(No Model.)

W. C. LANGENAU.

COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 413,675. Patented Oct. 29, 1889.

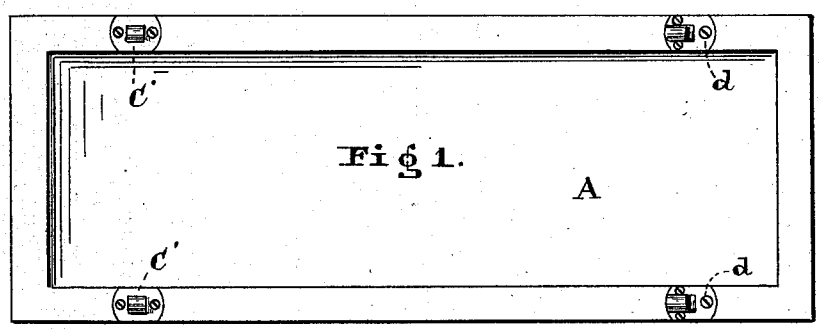


Fig. 1.

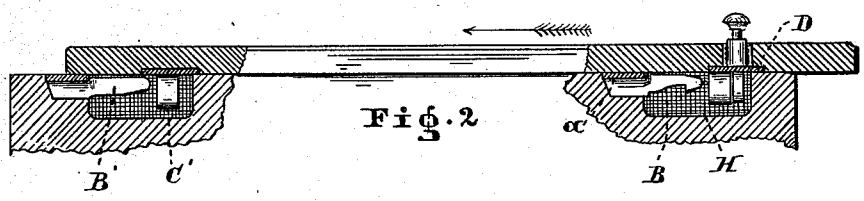


Fig. 2.

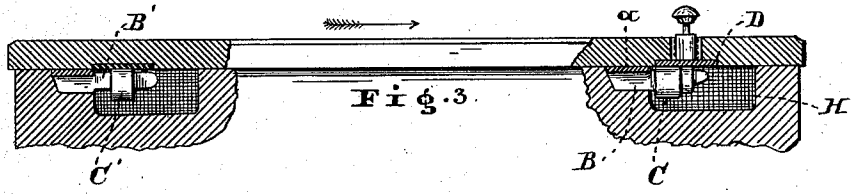


Fig. 3.

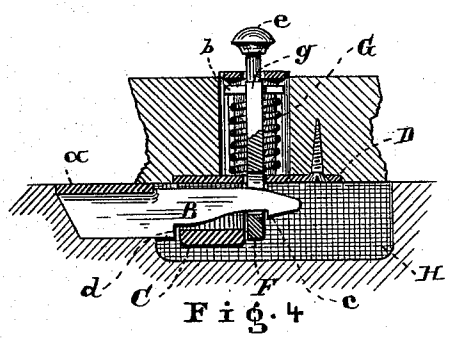


Fig. 4.

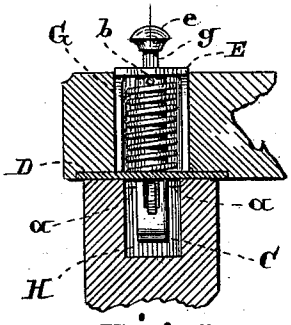


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

W. H. Beans

L. L. Fish

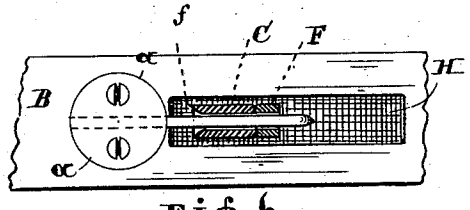


Fig. 6.

INVENTOR

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. LANGENAU, OF BROOKLYN, OHIO.

COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 413,675, dated October 29, 1889.

Application filed June 17, 1889. Serial No. 314,555. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. LANGENAU, a resident of Brooklyn, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, a citizen of the United States, have invented a certain new and Improved Casket-Top Fastener; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and complete description thereof.

