

No. 784,224.

PATENTED MAR. 7, 1905.

G. E. PEIRCE.  
SHOE FASTENING DEVICE.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 16, 1904.

Fig. 1.

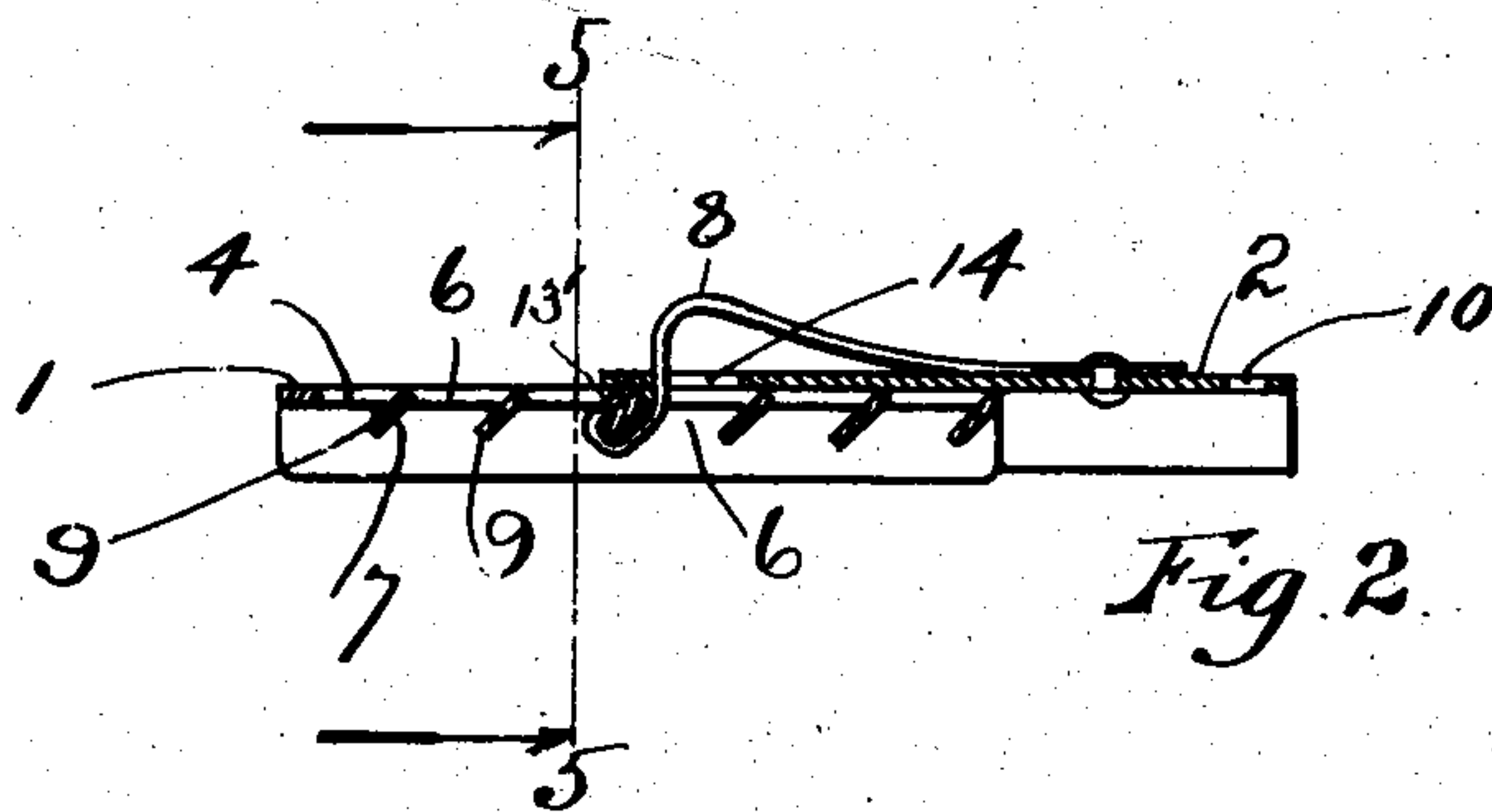
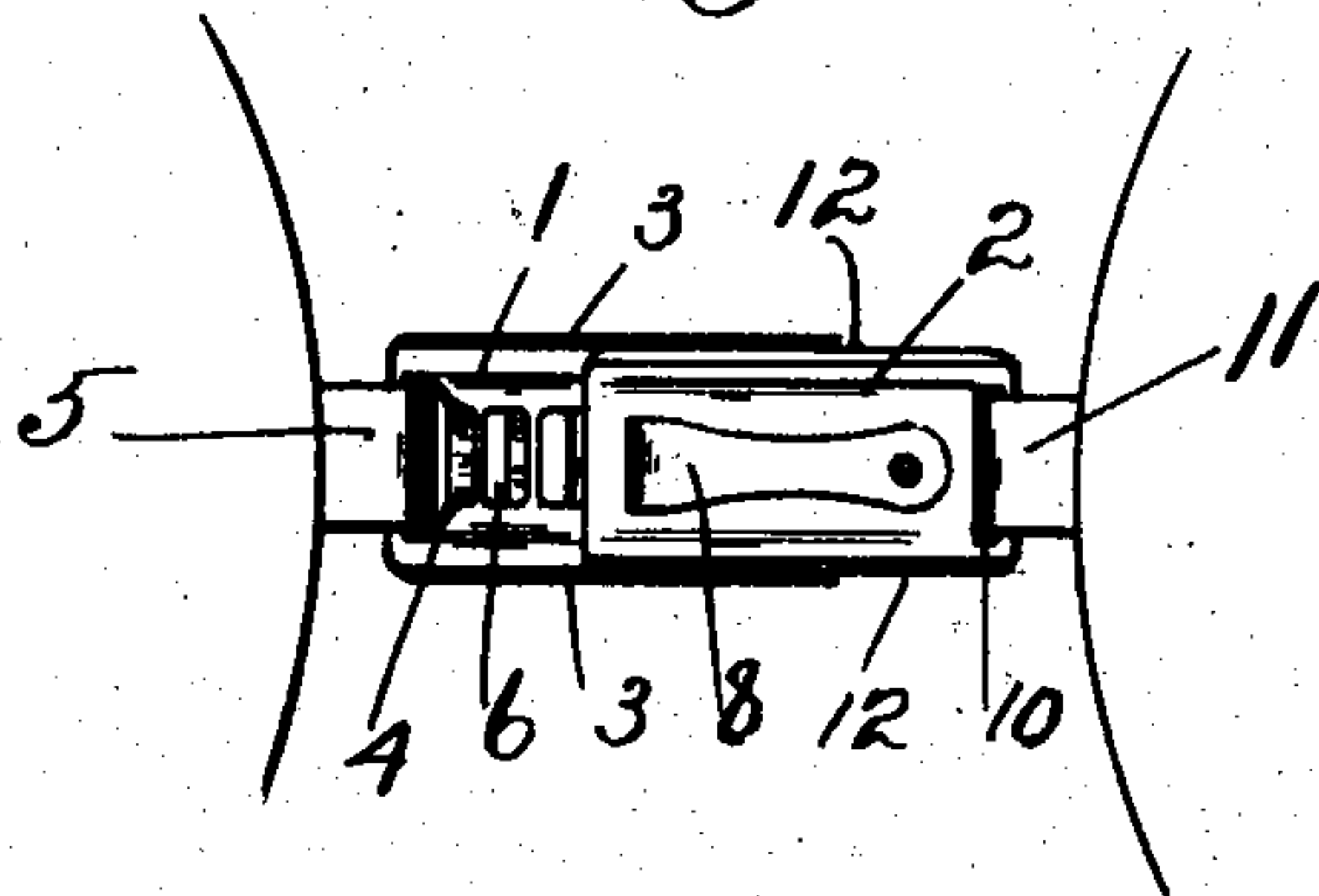


