A. G. Reed,

Corpse Cooler.

No. 105,368. Patented July 12. 1870.

FIG. 4.

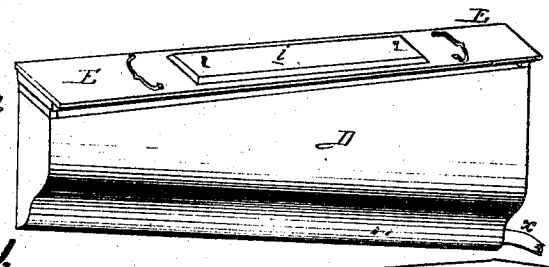


FIG. 1.

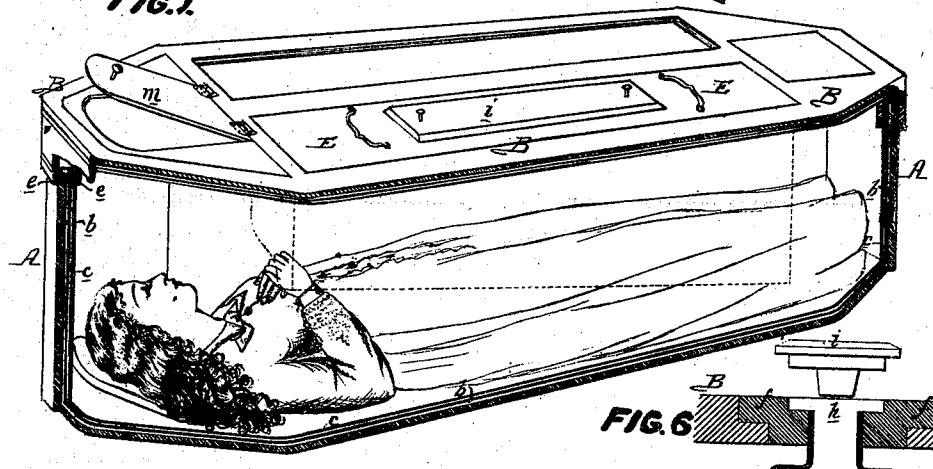


FIG. 6

FIG. 2.

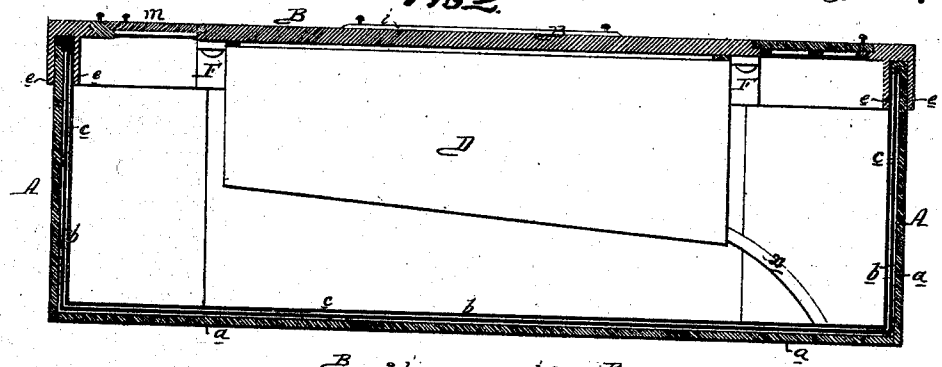
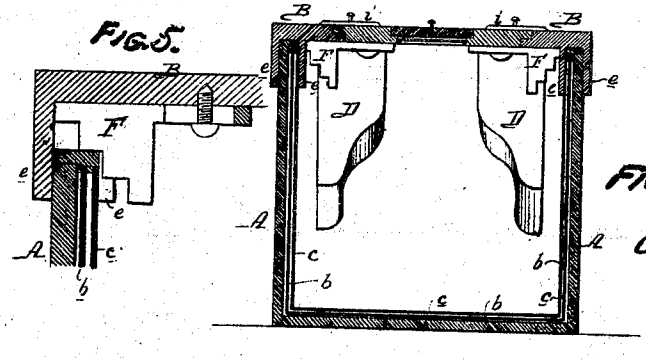


FIG. 5.



WITNESSES.
Wm. A. Steel.
Fig. 3. Jno. B. Harding.

Alfred G. Reed M.D.
by his Attys.
Howson and Sons

United States Patent Office.

ALFRED GRAHAM REED, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 105,368, *dated July* 12, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-PRESERVING CASES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

I, ALFRED GRAHAM REED, M. D., of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Corpse-preserving Case, of which the following is a specification.

