S. S. BRICKER.

BURIAL DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1912.

1,051,386.

Patented Jan. 28, 1913.

Fig. 1.

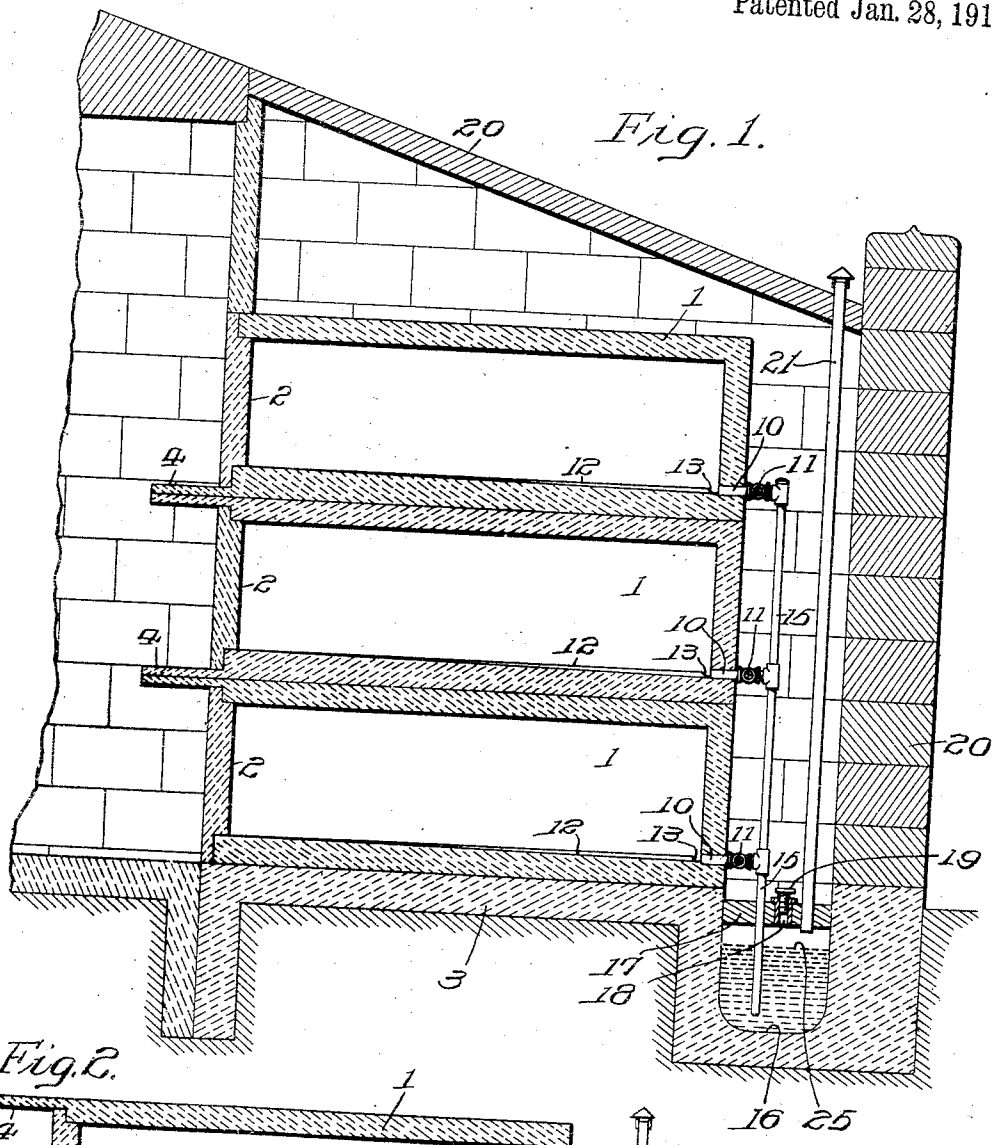
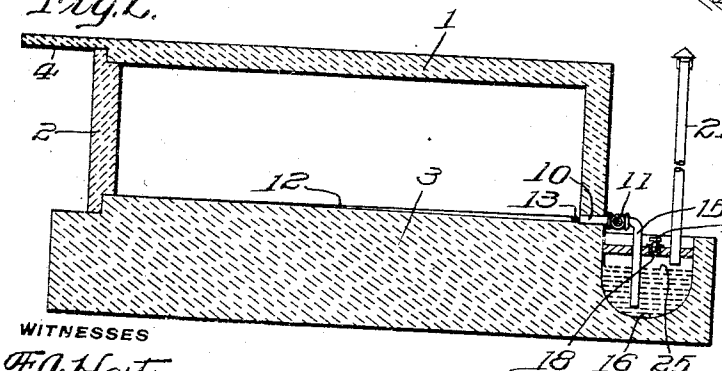


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

F. J. Hartman.

A. L. Gardner.

INVENTOR

Samuel S. Bricker.

