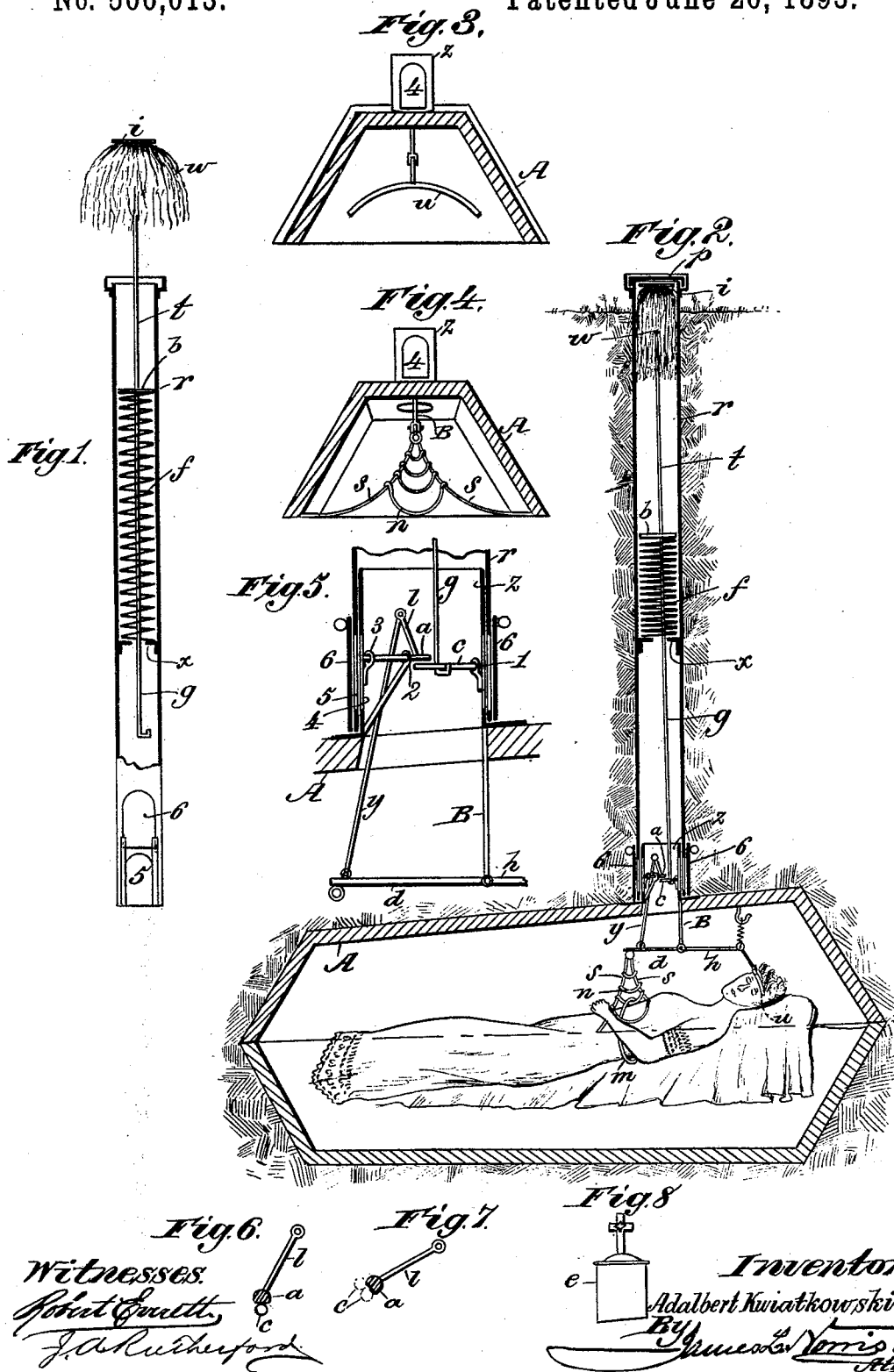


(No Model.)

A. KWIATKOWSKI.
COFFIN SIGNAL.

No. 500,013.

Patented June 20, 1893.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADALBERT KWIATKOWSKI, OF POSEN-WILDA, GERMANY.

COFFIN-SIGNAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 500,013, dated June 20, 1893.

Application filed July 7, 1892. Serial No. 439,264. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADALBERT KWIATKOWSKI, a subject of the King of Prussia, residing at Posen-Wilda, in the Kingdom of Prussia, Germany, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety-Coffins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to a safety coffin and has for its object to provide a coffin with devices whereby in case of the burial of an apparently dead person an alarm will be given to the outer world by the slightest movement of the apparently dead body.

