J. C. ARMS.

Fastenings for Pocket-Books, &c.

No. 217,315. Patented July 8, 1879.

Fig. 1.

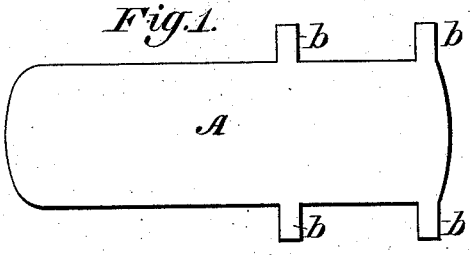


Fig. 2.

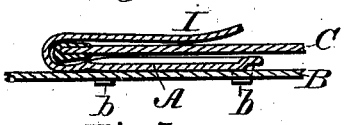


Fig. 3.

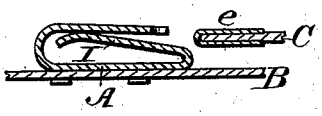


Fig. 4.

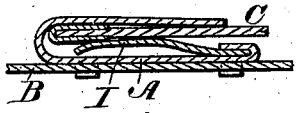


Fig. 5.

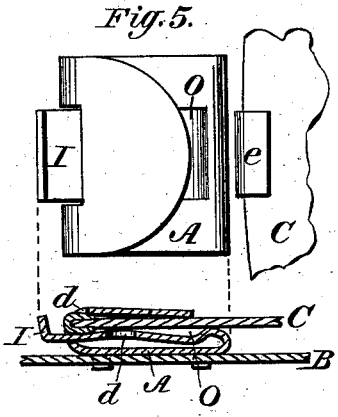


Fig. 6.

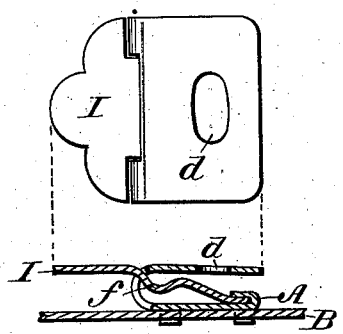


Fig. 7.

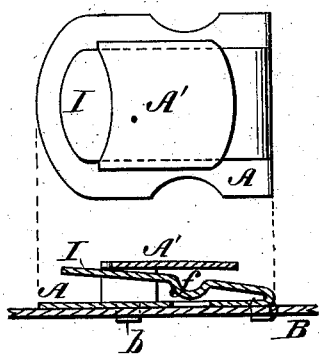


Fig. 8.

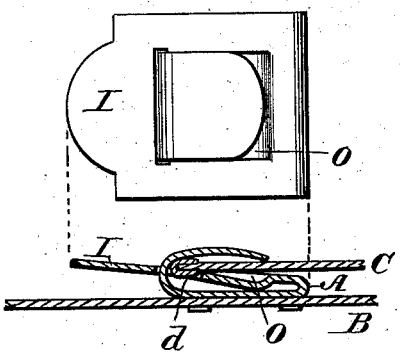
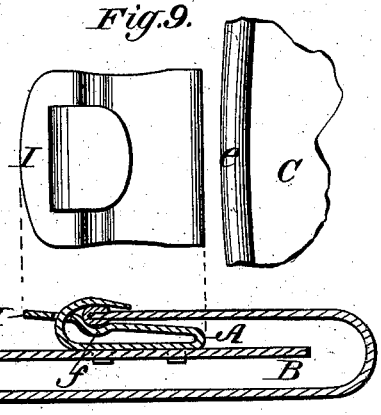


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. ARMS, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR POCKET-BOOKS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,315**, dated July 8, 1879; application filed May 19, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. ARMS, of Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain Improvements in Fastenings for Pocket-Books, &c., of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fastenings for pocket-books, diaries, and similar articles; and the invention consists of a spring clasp or clamp formed of sheet metal, so constructed and applied that the article is fastened by merely slipping the edge of the flap into the open mouth of the clasp, as hereinafter more fully described.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank for a fastening made on my plan.

The remaining figures, from 2 to 9, inclusive, represent the fastening as made in a variety of forms for use.

The object of this invention is to produce a fastening for pocket-books, diaries, and similar articles that shall be cheap to construct and more convenient to use than the fastenings generally used for this purpose.

Generally speaking, fastenings for pocket-books and similar articles are made with sliding or spring catches or bolts operating on the principle of a lock, requiring considerable care and time to open or close them, and which usually require the hasp or catch on the flap to be brought to an exact point to enter the hole in the lock, and making no allowance for the varying conditions of the pocket-book, as to whether it be full or empty. In addition to such fastenings requiring time and care to close or open them, they are more or less liable to get out of order in consequence of having very small springs and sliding or moving parts within them.

