May 27, 1924. 1,495,712

J. R. NESTER

CASKET TOP AND PANEL FASTENER

Filed Jan. 13, 1922

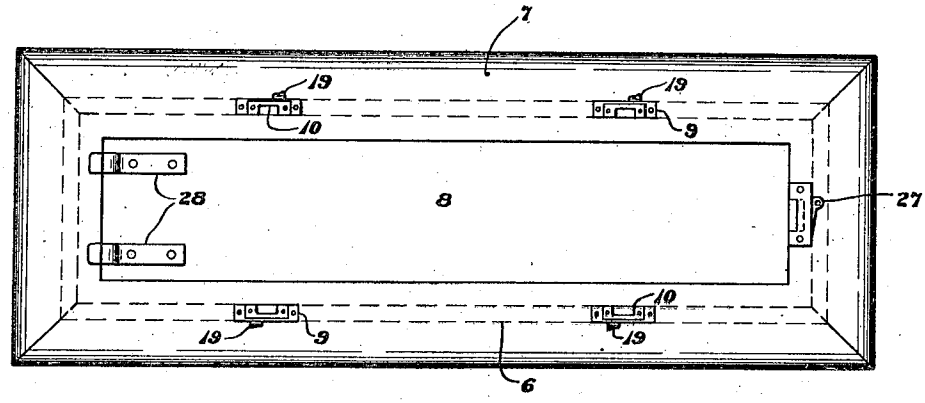


Fig. 1.

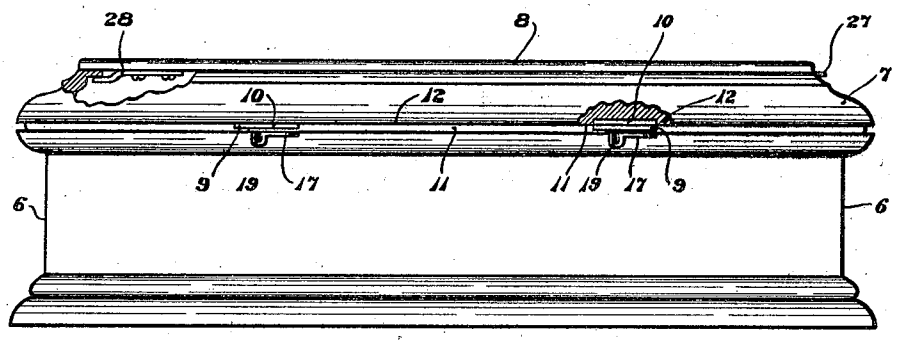


Fig. 2.

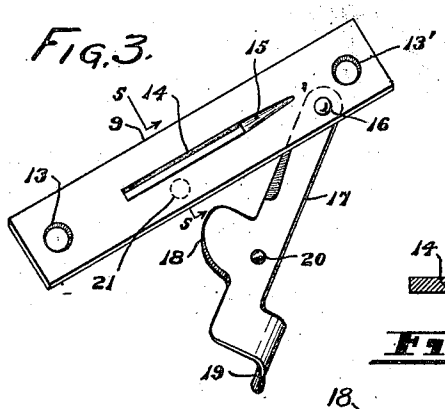


Fig. 3.

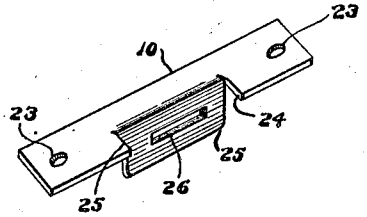


Fig. 4.

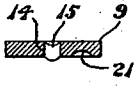


Fig. 5.

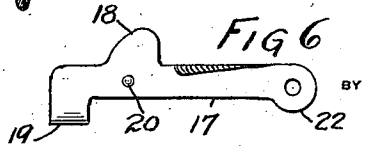


Fig 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN R. NESTER, OF POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

CASKET TOP AND PANEL FASTENER.

