This invention relates to means in a casket for adjusting the height of the bed or like structure that supports the corpse.

It is desirable to be able to adjust the height of the bed or other supporting structure in a casket, as for example, in the show room where the caskets are displayed for prospective purchasers it is desirable to have the bed raised near the upper edge of the shell so that it can be seen better. Also, the bed should be adjusted to a height that will favorably display the corpse, and it is advantageous to have a bed that can be adjusted quickly and with a minimum of effort with the corpse thereon since sometimes it is necessary to make last-minute adjustments to satisfy the family of the deceased.

In addition, it is desirable to have such adjustment means which can be locked in place as during shipping and the like. Many of the present-day caskets are constructed with the bed or supporting means resting on excelsior or similar material, and it is very difficult to adjust this type of casket since excelsior must be added for raising the bed or removed for lowering the bed. Other types of caskets have adjustment means but these have been of expensive and complicated construction requiring special tools to effect the adjustment. Also, there are other types which are provided with adjustment means having mechanisms that must be tripped or unlatched to make the adjustment, thereby requiring one person to lift the bed while another person operates the mechanism. Also, many of the adjustment means are inaccessible, being located beneath the bed or at the side thereof so that it is difficult to operate the mechanism, with it sometimes being necessary to remove the corpse for making the adjustment. In addition, many of the previous types of adjustment means are not suited for shipping, but become loose or otherwise do not support the bed in a completely fixed position desirable for shipping.

The present invention is directed towards overcoming the disadvantages of previous adjustment means in a casket by providing casket adjustment means which can be operated by one person simply moving the bed by grasping the edges thereof or handles provided along the edge thereof and without the necessity of ever having to touch the adjustment means. In addition, the present invention is directed towards providing means for quickly and easily removing the complete bed, if it becomes necessary, as for example, if the corpse is extremely heavy, or if the corpse has been burned and is in a position other than that lying on its back.

Thus, one of the objects of the present invention is to provide means in a casket for quickly and easily adjusting the bed or corpse supporting structure without the necessity of any special tools and without touching the mechanism.

A further object is to provide such means which has the characteristics of simplicity of operation, installation and cost.

A further object is to provide means for standardizing the appearance of all caskets with a minimum of work.

A further object is to provide such adjustment means which can be locked securely to prevent any movement of the bed relative to the casket shell during shipping or the like.

A further object is to provide such adjustment means which facilitates the tilting of the bed, if desired.
3,192,596

Adjustment mechanism 25, in general, comprises a pair of interengaging elements or parts, i.e. a stationary element or bracket 27 fixedly attached to shell 13 at the inner side 29 of end 17 by suitable means as welding or by screws or the like, and a movable element or pin 31 fixedly attached to supporting structure 19 adjacent the end of frame 21 by suitable means as, for example, by driving the inner pointed end, not shown, of pin 31 into the supporting frame, so that the pin extends substantially horizontally outwardly from the supporting frame. Pin 31 is provided with an enlarged head 33 at the distal end thereof, which head is spaced from supporting frame 21. Stationary element 27 is preferably integrally formed and preferably comprises a substantially vertical web 35, spaced side portions 37 attached to the web adjacent the opposite side edges thereof and extending perpendicularly therefrom towards shell 13, and a pair of flanges 39 respectively attached to side portions 37 and extending laterally in opposite directions therefrom. The flanges 39 are the actual portions which are fixedly attached to shell 13, as heretofore described. Web 35 is spaced from shell 13 to provide a vertically extending enclosure 41 defined by web 35, side portions 37 and shell 13. Stationary element 27, as shown, is provided with an enlarged entrance and exit opening 49 in one of side portions 37 adjacent the upper one of recesses 47, and (4) a reduced guide portion 51 connecting opening 49 and the upper end of vertical slot 45. Vertical slot 45, recesses 47 and reduced guide portion 51 are in width than head 33 and are slightly grooved. In describing the operation of adjustment mechanism 25, it is assumed that shank 53 of pin 31 is in a selected one of recesses 47 with the shank resting on the portion of the web 35 indicated in general as at 55 which defines the lower end of each of the recesses 47, as best seen in FIG. 2. To adjust one end of supporting structure 19, that end is grasped along the opposite side edges of the supporting structure, or, if desired, handles 57 are provided adjacent opposite side edges of the supporting structure. The end is simply lifted up and towards one side which will cause shank 53 to move through the recess in which it has been resting and out into vertical slot 45. With the shank 53 in vertical slot 45, the end of supporting structure 19 may be then either moved directly upwardly or downwardly until the shank is opposite the upper end of the selected recess 47. The end of supporting structure 19 is then permitted to lower downwardly and towards one side into the selected recess 47. It will be understood that the pins 31 of both the adjustment mechanisms 25 of the pair located at the particular end of the supporting structure that is being lifted, simultaneously move through the same motions relative to their respective stationary elements 27 and when the supporting structure is at the desired height the pins 31 will be resting in corresponding recesses 47. It will be observed that during this adjusting operation described, it has not been necessary for the person doing the adjusting to contact or touch the adjustment mechanisms 25, but all he had to do was manipulate the end of supporting structure 19.

