

No. 691,853.

Patented Jan. 28, 1902.

W. FRECK.
SHOE LACER.

(Application filed May 6, 1901.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet I.

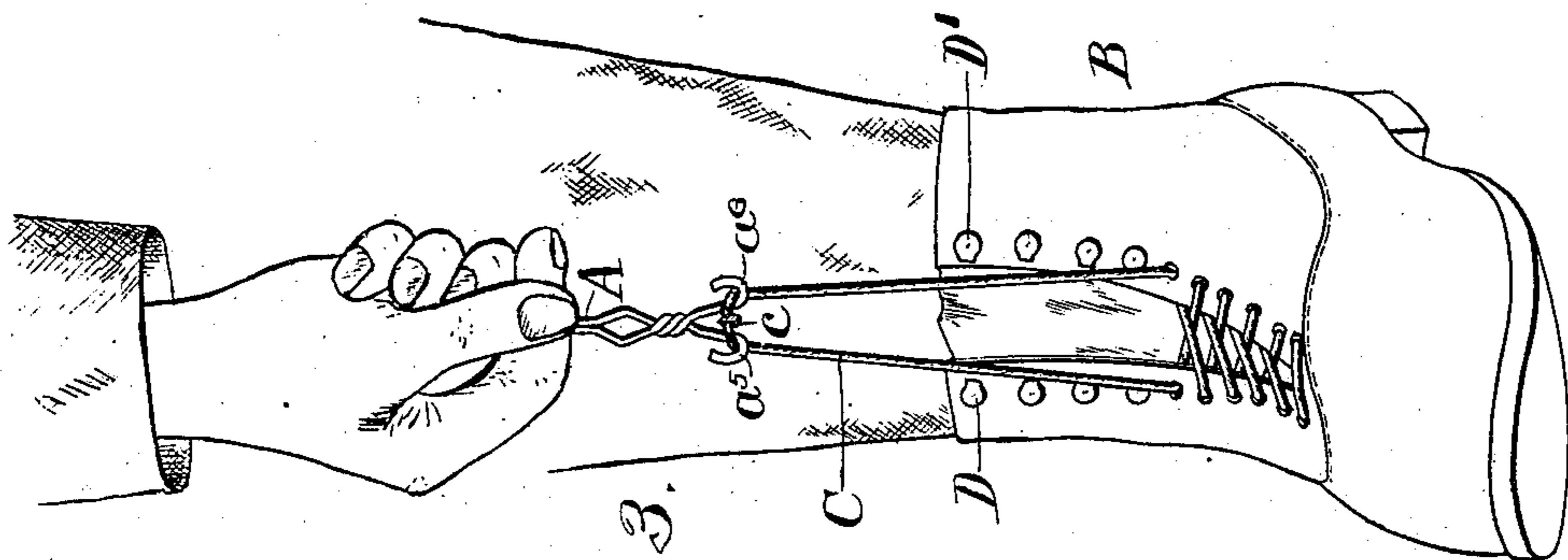


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

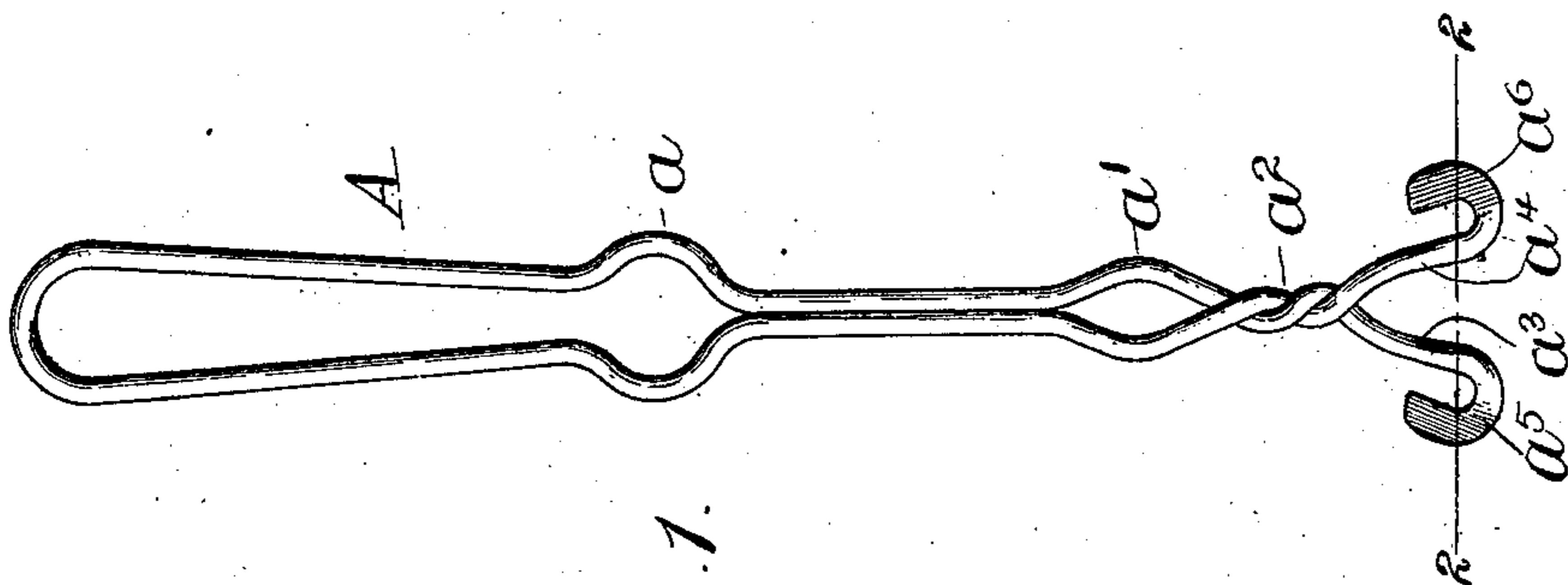
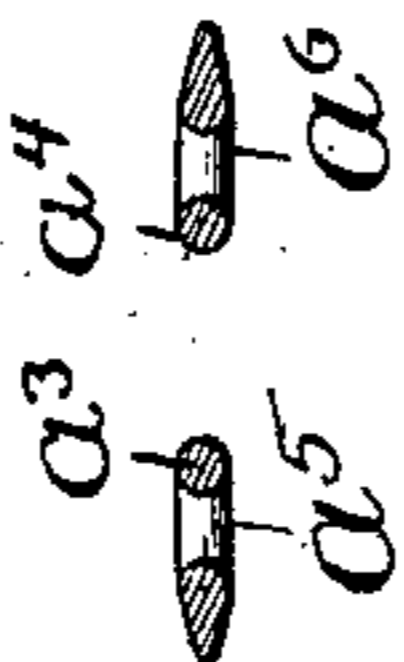


Fig. 1.

