F. B. ROBERTSON.

ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 28, 1909.

969,982.

Patented Sept. 13, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

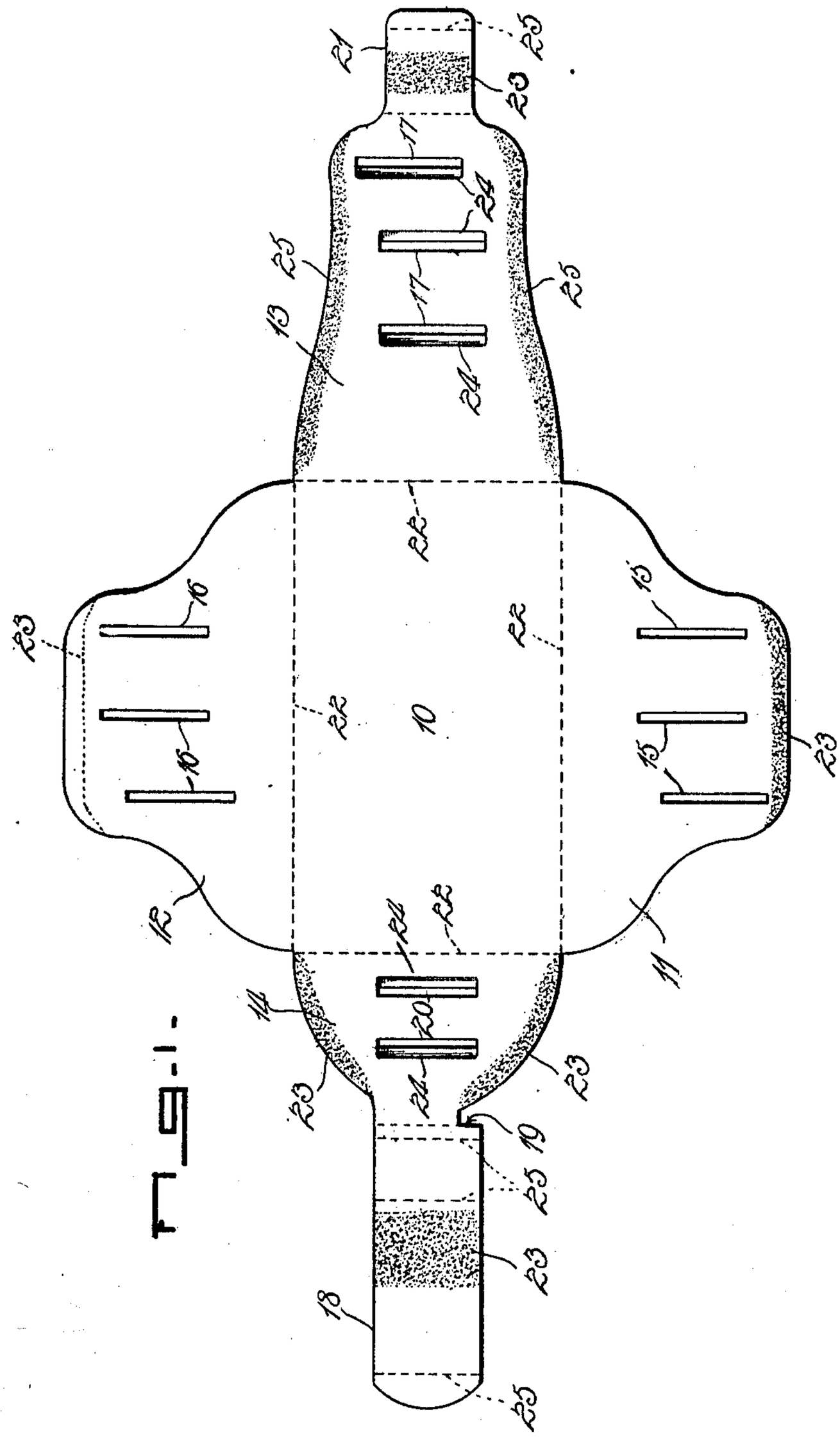

FIG. 1.