After one end of supporting structure 19 has been ad-
ment comprising a pin fixedly attached to said supporting structure and extending outwardly therefrom and having an enlarged head on the outer end thereof; said second element comprising a vertically extending bracket; said bracket including a vertical web, spaced side portions attached to said web adjacent the opposite side edges of said shell; said web being provided with an open path including a vertical slot and a plurality of recesses leading from said slot at vertically spaced places and angled downwardly therefrom; said pin being in interengaging relationship with said web in said path, one of said side portions being provided with an enlarged entrance and exit opening, said bracket being provided with a reduced guide portion connecting said opening and said slot; said vertical slot, said recesses and said reduced guide portion being smaller than said head and of a size to loosely receive said pin with said pin extending through said vertical enclosure whereby said pin is moveable through said slot into a selected one of said recesses and through said reduced guide portion without being accidentally disengageable therefrom; said pin being normally received in a selected one of said recesses to adjustably support said supporting structure in said shell, said opening being greater in size than said head whereby said head is moveable through said opening to engage and disengage said first and second elements, said pin being moveable from one of said recesses to another by manipulation of said supporting structure and with said pin and said web remaining in interengaging relationship during the manipulation.

2. In a casket having a casket shell, a vertically moveable supporting structure for supporting a corpse in said shell, said supporting structure being laterally spaced from said shell to provide room for moving said supporting structure laterally as well as vertically, adjustment means cooperating between said supporting structure and said shell for holding said supporting structure at a selected height; each of said adjustment means comprising a first element and a second element, said first element comprising a cylindrical pin fixedly attached to said supporting structure and having an enlarged head on the outer end thereof; said second element comprising a vertically extending bracket including a web, means fixedly attaching said bracket to said shell, said web being provided with a vertical slot and an open path therethrough including a plurality of round-bottomed recesses leading from said slot at vertically spaced places and angled downwardly therefrom, said pin being in interengaging relationship with said web in said path, said vertical slot and said recesses being smaller than said head and of a size to loosely receive said pin with said pin extending through said slot into a selected one of said recesses without being accidentally disengageable therefrom, and said pin being normally received in a selected one of said recesses to adjustably support said supporting structure in said shell, said pin being moveable from one of said recesses to another by manipulation of said recesses and with said pin and said web remaining in interengaging relationship during the manipulation.

3. In a casket having a casket shell, a vertically moveable supporting structure for supporting a corpse in said shell, said supporting structure being spaced from said shell to provide room for moving said supporting structure laterally as well as vertically, said supporting structure comprising a vertically engaging bracket including a web, means fixedly attaching said bracket to said shell, said web being provided with a vertical slot and an open path therethrough including a plurality of round-bottomed recesses leading from said slot at vertically spaced places and angled downwardly therefrom, said pin being in interengaging relationship with said web in said path, said vertical slot and said recesses being smaller than said head and a size to loosely receive said pin with said pin extending through said slot into a selected one of said recesses without being accidentally disengageable therefrom, and said pin being normally received in a selected one of said recesses to adjustably support said supporting structure in said shell, said pin being moveable from one of said recesses to another by manipulation of said recesses and with said pin and said web remaining in interengaging relationship during the manipulation.