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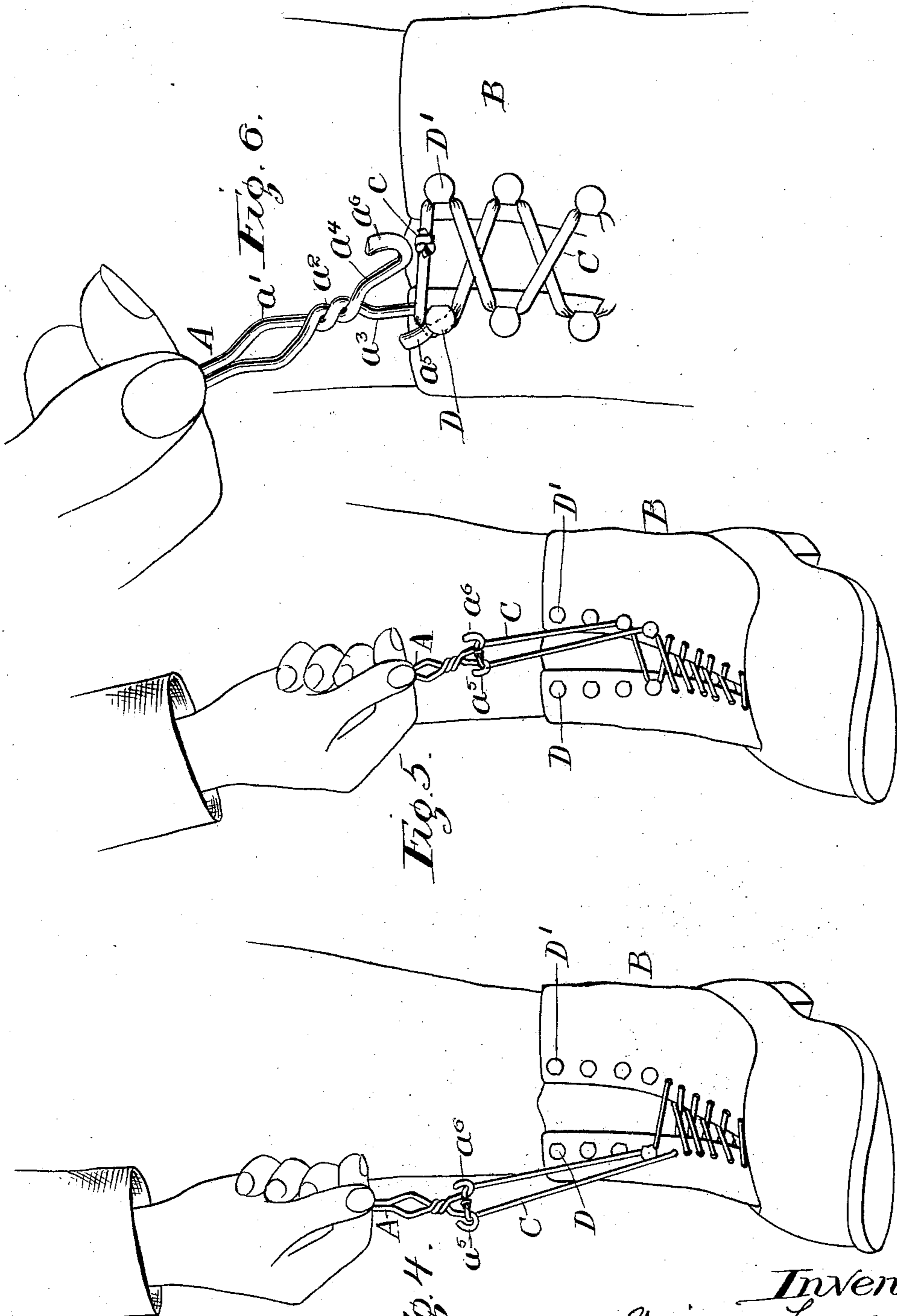
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

