

(No Model.)

W. C. KNAPP.
BURIAL CASKET.

No. 569,339.

Patented Oct. 13, 1896.

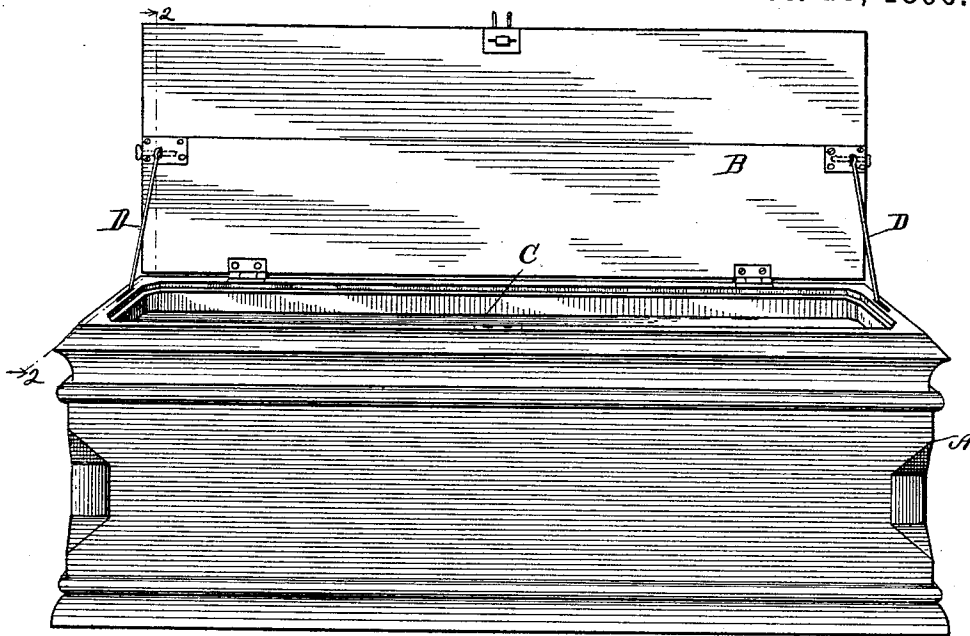


Fig. 1

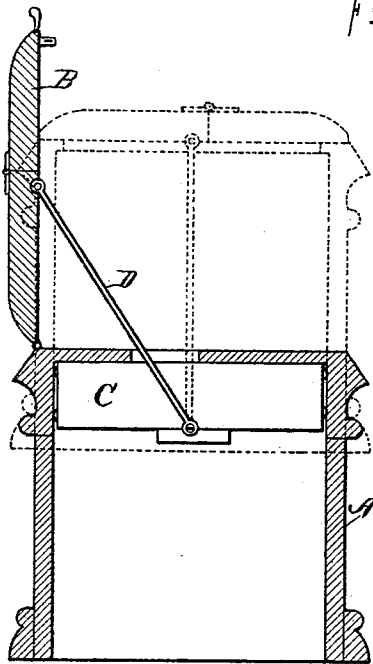


Fig. 2

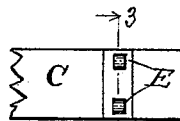


Fig. 4

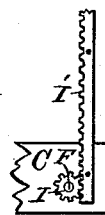


Fig. 6

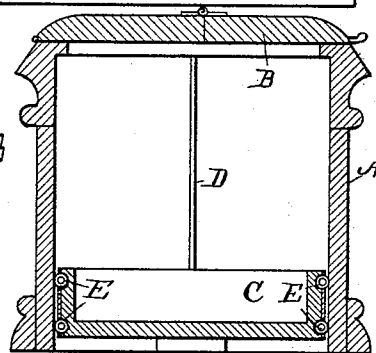


Fig. 3

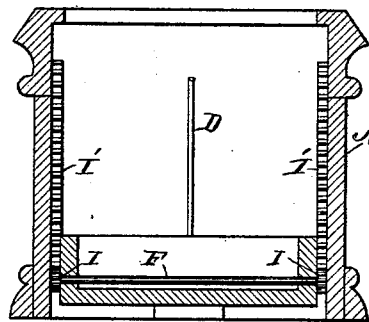


Fig. 5



Fig. 7

Witnesses:

Walter S. Wood
Sam C. Chappell

Inventor,

William C. Knapp
By *Fred L. Chappell*
Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. KNAPP, OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO THE MODEL CASKET COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BURIAL-CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 569,339, dated October 13, 1896.

Application filed June 18, 1896. Serial No. 595,964. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. KNAPP, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Kalamazoo, in the county of Kalamazoo and State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Burial-Casket, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in burial-caskets.

My invention relates more particularly to that class of burial-caskets known as "couch-caskets," in which the entire body of the corpse is exposed, as though lying on a couch when the casket is opened.

