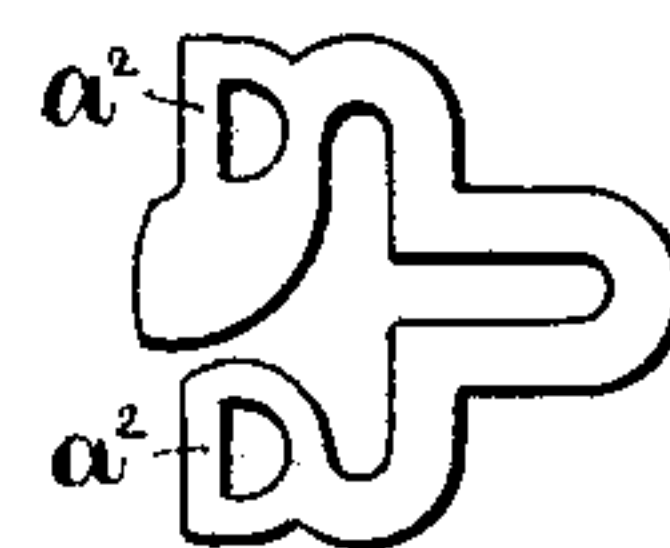


Fig. 10.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK RICHARDSON, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## CLASP-FASTENING FOR OVERSHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 338,555, dated March 23, 1886.

Application filed May 13, 1885. Serial No. 165,331. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK RICHARDSON, of the city and county of Providence, and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Shoe-Clasps, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to devices for fastening together the side flaps of overshoes, &c., over the wearer's instep, so as to secure a perfect fit at this point.

The object of my invention is to avoid the clumsy appearance, which has heretofore been a defect in this class of devices, to overcome the difficulty of adjustment in securing the proper fit, and to prevent any accidental unfastening of the clasp, which has heretofore been liable to occur.

To the above purposes my invention consists, first, in the peculiar and novel construction of the tongue and tongue-plate, whereby the movements of the former are controlled by a peculiar cam formed integrally with the tongue-plate and acting upon a peculiar spring formed integrally with the tongue-plate, as hereinafter described and claimed.

My invention further consists in the peculiar and novel construction of the catch-plate whereby all adjustments of the clasp are made so as to necessitate the use of but a single slot for the tongue, as also hereinafter described and claimed.

My invention still further consists in the peculiar and novel construction of the hinge-connection between the tongue and tongue-plate, whereby great strength, durability, and simplicity are obtained for the clasp; and, lastly, my invention consists in the novel form of the catch-plate, whereby the strain is prevented from coming directly upon the hinge, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of a shoe-clasp embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the clasp in the act of being secured. Fig. 4 is an under side

plan view of the same. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one part of the clasp, looking at the end of the same. Fig. 6 is an under side plan view of a modified form of the catch-plate. Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the same on the line 7 7 of Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is an under side plan view of a further modification of the catch-plate. Fig. 9 is a sectional view of the same on the line 9 9 of Fig. 8. Fig. 10 is a plan view of a modification of the tongue-plate.

In the said drawings, *a* designates the tongue or base-plate; *b*, the tongue, which is hinged to said plate and operates as a snap-hook; and *c* designates the catch-plate, which is provided with a transverse slot, *c'*, to receive the tongue *b*.

The tongue-plate *a* is formed with two arms, *a'*, the outer ends of which are bifurcated, and the portions thus left are connected by pintles *a<sup>2</sup>*. Upon one of the arms *a'* is formed a flat bearing, *a<sup>3</sup>*, for the cam on the tongue, which extends laterally toward the opposite arm *a'*.

The tongue *b* is formed with two extensions, *b'*, which are bent so as to embrace the pintles *a<sup>2</sup>*, and thus form the hinge or hinges by which the tongue is attached to the tongue-plate. The said tongue is also formed with a cam, *b<sup>2</sup>*, which is located between the extensions *b'*, and acts upon the bearing *a<sup>3</sup>* in the manner hereinafter described.