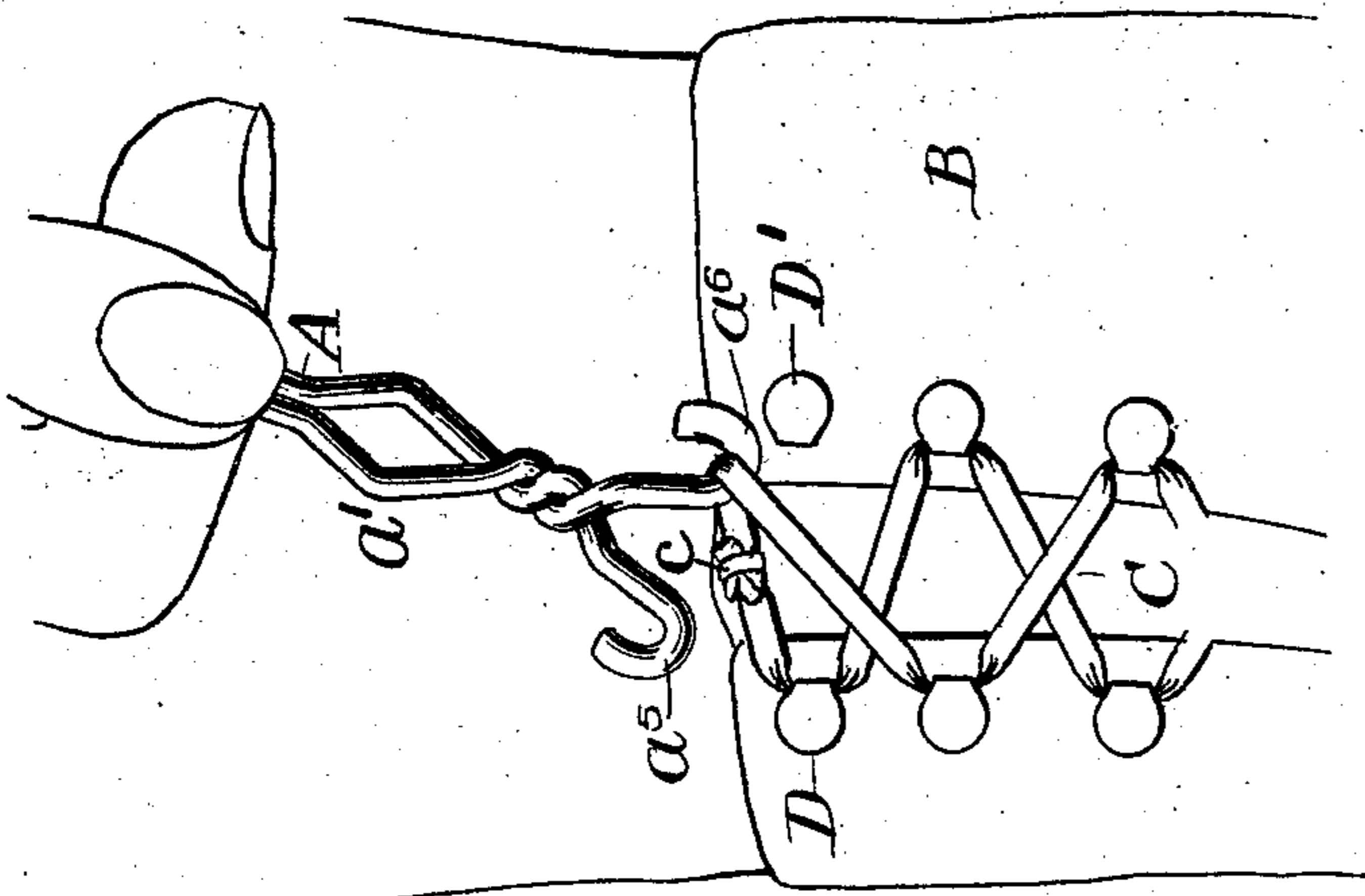


Fig. 9.

