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BOOT OR SHOE

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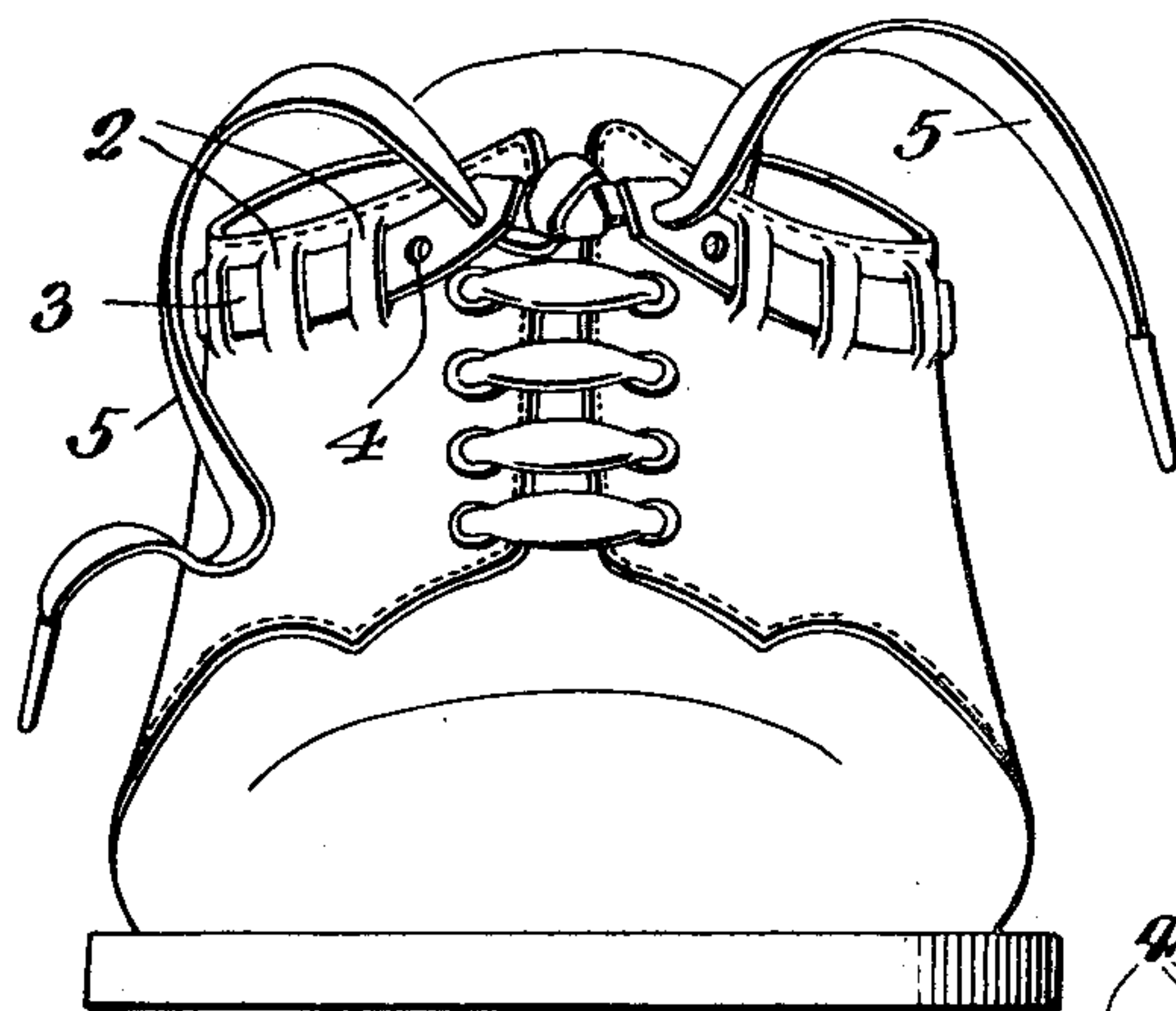


Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

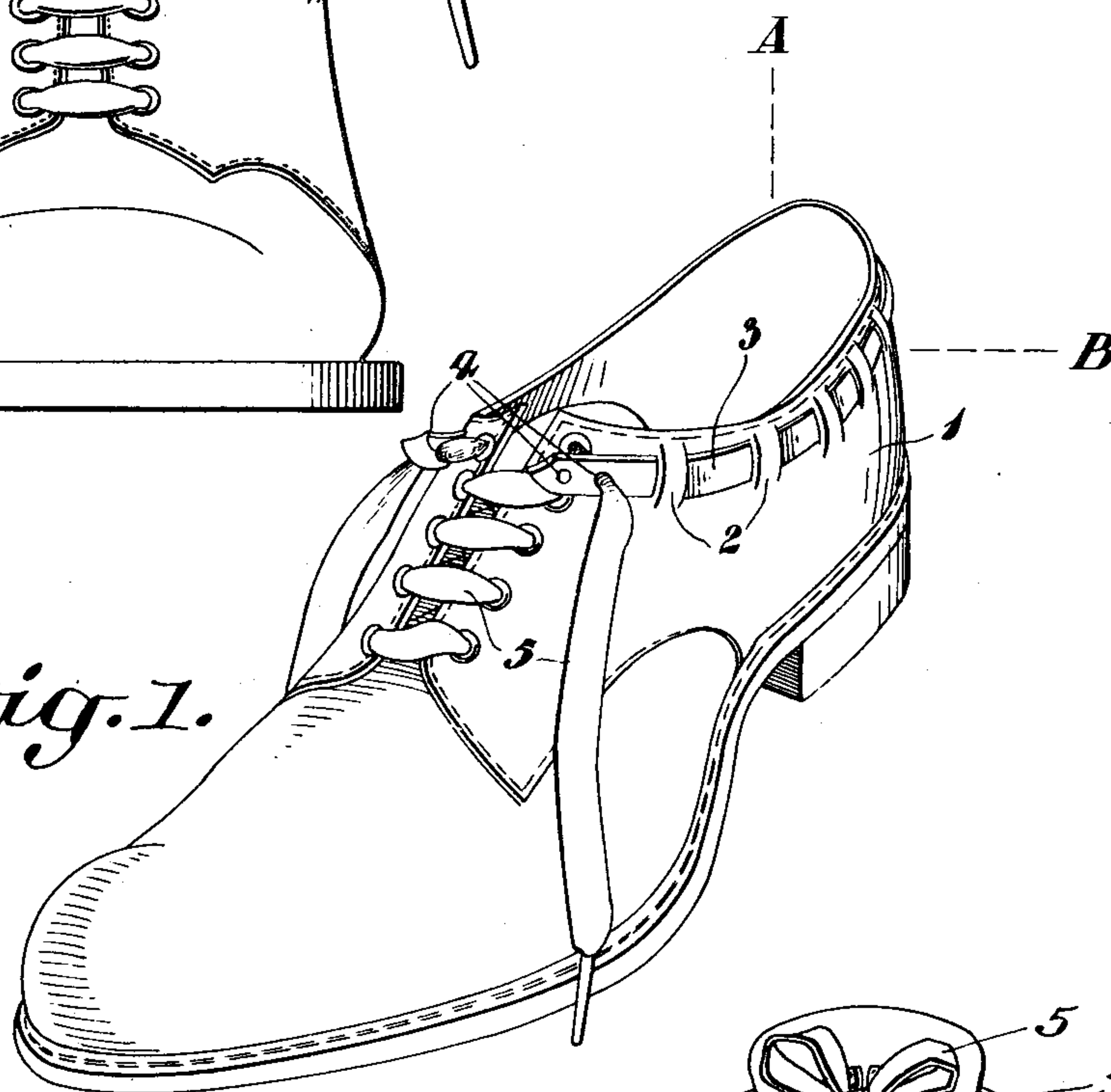
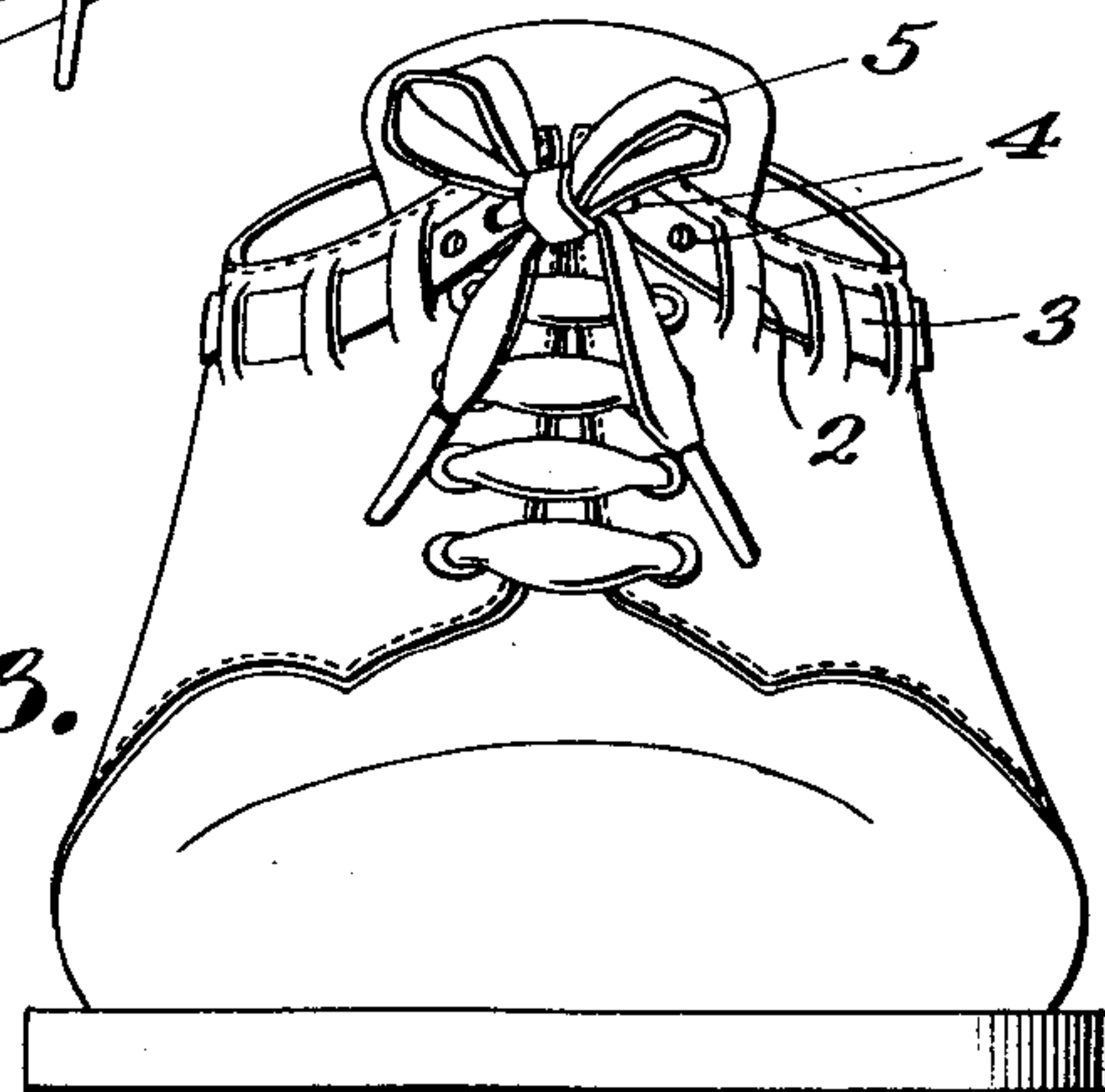


Fig. 3.



