

(No Model.)

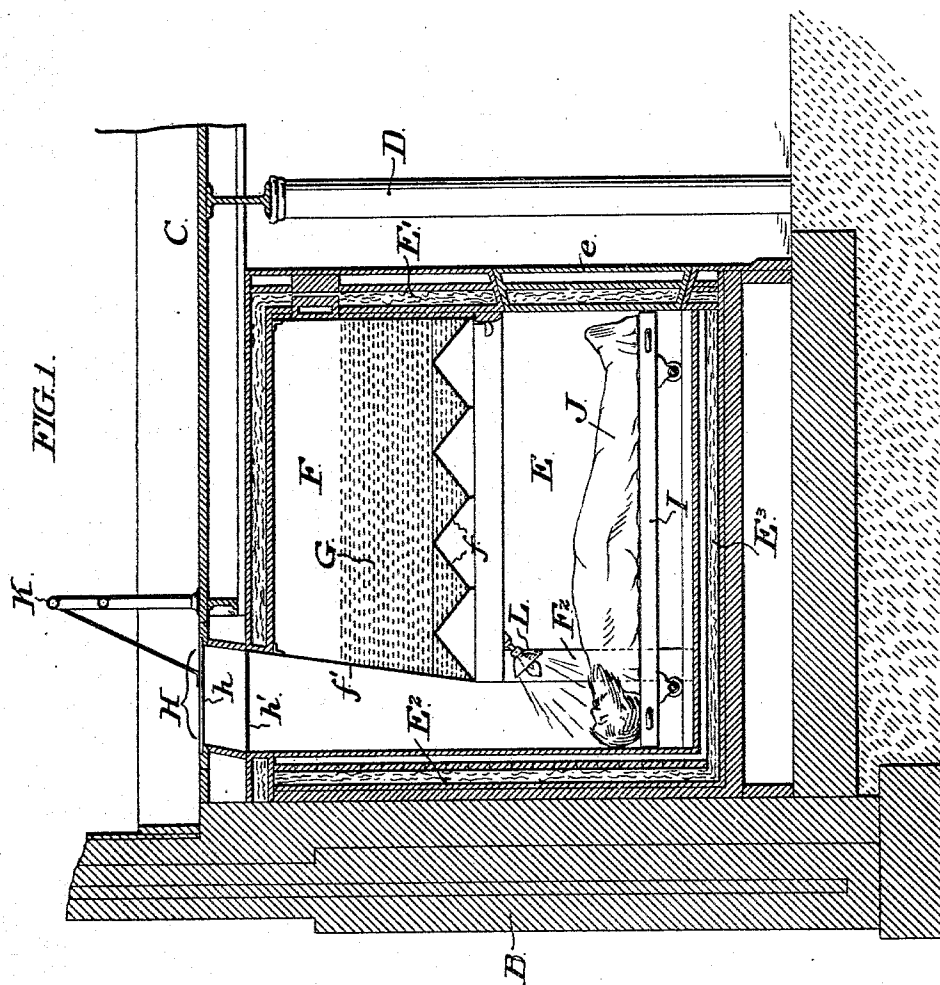
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

V. E. COHEN.

APPARATUS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CORPSES.

No. 515,994.

Patented Mar. 6, 1894.



WITNESSES:

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

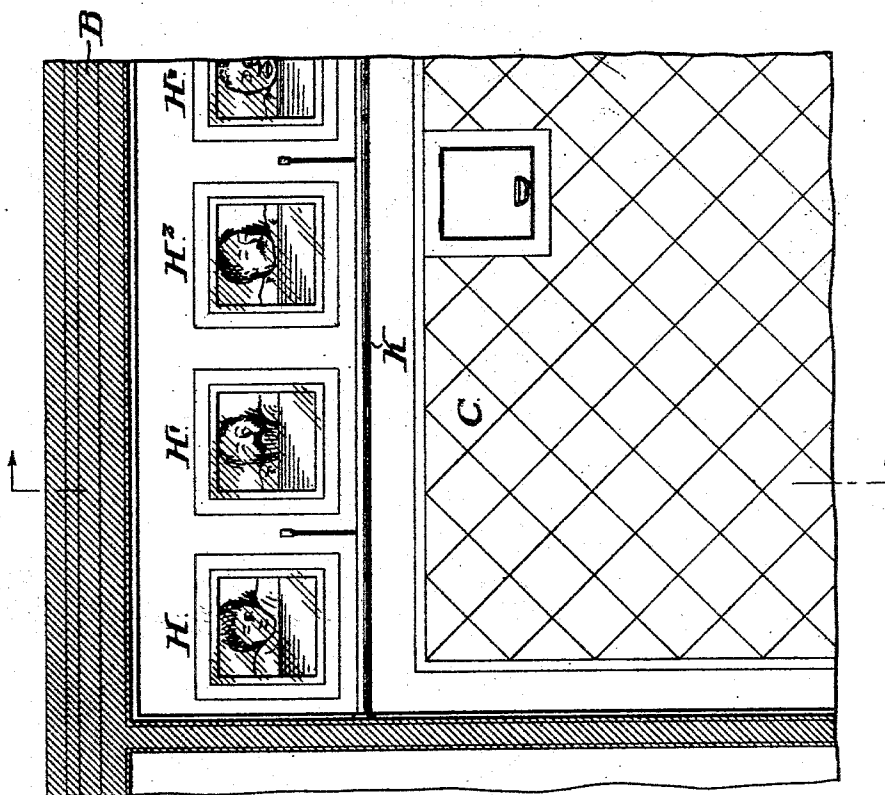
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FIG. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