My improvement relates to means for securing the tops of burial-caskets to the lower or body part thereof; and the invention consists in the peculiar construction of a fastener which enables one person to attach or remove the top to or from the burial-casket. By means of said fastener or lock the tops are in every direction securely held to the casket.

That the invention may be fully understood, reference will be had to the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an inner or under side view of a burial-casket top provided with a fastener such as above referred to. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of said top and side of the casket, showing said top in a ready position to be secured to the body of the casket. Fig. 3 illustrates the top as secured to the casket. Fig. 4 represents an enlarged longitudinal vertical section of said fastener as attached to the casket and top thereof secured together. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section of the same on line *x x*, Fig. 3; and Fig. 6 is a partial face view of the edge of the casket, showing parts of the fastener in view and in section.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the drawings and specification.

In addition to the fasteners the top A is provided with guides, as shown in Fig. 1. Preferably the guides and fasteners are attached opposite each other and near the ends of the top. It is, however, the construction of the fastener which constitutes the nature of this invention, with the guides shown to illustrate the conditions under which the fasteners are or can be employed.

The fastener substantially consists of the bolt B, loop C, plate D, staple E, catch F, and spring G, Figs. 1 and 4. The bolt B is provided with a flange *a a* on each side thereof for the purpose of securing the same to the edge of the casket at each side, as shown.

In the edge of the casket-body are grooves, which act as guides for the proper direction of the top and the fasteners. The loop C and catch F are thereby brought into connection with the bolt B, whereby the top is caused to slide into its proper position upon the casket and locked or fastened thereto. One of the grooves is seen at H in the edge or side of the casket. The staple E, which is riveted or, it may be, otherwise fastened to the plate D, is hidden or sunk in the top A and serves as a guide for the bar of the catch F, Figs. 4 and 5, whereas the spring G, surrounding the bar of said catch F, holds it in such position as to cause an automatic engagement of the said catch and bolt when desired. By means of the pin *b* or other equivalent means the spring G is compressed. When the loop C has passed far enough over the bolt B and the catch is brought in contact with the inclined front end of the said bolt, and as soon as the outer face of the catch is moved in line with the notch *c*, the resiliency of said spring then withdraws the catch past said notch and locks the fastener, as seen in Figs. 4 and 5.

The upper end or bar *g* of the catch F projects through the top A, and is provided with a thumb-piece *e* to render the depression of the catch convenient for unlocking the fastener to remove the top.

For securing the top with the body part of the casket the said top is first placed upon the casket, as shown in Fig. 2, in which case the loops C are directly in front of the bolts B, the cavities H allowing free movement of said loops within the sides of the casket. The top being thus placed, as shown, then an engagement of the catch and bolt is resultant by simply pushing the lid in a straight direction, as indicated by the arrow of Fig. 2. This engagement of the catches F with the bolt B is seen in Figs. 3 and 4.

The tapering end of the bolts B and the flaring entrance *f* of the loops C admit an easy connection of the bolt, loop, and catch, as shown in Figs. 4 and 6. The notches *c* and *d* hold the loop and catch securely longitudinally, whereas vertically the loop and catch prevent a displacement of the top. The catch F, being arranged in close proximity to the loop C, is relieved from undue strain. Thus strength is combined in a comparatively lightly-constructed fastener, which, with the

exception of the thumb-piece, is entirely hidden or secreted.

For disengagement of the fastener and removal of the top a slight pressure on the thumb-piece *e* and a pull of the top in direction of the arrow, Fig. 3, is required, and thus one person can easily manipulate the removal of the top from the casket or replace the same.

The bolts B′ B′ and loops C′ C′ assist in preventing a lateral or vertical movement of the lid upon or from the casket; but the longitudinal movement is under control of the bolt B, loop C, and catch F, attached to the top and casket, as set forth.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a fastener for coffins, the combination of a notched bolt attached to the casket and extending into a cavity in the side thereof, a staple and plate in the top of the casket, a loop depending from said plate, and a catch with spring and thumb-piece, constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

WILLIAM C. LANGENAU.

Witnesses:
W. H. BURRIDGE,
L. S. FISH.