(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

S. STOCKTON.

CORPSE PRESERVER.

No. 340,528. Patented Apr. 20, 1886.

Fig. 1.

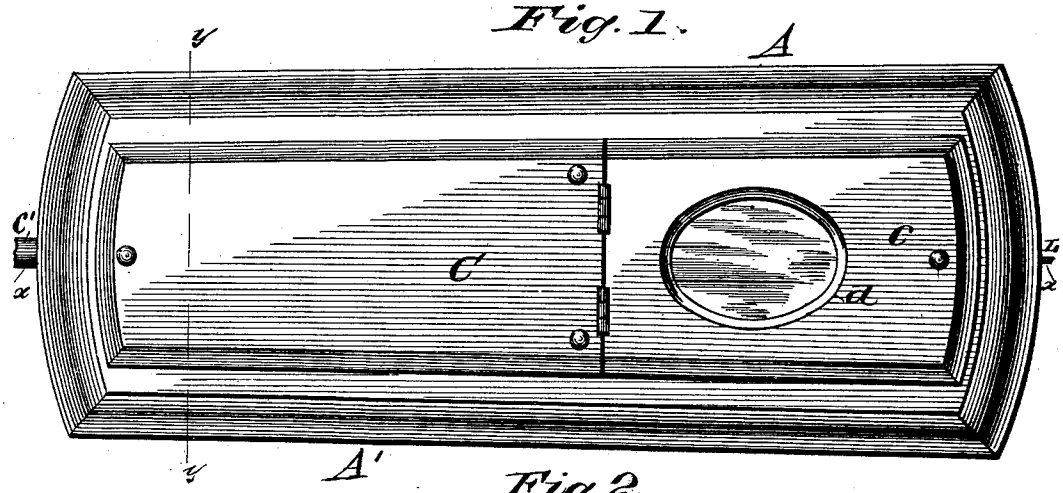
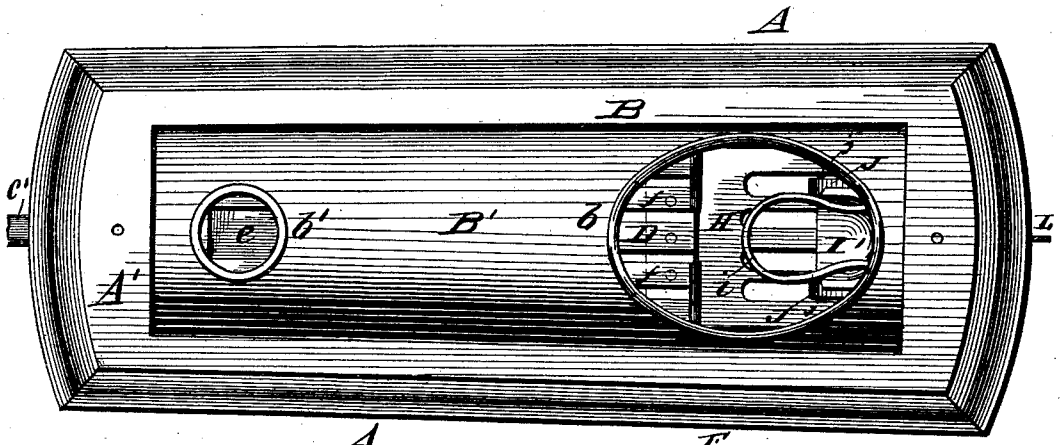


Fig. 2.



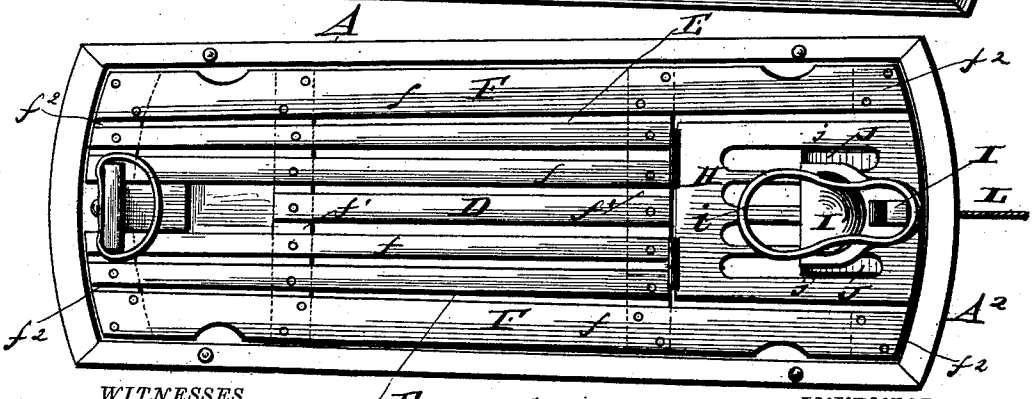


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 4.

