

No. 743,954.

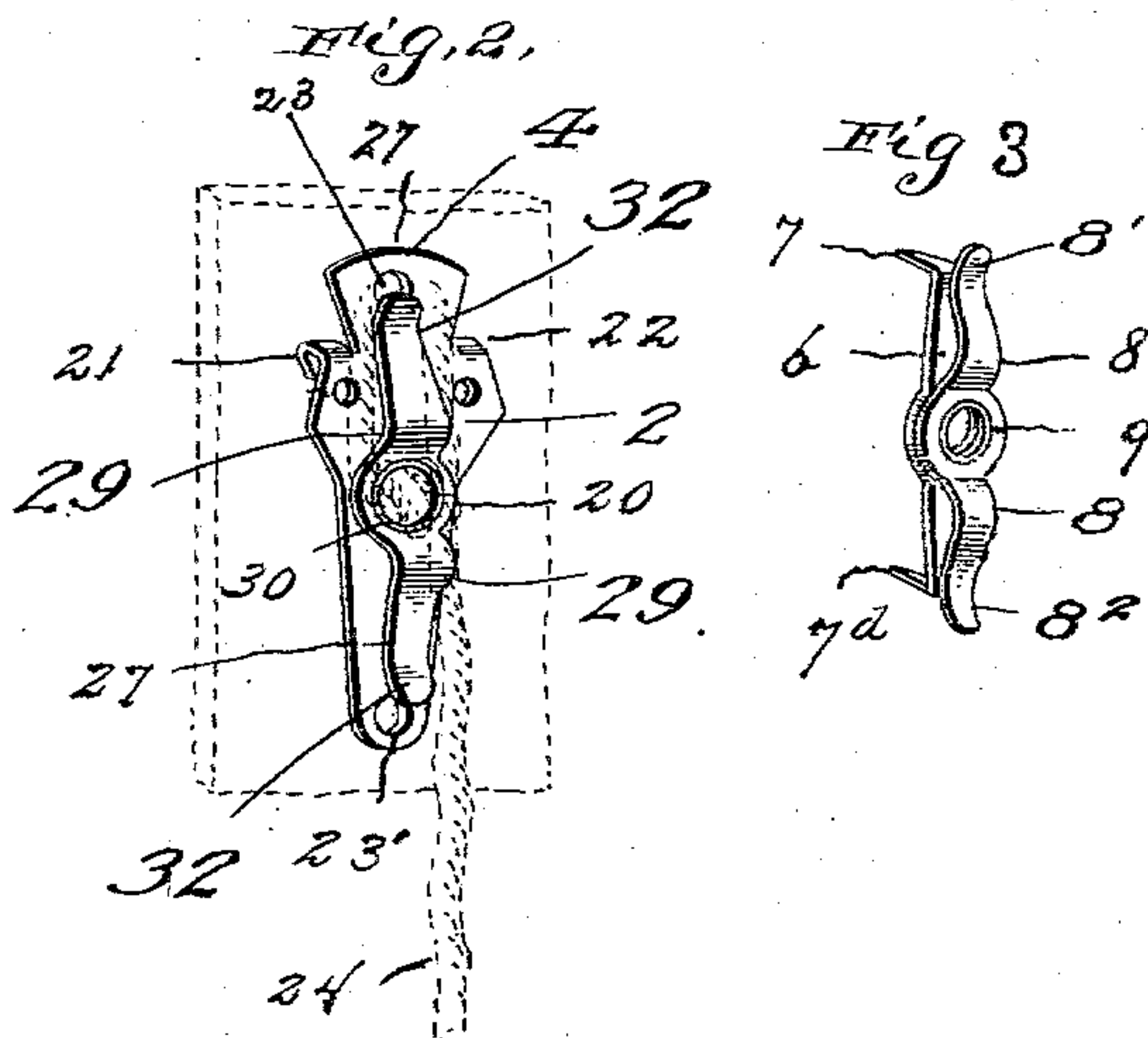
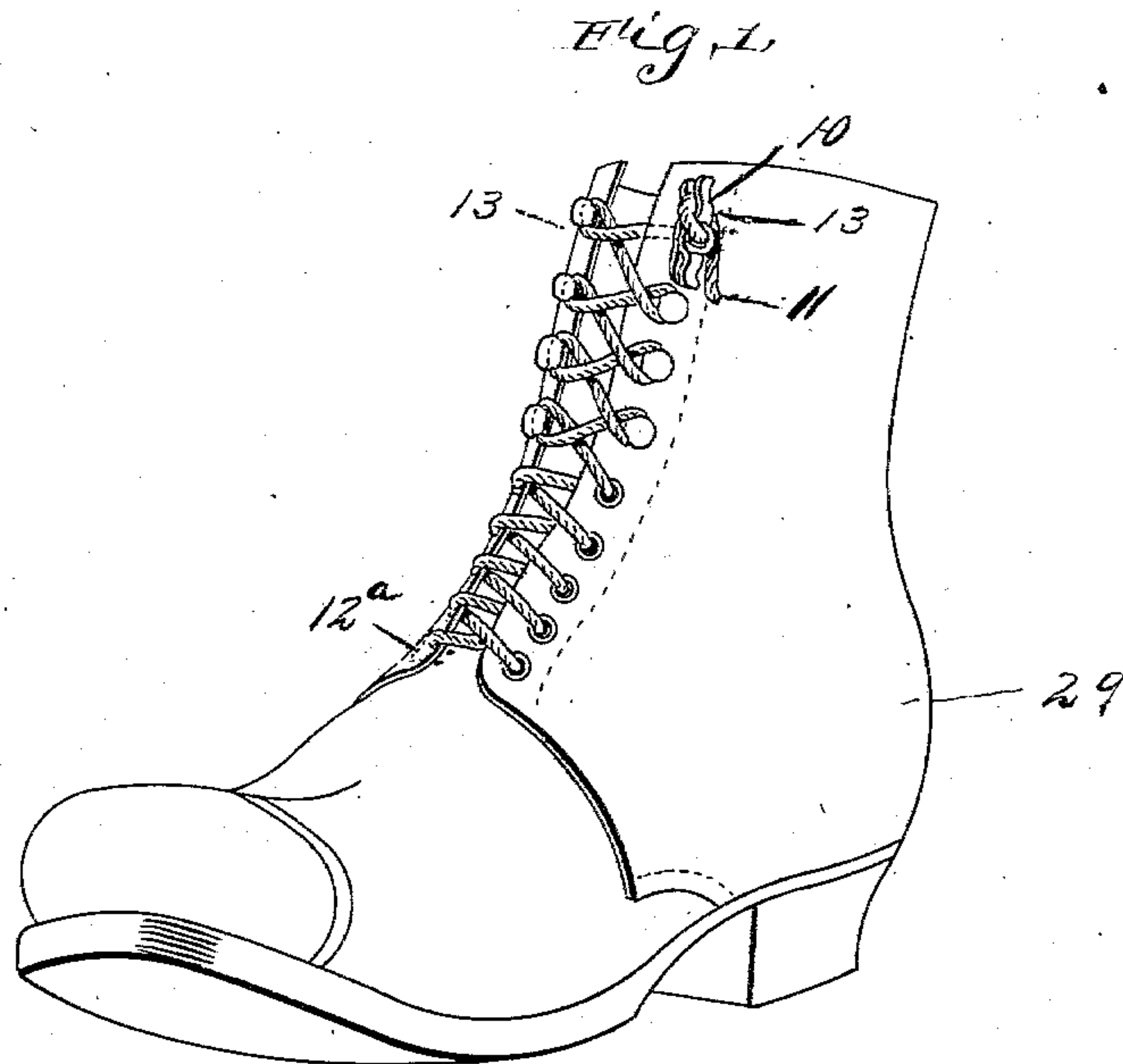
PATENTED NOV. 10, 1903.

