June 14, 1927. 1,632,160

W. G. BARNES

BODY ADJUSTER FOR DECEASED PERSONS

Filed Dec. 11, 1925

Fig. 1.

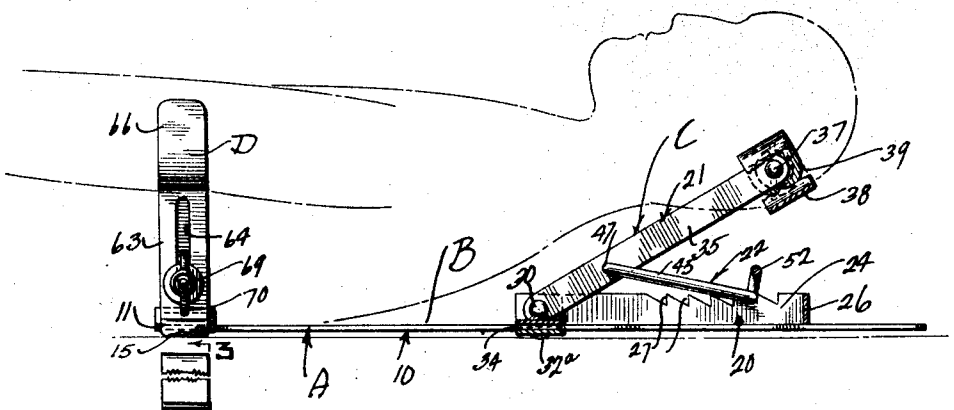


Fig. 2.

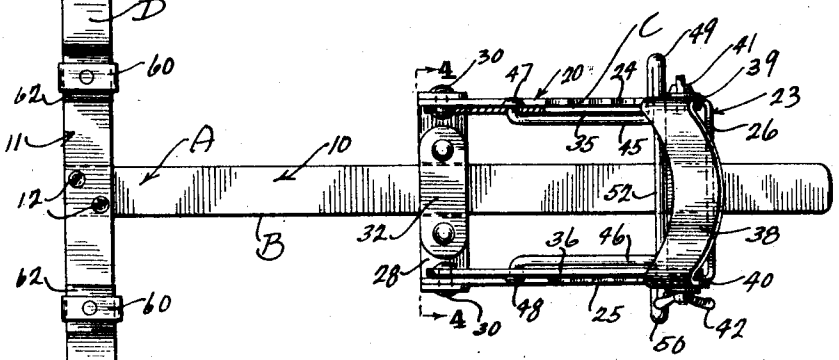


Fig. 3.

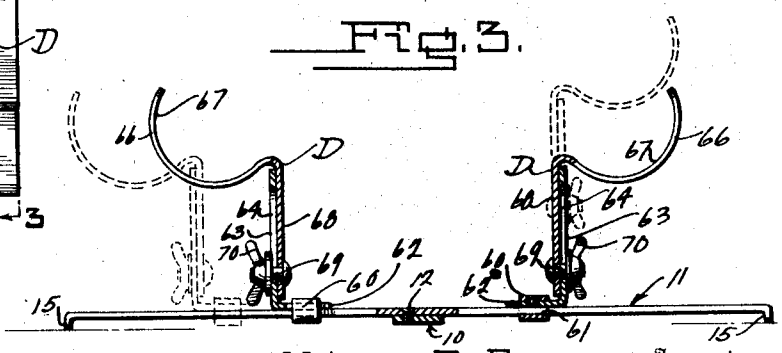
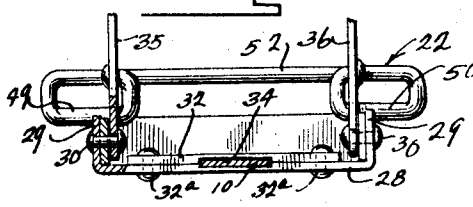


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BODY ADJUSTER FOR DECEASED PERSONS.

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This invention relates to improvements in body adjusters.

The primary object of this invention is the provision of an adjuster device for holding the bodies of deceased persons in proper position for embalming.

A further object of this invention is the provision of an improved body adjuster adapted for use by undertakers for the purpose of holding the arms and head of the deceased person in proper position with respect to the trunk, until the body becomes rigid.