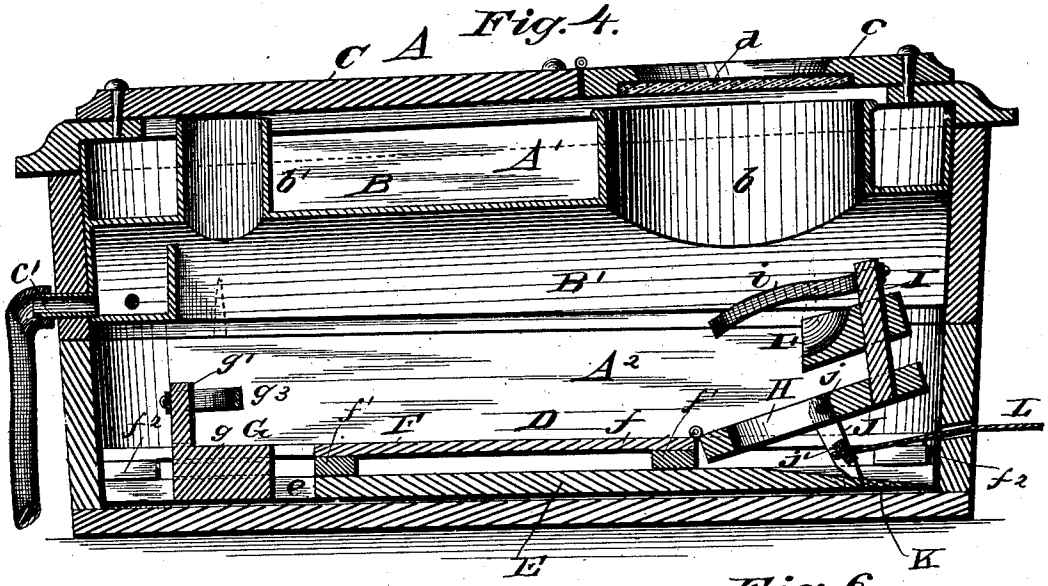


Fig. 5.

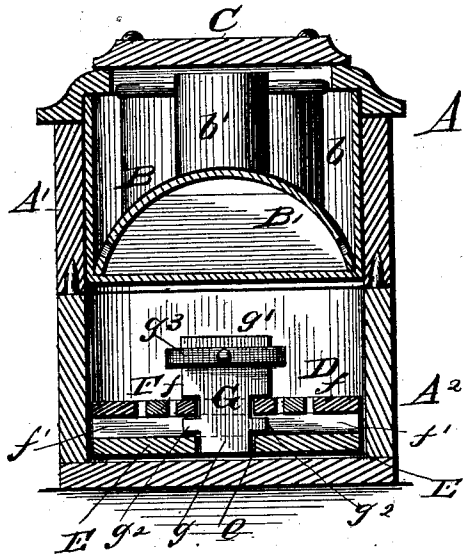


Fig. 6.

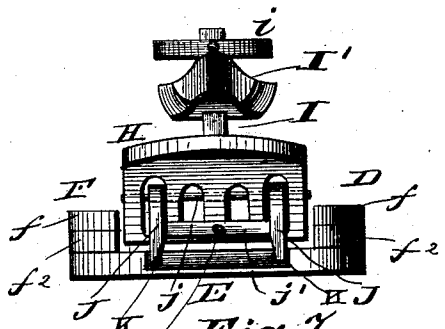
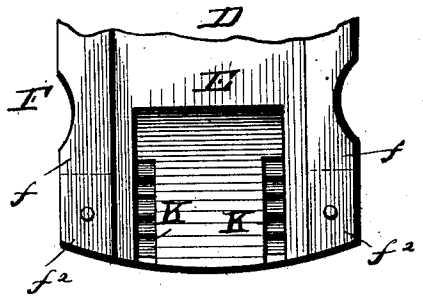


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL STOCKTON, OF LAMBERTVILLE, NEW JERSEY.

CORPSE-PRESERVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 340,528, dated April 20, 1886.

Application filed January 30, 1886. Serial No. 190,330. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL STOCKTON, of Lambertville, in the county of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corpse-Preservers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the corpse-preserver. Fig. 2 is a plan view with the cover removed. Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the cooling-board, the ice-box being removed. Fig. 4 is a vertical central section on line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a transverse section on line *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is an end view of the cooling-board, showing the head-rest elevated. Fig. 7 is a detail view of the cooling-board.