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

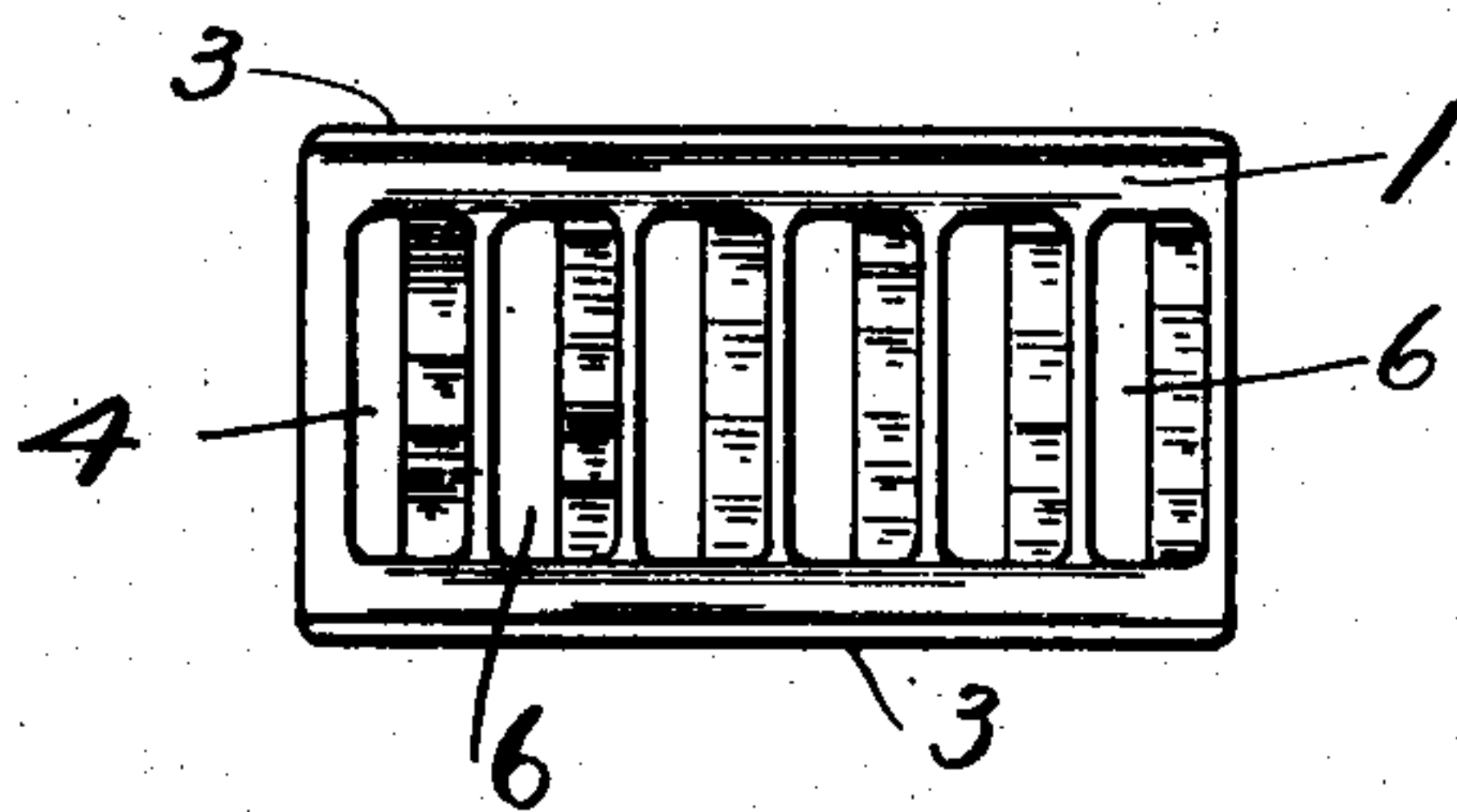


Fig. 4.