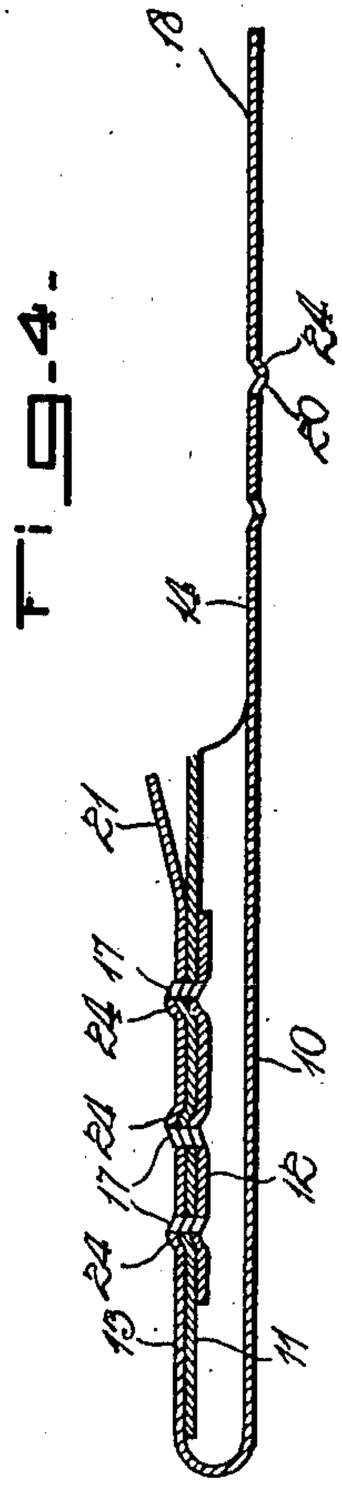

FIG. 4.

Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

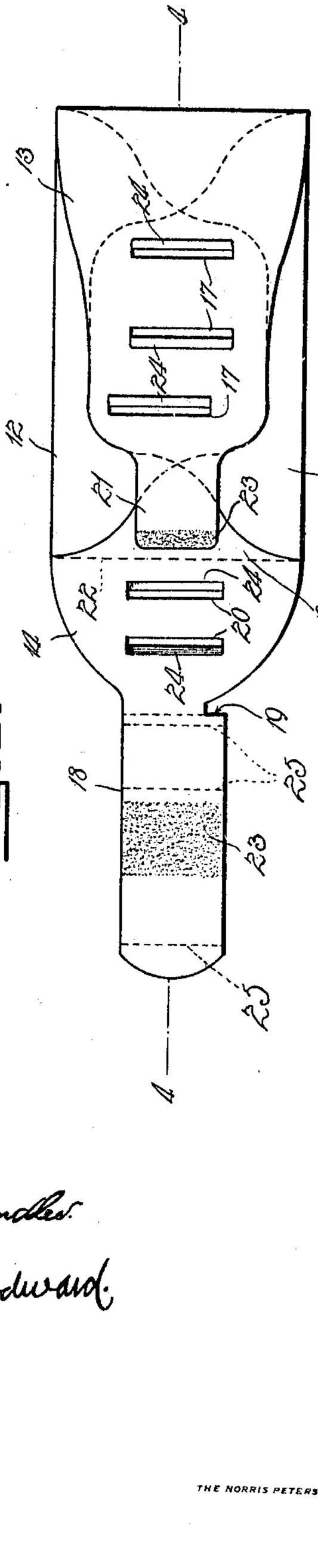

FIG. 2.