This invention relates to improvements in corpse-preservers, the main object being to keep the head and shoulders of the cadaver at a higher elevation than the body, so that the blood will gravitate out of the head and not discolor the face, as is often the case, and it consists in the construction and novel arrangement of parts hereinafter described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A designates the case of the device, composed of the upper section, A′, and lower section, A^2. The upper section contains the ice-box B, metal-lined, and having the semi-cylindrical metal flooring B′. At the head of the ice-box, rising from the flooring, is the tubular oval face-opening *b*, of usual construction, and rising from the flooring at the foot of the ice-box is the tube *b′*. Both the tube *b′* and face-opening *b* communicate with the section A^2 below the ice-box.

C is the lid or cover of the ice-box, secured thereon in the usual manner, and having the hinged front section, *c*, provided with a proper face-glass, *d*, over the opening.

c′ is the tube and opening through which the melted ice escapes.

The upper section is secured upon the lower section by dowel-pins, or by other well-known means.

D is the cooling-board, composed of the lower board, E, which lies upon the floor of the lower section, A^2, and is provided at its foot with the long longitudinal notch or recess *e*, and the grating F, composed of the longitudinal slats *f*, and separted from the board E by the transverse slats *f′* and blocks f^2.

G is the foot-rest, composed of a block, *g*, which travels in the recess or notch *e*, and a vertical foot-plate, *g′*, which rises from the rear end of said block. The upper edges of the block *g* has lateral flanges g^2, which enter the space between the board E and the grating and keep the foot-rest in place vertically.

g^3 is a cord or rubber band secured to the rear surface of the foot-plate, passing thence around the side edges of the same, and adapted to surround the feet of the cadaver and hold them in place.

The grating F has hinged at its head, between its two outer slats, a flap, H, which bears the head-rest.

I is the head-rest standard, which rises from the front end of the flap in the central line of the same, and inclines somewhat outward, and I′ is the head-rest, concaved on its upper surface to receive the head, and provided with an opening in which the standard is secured, the two being so united that the head-rest will be parallel with the cooling-board, when the flap is down.

i is a cord or rubber band secured to the extension of the standard above the head-rest, and designed to pass under the chin of the cadaver and keep the head in place.

J J are detents, pivoted at their upper ends, which rest in longitudinal slots, in the flap upon a transverse rod, *j*, passing through said slots, and having their points beveled on their inner sides, and *j′* is a transverse bar connecting the said detents near their points.

K K are two longitudinal lines of detent-notches made on the upper surface of the board E below the flap, and adapted to engage the points of the detents J. These notches have their vertical shoulders outward, as shown.

L is a cord secured to the bar *j*, and passing out of the lower section, A^2, through an opening, *l*, made at a higher elevation than the said bar attains at any adjustment of the detents.

It is evident that when the body is secured

to the cooling-board the head and shoulders can be raised by lifting the flap and engaging the detents in the notches, and that the adjustment will be different for each pair of notches. When in the desired position, the weight of the head and shoulders will keep the detents engaged.

When the head-rest is at its highest adjustment, it can be lowered by means of pulling on the cord L, and thereby lifting the detents out of engagement. The weight of the head, when the cord is released, will cause engagement with a notch farther forward.

The foot-rest, sliding in the recess in the board E, can be adjusted to bodies of different heights.

By means of the tubular face-opening and the tube at the foot of the ice-box the air surrounding the cadaver, and consequently, warmed thereby, may rise up into the ice-box and be replaced by colder air from above. This action will continue with decreasing rapidity till the cadaver has the same temperature as the ice-cold air surrounding it.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. In a corpse-preserver, the combination, with the cooling-board composed of the grating F and board E, provided with the notch or recess *e*, of the hinged flap and head-rest secured thereto, substantially as described, and the foot-rest composed of the foot-plate g', and the block g, provided with the flanges, g^2, substantially as specified.

2. In a corpse-preserver, the combination, with the cooling-board composed of the grating F and board E, provided with the detent-notches K, of the hinged flap H, detents J, pivoted thereto, standard I, and head-rest I′, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a corpse-preserver, the combination of the cooling-board provided with detent-notches, the hinged flap bearing the head-rest, the detents pivoted to said flap and connected by a transverse bar, and the cord secured to said bar and passing through an opening in the casing above said bar for the purpose of lowering the flap and head-rest while the casing is closed, substantially as specified.

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

SAMUEL STOCKTON.

Witnesses:

SIMEON R. HUSELTON.

WILSON BRAY.