Nature and Object of the Invention.

My invention relates to corpse-preserving caskets, in which the ice or freezing mixture is contained in cases or boxes arranged adjacent to the body; and

My invention consists—

First, of a case having a detachable top or lid, from which are suspended two detachable boxes, containing the ice or freezing mixture, said boxes extending below the top and into the casket, having their lower ends so shaped as to conform somewhat to the form of the body, and being so secured to the cover that they may be withdrawn separately through suitable openings.

Secondly, of a lid or cover to which the said detachable boxes are fitted, and at the under side of which are flanges inclosing the sides of the casket, in combination with devices by which the lid can be adjusted and secured after adjustment, so that the lid can be raised or lowered, to bring the boxes nearer to or move them farther from the body without affording any opening for the passage of air between the lid and the casket.

Description of the Accompanying Drawing.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved corpse-preserving case, with one side of the same removed to show the interior;

Figure 2, a vertical section of the same;

Figure 3, a transverse vertical section;

Figure 4, a perspective view of one of the detachable vessels for containing the freezing mixture; and

Figures 5 and 6, sectional views of part of the case drawn to an enlarged scale.

General Description.

The body A of the case consists of a wooden shell, *a*, of the form, or approximating to the form illustrated in the drawing; and this body has on its sides, ends, and bottom, a double lining, composed, in the present instance, of thin wood, *b*, and sheet metal, *c*, there being a narrow air space between the shell *a* and intermediate lining *b*, and between the latter and the lining *c*.

The under side of the cover B is edged with comparatively deep vertical flanges, *e e*, for fitting snugly to and inclosing the upper edge of the body, one flange on each side of the same, and in this cover are two oblong openings, for admitting from above the sheet-metal boxes D D, and to the top of each box is secured a board, E, the projecting edges *f f* of which rest in the recessed edges of the opening in the cover B, as best observed on reference to fig. 6.

The mouth *h* of the box D extends upward into the boards D, for receiving the lower portion of the lid *i*, the flanges of which rest in the recessed edges of the opening in the board B.

It is essential in carrying out my invention, that the boxes should be so arranged, in respect to the cover, that while the former, when in place are suspended from the latter, they can be withdrawn separately through the cover. It also essential that access should be had to the interior of the boxes from the outside of the case without disturbing the cover.

In preserving large corpses, it becomes necessary to elevate the cover B, and to retain it in an elevated position. In order to do this, I arrange, on the under side of the cover B, four blocks, F, two near each edge of the cover, the blocks being so arranged that they can be moved nearer to or further from the edge of the cover, and secured after adjustment.

The under side of each block is so cut as to form a series of steps, one or other of which rests upon the upper edge of the case, so that the height of the cover B, above the edge of the case, will depend upon the position to which the blocks are adjusted.

The cover is furnished with a hinged lid, *m*, and beneath the latter there is a hinged-frame, containing a pane of glass, through which the face of the corpse may be observed. A hinged lid may also be arranged near the opposite end of the cover, to close an opening, through which access may be had to the interior of the case at the feet of the corpse.

The boxes D D are so curved at their lower ends as to conform somewhat to the form of the corpse, and are of such a form that they will afford the greatest capacity for the freezing mixture, without interfering with the corpse.

This freezing mixture may be composed of ice and salt, and the water which accumulates in the boxes is permitted to escape from the lowest point of the same through a flexible pipe, *x*, attached to each box, in such a manner that it will not interfere with the ready withdrawal of the boxes from the case.

It will be seen that one box may be withdrawn and replenished, (when it is not desired to introduce the freezing mixture through the mouth,) while the other remains and prevents too great an increase of temperature within the casket.

I have also found that when the lid has been adjusted tightly to its place, it is best to retain it there until the corpse is finally removed to a coffin, hence the plan of arranging the ice-boxes in such a manner that they can be withdrawn and inserted through the cover B without disturbing the same.

Where the cover fits to the body of the case, and the

board D fits to the cover, and the lid *i* to the board, rubber or other packing may be used to render the joints as nearly air-tight as possible.

Claims.

1. The casket A and its detachable top B, in combination with the two detachable-boxes D D, curved at their lower ends, as described, and secured to the cover, so as to project below the same into the case, and so that they may be detached separately, by withdrawing them through the cover, all as specified.

2. The cover B, its flanges *e e*, and detachable boxes D D, in combination with blocks F F, for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED GRAHAM REED, M. D.

Witnesses:

HARRY SMITH,

WM. A. STEEL.