Application filed January 13, 1922. Serial No. 528,936.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN R. NESTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pottstown, in the county of Montgomery and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Casket Top and Panel Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to fastening means and more particularly to that type or form of device which is specially adapted for securing the covers and panels to burial caskets, coffins and the like, the primary object being to provide a casket top or panel fastener which will obviate the use of screws or similar means for ensuring a safe and secure connection between said panel and top, or the top and casket body.

Another object of my invention is to provide a fastening device of the kind referred to which is simple in construction, cheap to manufacture, instantaneous in action and noiseless in operation.

With the foregoing and other objects in view as will hereafter become more apparent, my invention consists essentially in certain novel features of construction, combinations and arrangements of parts later on fully described and more specifically defined by the subjoined claims.

In the further disclosure of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying sheet of explanatory drawings constituting a part of this specification, and in which like characters of reference designate the same or corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1—is a top plan view of a burial casket having my invention applied thereto.

Figure 2—is a side elevation of the same with parts broken away or in section to better disclose the underlying structure.

Figure 3—is a perspective view of the fastening device.

Figure 4—is a perspective view of the hasp portion of the fastening device; and,

Figure 5—is a section on the line 5—5 in Figure 3.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary detail view of another form of latch.

Referring more particularly to the views the numeral 6 designates a casket body, 7 the cover therefor, and 8 the removable panel, all of said parts being in accordance with prevailing practice and constituting no part of my invention.

The improved fastening device in accordance with my improvements embodies two principal parts 9, 10 the former of which is adapted for fitment in the casket sill or upper edge 11, whereas the latter is applied to the underside 12 of the cover 7 as later on explained. Referring to the part 9 as shown most clearly by Figure 3 it will be seen that it consists of a rectangular strip of suitable material such as sheet-metal of appropriate dimensions to be snugly bedded into the body sill or upper edge 11 and held in place by wood screws passed through countersink holes 13, 13′. This part or strip 9 is longitudinally slotted at 14, and one end of said slot is chamfered or grooved at 15 to form a depending rib for a purpose later on explained. Pivotally connected beneath the strip 9 by a rivet or pivot pin 16 is a lever 17 that is fashioned with a locking member or tongue 18 and a downwardly turned finger piece 19 by means of which said lever 17 can be swung on its pivot 16. Stamped or otherwise upset from the lever 17 is a tit 20 that is adapted to lock in or engage with a correspondingly shaped cavity 21 provided for the purpose on the underside of the rectangular strip 9.

In some instances I may prefer to dispense with the pivot pin 16 and extend the lever somewhat as indicated in Figure 3 to provide an eye-piece 22, said eye piece having a hole for registration beneath the countersink hole 13′ so that when a wood screw is passed therethrough to secure the strip 9 to the casket body sill 11, said screw will serve as a pivot for the lever 17, as will be clearly understood by those acquainted with the art to which my invention appertains.

Referring now to the part 10 and as will be best understood from Figure 4 it will be seen that it is likewise made from an elongated strip of suitable material such as sheet metal that is provided with countersink holes 23 by means of which said part 10 is secured to the underside of the cover 7 by wood screws or the like. Intermediate its ends the strip or part 10 is transversely cut at 24 to provide a downwardly turned tenon 25 which is slotted at 26 for the reception or engagement by the aforesaid locking member or tongue 18.

In some instances, such as when my improved fastening device is applied to the removable panel 8 I preferably fashion the lever 17 with an apertured ear 27 for connection thereto of a cord or tassel—not shown—

whereby said lever may be drawn out as well as adapted for snug fitment below the bead or edge of the said panel 8.

In use and assuming that the parts 9 have been fitted into the sill or upper edge of the casket body 6 with the parts 10 similarly applied to the underside 12 of the cover 7 so that the tenons 25 will register with the slots 14 in the parts 9; it will be perfectly obvious that the levers 17 will be firstly drawn outwards by the finger pieces 19. When the cover 7 is placed in position on the casket 6 it will be clear that the grooves 15 serve to guide the tenons 25 into the slots 14, whereupon the levers 17 will be pushed inwards. This inward movement of the levers 17 will cause the locking members or tongues 18 to enter the slots 26 in the tenons 25, and when said levers are pushed in to their fullest extent—that is to say, until the finger pieces 19 engage the side walls of the casket 6, the tits 20 will enter and securely engage in the cavities 21 when it will be readily understood that the cover 7 will be securely locked to the casket body, whilst at the same time a tight joint will result in that the crowding of the tits 20 into the cavities 21 will cause a drawing together of said cover 7 and the upper edge or sill 11 of the casket. Still further when the fastening device is applied to the panel 8 that is connected at one end by gripping tongues 28 of the well known slip-in-and-under type it will be apparent the same furnishes a very simple and efficient means for locking said panel in place; or, on the other hand, providing for its easy removal.