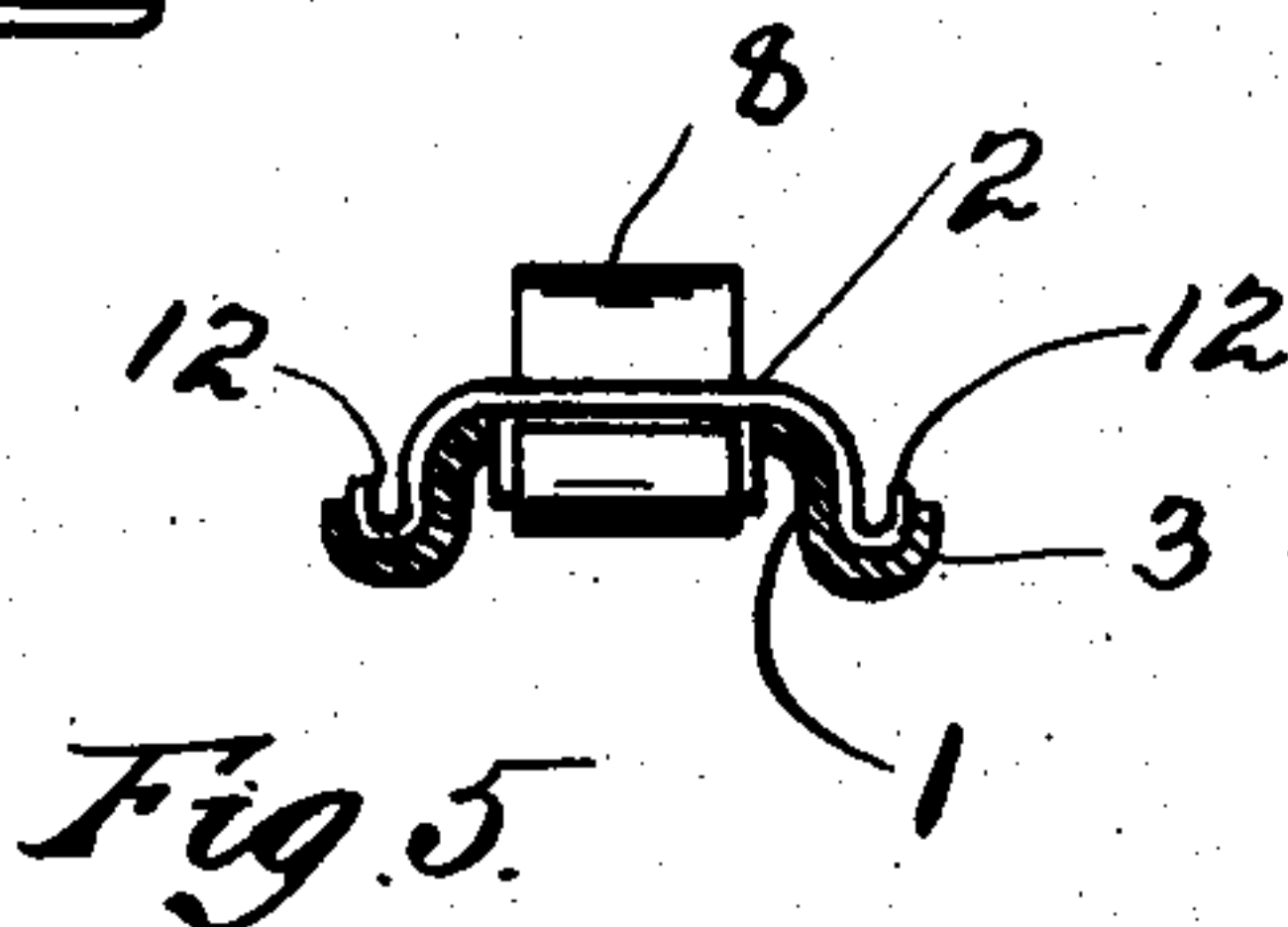