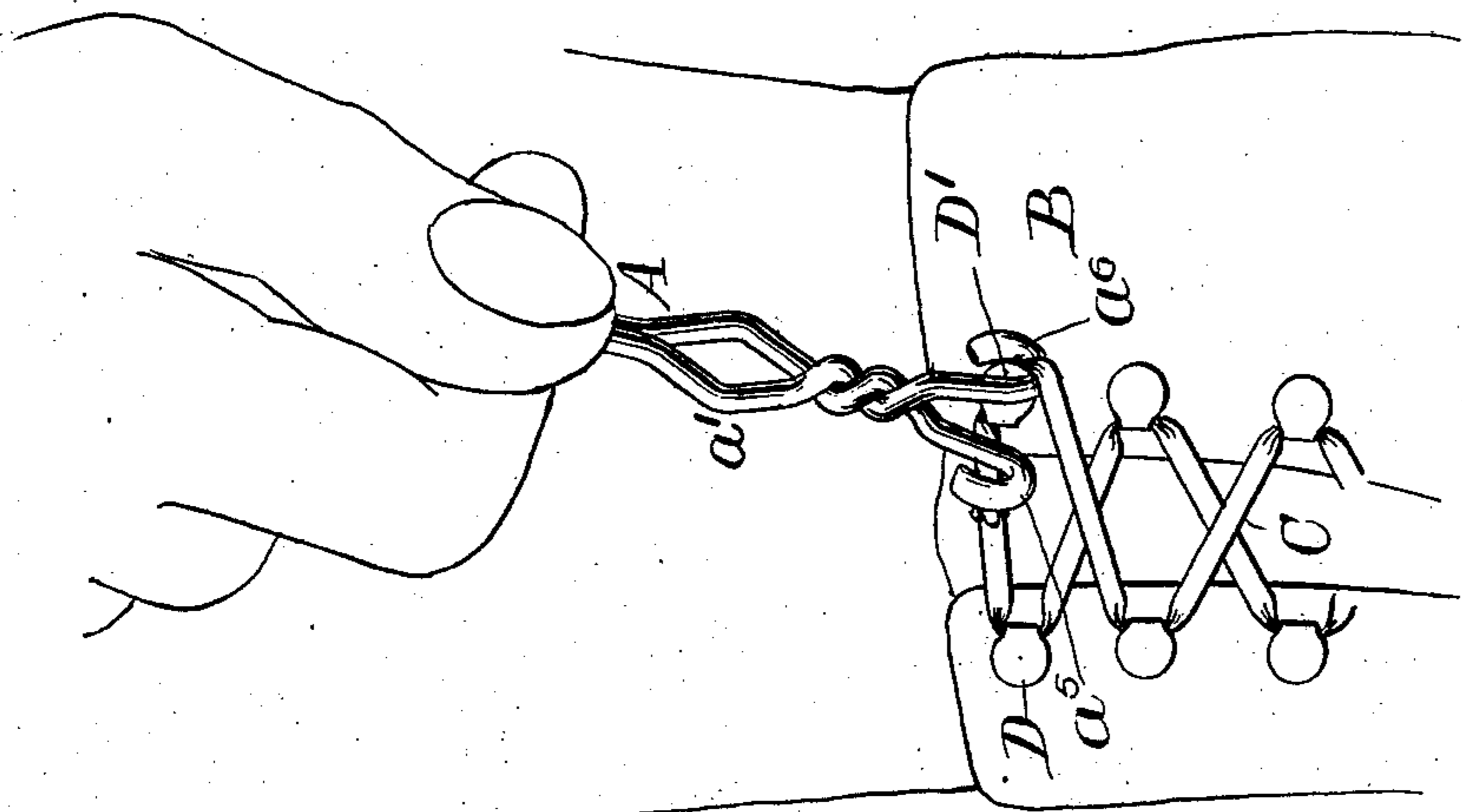


Fig. 8.

