(No Model.)

# W. H. BENFORD.

## FASTENING DEVICE FOR SHOES.

No. 583,564. Patented June 1, 1897.

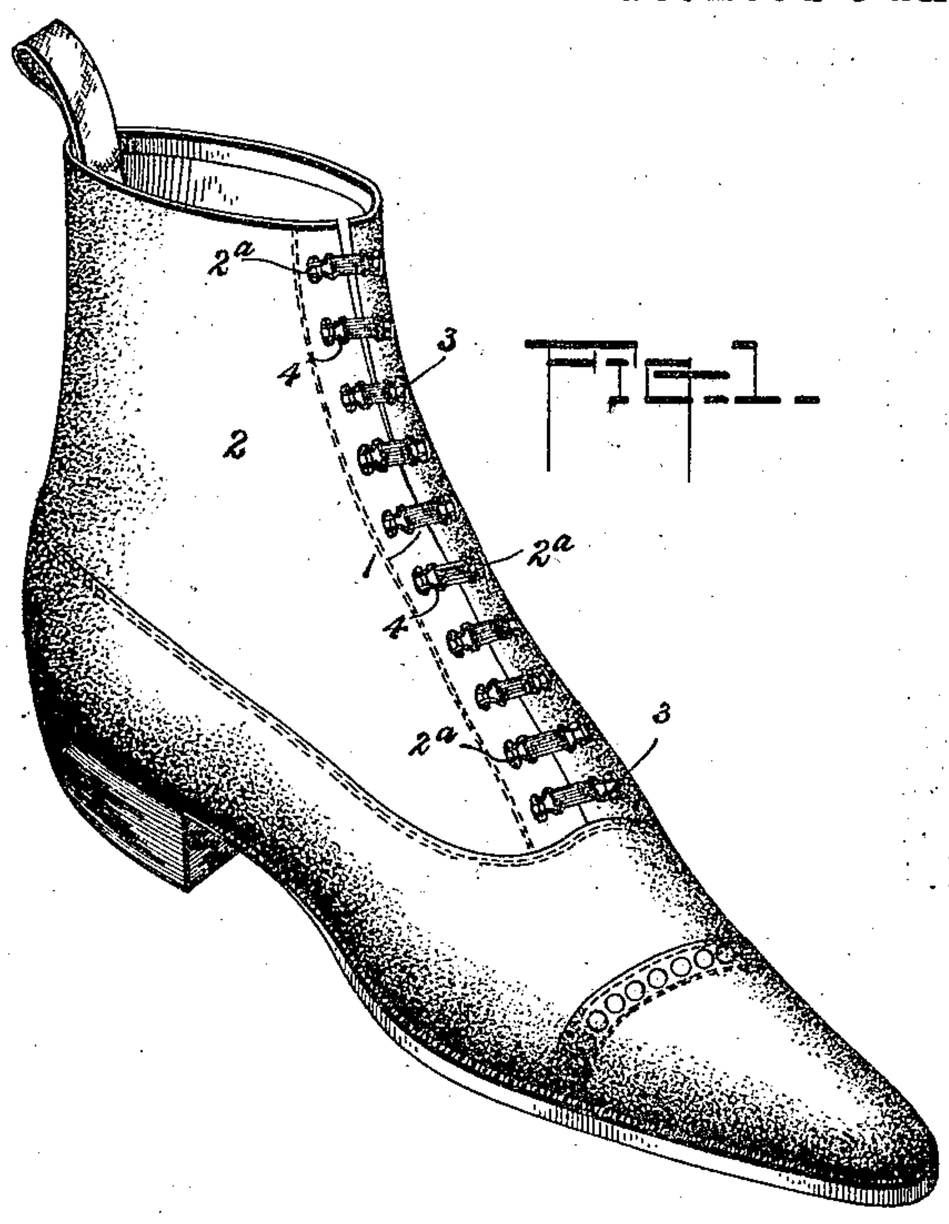



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

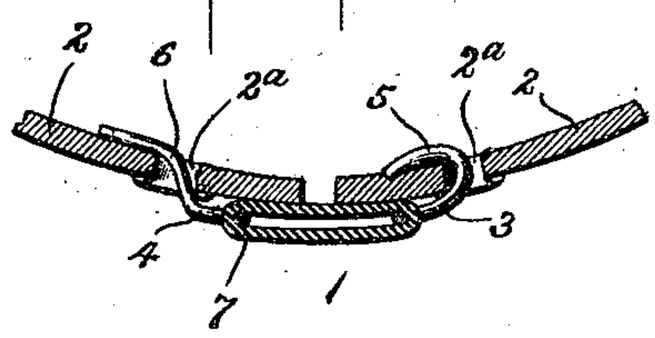



Fig. 3.