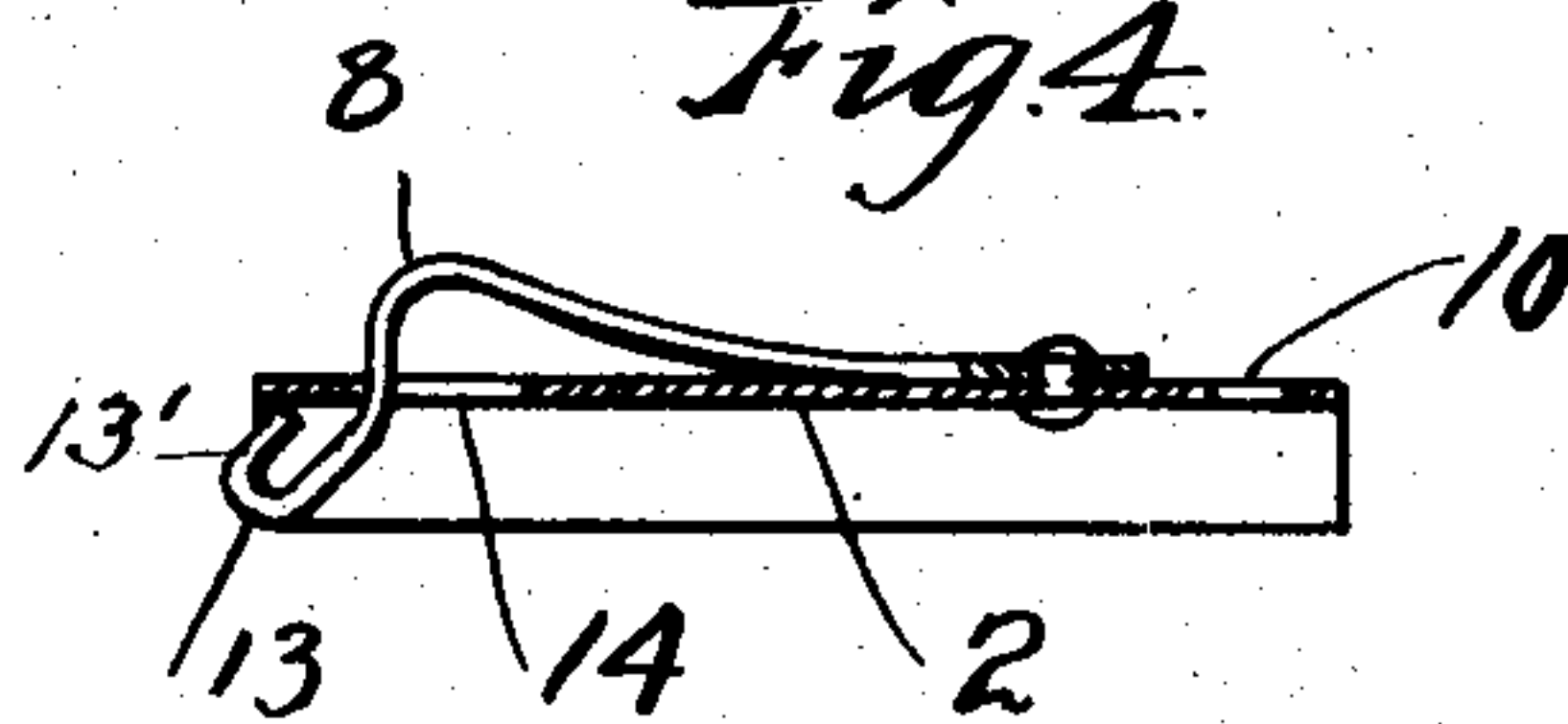