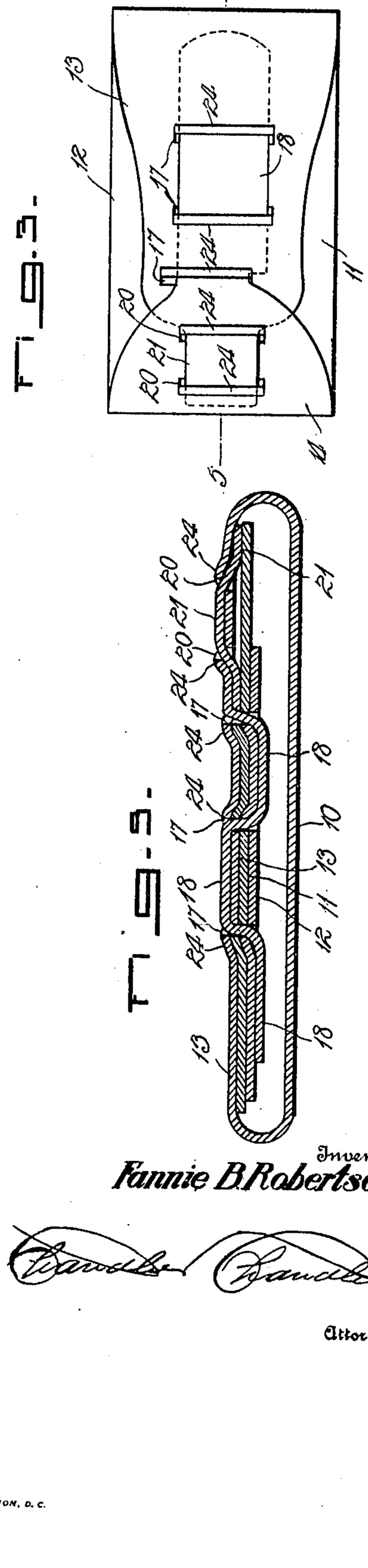

FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FANNIE B. ROBERTSON, OF LOHN, TEXAS.

ENVELOP.

969,982. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Sept. 13, 1910.**

Application filed June 28, 1909. Serial No. 504,716.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FANNIE B. ROBERTSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lohn, in the county of McCulloch, State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops; and I do hereby 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 relates to envelops of the class wherein provision is made for preventing surreptitious access to the contents thereof, or what is known as "safety" envelops, and has for one of its objects to improve the construction and increase the efficiency and utility of devices of this character.

With this and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction as hereafter shown and described and then specifically pointed out in the claims, and in the drawings illustrative of the preferred embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 is a view of the blank from which the envelop is constructed. Fig. 2 is a view of the envelop with the side flaps and one end flap folded, or in condition to receive the contents. Fig. 3 is a view of the envelop completely folded. Fig. 4 is a section, enlarged, on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a section, enlarged, on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

The improved envelop may be of any required size, or constructed from any required quality of paper or other material, and it is not desired therefore to limit the invention to any specific form or size of envelop, or to envelop employed for any purpose.

The envelop comprises the body portion 10, side flaps 11—12 and end flaps 13—14 and foldable along the lines 22. The side flap 11 is provided with transverse slots 15 spaced apart, while the side flap 12 is provided with similar slots 16. Three of the slots 15 and three of the slots 16 are employed. Two of the slots 15 are arranged to register with the corresponding slot 16 when the flaps 11—12 are folded upon the body 10, while the remaining slot 16 likewise registers with the remaining slot 15, but are located out of alinement with the other slots 15—16, as shown. By this means when the side flaps 11—12 are folded upon each other and upon the body 10, the slots 15—16 will exactly register, but will be arranged in somewhat staggered relations, the object to be hereafter explained.

The flap 13 is provided with spaced slots 17, with the slot farthest from the body 10 offset to a corresponding degree to the offset slots 15—16, as shown. The various slots will be so arranged that when the side flaps 11—12 are folded upon the body and overlapping each other, and the end flap 13 is folded over the side flaps, the various slots will register as represented in Fig. 4. The end flap 14, which is also the closure flap of the envelop, is provided with a tongue 18 having a notch 19 in one side at its juncture with the end flap and with its side edges in parallel relations as shown. The end flap 14 is also provided with spaced slots 20, while the end flap 13 is provided with a tongue 21 extending from its free end and adapted to be woven through the slots 20 when the envelop is folded, as hereafter explained.