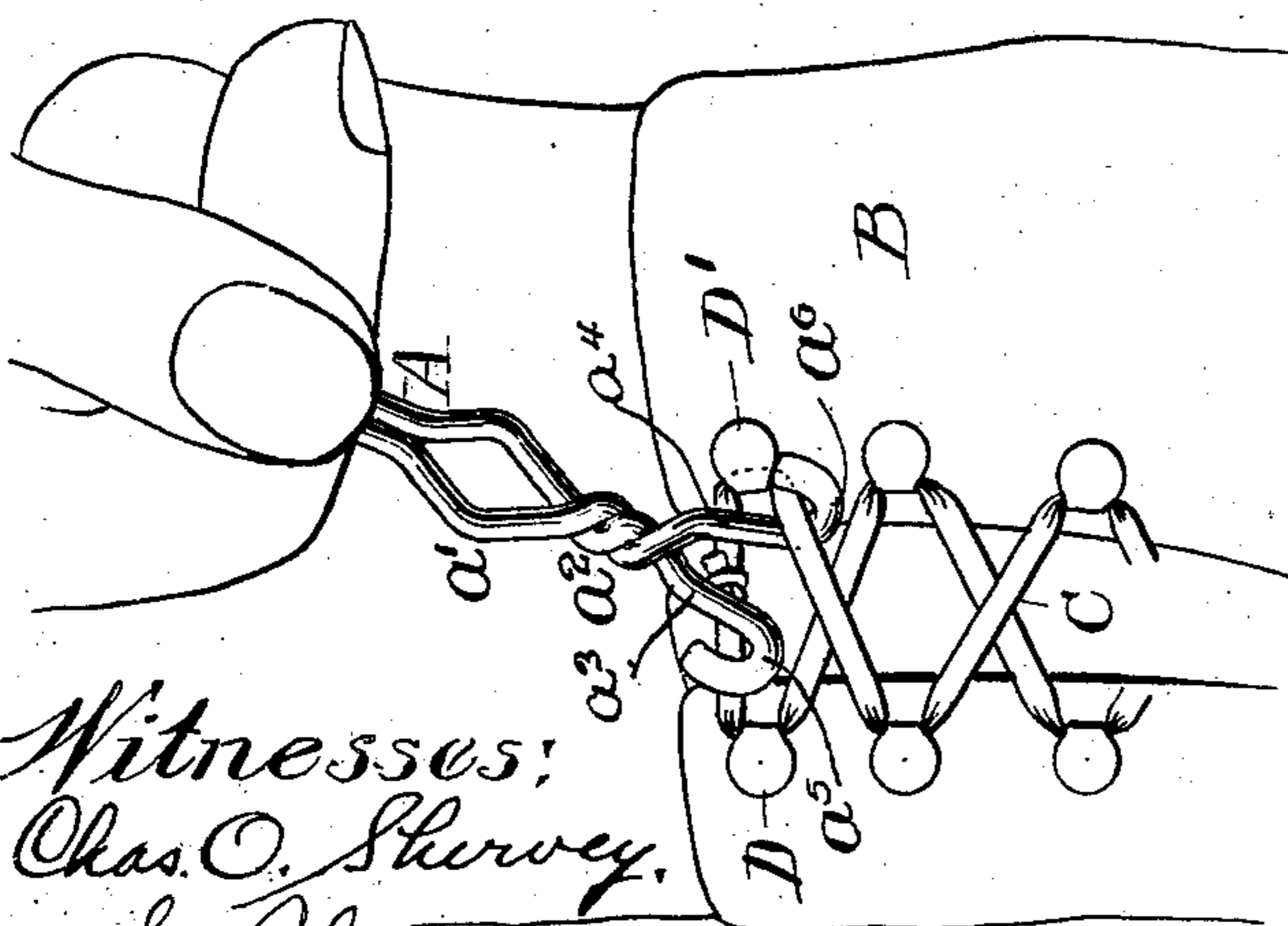


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM FRECK, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SHOE-LACER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 691,853, dated January 28, 1902.

Application filed May 6, 1901. Serial No: 58,898. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM FRECK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Lacers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in shoe-lacers, the purpose of which is to provide a neat and convenient device by means of which the ordinary operation of lacing up a shoe may be greatly simplified, made easier, and indeed made possible for persons who are unable to accomplish it in the ordinary way.

The particular class of shoes to which the invention applies are those having the common form of lacing-hooks which are used almost universally upon men's shoes. The usual method of lacing these shoes is to use both hands, one for one string and the other for the other, and to tie the strings across between the upper hooks.

