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EMBALMER'S ARM POSITIONING AND RETAINING DEVICE

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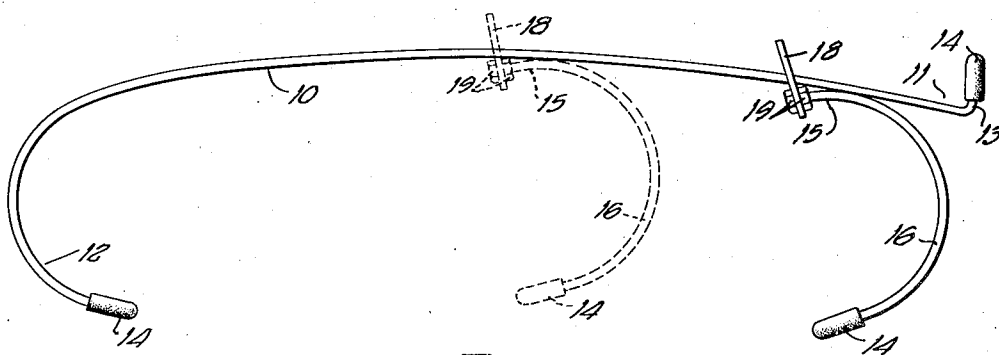


FIG. 1

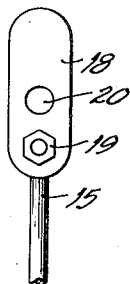


FIG. 2

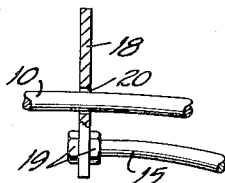


FIG. 3

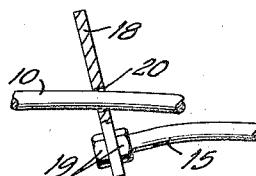


FIG. 4

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EMBALMER'S ARM POSITIONING AND
RETAINING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 27—1)

When an embalmer is preparing a body for burial, it is very desirable that the arms and hands be brought to a natural position with the elbows somewhat raised and lying against the sides of the body and with the hands folded over the abdomen and that the members be retained in such position for a desired period of time after the embalming operation has been carried out. In the absence of the foregoing precautions, the arms and hands assume unnatural positions and when rigor mortis has once set in, it is impossible to bring them into a permanently natural position.

The principal object of my invention, therefore, is the provision of a device which will bring the arms and hands of a deceased person into natural positions and retain the same in such positions.

A further object of my invention is a device of the foregoing character which is simple in construction and inexpensive to make and which is at the same time easy to manipulate and effective.

A still further object of my invention is the provision of a device which is sanitary and which may readily be sterilized.

Other objects of my invention will appear in the specification and will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

My invention will best be understood by reference to the accompanying drawing in which I have illustrated a preferred embodiment thereof and in which—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a device embodying my invention and illustrating one of the arm engaging members in full lines in one position and in dotted lines in a different position;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the clamping element;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary, front elevation partially in section illustrating the clamping element in a position where it is slidable along the main bar or wire of the device; and

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 illustrating the clamping element tilted to a clamping position.

Like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, 10 is a first bar or wire preferably formed of metal and curved so as to conform more or less to the contour of the human body, the bar being of sufficient length to extend across a body of usual proportions. The bar 10 is free at one end 11 and the opposite end thereof is curved as at 12 to engage the arm of a deceased person. The free end 11 of

the bar is preferably bent upwardly as at 13 and each end of the bar is preferably provided with a cushioning member 14 which may conveniently be formed of a section of rubber tubing placed on the respective ends of the bar to prevent mutilation of the body.

A second bar 15 is likewise curved at its outer end as at 16 and is adapted to engage the other arm of a deceased person, the opposite end of the bar 15 being attached to a clamping plate 18. The arm engaging portion of the bar 15 is preferably more sharply curved than the portion thereof which is attached to the clamping plate 18. In the embodiment of my invention illustrated the inner end of the bar 15 is threaded and passes through an opening in the clamping plate to which it may be secured, by nuts 19 attached to the threaded end of the bar 15, against opposite sides of the clamping plate although it will be understood that said element may be secured to the bar in any desired manner as by simply threading the end of the bar thereto, by welding, or the like.

