(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. KARNICKI.

COFFIN.

No. 572,118. Patented Dec. 1, 1896.

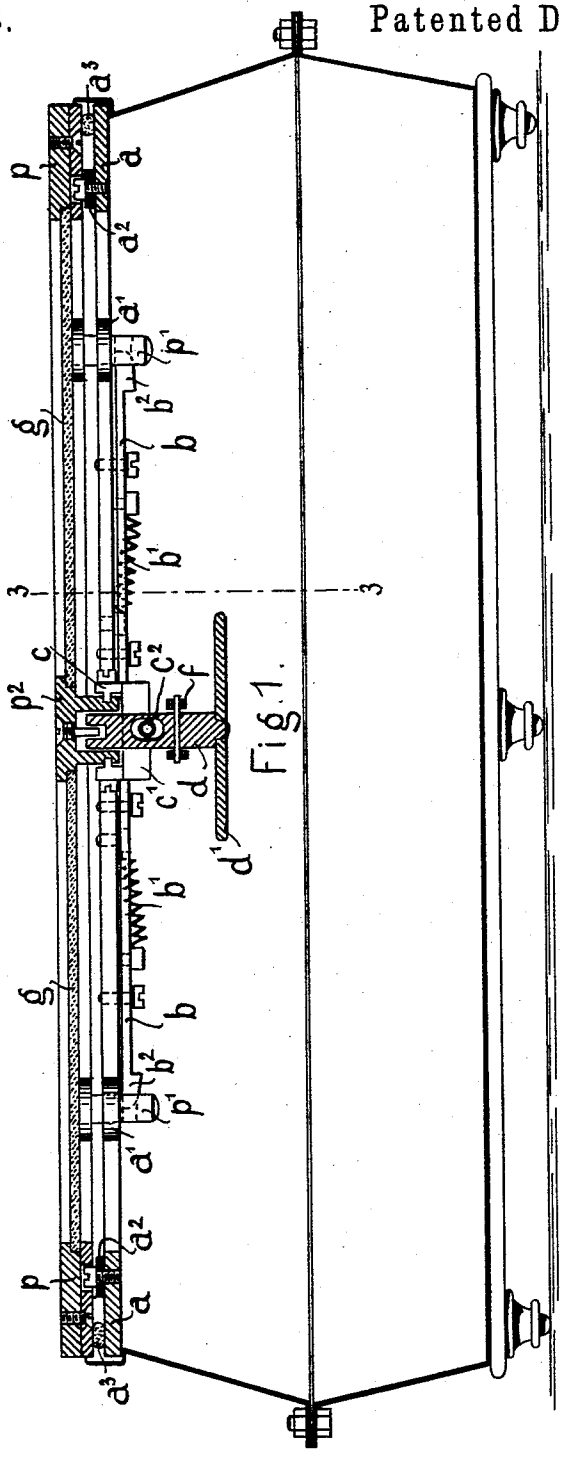

Fig. 1.

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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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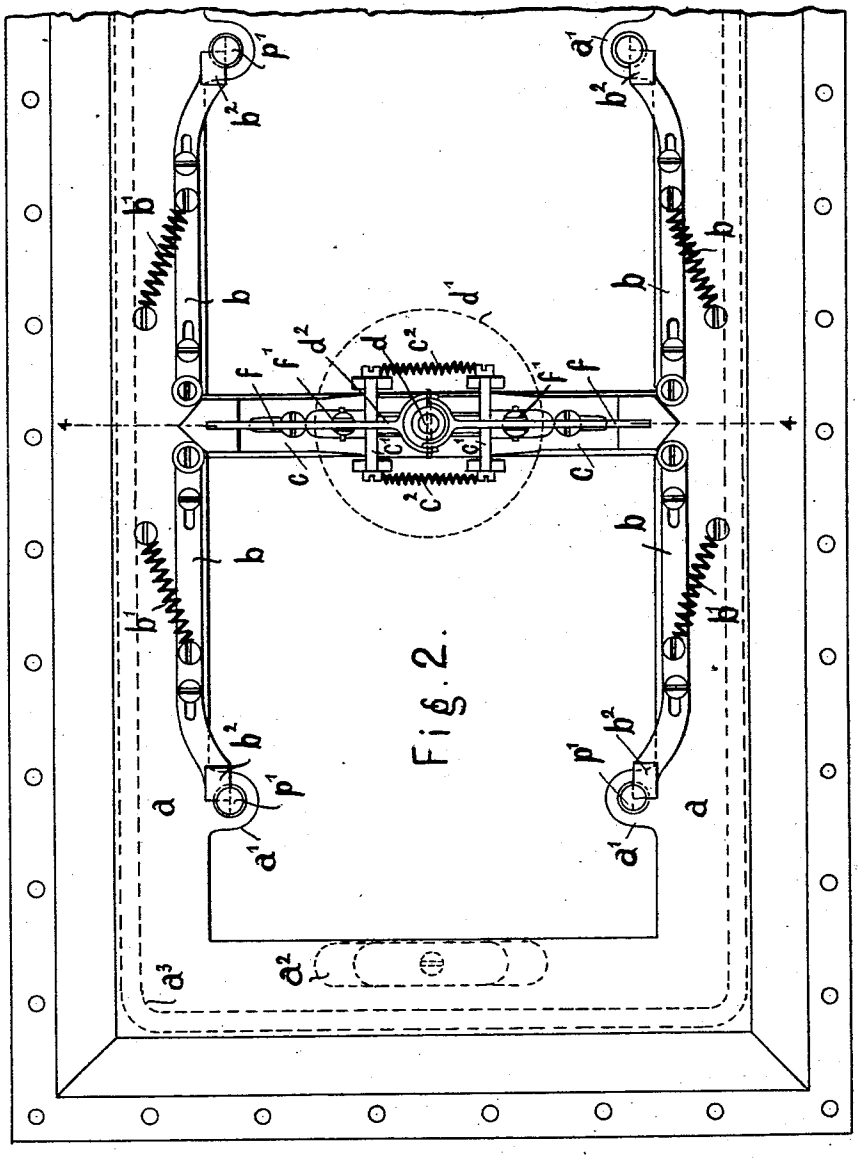