The catch-plate *c* is formed with the slot *c'* to receive the tongue *b*, as before stated, and also with three other transverse slots, *c<sup>2</sup>*, *c<sup>3</sup>*, and *c<sup>4</sup>*, to hold the catch-plate upon the shoe-flap, as will be presently described.

*X X'* designate the two flaps of the shoe, and *x x'* the straps of the same. The strap *x* is passed through the loop of plate *a*, and is turned under and secured permanently to itself by stitching, or in any other suitable manner. The loop of the tongue-plate *a* may be either of the longer form shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, or of the shorter form shown in Fig. 10, in the latter of which forms the tongue-plate is more concealed than in the former case.

The catch-plate *c* is bent at one end and the slot *c'* is formed in this bend. As shown at *c<sup>5</sup>* in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, the bend extends downwardly and then outwardly. At *c<sup>6</sup>* in Figs. 6 and 7 the bend extends downwardly and then under toward the opposite end of the plate.



At  $c^7 c^8$  in Figs 8 and 9 the bend is composed of two extensions, which lie beneath the plate, and the ends of which are brought together to form the slot  $c^4$ . In either of these forms the strap  $x'$  is passed first inward through slot  $c^4$ , then upward through slot  $c^3$ , then downward through slot  $c^2$ , and finally outward again through slot  $c^4$ . Thus by the combined action of the bend and slots the strap  $x'$  is held securely in a bight which, however, permits the plate to be moved upon the strap nearer to or farther from the flap  $X'$ , so as to allow for different heights of instep. By reason of this ready adjustment of plate  $c$  it is formed with but one slot,  $c'$ , for the tongue  $b$ , and thus the appearance of the clasp is greatly improved and its manipulation much simplified. The whole length of the base-plate  $a$  serves as a spring during the operation of the tongue, thus producing an even and nearly uniform pressure upon the cam  $b^2$ . Before the tongue is attached to the base-plate the arms of said plate are bent by each other, so that the arm which carries the cam-bearing  $a^3$  lies higher than the opposite arm, as shown in Fig. 5, the result being that when the hinges of the tongue are closed in position on the bearings of the base-plate a pressure is exerted on the cam  $b^2$ , so that it will hold the tongue down firmly when closed.

The operation of the clasp is as follows: The base-plate being held rigidly at the bearing  $b'$ , the cam  $b^2$  of the tongue operates as a fulcrum for the downward spring of one arm of the base-plate against the hinge, producing the necessary pressure through the opposite arm upon the cam to operate the tongue. It will be observed that the bearings for the hinges are very strong, as they are backed by the solid metal of the base-plate, and hence all liability of fracture from strain is avoided. It

will also be observed that the catch-plate is so bent at  $a^9$  that when the tongue is down upon the base-plate the outer end of the catch-plate lies below the line of the hinges. This is a highly important feature of my invention, as it prevents any possibility of the tongue being pulled up off of the base-plate by the wearing strain.

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

1. A clasp having a resilient tongue-plate consisting of two arms, one of which has a spring cam-bearing extending upwardly and inwardly, and acting with a cam correspondingly located on the tongue hinged to said arms, for the purpose described.

2. The combination, with a resilient tongue-plate having two arms, one of which has a spring cam-bearing extending upwardly and inwardly and acting with a cam correspondingly located on the tongue hinged to said arms, of a transversely-bent catch-plate having the tongue-bearing lying below the line of said hinges when locked, for the purpose described.

3. The combination, with the base-plate  $a$ , having the arms  $a'$ , pintles  $a^2$ , and cam-bearing  $a^3$ , of the tongue formed with the extensions  $b'$  and cam  $b^2$ , as described.

4. The catch-plate having the slots  $c'$ ,  $c^2$ , and  $c^3$ , and the bend with its slot  $c^4$ , as set forth.

5. The combination, with the catch-plate  $c$ , having the bend  $a^9$ , of the base-plate  $a$ , having the arm  $a'$ , pintles  $a^2$ , and cam-bearing  $a^3$ , and the tongue  $b$ , having the extensions  $b'$ , as specified.

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Witnesses:

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