(No Model.)

L. L. PLETCHER.

COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 604,786. Patented May 31, 1898.

Fig. 1.

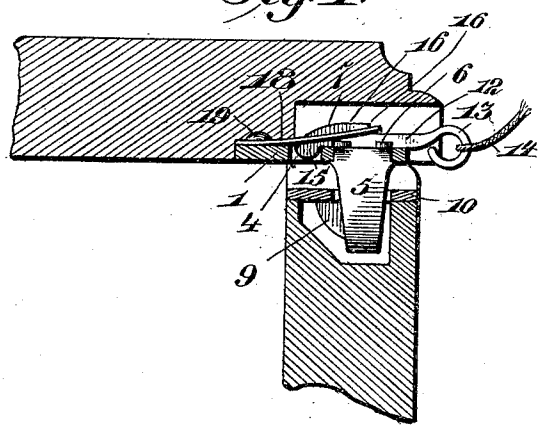


Fig. 2.

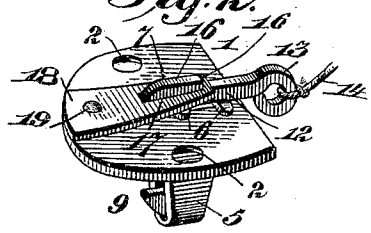


Fig. 3.

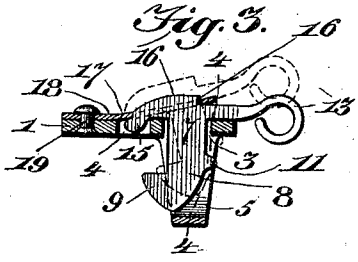


Fig. 4.

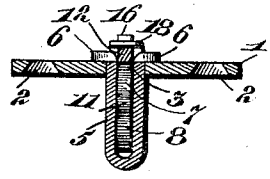


Fig. 5.

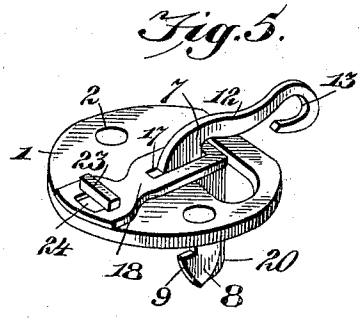
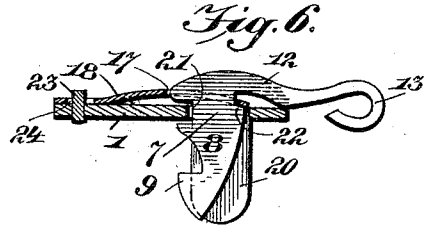


Fig. 6.



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LEVI L. PLETCHER, OF MALTA, OHIO.

COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 604,786, dated May 31, 1898.

Application filed December 5, 1896. Serial No. 614,613. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEVI L. PLETCHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Malta, in the county of Morgan and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Panel or Face-Plate Catch for Coffins, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a panel or face-plate catch for coffins; and it has for its object to provide a catch of this character especially designed for use in connection with that portion of a coffin-lid carrying the face-plate.

The main and primary objects of the invention are to construct the catch of as few parts as possible, with no pivot-pins or pintles and having a minimum number of rivets, whereby the catch may be manufactured by stamping with ease and rapidity, while at the same time providing a durable and positively-operating form of catch.

With these and other objects in view, which will readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional view of the contiguous parts of a coffin fitted, respectively, with the improved catch and the escutcheon-plate. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the complete catch. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view thereof. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4 4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail in perspective of a modified form of the catch. Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view of the construction illustrated in Fig. 5.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, the numeral 1 designates the main base-plate of the catch, provided with screw-holes 2, whereby the same can be readily secured or fastened to that portion of the coffin-lid designed to be secured by the catch, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, and in the present invention the base-plate 1 has formed therein in addition to the screw-holes 2 a latch opening or slot 3 near one edge and a smaller fulcrum-opening 4, disposed in line with and adjacent to the latch-opening 3. In connection with the latch-opening 3 of the base-plate 1 is employed a U-shaped latch-guard 5, disposed at the under side of the plate 1 and formed of a strip of malleable metal folded or bent upon itself into an approximate U shape and provided at its opposite ends with integral terminal securing-tongues 6, which extend through the latch opening or slot 3 of the base-plate and are bent down upon the upper side of the base-plate to provide for fastening the guard 5 to the latter without the use of rivets or pins of any character, it being obvious that by prying up or straightening the terminal tongues 6 the guard 5 may be readily disconnected from the base-plate carrying the same.