The objects of this invention are, first, to provide a burial-casket which can be quickly and conveniently transformed into a couch while the corpse is inside; second, to provide a convenient mechanism for accomplishing this desired end; third, to provide a casket of this class so constructed that a mere opening of the cover effects the transformation; fourth, to provide in a casket of this character a convenient support for floral decorations. Further objects will appear in the detailed description.

I accomplish the objects of my invention by the devices and means described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a casket embodying the essential features of my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view on a line corresponding to the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view through the entire casket on a line corresponding to the line 3 3 of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one side of the bottom portion, showing the guiding-rollers E. Fig. 5 is a sectional view similar to that shown in Fig. 3 showing the special means for controlling the bottom. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the same. Fig. 7 is a detail view of the adjustable bolt for detaining the links so that the cover can be opened without moving the casing or bottom.

Similar letters of reference refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the lettered parts of the drawings, A represents the shell or outer casing of the casket.

B is the cover, which is hinged to the back side of the shell.

C is the bottom, which is shaped like a box and is supported movably inside the shell. Links D D are connected to the ends of the bottom portion and to the end portions of the cover above. They are secured detachably to the cover above by the slide-bolts D', a detail view of which appears in Fig. 7. A fastener is provided for the front of the cover for locking the same. On the sides of the bottom are placed pairs of antifriction-rollers E to insure easy motion of the shell over the same.

In operation the casket is placed upon the pedestals, which are of such a size that the shell will pass down over the same. When it is desired to open the casket for viewing the corpse, the clasp to the cover is loosened in front and it is allowed to open back gradually from the weight of the shell, descending around the bottom C, the rollers E guiding the same correctly to position. When it is desired to close the same, the cover is taken hold of and the motion made to tip it forward, as in the ordinary way of closing a box-cover, when through the connection of the links D D to the bottom and of the hinge to the back the shell will be drawn up to the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 2, where it will form a burial-casket similar in appearance to those of the ordinary construction. The cover is divided lengthwise and connected by hinges, so that the upper part can be folded back and form a suitable and convenient rest or table for flowers or other decorations.

When the casket is made very large or very heavy, toward each end of the bottom is inserted a shaft F, having small pinions I rigidly secured to each end thereof. Vertical racks I' are placed inside the shell in position to engage the pinions I. It will thus be seen that when the shell is raised or lowered the sides will be carried evenly to their position, either open or closed, as the case may be. When the casket is placed upon the floor and the cover is raised, it will of course lift the bottom, which would be impracticable in use because the weight of the corpse

is supported upon the bottom. When it is desired to open the casket in this position, the bolts D' are drawn out, so that the links are released and the casket is opened in the usual way.

Having thus described my improved couch-casket, I desire to state that it is capable of considerable variation in its details without departing from my invention.

The guiding-rollers E are not absolutely necessary adjuncts, nor are the pinions I and racks I'. They, however, serve very useful purposes when required, and cause the remaining parts to work with great precision and accuracy. It will be clear that the shell of the casket could be made movable over the bottom and be operated in other ways than here indicated and still secure the effects I have secured, though not in so satisfactory a manner.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a burial-casket, the combination of the shell A; the bottom C movably supported therein; the top B, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together; antifriction-rollers E, E, E, E, upon the bottom to guide it within the shell; a shaft F, in each end of the bottom; pinions I, I, rigidly secured to each end thereof; vertical racks I', supported inside the shell in position to mesh with said pinions; and a lock or clasp for securing the cover in the closed position; all coacting together substantially as described for the purpose specified.

2. In a burial-casket, the combination of the shell A; a bottom C, movably supported therein; the top B, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together; antifriction-rollers E, E, E, E, upon the bottom to guide it within the shell; and a lock or clasp for securing the cover in the closed position all coacting together substantially as described for the purpose specified.

3. In a burial-casket the combination of

the shell A; the bottom C, movably supported therein; the top B, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together; and a lock or clasp for securing the cover in the closed position all coacting together substantially as described for the purpose specified.

4. In a burial-casket, the combination of the shell A; the bottom C, movably supported therein; the top B, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together; a shaft F, in each end of the bottom; pinions I, I, rigidly secured to each end thereof; vertical racks I', supported inside the shell in position to mesh with said pinions; and a lock or clasp for securing the cover all coacting together substantially as described for the purpose specified.

5. In a burial-casket the combination of the shell A; the bottom C, movably supported therein; the top B, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together, slide-bolts D', detachably securing the links to the top; and a lock or clasp for securing the cover in the closed position substantially as described.

6. In a burial-casket the combination of the shell A; the bottom C, movably supported therein; the top B, of two sections hinged together to fold back for a support, hinged thereto at the back; links D, D, connecting the top and the bottom together; and a locker-clasp for securing the cover in the closed position as specified.

7. In a burial-casket, the combination of the shell A; a suitable cover therefor; the bottom movably supported therein; and suitable means of adjusting the shell up and down over the bottom to change the casket to a couch as specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM C. KNAPP. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

VANE E. CHAPPELL,
J. DAVIDSON BURNS.