BY

Mc Cathran

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL S. BRICKER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BURIAL DEVICE.

1,051,386. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 28, 1913.

Application filed July 17, 1912. Serial No. 709,859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL S. BRICKER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burial Devices, of which the following is a specification.

The main objects of this invention are, to provide an improved burial receptacle; to provide in a burial receptacle improved means for permitting the escape of gases therefrom and for disinfecting and deodorizing the escaping gases; to provide an improved deodorizer and disinfector; and to provide other improvements, as will appear hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a fragmentary vertical section of a mausoleum, constructed in accordance with this invention and adapted to contain a plurality of bodies; and Fig. 2 a fragmentary vertical section of a burial receptacle, constructed in accordance with this invention and adapted to contain but a single body.

Referring to the drawings, one embodiment of this invention comprises, as illustrated in Fig. 1, a plurality of air-tight crypts or cells 1, each adapted to contain a single body and each provided at one end with a removable door or closure 2. These crypts may each be made of cement, to provide a monolithic structure, or may be made of any suitable material, and are preferably arranged in one or more vertical series resting upon a base or foundation 3, the foundation being preferably made of cement in monolithic form. The front end of each crypt is preferably provided beneath its door with a suitable forwardly projecting shelf 4, to facilitate the insertion of a casket into the crypt, and to serve as a support for flowers.

For permitting the escape of gases from the crypts 1, and for deodorizing and disinfecting the escaping gases, each crypt 1 is provided, preferably through its rear end wall and adjacent its lower side or floor, with an outlet pipe 10, which is controlled outside of the crypt by a valve 11, of any suitable construction, which may be opened or closed manually at will, as occasion may require. The upper inner surface of the floor of each crypt is preferably substantially flat and horizontal, and may be provided with a plurality of drainage grooves 12, extending longitudinally thereof and slightly inclined or increasing slightly in depth from the front end of the crypt toward its rear end, and communicating at their rear ends with a transverse groove 13, which is inclined from its opposite ends toward the outlet 10, to facilitate the flow of seepage from the crypt toward and into the outlet pipe 10. The outlet pipes 10 communicate through the valves 11 with a downwardly extending discharge pipe or conduit 15, the lower end of which projects downwardly below the upper surface of the foundation 3 and terminates in a recess or well 16, arranged in the upper surface of the base 3 and in the rear of the rear ends of the crypts 1, the base 3 being extended rearwardly for this purpose. The well 16 is covered and hermetically sealed by means of a suitable closure 17, which is provided with a tubular inlet 18, which is closed by means of an upwardly removable stopper 19, the stopper 19 being preferably threaded into the tubular inlet 18.

The crypts 1 are preferably inclosed in a suitable outer casing or structure 20, spaced therefrom, and a vertical tubular outlet 21 is preferably arranged between the casing 20 and the crypts, to convey gases from the well 16 upwardly through the top of the casing 20 and into the surrounding atmosphere. The well 16 is preferably charged or filled with any suitable germicide, but preferably with a suitable solution of potassium bichromate and corrosive sublimate, or with any other suitable liquid or fluid. However, when employing the solution mentioned, it is preferable to provide a container composed of a material which will not be corroded or attacked thereby. Inasmuch as cement is, generally speaking, not affected by the action of chemicals such as are employed for deodorizing or disinfecting purposes, the base upon which the series of cells is supported, and which is ordinarily made of cement, is preferably extended beyond the side of the cell resting directly thereupon, for a sufficient distance to form therein a well or chamber in which a powerful liquid germicide may be contained. This arrangement, moreover, provides in addition a convenient way of locating the container or receptacle for the germicide in a position directly beneath the discharge end of the combined gas and seepage conduit, so that the products of decom-

position may be conducted directly into the germicide. The lower end of the discharge pipe 15 leading from the crypts extends below the lower end of the tubular outlet 21, the lower end of the pipe 15 being preferably spaced slightly above the bottom of the well 16, and the lower end of the tubular outlet 21 terminating preferably adjacent the under surface of the closure 17 of the well. The germicide, when in the form of a solution, is poured into the well through the inlet 18 until it reaches a suitable level, as indicated, for instance, at 25, above the lower end of the pipe 15 and slightly below the lower end of the tubular outlet 21, after which the stopper 19 is then inserted. When the stopper 19 is in place, gases may not enter or escape from the well 16, except through the pipes 15 and 21 provided for that purpose.