The latch-opening 3 of the base-plate and the latch-guard 5 loosely receive therein the pivotal latch piece or member 7. The latch piece or member 7 of the catch is formed of a single piece of metal and is provided with a pendent catch-arm 8, which is loosely inserted through the opening 3 and works within the pendent guard 5, and said catch-arm portion of the latch-piece is formed at its lower end with a beveled catch-hook 9, adapted to automatically engage with an escutcheon plate or keeper 10, fitted to the edge of the case or box over which the panel or lid carrying the catch works. At the edge opposite the shoulder of the hook 9 the pendent catch-arm 8 of the latch-piece is formed with a stop-shoulder 11, which engages with the under side of the base-plate at one end of the latch-opening therein to limit the oscillation of the latch-piece in one direction when the hook thereof is being disengaged from the escutcheon. The portion of the latch-piece 7 lying above the plane of the base-plate is formed with a lever-arm 12, disposed at approximately right angles to the catch-arm 8 and formed at its outer end with an eye 13 for the usual pull cord or string 14, and at its opposite or inner end the lever-arm 12 is formed with an integral rounded fulcrum-knob 15, loosely engaging in the fulcrum-opening 4 of the base-plate. The upper edge of the latch-piece is formed with an elongated shouldered projection 16, loosely extending through a longitudinally-disposed slot 17, formed in the free end of a leaf-spring or spring-plate 18, secured fast at one end by means of a single rivet 19 to the upper side of the base-plate.

From the foregoing description it will be observed that the single rivet 19 serves to se-

cure the leaf-spring and the latch-piece in their proper relative positions, and the said leaf-spring also serves to hold the latch-piece to the base-plate, so that such latch-piece may have a free pivotal movement without the use of pintle-pins or other fixed pivots, and when the leaf-spring is removed from the base-plate the latch-piece is free to be readily disconnected from the base-plate.

Slight modifications of the catch may be resorted to, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawings, in which figures of the drawings the base-plate 1 is illustrated as having bent integrally therefrom at one side of the latch-opening therein a pendent latch-guard 20, at one side of which works the pendent catch-arm 8 of the latch-piece. In the modified construction in place of the fulcrum-opening and fulcrum-knob loosely working therein the latch-piece is provided at its inner edge with a pivot or fulcrum notch 21, loosely engaging the base-plate at one side of the latch-opening, so as to pivot thereon, and the lever-arm of the latch-piece is extended through the slot 17 of the leaf-spring, with the extremity of the spring underlying the lever-arm 12 engaging a shoulder 22, formed by cutting a notch at the point of junction of the arms 8 and 12. This relative disposition of the latch-piece and the slotted spring 18 also provides means whereby such spring not only serves for normally holding the latch-piece in engagement with its keeper or escutcheon, but also serves to hold the latch-piece pivotally and removably in engagement with the base-plate supporting the same. The modification just described also includes a headed stud or projection 23, engaging with an opening 24 in the free end of the leaf-spring to provide for securing such spring to the base-plate.

Other changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. A catch comprising a base-plate, a latch-piece having a loose fulcrum engagement with an opening in the base-plate, and a spring secured at one end to the base-plate and provided with a slot receiving therein a portion of the latch-piece to pivotally and removably hold the latter in place, substantially as set forth.

2. A catch comprising a base-plate formed with a latch-opening, a latch-piece having a catch arm or hook loosely fitting in the latch-opening, a U-shaped latch-guard inclosing between its side arms said catch arm or hook and having its terminals clenched within the latch-opening, and a leaf-spring secured fast at one end to the base-plate and having its free end engaging with the latch-piece to pivotally and removably hold the latter in place, substantially as set forth.

3. A catch comprising a base-plate formed with a latch-opening and a smaller fulcrum-opening disposed in a line with and adjacent to the latch-opening, a latch-piece having a catch arm or hook loosely fitting in the latch-opening, and a lever-arm portion lying above the plane of the base-plate and disposed approximately at right angles to the catch arm or hook, said lever-arm portion being provided at its inner end with a round fulcrum-knob loosely engaging in the fulcrum-opening, and at its upper edge with an elongated shouldered projection, and a leaf-spring secured fast at one end to the base-plate and having a longitudinally-disposed slot engaging over the shouldered projection of the latch-piece, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

LEVI L. PLETCHER.

Witnesses:
J. F. DAVIS,
CHAS. H. FOUTS.