From the foregoing it will be clearly seen that by my invention there is provided an exceedingly simple and effective fastening means for the purposes specified, the same being of extremely simple construction whereby it can be produced at small cost; and whilst there has been shown and described a preferred embodiment the same is not to be construed as conclusive in that changes in the shape or pattern of the various parts can be easily evolved without departing from the essential features thereof, the right is therefore hereby reserved to make such detail changes as fairly lie within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. The combination with a burial casket and the cover therefor of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body, a lever pivotally disposed beneath said slotted strip and provided with a laterally projecting tongue and depending finger piece, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of the casket cover provided with a slotted tenon intermediate its ends, said slotted tenon being adapted for passage through the aforesaid slotted strip and inter-engagement by the laterally projecting tongue on the pivoted lever, and means for locking the pivoted lever to the first mentioned strip when the parts are in assembled relation.

2. The combination with a burial casket and the cover therefor of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body, a lever pivoted to the underside of said slotted strip and provided with a laterally projecting tongue and depending finger piece, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of the casket cover provided with an integral slotted tenon intermediate its ends, said slotted tenon being adapted for passage through the aforesaid slotted strip and inter-engagement by the laterally projecting tongue on the pivoted lever, and means for locking the pivoted lever to the first mentioned strip when the parts are in assembled relation.

3. The combination with a burial casket and the cover therefor of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body by a plurality of fixing screws, a lever having an apertured eye-piece at one end for pivotal connection beneath the slotted strip by one of its fixing screws, said lever being fashioned with a laterally projecting tongue and depending finger piece, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of the casket cover provided with an integral slotted tenon intermediate its ends, said slotted tenon being adapted for passage through the aforesaid slotted strip and inter-engagement by the laterally projecting tongue on the pivoted lever, and means for locking the pivoted lever to the first mentioned strip when the parts are in assembled relation.

4. The combination with a burial casket and the cover therefor of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body, a lever pivoted to the underside of said slotted strip and provided with a laterally projecting tongue and depending finger piece, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of the casket cover provided with an integral slotted tenon intermediate its ends, said slotted strip adapted for inter-engagement by the laterally projecting tongue on the pivoted lever, an upset tit on the aforesaid lever, and a correspondingly shaped cavity on the underside of the slotted strip whereby the entire device is securely locked when the parts are in assembled relation.

5. The combination with a burial casket and the cover therefor of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body by a plurality of fixing screws, a lever having an apertured eye-piece at one end for pivotal connection beneath the slotted strip by one of its fixing

screws, said lever being fashioned with a laterally projecting tongue and depending finger piece, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of the casket cover provided with an integral slotted tenon intermediate its ends, said slotted tenon being adapted for passage through the aforesaid slotted strip and inter-engagement by the laterally projecting tongue on the pivoted lever, an upset tit on the aforesaid lever, and a correspondingly shaped cavity on the underside of the slotted strip whereby the entire device is securely locked when the parts are in assembled relation.

6. The combination with the body of a burial casket and the cover therefor, of a longitudinally slotted strip for fixture in the upper edge of said casket body and provided with a depending rib, an elongated strip for connection into the underside of said cover and provided with a slotted tenon for insertion in the slot of said slotted strip, and a lever pivotally disposed beneath said slotted strip and provided with a laterally projecting tongue for insertion in the slot of said tenon and provided with a chamfered edge cooperative with said rib for forcing said tongue downwardly, and provided with a depending finger-piece.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN R. NESTER.