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE E. PEIRCE, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## SHOE-FASTENING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 784,224, dated March 7, 1905.

Application filed April 16, 1904. Serial No. 203,420.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE E. PEIRCE, a resident of the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Fastening Devices; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and  
10 to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to fastening devices which are more particularly adapted to serve in the capacity of a buckle for overshoes, arctic  
15 ties, and the like, and is an improvement on the construction shown and described in my application for Letters Patent on a shoe-fastening device, filed February 10, 1904, Serial No. 192,893.

20 The fastening device comprises, generally speaking, two members, one secured to each side or portion of the upper of a shoe or the like, the members slidably engaging each other and having means for locking them together in position, so as to bring the sides of  
25 the shoe-upper near together or hold them farther apart, as is desired.

One object of the invention is to provide a simple, effective, and inexpensive fastening device which will enable the ready attaching and  
30 detaching of its said two members.

A feature of the invention is to produce a fastening device which will offer no ends, points, or corners onto which a lady's dress  
35 may catch, as the catching of the skirt on the shoe-buckle is a great annoyance to ladies, as it oftentimes tears the skirt, or in trying to detach the same the buckle becomes unclapsed.

Another feature of my device is that it may  
40 be locked automatically by simply pressing the two members together, and when once locked it cannot be unclapsed either by pulling or pushing on the two parts except when the lock-spring is depressed and the hooked  
45 member carried ahead.

The invention consists of other novel features and parts and combinations of the same, as will be fully described hereinafter and then pointed out in the appended claims.

50 A practical embodiment of the invention is

represented in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 represents a practical embodiment 55 of my invention, showing the two parts hooked together and in the position it will take when attached to a shoe or the like. Fig. 2 is an enlarged central longitudinal section showing the two members attached together 60 and the manner in which the spring-tongue engages the downwardly-turned edge of the bar or bridge between the openings. Fig. 3 is an enlarged top view of the member which contains the eyes or openings. Fig. 4 is an 65 enlarged longitudinal sectional elevation of the member containing the hook. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on line 5 5 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawings, 1 is the lower 70 member, and 2 the upper. The member 1 of the device, as will be seen from the drawings at Fig. 5, has a raised middle portion extending throughout its length, leaving a space beneath for the reception of the hooked portion 75 of the spring-tongue. The lower edges are turned up at 3 3, forming longitudinal grooves or channels on each side thereof. These up-turned edges serve to strengthen or stiffen this member and at the same time form a guide 80 for the upper member, which slides thereon. At one end of this member is a slot or opening 4, through which it may be attached to the side of the shoe or the like by a strap, as shown at 5 in Fig. 1, or by any other suitable 85 means. This member is provided with a series of holes or openings 6 through its raised middle portion through which the spring-hook 8 enters. Between these openings 6 are transversely-disposed bars or ribs 7, which bars are 90 turned down at one edge 9, making said bars stand at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees to the upper surface. By turning said bars down at an angle they serve to aid in guiding the hook to draw it down auto- 95 matically until it catches and hooks itself over the downwardly-turned edge of the bar as said upper member is pressed downward and forward. The upper member 2 also has a raised middle section to correspond in form to 100



the upper surface of the under member 1, over which it fits and slides longitudinally. On one end of this member is also a slot or opening 10, through which it may be secured to the side of the shoe or the like and is shown in Fig. 1 as being attached by the strap 11. Each edge 12 12 along the side of this member is also slightly turned up, so that it will correspond with and fit into the longitudinal grooves on each side of the lower member, by which grooves said upper member is guided. At 8 is a spring-tongue, shown as being secured by rivets to the upper side or back of the said upper member 2; but said tongue may be made integral with the back, cut out and raised from the same, if desired. This tongue is raised or bent up from the point where it is secured and turned down approximately at right angles, projecting down through the opening 14 in the back. The lower portion of this spring-tongue after passing through the back is carried forward and the end again turned forward or inclined at 13, forming a hook to engage the lower edges 9 of the downwardly-turned bars when the two members are in position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the free end of the hook 13' forming an inclined lip 13'.