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BOOT OR SHOE.

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This invention comprises improvements in or relating to boots and shoes and has for its object to furnish means of a simple character for enabling the most effective grip compatible with comfort and ease to be obtained in a boot or shoe around the ankle of the wearer.

This close fit or grip around the ankle is particularly desirable in connection with sports footwear such as golf shoes or the like, but it is to be understood that the invention is in no way restricted to any particular class of boot or shoe.

A feature of the present invention consists in a boot or shoe provided with a strap or band which encircles the upper and is carried by parts or elements provided on said upper in such a manner as to be adjustably tightened around the upper and cause said upper to grip the ankle of a wearer to the desired degree.

Another feature consists in interlacing the strap or band through parts of the boot or shoe upper and providing means whereby the tightening of the strap or band and consequently the binding of boot or shoe upper around the ankle is effected by the drawing up and fastening of the customary laces or the like.

For the purpose of more fully describing the nature of this invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 represents, in perspective, a shoe in accordance with the present invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are front views of the shoe illustrating the manner in which the invention may be used.

In one method of carrying out this invention same will be described as applied to a shoe. Around the shoe upper 1 in substantially close proximity to the top edge are provided a series of suitably spaced vertically disposed short slotted portions 2 which may be cut from the leather or other material of the upper 1 or secured by sewing or otherwise to said upper.

These portions 2 form slotted guides beneath which a leather or equivalent strap 3 is threaded or interlaced so as completely to encircle the upper, said strap 3 being capable of sliding lengthwise relatively to the upper.

The free ends of strap 3 are located at the front of the shoe, and said ends, which may be pointed or rounded, are conveniently provided with a plurality of spaced holes 4.

Through one of the holes 4 at each end of strap 3 is threaded the customary mohair or other lace 5 employed for fastening the shoe, the arrangement being such when said lace 5 is drawn up in the act of lacing the shoe, the ends of strap 3 are pulled together and draws the top part of the shoe upper around the ankle so as to grip same to the desired degree.

If desired that part of the strap 3 which extends round the rear or heel portion of the upper, i. e., between the positions marked A and B on the drawing, may be entirely free, and not supported by any portions such as 2, and in this way the tightening of the strap may be caused to draw the rear part of the upper tightly on to the heel.

It will be seen that the ends of the strap 3 that are toward the front are outside the shoe upper. This has the advantage that the shoe may be laced and secured, as by tying the ends of the lace 5, and thereafter the lace passed through the openings 4 in the ends of the strap and again united. By this arrangement it is possible to lace the shoe either loosely or tightly as may be found most comfortable and desirable, and then, the lace being secured by a single easily loosened knot, the strap may be drawn to the desired tightness and secured without changing the tightness of the lacing of the shoe. Thus, while but a single lace is employed, two quite independent adjustments of different parts of the boot or shoe are easily effected.

The invention can also be applied to boots, in which case the strap can be located around the upper at the position where the grip is required.

Claims:

1. In a boot or shoe, a strap or band encircling the upper, elements formed from parts of said upper through which the strap is interlaced without passing through to the interior of the shoe, and a plurality of perforations at the strap ends for accommodating the usual shoe lace and enabling the degree

of tightness of the strap and consequently also of the upper about the ankle to be adjusted.

2. In a laced boot or shoe a strap encircling the upper, guides through which the strap is threaded, the ends of the strap being perforated to receive a lace and lying on the outside of the shoe upper adjacent to the opening that is closed by the lace, and a lace

for the shoe or boot, the arrangement stated 10
permitting the edges of the upper to be drawn toward each other by the lace to the desired degree of tightness and then secured by knotting the lace and thereafter drawing the ends of the strap toward each other and 15
securing them to the desired degree of tightness by another knotting of the lace.

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