Fig. 2.

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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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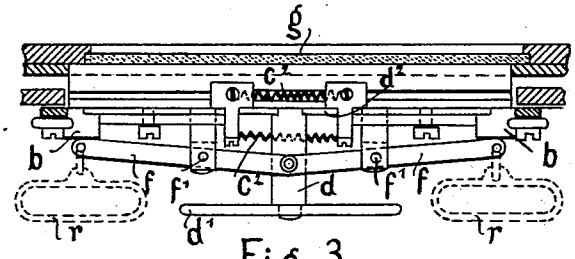

Fig. 3

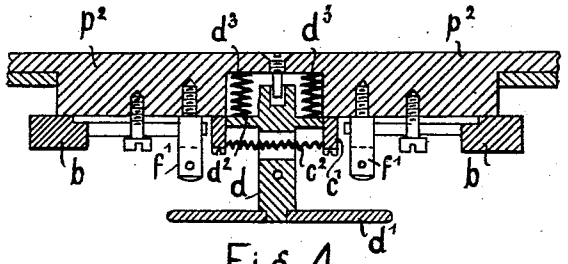

Fig. 4.

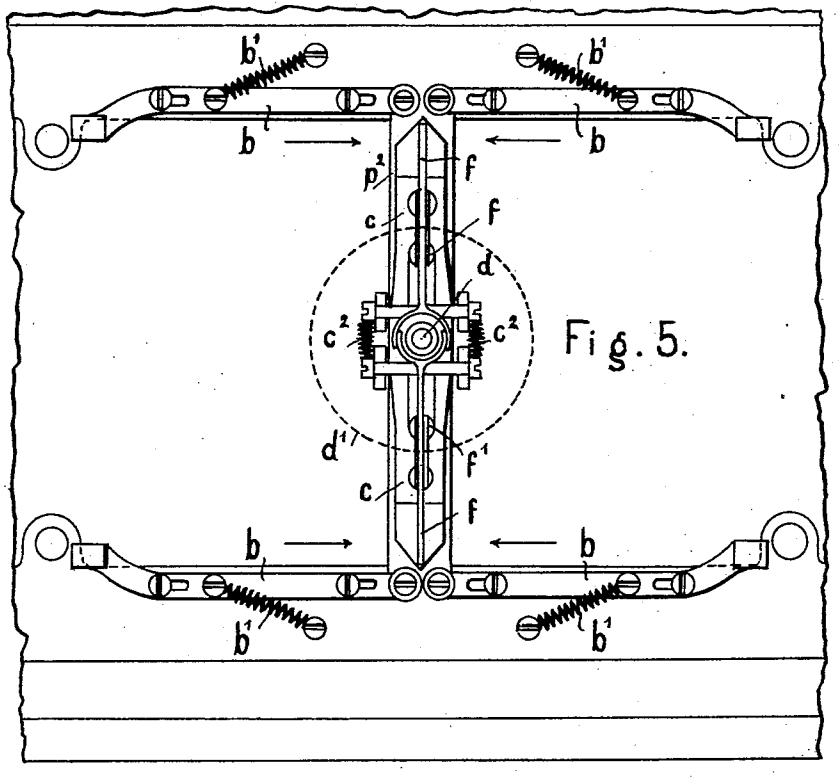

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL KARNICKI, OF WARSAW, RUSSIA.

COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 572,118, dated December 1, 1896.

