(Model.)

G. NIERSTHEIMER.

BURIAL CASE.

No. 290,996. Patented Dec. 25, 1883.

Fig. 1

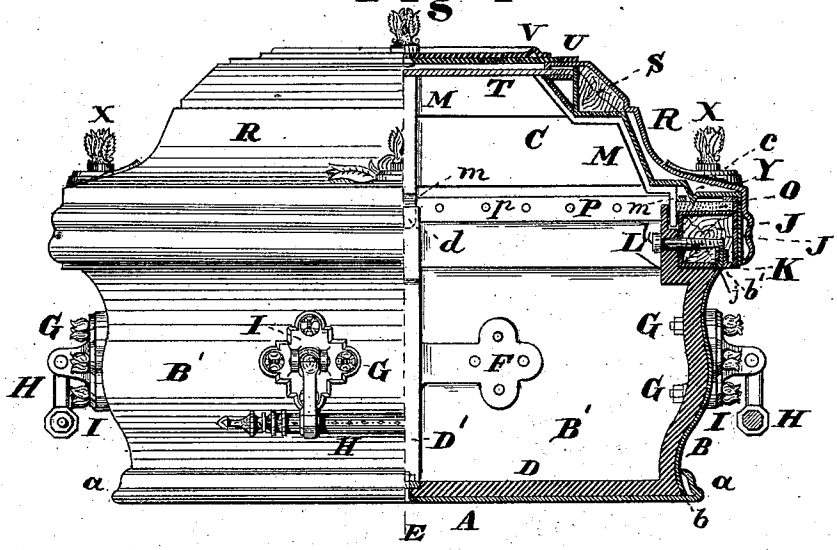
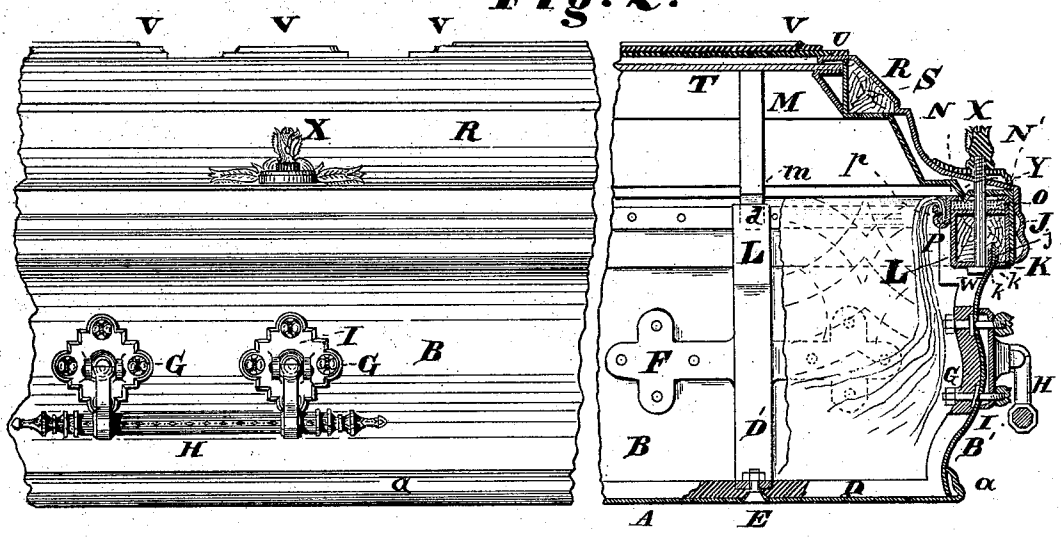


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE NIERSTHEIMER, OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY.

BURIAL-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,996, dated December 25, 1883.

Application filed February 24, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE NIERSTHEIMER, of Newport, Campbell county, Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Burial-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in those burial cases or "caskets" which are composed chiefly of zinc or of "galvanized" (zinc-plated) sheet-iron in association with other metals and with wood, rubber, &c., and have for their purpose an increase of strength and of hermetical qualities, with economy of space, weight, and material and capacity for expeditious closure.

My improvement consists, first, in forming the upper ends of the ribs with L portions, forming shoulders for supporting the rim or core, and having sockets for the tongues of the lid-ribs, as hereinafter described.