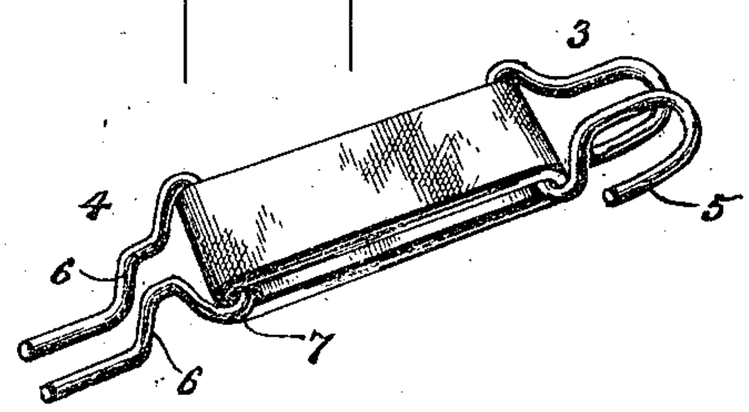
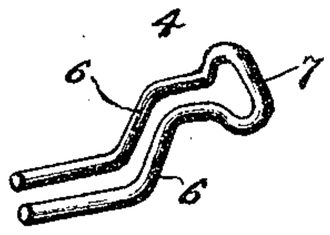



Fig. 4.




Witnesses
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BENFORD, OF LAMAR, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM L. GRIFFIN, OF SAME PLACE.

## FASTENING DEVICE FOR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 583,564, dated June 1, 1897.

Application filed March 21, 1896. Serial No. 584,277. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BENFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lamar, in the county of Barton and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Fastening Device for Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in fastening devices for shoes.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of fastening devices for shoes, and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient one capable of ready application to shoes having eyelets and of elastically connecting the sides of a lace-shoe to render the same as yielding as an ordinary elastic gaiter.

A further object of the invention is to enable a shoe to be fastened and unfastened with greater rapidity and ease than the ordinary lace or buttoned shoe.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe provided with fastening devices constructed in accordance with the invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the fastening devices. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the detachable hook.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a fastening device disposed transversely of a lace-shoe 2 and adapted to connect yieldingly the sides of the lace-shoe 2, and any desired number of fastening devices may be provided, according to the number of eyelets $2^a$ in the sides of the shoe.

Each fastening device comprises a permanently-secured hook 3, a detachable hook 4, and a continuous elastic band connecting the hooks and adapted to extend across the space between the sides of the shoe. Each hook is preferably constructed of a single piece of wire or similar material doubled to form a loop to receive the elastic band and parallel sides, which are separated throughout their entire length and which form a longitudinal entrance opening or passage to the loop to permit the endless elastic band to be readily introduced into the loops of the hooks without splitting it. The hook 3, which is permanently secured to one side of the shoe, has curved sides 5, adapted to be introduced into an eyelet and compressed to secure it permanently to the shoe.

The detachable hook is composed of an L-shaped eyelet-engaging portion 6 and a shank 7, arranged at right angles to the inner arm of the L-shaped engaging portion. The L-shaped eyelet-engaging portion 6 is adapted to be readily introduced into an eyelet to engage the inner face of the upper of the shoe, the outer arm of the L-shaped portion lying flat against the inner face of the upper and the inner arm being arranged in the eyelet, and the shank 7 forms a loop or eye for the reception of the continuous elastic band. The loop-shaped shank lies flat against the outer face of the upper, and the tension of the elastic band holds the outer arm of the L-shaped engaging portion tightly against the inner face of the upper, so that the detachable hook offers no projections which might inconvenience the wearer of the shoe.

The particular shape of the detachabe hook enables it to be readily and easily interlocked with an eyelet and removed therefrom, and a shoe provided with the fastening devices may be fastened and unfastened with greater rapidity and ease than an ordinary lace or buttoned shoe.

The elastic band or strip, which is preferably continuous, may be constructed of rubber or any other suitable material, such as elastic webbing or the like.

It will be seen that the shoe-fastener is exceedingly simple and inexpensive in construction, that it is capable of being readily applied to the ordinary lace-shoe, and that it is adapted to connect the sides yieldingly and to afford the same comfort to the wearer as an ordinary elastic gaiter. It will also be apparent that the fastening device will enable a shoe to be fastened and unfastened with greater rapidity and ease than the ordinary lace or buttoned shoe.

Changes in the form, proportion, and minor

details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

What I claim is—

1. A fastening device for shoes comprising a transversely-disposed endless elastic band, a pair of hooks carried by the endless band, designed to be passed through the ordinary eyelets of a lace-shoe to engage the latter, and each constructed of a single piece of material and consisting of a loop receiving the endless band, and parallel sides separated throughout their entire length and forming an entrance opening or passage to permit the endless band to be introduced into the loop without splitting the said band, substantially as described.

2. A fastening device for shoes comprising a transversely-disposed endless elastic band designed to connect yieldingly the sides of a lace-shoe, and a pair of hooks, carried by the band and adapted to pass through the ordinary eyelets of said shoe, each hook being constructed of a single piece of wire doubled to form a loop to receive the endless band and extended to form parallel sides separated throughout their entire length to provide an entrance opening or passage to permit the endless band to be introduced into the loop without cutting or splitting the same, the sides of one of the hooks being curved to engage the inner face of the shoe after being passed through one of the ordinary eyelets thereof, and the sides of the other hook consisting of a substantially L-shaped portion adapted to pass through an ordinary eyelet of the opposite side of the shoe and detachably engage the latter and bear flat against the inner face thereof, and a shank arranged substantially at right angles to the inner arm of the L-shaped portion and adapted to bear flat against the outer face of the shoe, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. BENFORD.

Witnesses:

ROY E. MILLER,

JOHN W. HERRON.