A further object of this invention is the provision of an improved body adjuster including an improved adjustable means for arranging the head so that the chin is in proper relation to the body prior to and during the embalming operation.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a body adjuster for use by undertakers, including improved adjustable features whereby to properly support the arms and head of deceased persons; the device being adaptable for use and adjustable to persons of various sizes.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of the improved body adjuster, showing the relative arrangement of parts.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the improved body adjuster.

Figures 3 and 4 are cross sectional views taken substantially on their respective lines in Figure 2 of the drawings.

In the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown only a preferred embodiment of this invention, the letter A may generally designate the improved body adjuster which may include a frame B, having an improved adjustable head rest and body support C thereon, and improved arms supporting devices D.

Referring to the main frame B, the same is preferably of metal, and includes the longitudinally extending bar or support member 10, and the end cross member 11; said members 10 and 11 being respectively adapted to adjustably support the head rest C and arm supporting devices D. The member 10 is connected at one end thereof substantially midway between the ends of the cross member 11, by means of a plurality of detachable countersunk head screws 12. At the outer ends or terminals of the cross bar 11, which supports the arm supporting devices D, the said bar is provided with supporting lugs or extensions 15, adapted to rest upon the supporting table or other surface in order to space the bar 11 above the said supporting table or surface, in the relation illustrated in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings. The bars 10 and 11 of the frame B are arranged at right angles to each other, and head rest C is slidable along the bar 10, longitudinally of the corpse, whereas the arm supporting devices D are adjustable transversely on the bar 11.

Referring to the head rest C, the same is adjustable longitudinally on the bar 10, and in the main is provided to hold the head elevated, and to adjust the chin properly to throw the same up or down with relation to the torso of the corpse. To this end the head adjuster device C includes the rack frame 20; head supporting frame 21; and pawl 22 for holding the head frame 21 elevated in any desired adjustment with respect to the rack frame 20.

The rack frame 20 comprises a substantially U-shaped metal body portion 23, which includes the rack rails 24 and 25 and the transverse connecting portion 26. The rack rails 24 and 25 are provided with series of teeth 27 upon the upper edges thereof, along which the pawl 22 engages. At the free ends of the rack rails 24 and 25, opposite the transverse connecting piece 26, is a transverse connecting member 28, which is best illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawings, and is shown as including upturned end portions 29 to which the free ends of the rack rails 24 and 25 are connected, as by pins 30. The transverse member 28 is recessed inwardly of the top surface thereof, and across this recessed portion is placed a strap 32, which is likewise recessed and provides a guide passageway 34 in which the longitudinal frame bar 10 is slidably positioned, to adjustably mount the head rest C upon the frame B, as is illustrated in various views of the drawing.

The head supporting frame 21 includes the side arms 35 and 36 adjustably connected at their lower ends to the pins 30 above mentioned, and from thence extending rear-

wardly towards the rear cross portion 26 of the rack frame 20, and at their upper ends said arms 35 and 36 are provided with screw threaded studs 37. A concavo-convex head plate 38 is placed transversely between the outer upper ends of the supporting arms 35 and 36, the same having lateral terminal lugs or ears 39 and 40 at the outer ends thereof, apertured for receiving the screw threaded studs 37 therethrough; the latter being adapted to receive thumb nuts 41 and 42 as a means of clamping the ears 39 and 40 in position rigid against the outer sides of the arms 35 and 36 so that the concavity of the concavo-convex head plate 38 may be faced in a desired relation for supporting the head or neck of the corpse, to raise or lower the chin of the corps in a desired relation with respect to the torso. It is thus apparent that the concavo-convex head plate 38 is pivotal upon the screw threaded studs or pivot pins 37, and that it may be rigidly clamped in a desired relation with respect to the plane in which the arms 35 and 36 lie, to position the head of the body in a desired relation according to the size of the corpse and characteristics thereof.

