Feb. 8, 1927. 1,617,144

J. C. BERGER

HEADBLOCK FOR MORTUARY CRYPTS

Filed May 15, 1926

Fig. 1.

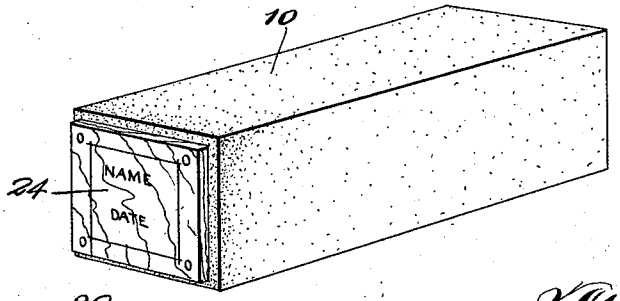


Fig. 2.

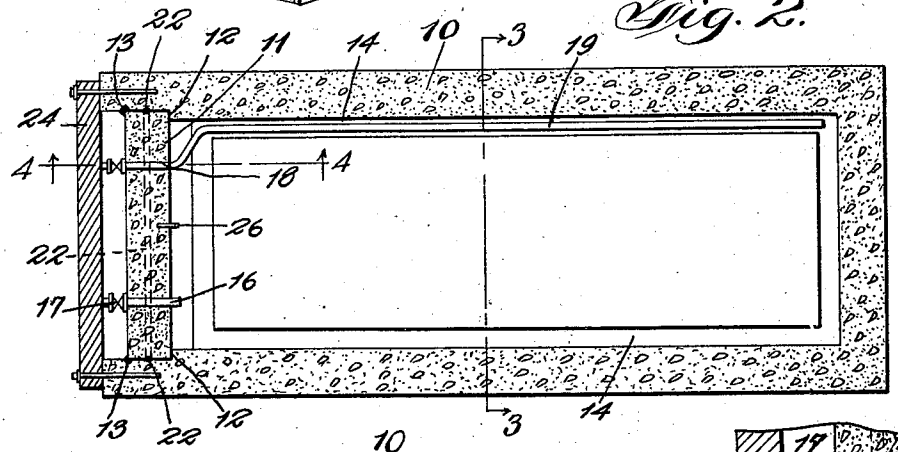


Fig. 4.

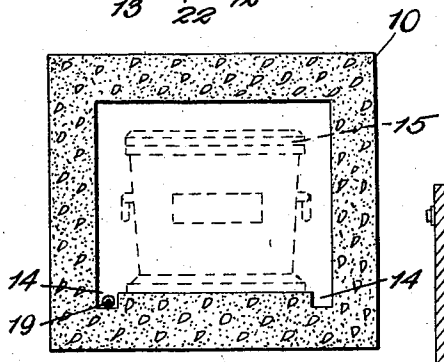
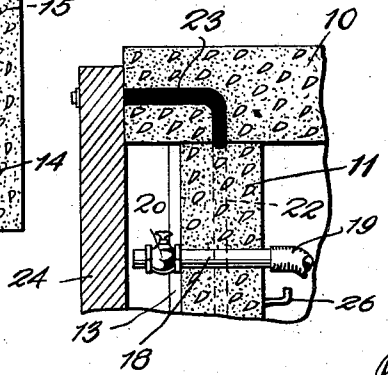


Fig. 3.



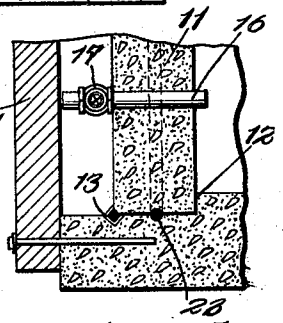


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HEADBLOCK FOR MORTUARY CRYPTS.

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The invention relates to mortuary crypts, and more particularly to a special form of head block for such crypt designed to be applied to the crypt and sealed in place, said block being provided with means for introducing an antiseptic and preservative gas under pressure, whereby decomposition of the body within the crypt is prevented. The invention further relates to certain novel features of the crypt itself, designed to cooperate with said head block for the preservation of the body within the crypt.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the closed and sealed crypt.

Figure 2 is a plan sectional view of the same.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view on line 3—3, Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a detail sectional view on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail view of a portion of Figure 2 showing means for the introduction of an antiseptic gas into the crypt.

In the drawing the reference numeral 10 denotes generally the concrete walls of the crypt, and the numeral 11 denotes the head block which is likewise preferably of waterproof concrete. As shown, a slideway is provided at the end of the crypt to receive the head block. this slideway being formed by providing shoulders 12 in the side walls of the crypt and providing strips 13, preferably of metal, at a distance from the shoulder equal to the width of the head block. The head block is preferably 2 by 3 feet and about 4 or 5 inches thick.

The crypt is provided with a trough or groove 14 at the lower portion thereof which is designed to receive a chemical capable of absorbing the moisture within the crypt. Calcium chloride or other hygroscopic material may be employed for this purpose. The coffin 15 is placed on the raised central portion of the crypt and the head block placed in position.

It is desirable to maintain an antiseptic atmosphere within the crypt in order to destroy any bacteria which may be present, and to prevent the growth of decay organisms. For this purpose a gas inlet nozzle 16 is provided which extends completely through the head block and into the interior of the crypt. This nozzle is preferably controlled by a valve 17. In addition a second nipple 18 extends through the head block and is provided with a rubber tube or hose 19 which extends to the far end of the crypt, the nipple 18 being controlled by a valve 20 outside the crypt. The nipple 18 is preferably smaller than the nipple 16 and is for this purpose of testing the atmosphere within the crypt, the rubber tube being employed in order that the atmosphere at the far end of the crypt may be tested.

When the head block has been placed in position it is sealed in place to render the crypt air tight and to prevent removal of the head block, thereby assuring that the coffin 15 and its contents will not be stolen or removed. As shown, grooves 22 are formed in the head block and in the crypt, a passage 23 in the side wall of the crypt communicating with said grooves. Through this passage a sealing substance as molten lead or cement is introduced into the grooves 22. This substance flows through any spaces existing between the head-block and the crypt and insures a substantially air tight seal.

With the device described I am enabled to maintain a dry and antiseptic atmosphere within the crypt. The antiseptic gas is introduced under a pressure of 8 or 10 pounds above atmospheric pressure in order to insure its penetration into all portions of the interior of the crypt. This gas and the pressure within the crypt may be tested at any time through the hose 19, nipple 18 and valve 20. If the pressure has dropped below that which it is desired to maintain additional gas may be supplied through the nipple 16. This may be accomplished by means of a gas pump provided with a suitable pressure gage.

At the end of the crypt and beyond the head block a marble name plate 24 of any suitable construction may be applied, this plate being removable in order to allow access to the nipples 16 and 18.

If desired a screw eye 25 may be provided to provide for the attachment of a dessicating element.

What I claim is:

In a burial crypt having sealing grooves in the body thereof, a head block having grooves cooperating with the grooves in the body of the crypt to receive a self hardening sealing material, whereby the interior of said crypt is rendered completely gas-tight,

means for admitting a preservative gas through said head block under pressure, means for positively closing the gas inlet, other means extending through the head block for testing the interior of the crypt to determine gaseous and pressure conditions therein, and means for positively closing said testing means, whereby a completely gas-tight crypt is provided capable of maintaining an internal pressure greater than atmospheric for an indefinite period of time.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOSEPH CARL BERGER.