A. H. NIRDLINGER.

BURIAL CASKET.

No. 191,995. Patented June 12, 1877.

Fig. 1.

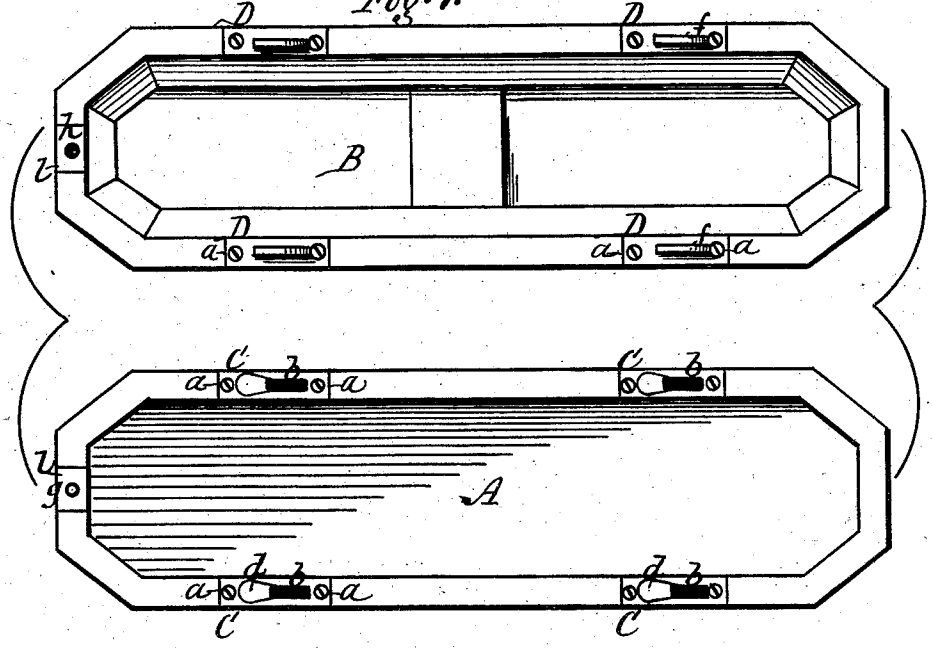


Fig. 2.

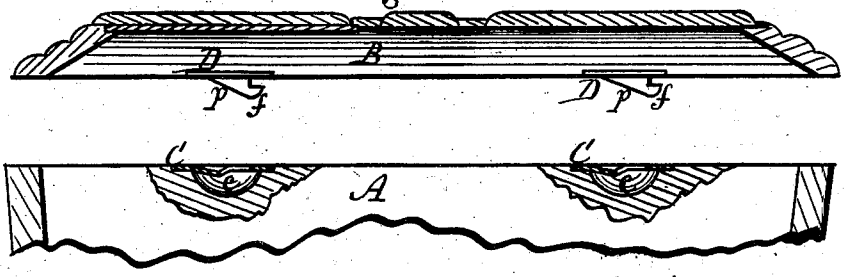


Fig. 3.

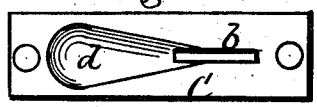


Fig. 4.

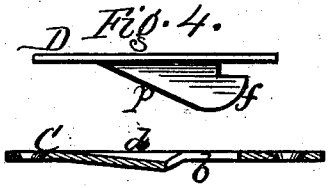


Fig. 5.

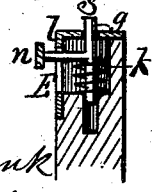
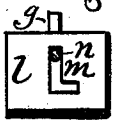


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT H. NIRDLINGER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO THE STEIN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN BURIAL-CASKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **191,995**, dated June 12, 1877; application filed March 21, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT H. NIRDLINGER, of the city of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Burial-Caskets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the bottom of the lid and the top of the casket, said parts being thrown open to exhibit the locking devices. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of said parts, also separated. Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the locking devices.

My improvement consists in the means for locking the lid to the casket; and relates to that class in which concealed devices, consisting of slotted plates and hooks, are employed, which are self-engaging by pushing the lid endwise.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described and definitely claimed.

A represents the casket, and B the lid, which are of ordinary form and construction. C C are flat plates attached on the upper edges of the casket, and D D are corresponding plates attached on the lower edges of the lid. These are arranged on the sides, at suitable distances apart, and coincide in position. They are attached by screws *a a*.

The plates C C are provided with longitudinal slots *b b*, which open down into the wood, where there are cavities *c c*. In the rear of these the upper surface of the plates is depressed, forming cup-shaped cavities *d d*, which enlarge or spread at the outer ends toward the head of the casket. These depressions form channels or ways, which gradually incline from the outer end downward to the slots.

The plates D D have hook-heads *f f*, notched, as shown, which enter the slots *b b* and hold under the plates C C when the lid is pushed endwise to enter them. The rear ends of the hook-heads are inclined backward and upward, as shown most clearly in Fig. 4, at *p p*.

E is a locking device at the head of the casket. It consists of a bolt, *g*, pressed up into a socket, *h*, of the lid by a spring, *k*. A guard-plate, *l*, is located outside, having a right-angled slot, *m*, and in this rests a thumb-piece, *n*, by which means the bolt may be forced down into the wood and held when desired. When the thumb-piece is released, the bolt is thrown upward, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

The operation is as follows: The lid is placed over the casket, with the hooks *f f* resting in the depressions or channels *d d*, and the lid is then pushed forward. The channels form ways or guides to the hooks, which slide therein, and when the hooks reach the slots *b b* they drop therein, and the hook-heads catch under the plates, while at the same time the end-locking bolt *g* strikes into the socket *h*, thus securely fastening the lid to the casket, while the locking devices are all concealed. To raise the lid again, the bolt *g* is depressed, and the operator simply takes hold of the lid and draws it toward him, when the inclined backs *p p* of the hooks ride up on the edges of the slots *b b*, elevating the lid without lifting it, and when so raised the hooks slide in the channels as guides. By this means the lid may be raised and closed at any time from the head of the casket by simply moving it endwise, and great facility in adjusting the lid to the casket is attained by simply placing the hook-heads in the channels. The device is much more effective than the old form, in which hooks or studs simply fit in slots.

I am aware that studs have before been used, standing up from the casket and entering key-hole slots in the lid. Such I do not claim.

What I claim as new is—

The combination, with the slots *b b* and the inclined back hooks *f f*, of the depressed channels or ways *d d*, located in the rear of, and outside of, the slots, and centering to the same, whereby the operator, by drawing on the end of the lid, without lifting, can release it from its engagement with the casket, as shown and described, and for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT H. NIRDLINGER.

Witnesses:

R. F. OSGOOD,

LOUIS SPAHN.