The pawl frame 22 is of somewhat novel formation, the same preferably being formed of wire, and including the side arms 45 and 46 pivotally connected at their ends 47 and 48 respectively in the arms 35 and 36 respectively of the said frame 21 between the ends of said arms 35 and 36. From this pivotal location the arms 45 and 46 extend rearwardly and are outturned in opposite directions at 49 and 50 respectively, across the teeth of the frame rack rails 24 and 25, and the portions 49 and 50 are doubled and the arms 45 and 46 connected as by means of a cross body piece 52, as illustrated in the drawing. The pawl frame 22 is of an integral construction and while the same may vary as to formation it is preferably of the shape above mentioned, and it can readily be understood that upon elevation of the head frame portion 21, the pawl will be moved along the teeth of the rack rails 24 and 25, falling into the various teeth, in order to support the head frame 21 in a desired elevation, as is illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings. It can readily be understood from Figure 1 of the drawings that the pivotal clamping means which holds the concavo-convex head plate 38 may serve as a means for varying the adjustment with respect to the plane of the frame 21, to lower or elevate the head of the corpse and properly place the chin with respect to the chest and supported arms.

Referring to the arm supporting devices D, the same are adjustable along each of the portions of the frame bar 11, at opposite sides of the bar 10, and each of these arm an arm of the corpse, to hold the same elevated in the position that it is desired to have assume when the corpse is rigid. These arms supporting devices each includes a loop strap 60 having a passageway 61 therein for sliding along the arm rest supporting bar 11, the passageway 61 being sufficiently deep to permit the insertion of an attaching foot 62 of an upstanding supporting arm 63; the attaching portion 62 and supporting arm 63 being integral and L-shaped. The upstanding supporting arm 63 is provided with a vertical slot 64 therein. Each of the arm supporting devices D includes a segmental bracket 66 of concavo-convex formation having the open socket 67 therein for receiving the corpse arm. Integral with this socket 67 is the bracket arm 68 slidable along the supporting arm 63, and having a screw threaded shank 69 rigid therein transversely extending thru the slot 64 of the bracket arm 63; a thumb clamping nut 70 being provided for the stud 69, to hold the bracket arm 68 in a desired elevation along the slotted supporting arm 63, to position the socket 66 of the bracket arm at a desired elevation, according to the size of the corpse.

The arm supporting devices D are of course slidable towards and away from each other, and towards and away from the bar 10, as is illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawing, and the segmental socket portions of the bracket arms are adjustable vertically, to position them in a desired elevation, according to the size of the corpse.

The head supporting device C in combination with the arm supporting devices D furnishes a body adjuster which is particularly well adapted for use in the supporting of the arms and head of the corpse in proper appearing relation with respect to the torso of the corpse, and the fact that the head and arm supporting devices are relatively adjustable for various sized corpses renders the device of universal application for undertakers, and obviates the heretofore used expedients of blocks, bottles, etc., for giving the body parts a comfortable appearance which the same will assume when rigid, after the embalming operation.

As is illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings the frame B is supported by means of the downturned extensions 15 and by means of rivets 32^a, above the table surface, so that embalming fluids and other fluids may readily pass beneath the device and not soil the device or the corpse, and so that the table may be kept clean.

Various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be made to the form of the improved body adjuster herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of the same or the scope of the claims.

1. In a body adjuster the combination of a frame, head rest means for the frame, and arm supporting devices, and means slidably mounting the same for adjustment towards and away from each other on the frame.

2. In a body adjuster for embalmers the combination of a frame, an adjustable head supporting device slidable along the frame, adjustable arm rests, and means slidably mounting the adjustable arm rests on the frame for transverse adjustment towards and away from each other at opposite sides of the line of adjustment of the head supporting device.

3. In a body adjuster of the class described a substantially T-shaped frame including a longitudinal bar and a transverse bar connected at an end of the longitudinal bar intermediate the ends of the transverse bar, a head supporting device slidable on the longitudinal bar, and arm supporting devices slidable along the transverse bar at each side of the longitudinal bar.

4. In a body adjuster of the class described a substantially T-shaped frame including a longitudinal bar and a transverse bar connected at an end of the longitudinal bar intermediate the ends of the transverse bar, a head supporting device slidable on the longitudinal bar, arm supporting devices slidable along the transverse bar at the ends thereof, means for adjusting the height of the head rest, and means for adjusting the elevation of the arm supporting devices.

5. In a body adjuster for embalmers the combination of a substantially T-shaped frame including a longitudinal bar member, and a transverse bar member connected between its ends in detachable manner at an end of the longitudinal bar member, a head rest, means slidably mounting the head rest on the longitudinal bar for movement toward and away from the transverse bar, means for elevating the head rest with respect to the longitudinal bar, arm supporting devices on the transverse bar at each side of the longitudinal bar slidable along the transverse bar, and means for vertically adjusting the arm supporting devices above the transverse bar.