J. K. THOMA.

EYELET SAFETY TIE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 21, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses:  
J. S. Campbell  
W. J. Casinger

Inventor:  
James K. Thoma



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES K. THOMA, OF COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK.

## EYELET SAFETY-TIE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 743,954, dated November 10, 1903.

Application filed July 21, 1902. Serial No. 116,426. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES K. THOMA, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cooperstown, in the county of Otsego and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Eyelet Safety-Ties; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has relation to improvements in shoe-lace fasteners; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and particularly claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe with my improved lace-fastener secured to the marginal edge of the upper with the lacing-cord attached thereto. Fig. 2 is a front view of the lace-fastener. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the fastener having another form of base-plate.

Referring to the drawings and illustrated in Fig. 1, I show a complete shoe 29 with my improved lace-fastening 10 secured thereto having a single lacing-cord 11 attached to the usual hooks and eyelets 12<sup>a</sup>, secured to the meeting edges 13 of the upper of the shoe. However, I wish it to be understood that my device is equally capable of fastening both ends of the lacing-cord.

As shown in Fig. 2, my improved shoe-lacing fastener consists of a base-plate 2 and a top plate 27, the former of which has its head portion 4 cut or slitted on opposite sides to form rearwardly and downwardly projecting securing-prongs 21 and 22, which are adapted to be passed through the material of the shoe-upper and clenched thereto. The head and foot portions of the base-plate are provided with perforations or openings 23 and 23', through which rivets or other fastening means are adapted to pass for the better securing of the plate to the shoe-upper. Through the central portion of the base-plate I provide a central opening. The top plate is provided with a circular central portion having an opening therein which coacts with the opening of the base-plate, and an eyelet 20 is inserted through

the openings of both plates, so as to secure the two parts together and to the shoe-upper. On opposite sides of the circular portion of the top plate I provide reversely-curved spring-arms 29, having upwardly-curved bearing ends 32, provided with terminal upwardly-curved bent ends 32, which serve to bear against the upper and lower ends of the upper surface of the base-plate, so as to permit of the ends of the shoe-lacings being inserted or forced between the same and secured between the curved bearings of the top plate and the upper surface of the base-plate directly below the curved bearings, whereby the shoe-lacing is securely held in place.

I wish it to be understood that I do not confine myself to placing a single fastening on one meeting edge of the upper of the shoe—as, for instance, when there are two ends to the lacing I secure a fastening on the opposite meeting edge of the upper to thereby meet the requirements of the double ends of the lacing.

In Fig. 3 I show the top plate 8 with terminal upwardly-curved ends 8' 8<sup>2</sup> and an eyelet 9, all of which is of the same construction as that shown in Fig. 2. The base-plate 6, shown attached to the top plate 8, in this instance has two prongs 7 and 7<sup>a</sup> formed on the opposite ends thereof, whereby to secure the same to the shoe-upper.

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

A fastening device for shoe-lacings comprising a flat base-plate having a central opening, means at the opposite ends of the base-plate to secure the same to the upper of a shoe, a top plate having reversely-curved arms provided with terminal upturned ends, said top plate also having a central opening to coact with the central opening of the base-plate, an eyelet passing through the said shoe-upper and through the said central openings of the base and top plates to secure said parts together, substantially as specified.

JAMES K. THOMA.

Witnesses:

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