The tongue 18 is designed to be woven through the superimposed slots 15—16—17, the body of the tongue corresponding in width to and engaging through the slots, while the inner end of the notch 19 corresponds to the inner ends of the offset slots, so that when the envelop has received its contents the tongue 21 will be woven through the slots 20, and the tongue 18 woven through the superimposed slots 15—16—17, and when the tongue 18 is thus forced through the superimposed slots to its full length, the notch 19 will receive the material of the envelop at the inner ends of the offset slots as indicated, and thus materially assist in holding the tongue in locked and irremovable position relative to the flaps. The parallel sides of the tongue 18 are an important feature of the invention as the major portion of the tongue is retained in place by the material of the flap 13 and effectually prevents any lateral movement of the tongue which would otherwise cause the notch 19 to become disengaged from the offset slot. The slight "springiness" present in the material of the tongue is thus utilized to accomplish the desired results. By this means it will be obvious that after the envelop has been closed and the various flaps inserted through the slots, any attempt to open the envelop will result in fracturing the tongue 18 at the weakened point where the notch 19 is

formed. When inserting the tongue 18, it is necessary to crowd the same laterally to enable it to pass through the offset slots, and the strain thus applied to the material of envelop will cause it to naturally force the tongue laterally with the notch engaging against the material at the inner ends of the offset slots, so that the tongue 18 automatically assumes the position indicated in Fig. 3. The tongue will thus not need any crowding to cause it to assume its locked relations to the flaps. The inner faces of the various flaps and of the tongues are provided with mucilage or other adhesive material 23 where indicated, so that the security of the envelop is increased.

The side flaps 11—12—13 and 14 and tongues 18 and 21 are provided with adhesive material as indicated at 23, so that when the envelop is folded ready to receive its contents as shown in Fig. 3, the parts 11—12—13 may be secured thereby. This may be done at the factory, so that the envelop is furnished to the trade with all of the parts except the closure flap sealed, as will be understood. By this arrangement after the contents have been deposited in the envelop, it is only necessary to moisten the tongue 21 and weave it through the slots 20 and then moisten the tongue 18 and weave it through the registering slots 17—15 and 16, and applying the usual pressure to complete the sealing.

It will thus be noted that a simply constructed and effective envelop is produced, which may be manufactured at only a slight increase of expense over the ordinary make of envelop, while its efficiency and utility are materially increased.

The material of the envelop adjacent to the slots 20—17 is pressed laterally to form raised portions at one side and depressed portions at the other side as shown at 24, to facilitate the weaving of the tongues 18 and 21 through the slots, as will be obvious. Adhesive material is also placed upon the the opposite side of the tongue 18 between the adhesive material 23 and the flap 14 and also upon the same side in advance of the adhesive material 23, and likewise at the tips of the tongues as indicated at 25.

What is claimed, is:—

1. An envelop including a body having closure flaps extending from two opposite sides and foldable over the body, one of said flaps having a plurality of slots with the slot nearest to the terminal of the flap offset laterally, and a tongue extending from the other flap with its sides in parallel relations and with a recess at the juncture of the tongue and the flap, the bottom of the recess being arranged to correspond to the inner end of the offset slot and the parallel sides of the tongue corresponding to the remaining slots, so that when the tongue is woven through the slots the offset slot will be engaged by the portion of the tongue in which the recess is located and the parallel sided portion of the tongue will cause the tongue to be retained in position when threaded through the remaining slots.

2. An envelop including a body having closure flaps extending at its edges and foldable over the body and overlapping three of said flaps each having a plurality of slots which register when the flaps are folded with the slots nearest to the other flap offset laterally, and a tongue extending from said other flap with its sides in parallel relations and with a recess at the juncture of the tongue and the flap, the bottom of the recess being arranged to correspond to the inner ends of the offset slots and the parallel sides of the tongue corresponding to the remaining slots, so that when the tongue is woven through the slots the offset slots will be engaged by the portion of the tongue in which the recess is located and the parallel sided portion of the tongue will cause the tongue to be retained in position when threaded through the remaining slots.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

FANNIE B. ROBERTSON.

Witnesses:

A. W. Tipton,

M. J. Campbell.