6. In a head rest for supporting the heads of corpses the combination of a supporting frame, supporting arms pivotally connected with the supporting frame, detent means for adjustably supporting the supporting arms in a desired angular adjustment with respect to the supporting frame, a transversely extending concavo-convex head rest supported at the outer ends of said supporting arms in a pivoted relation therewith, and means for clamping the head rest in a desired plane of adjustment with respect to the plane in which said supporting arms lie.

7. In a device for supporting the heads of corpses the combination of a supporting frame having rack bars therealong, spaced supporting arms pivotally connected upon said supporting frame extending upwardly therefrom, pawl means pivotally connected with the supporting arms and adapted for adjustable detent relation over the rack bars to hold the supporting arms in a desired elevated relation above the frame, head rest means movably connected at the outer ends of said supporting arms, and means to clamp the head rest means in a rigid angular adjustment with respect to the plane of the supporting arms.

8. In a head rest of the class described the combination of a supporting frame, spaced supporting arms pivotally connected at an end of each to the supporting frame, detent means connected with the frame and arms for supporting the latter in a desired angular adjustment above the frame, said supporting arms at the free ends thereof having laterally extending screw threaded studs, a concavo-convex head rest having lateral extensions apertured to receive the screw threaded studs therethrough to pivotally connect the concavo-convex head rest between the supporting arms, and clamping nuts on the screw threaded studs for clamping the extensions of the concavo-convex rest in a desired angular adjustment with respect to the plane of the supporting arms.

9. In an arm supporting device for corpses the combination of a supporting frame, a pair of arm receiving brackets, and means slidably mounting the brackets on the frame for movement along the frame towards and away from each other.

10. In an arm supporting device for corpses the combination of a supporting frame, arm receiving brackets, means slidably mounting the brackets for movement along the frame towards and away from each other, and means to elevate and clamp the brackets above the frame at a desired elevation.

11. In an arm supporting device for corpses the combination of a supporting frame, members slidable along the frame towards and away from each other, arm supporting brackets, and means adjustably clamping the arm supporting brackets to said members so that the arm supporting brackets may be adjusted above the supporting frame in a desired elevation and clamped thereat.

12. In an arm supporting device for holding the arms of a corpse elevated the combination of a supporting frame, a member horizontally slidable along the frame, and an arm supporting bracket adjustably connected with the member including an arm receiving socket, said arm supporting bracket being adjustable vertically.

13. In an arm supporting device for holding the arms of a corpse elevated the com-

bination of a horizontal frame, a substantially vertical support member horizontally slidable along the bar, an arm supporting bracket, and means to adjustably clamp the bracket at a desired elevation on the support member above the frame.

14. In an arm supporting device for supporting the arms of corpses the combination of a horizontal frame support, a supporting member horizontally slidable along the frame support having a vertical slot therein, an arm supporting bracket including a segmental supporting portion and a vertical portion provided with a stud adjustably extending thru said slot, and nut means adjustable on said stud to clamp the arm supporting bracket in a desired elevation with respect to said supporting frame.

15. In an arm support of the class described a horizontal bar, a loop provided with a passageway receiving the bar to permit the loop to slide longitudinally along the bar, an L-shaped supporting member including a horizontal leg rigidly connected with the loop and a vertical portion having a vertical slot therein, an arm supporting bracket including a segmental socket portion and a vertical attaching portion having a screw threaded stud thereon extending thru the slot of the vertical portion of said supporting member, and nut means on the screw threaded stud for clamping the arm supporting bracket in a desired elevation along the arm of the supporting member.

16. In a body adjusting and holding device for corpses the combination of a horizontally disposed frame adapted to receive the upper part of the torso of a corpse reclining in horizontal position thereon, head supporting means adjustably carried by said frame in a slidable relation therealong, means for adjusting the head supporting means in a vertical direction away from the horizontal plane of the frame for elevating the head of the corpse to a desired degree above the frame, arm supporting brackets at opposite sides of the frame, means for transversely mounting said arm supporting brackets in substantially right angled relation with respect to the corpse at opposite sides thereof, and means for vertically adjusting the arms above the horizontal plane of the frame for holding the arms of the corpse elevated with respect to the frame to a desired degree.

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