I desire first to enable the operation of the lacing to be performed with one hand; second, to accomplish the same with the hand at some distance, and, third, to obviate the necessity for tying the strings every time the shoe is laced and untying them to unlace the same. I have accomplished this by means of a simple and compact device which will be shown in the accompanying drawings, both alone and in connection with the shoe-laces to which it is to be applied, and the essential characteristics of which will be pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of the device or lacer itself. Fig. 2 is a transverse section in the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view showing the lacer in connection with the hand, the shoe and the shoe-lace, the position of the parts being that at the commencement of the operation of lacing the shoe. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the lacing of one side of the string around one of the first two lower hooks. Fig. 5 is a similar view showing how the two sides of the string may be simultaneously carried about two consecutive hooks intermediate between the bottom and the top of the latter. Fig. 6 shows the manner in which the string is hooked over the last upper

hook. Fig. 7 shows the engagement of the lacer with the string to commence the unlacing of the shoe. Fig. 8 shows how it may be pried about the hook. Fig. 9 shows the position after the string is disengaged from said hook.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the lacer consists of a handle and a shank extending from the handle and provided at its free end with two upwardly open hooks at a short distance from each other. It is preferably formed by bending a wire at its middle to make a handle-loop A and then bending the free end of each branch back upon itself, thus forming two short upwardly open hooks a^5 a^6 equidistant from the end of the handle. Preferably the two branches are spread apart at a a' , have their shank portions twisted together, as at a^2 , and are made to diverge again just above the hooks, as at a^3 a^4 , and the hooks themselves are preferably flattened, as shown in Fig. 2, so that they may be wedged under the shoe-hooks or hooked lacing-studs.

Referring to Figs. 3 to 9, B is a shoe or a portion thereof, C the shoe lace or string, and D D' the hooks upon opposite sides of the shoe-flaps. The string is shown as tied in a hard knot at c. In place thereof it may be tied or fastened elsewhere—as, for instance, at the lower end of the shoe-lace—leaving a continuous string from bottom to top and back again.

Looking at Fig. 3, the shoe will be seen just after having been drawn upon the foot and the opposite hooks of the lacer in engagement with the opposite strands of the string. By moving the device from the position there seen to that seen in Fig. 4 one of the strings may be passed under one of the lower hooks, and by carrying the lacer back to the other side both strings may be passed beneath two consecutive hooks, as seen in Fig. 5. Continuing this operation the upper hook upon one side will be reached, and then by disengaging one of the hooks the other may be utilized to pull the string over the last hook, after which upon the release of the string from the lacer the tension upon the shoe draws it into the hook and tightens up the entire lace.

To unlace the shoe, one of the hooks is en-

gaged with one side of the string below the first hook, as seen in Fig. 7, forced around said hook until the string is lifted therefrom, as seen in Fig. 9, after which the unlacing
5 of course becomes easy and either one or both of the lacer-hooks may be used for that purpose.

I recognize the possibility of considerable variation in the exact form and construction
10 of the invention.

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

1. A shoe-lacer consisting of a handle and a shank extending therefrom and provided at
15 its free end and upon opposite sides thereof, with two short, upwardly-open hooks.

2. A shoe-lacer consisting of a handle portion, a shank portion forming an extension from the handle, and two branches in ap-
20 proximately the same plane, diverging downwardly from the shank portion and each bent

back upon itself to form a short, upwardly-open hook.

3. A shoe-lacer comprising a suitable handle and a pair of diverging prongs having
25 comparatively thin ends, turned outward and backward in the form of hooks; substantially as described.

4. A shoe-lacer composed of a wire bent upon itself to form a handle, two parts twisted
30 together beyond the handle and the end portions flattened and bent back upon themselves to form hooks; substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at Chicago, in the county of Cook and
35 State of Illinois, this 4th day of May, A. D. 1901.

WILLIAM FRECK.

Witnesses:

CHAS. O. SHERVEY,
S. BLISS.