The clamping plate 18 is provided with an opening 20 in which the bar 10 is received and along which it is slidable. The opening 20 is preferably substantially cylindrical as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4, and when the clamping element is in the position illustrated in Fig. 3, it, together with the bar 15 which is attached thereto, is slidable along the bar 10, and when tilted to the position illustrated in Fig. 4 in response to a pull exerted on the bar 15 it grips the bar 10 and locks the two bars against relative spreading movement. The free end of the bar 16 is likewise preferably provided with a cushioning member 14.

The bar 10, as well as the bar 15, is preferably comparatively small and flexible, and may readily be bent to conform in contour to that of a body across which it may extend and otherwise to meet the conditions under which it may be used.

The device embodying my invention is manipulated in the following manner: the arm engaging element 12 of the first bar is placed around one arm of the corpse, while the main portion of the bar 10 is laid across the chest and the curved portion 16 of the second bar is placed in a position to engage the second arm of the corpse. The clamping plate 18 is then slid along the first bar 10 to the left as viewed in Fig. 1 until the curved portion of the second bar brings the second arm into the desired position at which time a force will be exerted by the second arm against the second bar 15 in a direction away from the

curved arm engaging portion 12 of the first bar when the clamping plate 18 will be tilted to the position indicated in Fig. 4 and will be firmly clamped against the first bar thereby preventing a spreading movement of the second bar with respect to the first and of the second arm of the corpse with respect to the other arm, the arms of the corpse thereby being held in a desired position.

The device embodying my invention is susceptible of use on bodies of widely varying sides. The first bar 10 may be made of sufficient length to span a body of the largest size that would in ordinary practice be encountered, and may, for example, be 26 inches in length although it will, of course, be understood that I am not limited to any specific dimensions. By moving the second arm 15 along the first to the dotted line position indicated in Fig. 1, the arms may be spaced not more than 6 inches or even less, if desired, and may be caused to engage the arms of an infant and properly position the same.

The bent end 13 of the main bar 10 ordinarily serves as a stop to prevent accidental removal of the clamping plate 18 and the associated arm 15 from the main bar 10. At the same time, it serves to extend considerably the span of the arm engaging portions of the bars 10 and 15 since, by moving the clamping plate 18 to the right as viewed in Fig. 1 to a position where it engages the bent portion between the main bar 10 and the bent end 13, the bar 15 may be tilted outwardly about the said bent portion as a pivot and the space between the two arm engaging portions 12 and 16 very considerably increased. The end 13 of the bar 10 is bent away from the main portion thereof at such an angle as to prevent the clamping element from riding from the bent end.

It will be obvious that the arm engaging portions of my device engage the arms where there is

little likelihood of the device being fouled because of leakage from the body, and even should it be fouled it is readily cleansed and sterilized.

While I have described my invention in its preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the words which I have used are words of description rather than of limitation and that changes within the purview of the appended claims may be made without departing from the true scope and spirit of my invention in its broadest aspects.

What I claim is:

1. In a device of the character described, a first bar one end of which is shaped to engage an arm of a deceased person and of sufficient length to extend across the body of such person, a second bar shorter than said first bar and shaped to engage the other arm of said person, said second bar being provided with a clamping element having an opening in which said first bar is received whereby said second bar may be freely moved along said first bar in one direction but is clamped thereto when a force is exerted against the curved portion of said second bar in a direction away from the curved end of said first bar.

2. In a device of the character described, a first bar one end of which is shaped to engage an arm of a deceased person and of sufficient length to extend across the body of such person, a clamping element comprising a clamping plate having an opening in which said first bar is receivable and along which it is slidable and a second bar mounted upon and detachable from said clamping plate and shaped to engage the other arm of such person, whereby said clamping element is freely movable along said first bar but is clamped thereto when a force is exerted against the curved portion of said second bar in a direction away from the curved end of said first bar.

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