4. In a casket having a casket shell, a vertically moveable supporting structure for supporting a corpse in said shell, said supporting structure being laterally spaced from said shell to provide room for moving said supporting structure laterally as well as vertically, adjustment means cooperating between said supporting structure and said shell for holding said supporting structure at a selected height; each of said adjustment means comprising a first element and a second element, said first element comprising a pin fixedly attached to said supporting structure and extending outwardly therefrom and having an enlarged head on the outer end thereof; said second element comprising a vertically extending bracket; said bracket including a vertical web, spaced side portions attached to said web adjacent the opposite side edges thereof and extending towards said shell, and a pair of flanges respectively attached to said side portions and extending laterally thereof, means fixedly attaching said flanges to said shell and said second element for holding said supporting structure in said shell, said opening being greater in size than said head whereby said head is moveable through said opening to engage and disengage said first and second elements, said pin being moveable from one of said recesses to another by manipulation of said supporting structure and with said pin and said second element remaining in interengaging relationship during the manipulation.

5. In a casket having a casket shell, a vertically moveable supporting structure for supporting a corpse in said shell, said supporting structure being laterally spaced from said shell to provide room for moving said supporting structure laterally as well as vertically, adjustment means cooperating between said supporting structure and said shell for holding said supporting structure at a selected height; each of said adjustment means comprising a first element and a second element, said first element comprising a pin fixedly attached to said supporting structure and the other of said elements being fixedly attached to said shell, said first element comprising a substantially horizontally extending cylindrical pin having a head thereon, said second element comprising means providing a path for said pin; said path comprising a vertical slot, a plurality of round-bottomed recesses leading from said slot at vertically spaced places and angled downwardly therefrom, an enlarged entrance and exit opening, and a reduced guide portion connecting said opening and said slot; said pin being in interengaging relationship with said second element in said path; said vertical slot, said recesses and said reduced guide portion being of a size to loosely receive said pin and smaller than said head whereby said pin is moveable through said slot into a selected one of said recesses and through said reduced guide portion without being accidentally disengageable therefrom, said pin being normally received in a selected one of said recesses to adjustably support said supporting structure in said shell, said opening being greater in size than said head whereby said head is moveable through said opening to engage and disengage said first and second elements, said pin being moveable from one of said recesses to another by manipulation of said supporting structure and with said pin and said second element remaining in interengaging relationship during the manipulation.
able supporting structure for supporting a corpse in said shell, said supporting structure being laterally spaced from said shell to provide room for moving said supporting structure laterally as well as vertically, adjustment means cooperating between said supporting structure and said shell for holding said supporting structure at a selected height; each of said adjustment means comprising a first element and a second element, said first element comprising a pin fixedly attached to said supporting structure and extending outwardly therefrom and having an enlarged head on the outer end thereof; said second element comprising a vertically extending bracket; said bracket including a vertical web, spaced side portions attached to said web adjacent the opposite side edges thereof and extending towards said shell, and a pair of flanges respectively attached to said side portions and extending laterally therefrom, means fixedly attaching said flanges to said shell to support said bracket therefrom; said web being spaced from said shell to provide a vertically extending enclosure defined by said web, said side portions and said shell; said web being provided with a vertical slot and being provided with a plurality of recesses leading from said slot at vertically spaced places and angled downwardly therefrom, one of said side portions being provided with an enlarged entrance and exit opening, said bracket being provided with a reduced guide portion connecting said opening and said slot; said vertical slot, said recesses and said reduced guide portion being smaller than said head and of a size to loosely receive said pin with said pin extending therethrough and with said head being disposed in said vertical enclosure whereby said pin is movable through said slot into a selected one of said recesses and through said reduced guide portion without being accidentally disengageable therefrom; said pin being normally received in a selected one of said recesses to adjustably support said supporting structure from said shell, said opening being greater in size than said head whereby said head is movable through said opening to engage and disengage said first and second elements, an elongated piece received in said vertical enclosure, said pin being blocked from removal from one of said recesses by said piece whereby during shipping and the like said first and second elements are locked together, said piece being provided with notch means therein for receiving the strap of a pillow during shipping of the casket.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,242,307 5/41 Kroell et al. --------------- 5—11
2,290,514 7/42 Widdowson --------------- 27—12
2,311,892 2/43 Uline --------------- 27—12 X
2,447,704 8/48 Kline --------------- 211—136
2,735,157 2/56 Hotchkiss et al. --------------- 27—12

RICHARD A. GAUDET, Primary Examiner.

M. HENSON WOOD, Jr., Examiner.