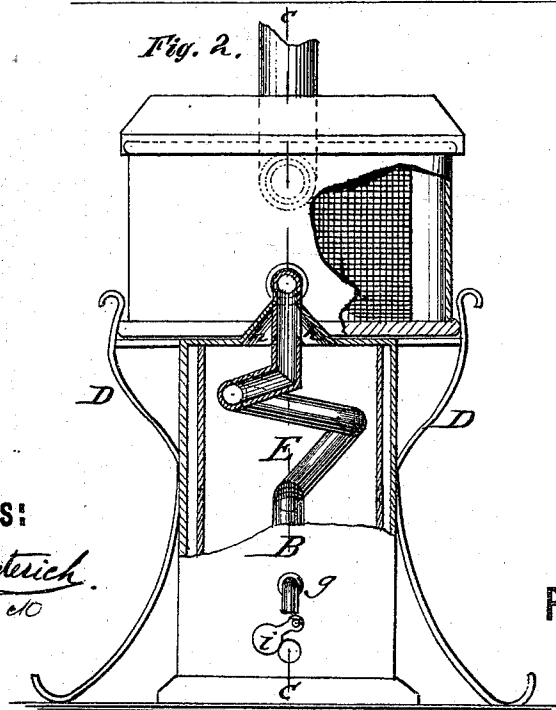
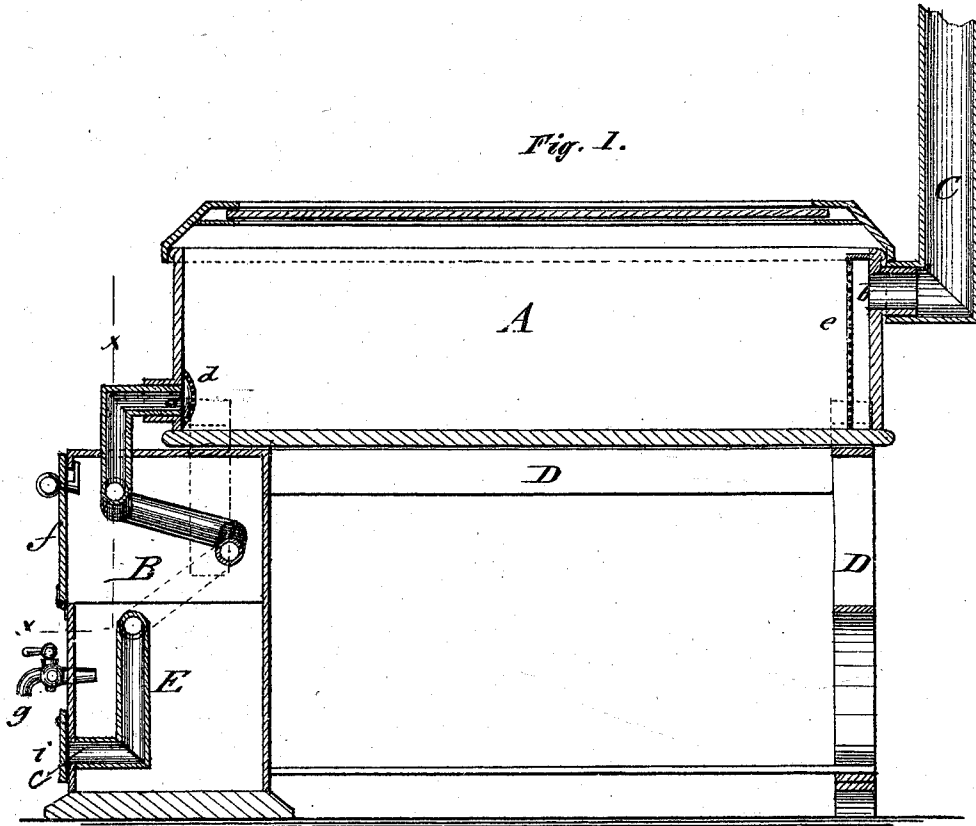


J. HOFFMAN.
Corpse-Coolers.

No. 142,393.

Patented September 2, 1873.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN HOFFMAN, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-COOLERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **142,393**, dated September 2, 1873; application filed April 19, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN HOFFMAN, of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Cooling and Ventilating Casket, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a vertical longitudinal section of my cooling and ventilating casket on the line *c c*, Fig. 2; and Fig. 2, a vertical transverse section of the same on the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of my invention is to furnish for the use of undertakers and others an improved cooling and ventilating casket, through which a constant current of fresh cold air is supplied, which carries off all gases of decomposition, conveying the same to the chimney, window, or other place, so that dead bodies may not only be preserved a greater length of time without difficulty, but also without causing annoyance by foul and putrid odors. My invention consists of a casket connected with ventilating pipes or tubes, and a cooler which sends a current of fresh air through apertures of the casket, the cooler forming at the same time one of the supports for the casket.

In the drawing, A represents the casket, of sheet metal or other suitable material, and glass or other cover. At one end of the casket A, near the bottom, is an aperture, *a*, provided at the inside with wire-gauze *d*, and at the outside connected by a projecting tube with the cooler B. A similar but larger aperture, *b*, near the top at the other end, connects at the outside with metallic pipes or India-rubber tubes C, which are carried to a proper distance and elevation and inserted into the chimney, floor, or window, so as to cause a draft through the casket. The inside of aperture *b* is also provided with a piece of wire-gauze, *e*, extending down to the bottom of the casket. The casket rests on suitable supporting-standards D, the cooler B being used as such at one side. The cooler B is constructed with double walls filled with non-conductors of heat, like the common coolers,

and is provided with a door, *f*, and faucet *g*, for putting in the ice and drawing off the water. One or more pipes, E, pass through the cooler, arranged in coils or other manner, and connect at the bottom of the cooler with the atmospheric air, and through the top by a knee-joint with projecting tube of aperture *a* of the casket. A sliding lid, *i*, of the opening of tube E regulates the supply of air to the cooler. At the top or roof of the cooler are located two short tubes, *h h*, which serve to conduct air from the cooler into the pipe E, thus permitting an increased amount of air to enter the casket. The casket may also be used without the cooler, if desired, in which case the projecting tubes at both ends may be closed by suitable screw-caps. In this manner the casket serves the purpose of the common cooling-caskets at present in use. These projecting tubes may also be closed by any other mechanical device, as valves, which may be opened and closed at will.

The economy and usefulness of a cooling and ventilating casket constructed as described are obvious. The cold air passes longitudinally through the casket from the cooler toward the upper end or opening, and escapes through the tubes to the outside of the room or house, thus checking decomposition and keeping the surrounding atmosphere pure and healthy. In connection with this process any disinfectants may be used for neutralizing the noxious odors of decomposing bodies.

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

1. The casket A, having apertures *a b*, with wire-gauze *d e* and projecting connection-tubes, substantially as described.

2. The combination of casket A with cooler B, having coil E and pipes *h*, and tubes C, for cooling and ventilating the interior of the casket, substantially as and for the purpose described.

JOHN HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

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D. E. MERRILL.