To this end my invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, is an elevation of the tube extending from the coffin part broken away, to show the contained devices. Fig. 2, is an elevation partly in section illustrating my improved devices connected to a coffin. Fig. 3, is a detail view of the bridle to rest on the forehead of the interred. Fig. 4, is a detail illustrating means connected with the body for releasing the mechanism controlling the signal. Fig. 5, is an enlarged detail view of the signal-controlling mechanism. Figs. 6 and 7, are details of parts of the same. Fig. 8, is a view of the cap for covering the socket of the coffin.

In the said drawings the reference letter A represents a coffin to receive the body, which is provided with an upwardly extending tubular socket *z*. Fitting over this socket and having its upper end extending somewhat out of the grave is a tube *r*, the upper end of which is hermetically closed by a cap *p*. About midway its length this tube *r* is provided on its interior with an annular or other suitable ledge or support *x*.

The letter *t* represents a rod provided at its top with a sheave or plate *i*, immediately below which a thread, feather, hair or other tuft *w* is secured to the rod *t*. Below this tuft *w* is a second sheave or plate *b* is secured to the rod *t*, and depending from this sheave or plate *b* is a rod *g*, which is hooked at its lower end.

A spiral spring *f*, surrounds the rod *g*, the upper end of which rests against the sheave or plate *b* and the lower end against the ledge or support *x*, the arrangement being such that the spring *f* is compressed or contracted when the rod *t* and its attached signal tuft are entirely within the tube *r*.

Formed on the interior of the coffin-socket *z*, is an eye 1, in which is loosely secured a round cross pin *c* which is adapted to engage the hooked lower end of the rod *g*. At the opposite side of said socket is secured an arm having at its end an eye 2, and another eye 3 is also secured at this side to the socket *z*, and supported in the said eyes 2 and 3 is an arm or pin *a*, one end of which is arranged immediately over the pin *c*, the under surface of the arm or pin *a* being somewhat flattened as shown at Figs. 6 and 7, to prevent it slipping or gliding off the pin *c*. Secured at one end to the arm or pin *a* is a short lever *l*, to the other end of which is attached one end of a rod, cord, rope or chain *y*. Depending from the interior top of the coffin is a rod or bar B, and pivoted to swing in the lower end of the bar B, is a lever of the first order *d, h*, the end *d* of which is connected with the rod or cord *y*.

Secured at one end to the lever *d, h* are two loosely hanging cords, chains or ropes *s, s*, which cords are also secured to the sides or other suitable part of the coffin and are intended to pass under the hands of the body inclosed in the coffin. These cords, chains, or ropes *s, s*, are connected together loosely by cords *n*. Passing around the body and embracing one or more of the cords *n* is a girdle *m*. To the other end of the lever *d, h*, is attached a bridle *n* constructed of any suitable soft material, which bridle is to rest upon the forehead of the interred. Secured to the top of the coffin above the lever *d, h*, is a small hook carrying a slight spring which is also connected with the end of the lever *d, h*, opposite the rod or cord *y*.

For the purpose of arranging the hereinbefore described apparatus for operation, coincident openings 4, 5 are provided in the socket *z*, and the tube *r*, which openings are closed by slides 6, arranged in connection therewith in any suitable manner. I may also provide the tube *r* with corresponding holes to receive a bolt to retain the spring *f*

in its contracted or compressed condition while the hooked end of the rod *g* is being engaged with the cross pin *c*.

During the conveyance of the coffin and during the burial, the socket *z* is to be closed by a cap *e* which may be provided with suitable air openings to prevent suffocation upon resuscitation of the apparent dead during conveyance to the burial place.

As will be seen from the drawings the operation of my invention is as follows: In the event of a burial of a person apparently, but not in reality, dead, the slightest movement of such person will, through either the cords *s, s*, or the bridle *u* move the lever *d, h*, which through the cord *y* will act upon the lever *l*, to oscillate the arm or pin *a*, which, as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7, will give the cross-pin *c* a slight sidewise movement, sufficient to clear it from said arm or pin *a*, when the rod *g* under the expansive force of the spring *f* will glide off the cross pin *c*, when also by means of the spring *f*, the rod *t* and its attached signal tuft will be forced upward, displacing the cover *p*, and showing the signal tuft above the top of the tube *r*, as shown in Fig. 1, thus warning the outer world that the

buried is alive, and at the same time affording an entrance for air so that suffocation will not take place.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

In a safety attachment for coffins, the combination of a tube *r*, a signal carrying rod *t* located within said tube, a spring *f* bearing against a part of the tube and a part of the rod, a hooked rod *g* connected with said spring, a pivoted pin *c* detachably engaging the hooked rod, a holding arm or pin *a* engaging and holding the pivoted pin in operative engagement with the hooked rod, a pivoted lever *h* having a connection *i* with the said holding arm or pin, and devices connected with the opposite ends of said pivoted lever and means engaging different portions of, and operated by the movement of, the person buried to release the holding arm from the pivoted pin, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ADALBERT KWIATKOWSKI.

Witnesses:

W. HAUPT,
L. A. EDWARDS.