

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAX HUNCKE, OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE EMBALMERS' SUPPLY COMPANY, OF NEW JERSEY.

ANTISEPTIC FLUID FOR EMBALMING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 498,350, dated May 30, 1893.

Application filed January 13, 1892. Serial No. 417,977. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAX HUNCKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Westport, Fairfield county, State of Connecticut, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Antiseptic Fluids; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable
10 others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to anti-septic compounds and its novelty consists in the nature of the ingredients employed and their combination to effect the purpose desired.

15 Heretofore the embalming of corpses and the preservation of animal flesh has been effected usually by the employment of the salts of arsenic, copper and other poisonous metals. In the embalming of human bodies, the use
20 of such salts in solution is peculiarly objectionable because the previous presence of active poisons, which may have been used maliciously to cause the death of the subject operated upon, can not be then satisfactorily
25 determined or legal evidence secured to convict the persons guilty of its criminal administration.

The object of my invention is to produce a substance in fluid form and of a non-poisonous nature which can be injected into a human corpse and which will successfully preserve
30 it from decomposition for the usual length of time desired, and without the unsightly distension of the body, and at the same time allow the brains or intestines to remain within the subject.

In the course of many experiments made to successfully accomplish the desired object, I discovered that it was necessary to use materials which would take up the free oxygen
40 surrounding the organs of the body and formed within it as a product of decomposition, and also to prevent further fermentation, and at the same time, one which would not develop within the body gases causing any pronounced or visible distension.

As a result of my experiments I have found that the following formula will produce a fluid which will effect the object of my investiga-

tions, to wit: To ten parts of the bisulphite
50 of potash, soda, or lime, I add five parts of the sulphite of alumina and one part of the sulphite of lime, the last two ingredients named having previously been dissolved in an aqueous solution of sulphurous acid, so
55 that there is a slight excess of free acid after solution occurs. To the resulting solution are added from fifty to one hundred parts of water, as circumstances may require. If the body to be operated upon already shows signs
60 of decomposition, a slightly greater excess of free sulphurous acid may be advantageously employed.

I am aware that sulphites and bisulphites of the alkalies or alkaline earths have been
65 used for embalming purposes, but in advanced cases of decomposition the absorption of the gases by the use of these substances alone is too slow entirely to prevent or check its progress. I also know that sulphurous
70 acid either in a gaseous or liquid form has been employed for this purpose, but owing to the volatile nature of the acid the use of this alone is not lasting enough to interrupt the process of decay for any length of time without
75 repeated and frequent applications. Besides the acid has a tendency to inflate the parts. But by mixing the bisulphites with the sulphites dissolved in a solution of sulphurous acid so that there is an excess of free
80 acid after solution takes place a compound will be obtained by which the most obstinate cases of advanced states of decomposition may be promptly controlled and be checked for the usual length of time without repeated
85 and frequent injections. By the presence of the free sulphurous acid bisulphates will be formed whenever an excess of the oxygen is encountered and before the resulting change to sulphate takes place so that the action of the
90 thus freshly produced or nascent bisulphite will be quicker and more salient than when formed before they are introduced into the body. The function of the bisulphite included originally is mainly to preserve the
95 undecayed matter by checking or destroying the germs of fermentation, while the function of that formed within the body is to rap-

idly and completely absorb or reduce the gases given off by any decomposing matter.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new is—

- 5 The herein described antiseptic fluid for embalming purposes, the same composed of bisulphite of potash, soda, or lime, sulphite of alumina and sulphite of lime dissolved in an aqueous solution of sulphurous acid, and

water, in substantially the proportions specified.

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

MAX HUNCKE.

Witnesses:

WM. RAIMOND BAIRD,
JAMES P. DOWNS.