To obviate these objections and produce an exceedingly simple and cheap fastening, I make my improved fastening in the form of a simple spring clamp or clasp, and apply it in such a manner that its open end or mouth shall be fronting the edge of the flap to be fastened, so that all that is required is simply to push the edge of the flap into it to fasten, and pull it out to unfasten it.

The clasp itself may be made in a variety of styles, as illustrated in the drawings, but all operating on the same general plan. In its simplest form it may consist of a piece of sheet metal cut or punched out as shown in Fig. 1, in which A represents the body, having spurs or points *b* on its edges, by which it is fastened in place by inserting them through holes in the leather and bending them down, as shown in the several figures in section. This piece A, after bending these points *b* at a right angle, has its free end bent over, as represented in Fig. 2, its end being slightly curved outward, as shown, to enable the edge of the flap C to be readily shoved under it.

In the several sectional views B represents the side of the pocket-book or article to which the clasp is attached, and C represents the flap which folds over the edge; and it will be observed that the clasp is attached to the body B in such a position that its mouth or open side is opposite the edge of the flap C, so that there is nothing to do but to shove the edge of the flap into the open mouth of the clasp, as shown, the free end or tongue I acting as a spring to clamp and hold the flap fast.

In Fig. 3 the spurs *b* are shown located near the center, and both ends of the plate A are bent over, the under one, I, in this case serving as the spring-tongue, the flap C being shoved in between it and the upper end, as shown.

In Fig. 4 the tongue I is represented as being made of a separate piece of metal, and held in place by bending the end of the plate I over on it and pressing it down tightly, so as to clamp and hold it fast. This plan, which is also shown in some of the other modifications, enables me to make the tongue I of steel or other spring metal different from that of the part A, if desired.

In Fig. 5 the clasp is shown made of a single piece, the same as in Fig. 3, but with the end of the tongue I projecting through an opening at the oposite side, where it serves as a thumb-piece, by which the tongue or spring part can be depressed, if desired, in order to release the flap.

Fig. 6 represents the same general construction; but in this case the tongue I is made of a separate piece, the same as in Fig. 4. By making it separate in this way, and inserting it through the hole at the edge before fasten-

ing it to the body A, its outer end can be made wider and of any ornamental form desired, as shown.

Fig. 7 represents the same style of device, except that in this the upper part, A′, instead of being formed by bending over the plate A, is made of a separate piece, and the spurs *b* are made on it and are inserted through holes in the plate A, and to which it may be soldered fast at those points before applying it to the pocket-book, if desired, and as it would preferably be where the fastenings are made up for sale as separate articles, though if applied to the pocket-books where made it would not be necessary, as the spurs *b* when clamped on the leather would hold the parts securely in place.

Figs. 8 and 9 represent the fastening made of a single piece, similar to that shown in Fig. 5, except that the tongue-piece I has a hole made in it, through which the other and narrower end of plate A is made to protrude, and is bent over as shown.

In all cases the flap C is designed to have its edge where it engages under the clamp protected by a binding or piece of metal, *e*, as shown in the several sectional views. In some styles of pocket-books this metallic binding will be made to extend all along the edge of the flap C, as shown in Fig. 9.

In order to hold the flap more securely in the clamp, I form depressions of various styles or forms, in which the metal binding *e* engages when in place. These may consist of a bend or transverse groove, *f*, as represented in Figs. 6, 7, and 9, and which are specially adapted to the continuous metal binding; or they may consist of one or more holes, *d*, as shown in Figs. 5 and 8. Where the metal piece *e* is short, as shown in Fig. 5, a groove or depression, *o*, may be made of a width equal to the length of the piece *e*, to serve as a guide for the piece *e* as the flap is shoved in.

It is obvious that the depressions or holes in which the part *e* engages may be made in the upper or under member of the clamp, the result being the same in either case; and by making a series of them at different points, as represented in Fig. 5, where one hole is shown made in the tongue I at one point, and another in the upper arm at the edge where it is bent over, it will be seen that the flap may be held at these various points, thus accommodating the fastening to the condition of the pocket-book, and securing the flap equally well whether the pocket-book be full or empty.

It is obvious that the fastening may be made up in a variety of styles, and be made more or less ornamental, thus adapting it for use on all the various classes of goods made in these lines, its principle of construction and operation being the same in all cases.

By these means it will be seen that I am enabled to produce a very simple and cheap fastening, and that is exceedingly simple and convenient in its use.

I am aware that a fastening has been made in which a hinged plate with a spring to hold it open or closed is used, and also that a spring-catch provided with right-angled interlocking shoulders has been patented, and I do not claim such; but,

Having described my invention, what I claim, is—

The herein-described fastening for pocket-books, diaries, &c., consisting of the base-plate A, provided with spurs or points for securing it to the article, and the spring-plate I, the said parts being constructed and arranged to operate as set forth, whereby the flap is held by friction, and may be shoved in or drawn out of the fastening without releasing or operating any hinged or sliding fastenings.

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