My improvement consists, further, in a body-rim having a core or filling of wood formed with a kerf in its lower side and incased in sheet metal, whose edges are turned up into the kerf, which also receives the upper edge of the body-plates, as hereinafter described.

My improvement consists, further, in a lid consisting of a main portion strengthened by tongued ribs, a sheathing surrounding the main portion, and a wooden filling, and windows secured between the sheathing and main portion, as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents, partly by end view and partly by transverse section, a composite burial-case embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents portions of such a case partly by side elevation and partly by longitudinal section.

When "sheet metal" is spoken of in this specification either sheet-zinc or zinc-plated sheet-iron is, by preference, indicated; but other forms of sheet-iron, or even other sheet metal, may be considered as included.

The bottom A and sides and ends B B′ or body-plates and the main portions C of the lid are of sheet metal. The bottom A has a strong upturned flange, *a*, which receives the lower edge, *b*, of the body-plates, and is soldered firmly thereto. This flange also serves as an ornamental molding or plinth.

D are longitudinal ribs or stiffening-pieces, which may be of cast-iron. Halved to said longitudinal ribs are transverse ribs D′, of the same metal. Countersunk screw-bolts E serve both to fasten together the ribs D and D′, and to attach both to the bottom A. Projecting from both longitudinal and transverse ribs are lugs F, which are pierced for bolts G, that serve the double purpose of attaching to the body-plates B B′ both the said ribs and the handles H, whose collar-plates or scutcheons I coact with said lugs to brace and stiffen the body. My body-rim is interiorly of wood J, that constitutes a core or filling, and is incased in sheet metal, K, whose edges *k k′* and the upper edge, *b′*, of the body-plates B B′ are driven forcibly into a groove or kerf, *j*, formed in the lower side of the said core. The ribs D D′ are perforated near their tops for bolts or screws *l*, which are driven into the body-rim through the L portions L at top of the ribs. The said ribs D D′ are also socketed, *d*, at top, for the tongues or lower extremities, *m*, of ribs M, that are employed to brace and stiffen the lid. Said tongues serve as guiding-dowels in accurately and expeditiously closing the lid. The said metallic casing of the body-rim is prolonged upward to form confining-lips N N′ for rubber gasket O, and a confining-lip, P, for the arras or lining-cloth Q, of any material, whose upper edge, having been inserted within said lip, is tightly secured therein by the formation of a series of indentations, *p*, formed by means of a prick-punch.

Soldered outside of the main portion C of the lid is a sheathing, R, that, besides serving to stiffen the lid, imparts also any desired ornamental configuration or finish to its exterior.

Inclosed between the parts C and R is a wooden filling, S, and said parts C and R at their upper edges also serve to hold the glass windows T. To the upper edge of R is attached the top plate, U, and panel V.

Bolts W, that pass from within the body vertically upward through the rim J K O, correspond with orifices *c* in the lid, through which they project sufficiently to receive nuts X, by which the lid is fastened to the body. A V-edge, Y, that projects downward from the lid-plate C entirely around its circuit, presses on the gasket O, when the nuts X have been

screwed home, with sufficient force so as to hermetically close the case.

I am aware that it has been proposed to partially incase the wooden rim of burial-cases with sheet metal; but the wood in such arrangements, being liable to shrink and swell with the great hygrometric changes to which such structures are subject, is liable to distort the form of the margin, and permit the escape of mephitic gases.

I am also aware that special provisions of various forms exist for holding the rubber or other luting, and other provisions for holding the upper edges of the lining, and also that burial-cases have been constructed in which the lower edges of the body-plates have been received within the upturned flange of the bottom plate, and I therefore make no claim to such, separately considered.

I claim as new and of my invention—

1. The combination of coffin-body A B B′, longitudinal and transverse ribs D D′, having L portions L at their upper ends, each formed with a socket, *d*, and a rim consisting of core J and casing K, as set forth.

2. The body-rim consisting of core or filling J, having groove or kerf *j*, and casing K, having upturned edges *k k′* in said groove, in combination with the body A B B′, having upper edges, *b*, entering the groove between the edges of the casing, as set forth.

3. The coffin-lid consisting of main portion C, ribs M, having tongues *m*, sheathing R, filling S, and window-frame, as set forth.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

GEORGE NIERSTHEIMER.

Attest:

GEO. H. KNIGHT,

SAML. S. CARPENTER.