Application filed March 4, 1896. Serial No. 581,788. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAEL KARNICKI, a subject of the Emperor of Russia, residing at Warsaw, in the Empire of Russia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to coffins, and has for its object to provide a complete means of safety against the danger of persons being buried while in a state of trance.

My invention consists, essentially, of a hermetically-sealed box or coffin, a frame connected to the lid thereof, a transparent plate adapted to be secured to said frame, mechanism for locking the frame and plate together, springs interposed between said frame and plate and normally adapted to throw the plate from the frame, and a push-plate controlling means for releasing the locking mechanism of the frame or plate to permit the springs to throw said plate from the frame.

If the person buried in a state of trance opens his eyes on returning to consciousness, he sees light through the glass disks of the lid and will, on coming to his senses, unconsciously make a movement by which the mechanism which stands under the pressure of the springs is immediately released and the springing up of the lid is effected. The sick person can thus raise himself, he receives air, and by striking on the glass tombstone or by operating an alarm device he is in a position to call the attention of the passers-by to effect his rescue. If the awakening of the sick person takes place at night, it is inevitably necessary to wait for some hours, but with the beginning of day service at the church-altar will afford a certain chance of speedy aid.

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of a hermetically-closed coffin; Fig. 2, a view of the lid with the mechanism from below; Fig. 3, a partial cross-section on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a cross-section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 5, a view from below of the coffin-lid, showing the released position of the separate parts of the mechanism.

A frame a is firmly connected with the lid of the coffin and is provided on its inner longitudinal sides with eyelets a' and at its ends with flat springs a^2. Sliding bolts b, which are suitably guided by means of screws and slots and which always tend to fly together in the direction of the arrow shown in Fig. 5 under the action of springs b', are also provided on the under side of the frame a. These bolts b preferably carry on their inner ends small rollers and have their outer ends provided with wedges b^2. A plate p, containing glass disks g, is provided with bolts p', adapted to readily enter the eyelets a', formed on the frame a, and is provided in the center with a bar p^2, on the under side of which are arranged slides c, which slide in suitable guides and tend to constantly move inward under the action of springs c^2. In the middle of the bar p^2 a push d is further arranged and provided with a pressure disk or button d' in such a way as to be vertically movable within certain limits, and levers $f\,f$, pivotally mounted in supports f', are connected to the said push d. The push is also provided with a plate d^2, which can move in and out of a recess in the bar p^2, and on this plate d^2 springs d^3 act and tend to always press the push d downward. (See Fig. 4.)

If now the coffin is to be closed, the plate p is placed onto the frame a, the bolts p' of the former enter the eyelets a' of the frame, and by the use of sufficient pressure on the plate p the springs a^2 and also a suitable washer a^3, placed on the frame a, are compressed. The bolts b are then caused to lie in a horizontal plane with the slides c and assume the position shown in Fig. 5. By drawing the slides c apart they are brought into the position shown in Fig. 2, by which means the bolts b are separated until their wedges b^2 enter slots in the bolts p' of the plate p and press the latter still firmer on the frame a. The fixing in position of these parts which are now in tension is effected by means of the plate d^2, attached to the push d', which plate emerges from the recess in the bar p^2 and rests against and between the projecting inner end surfaces c' of the slides c, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The connection of the coffin-lid with the coffin-body, both of which parts are provided with flanges, may then be effected by means of screws, a suitable washering substance being placed between them. The mechanism is thus set, (under spring-pressure,) and it is so sensi-

tively constructed that a person returning to consciousness may, by exerting a comparatively slight pressure on the disk d' or a pull on rings r, which are arranged on the outer ends of the levers f, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, easily effect a movement inward of the push d with the plate d^2 into the recess of the bar p^2 and thus produce an immediate springing off of the lid-plate p.

The coffin is so made that if the power of the springs and the washering material should not be found sufficient to prevent for a length of time an escape of gases it may be always possible to solder it down, and this can be done by skilled workmen after about fourteen days. It may here be noted that in such case the work of soldering down can be effected much more completely than if the same had been done before the burial and in great haste, as hitherto, at the house of the deceased person, where a complete hermetical closing from above did not take place.

Finally, it may also be mentioned that by means of the present invention not only is thorough security afforded against the danger of being buried when in a state of trance, but the general sanitary precaution of a rapid hermetic closing of the coffin is thus afforded.

Having thus described the nature and objects of my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a hermetically-sealed box or coffin, a frame connected to the lid of the coffin, a transparent plate or cover adapted to be secured to said frame, mechanism for locking the plate and frame together, springs interposed between the plate and frame and adapted to throw the plate from the frame, a push-plate located within the coffin, and means controlled by said push-plate adapted to release the locking mechanism, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MICHAEL KARNICKI.

Witnesses:
WADYSLAW ZANIOWSKI,
MAJAN WOTOWSKI.