When two or more vertical series of crypts or cells 1 are combined in a single mausoleum or device, only a single well 16 is used, and this well is connected with all of the crypts or cells of each series by a separate pipe 15, as hereinbefore described, or in any other suitable manner. The valves 11 of all cells 1 not in use are normally kept closed, and are opened only as the cells are put into use.

In the modified form of this invention illustrated in Fig. 2, the base 3 supports only a single crypt 1, and the crypt 1 as shown is integral or unitary with the base 3.

In the operation of this invention, when it is desired to utilize one of the crypts 1, the door 2 of the crypt is opened and the corresponding valve 11 is also opened, the well 16 having been charged with suitable disinfecting materials, as hereinbefore noted. After the body has been placed in the crypt 1, the door 2 is hermetically sealed as usual. As the body in the crypt gradually decomposes, the gases formed by the decomposition, together with any seepage that there may be from the bodies, are discharged through the outlet 10, valve 11 and discharge pipe 15 into the deodorizing and disinfecting material in the well 16, where these gases and the seepage are deodorized and disinfected. The deodorized and disinfected gases escape from the well 16 through the tubular outlet 21 into the atmosphere surrounding the outer casing 20. The closed well and its inlet and outlet pipes 15 and 21 thus form a trap which, when charged as hereinbefore described with germicide in solution, or with any suitable liquid, prevents any air from passing upwardly through the trap and into the crypts or cells, but permits the escape of gases from the crypts under a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure. It may be assumed that after a body has been partially or slightly decomposed in one of the cells 1, practically all of the free oxygen originally contained in the cell will either have been consumed in forming carbon dioxid from some of the carbon contained in the body, or will have been expelled from the cell, mixed with other gases, and the body will thus be protected from further decomposition.

When a plurality of crypts or cells are combined in a single device, as illustrated, for instance, in Fig. 1, each crypt 1 is preferably in the form of a unitary structure or section, which rests upon its foundation or upon an underlying crypt, movably, and removably, and is held in place merely by gravity, supplemented by the pipe connection 15, which is of a character to flex or yield under a moderate stress. The crypts are therefore free to change their relative positions, to adjust themselves to any uneven settling, or to any ordinary vibration of their foundation or of the ground, or even to extraordinary vibration, such as earthquakes, without fracture or other serious injury to the crypts.

It is to be understood that this invention is not limited to any precise construction hereinbefore disclosed, or to any material or materials from which to form the crypts, or to any particular material or materials for use as a germicide in the well 16, as it is evident that this invention might be applied in various constructions and by the use of various materials, without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus fully described this invention, I claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States:

1. A burial device comprising a series of unitary hermetically sealed cells or crypts, vertically arranged and resting one upon the other, a combined gas and seepage conduit, connections between each cell and said conduit through which all the gas and seepage which may be formed in any cell is conducted to said conduit, a base upon which said series of cells is supported, said base projecting beyond the bottom cell of said series and provided with a chamber in the projecting portion of said base, and into which the lower end of said conduit extends to a point near the bottom of said chamber, a germicide in said chamber, and means to conduct away the gas delivered from said chamber after said gas and seepage have been acted upon by said germicide.

2. A burial device comprising a series of unitary hermetically sealed cells or crypts, vertically arranged and resting one upon the other, a cell of the series having its bottom extended beyond the front of the cell to form a shelf, and the top of the cell immediately beneath said last mentioned cell extending beyond the front of said cell to

form a portion of and a support for said shelf, a combined gas and seepage conduit through which all the gas and seepage which may be formed in any cell is conducted to said conduit, a base upon which said series of cells is supported, the said base projecting beyond the bottom cell of said series and provided with a chamber in the projecting portion of said base, and into which the lower end of said conduit extends to a point near the bottom of said chamber, a germicide in said chamber, and means to conduct away the gas delivered from said chamber after said gas and seepage have been acted upon by said germicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of July, A. D., 1912.

SAMUEL S. BRICKER.

Witnesses:
FREDERICK A. BLOUNT,
ALEXANDER PARK.