When my improved buckle is applied to a shoe, the upper portion is attached to one side and the lower portion to the opposite side thereof, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The two sides of the shoe are drawn together by the hands, and that portion of the buckle containing the spring-hook is placed over the portion containing the openings, the hook entering the desired opening in said lower member. Then by pressing the upper member downward and forward at the same time the inclined forward end of the spring-hook engages the forward edge of the bar, which by reason of said inclination draws said hook down until it catches over the lower edge of said bar and the two members are securely locked together. To disengage the buckle, it is only necessary to press on the spring-tongue with a forward movement of the hand and the two parts at once become disengaged.

It will be observed that by my peculiar construction of hook it is impossible to unclasp the shoe by simply pressing downward on the spring, as the lower end of the hook is turned back, so that it engages the upper side of the bar and cannot be pressed directly down, thereby obviating any danger of the shoe accidentally unbuckling, which might occur by crossing the feet.

I do not wish to be restricted to the exact construction herein shown and described, as many slight modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

A shoe-buckle constructed as herein described is not only both strong and durable, but is inexpensive and can be manufactured

and placed upon the market at a comparatively small cost. It is positive in its action, and its simplicity of construction and ease of operation materially enhances the value of shoes to which such buckle is attached.

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

1. A device of the character described comprising a lower member having transverse locking-bars, an upper member adapted to slide on said lower member, and a resilient tongue carried by said upper member, said tongue being provided with means coacting with said lower member for automatically guiding the tongue between said bars and into engagement with the under sides thereof.

2. A device of the character described comprising a lower member having transverse locking-bars, and an upper member adapted to slide on said lower member and provided with a resilient tongue, said tongue being provided with a hook-like end coacting with said lower member to automatically depress the tongue into engagement with the bars of said lower member.

3. A device of the character described comprising a lower member having transverse locking-bars, and an upper member adapted to slide on said lower member and provided with a resilient tongue, said tongue being provided with a forwardly-inclined hook portion constructed to automatically engage the bars of said lower member.

4. A device of the character described comprising a lower member provided with inclined transverse locking-bars, and an upper member carrying a resilient tongue provided with means for automatically depressing the same between said bars and into engagement with the under side thereof.

5. A device of the character described comprising a lower member provided with inclined transverse locking-bars, and an upper member provided with a resilient tongue provided with a forwardly-inclined hook portion constructed to automatically engage said bars.

6. A device of the character described comprising a lower member, an upper member adapted to slide thereon, and a depressible resilient tongue carried by said upper member, the forward end of said tongue being provided with means coacting with said lower member for automatically depressing said tongue into locking engagement with said lower member.

7. A device of the character described comprising an upper member provided with a depressible resilient tongue, a lower member provided with a plurality of recesses, and means carried by the forward end of said tongue and coacting with the lower member to automatically depress the tongue into engagement with said recesses.

8. A device of the character described com-



prising an upper member provided with a resilient tongue having a forwardly-inclined hook, and a lower member provided with a plurality of recesses, and means for automatically guiding the hook end of said tongue into said recesses.

9. A device of the character described comprising a lower member, an upper member adapted to slide thereon and provided with a resilient locking-tongue having an inclined lip, said lower member being provided with transverse bars constructed to intercept the path of movement of said tongue as said upper member is slid forward to locking position.

10. A device of the character described comprising a lower member, an upper member adapted to slide thereon and provided with a resilient locking-tongue having an inclined lip, said lower member being provided with transversely-arranged inclined bars adapted to intercept the path of movement of said inclined lip as said upper member is slid forward to locking position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of April, A. D. 1904.

GEORGE E. PEIRCE.

In presence of—

HOWARD E. BARLOW,  
FRANK A. FOSTER.