VICTOR E. COHEN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

APPARATUS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CORPSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 515,994, dated March 6, 1894.

Application filed October 27, 1893. Serial No. 489,279. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VICTOR E. COHEN, of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Apparatus for the Preservation of Corpses During Exposure for Identification, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 represents a vertical section through the apparatus, and Fig. 2 a top or plan view thereof.

My invention, in its entirety, is intended for use in morgues or deadhouses, where corpses are intended to be exposed to the public, and its purpose is to obviate any of the drawbacks or disagreeable features which are found in such devices at present employed for that purpose.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the floor of a room, usually the basement of a building, one wall thereof being indicated at B. A raised gallery, C, (which may be the floor of the next story of the building) is supported upon pillars, D, or in any other convenient manner, at a height of say six to eight feet above the floor, A. A closed chamber, E, whose walls, E', E², E³, are double and packed with non-conducting material, extends from the floor, A, to the bottom of the gallery, C, the length of said chamber being in accordance with the number of corpses which it is intended to contain side by side, and the width thereof being such as to receive the truck, I, on which the corpse, J, rests. The upper portion of the chamber, E, is occupied, preferably throughout its whole length, by a closed tank, F, adapted to contain a non-congealable refrigerating liquid, which may be maintained in circulation therein or supplied thereto, at intervals, from any convenient refrigerating apparatus. Said apparatus, however, is not shown in the drawings, as it forms no part of my invention. The bottom of the tank is preferably corrugated, as indicated at f, so as to give a larger refrigerant surface, and rests upon transverse beams, supported at one end in the front wall, E', of the chamber, and at the other upon the upright posts, F². The width of the tank, F, is less than the chamber, E, and the inner wall of said

tank, f', preferably inclined, as shown in Fig. 1, is arranged at some distance from the inner wall, E², of the chamber. Thus an open space is left extending from the bottom of the chamber to the floor, C, all along the inner wall.

At intervals corresponding with the width of the trucks, I, apertures, H, H', H², H³, are formed in the floor, C, the number of said apertures being determined by the probable requirements of the particular establishment, and said apertures are protected by a double covering of glass, indicated at h, h', an air space being left between the two glasses to prevent condensation of moisture and consequent dimness of the glass.

In the front wall of the chamber, E, at intervals corresponding with the positions of the apertures, H, H', &c., are closely fitting doors, e, of sufficient size to permit the introduction or removal of the trucks, I, which contain the corpses. Beneath the tank, A, and at intervals corresponding with the position of the trucks, are placed incandescent electric lamps, L, so situated as to be screened from view through the apertures, H, by reason of the intervening wall of the tank, but arranged to throw the light downward upon the face of the corpse immediately adjacent.

A railing, K, or other barrier, may be conveniently placed upon the floor, C, so as to prevent observers from stepping on the glazed apertures while permitting them to look therethrough.

Among the advantages of the apparatus are the following: The corpses are exposed for purposes of identification, in a highly decorous manner, while every needed facility for examination is afforded. The individual corpse can be withdrawn when necessary without disturbance of the others, and without the disagreeable concomitance of the act of removal where, as is usually the case, the corpses are exposed in the room to which spectators are admitted. By the use of a refrigerating apparatus arranged in a chamber separated from the public room, the preservation of the corpses is facilitated and the use of water currents, heretofore deemed necessary, is dispensed with.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The combination of a raised floor, an independent isolated chamber beneath the same,
5 said chamber having non-conducting walls, openings on one side of said chamber for the insertion of the corpses, a refrigerant tank arranged in the upper portion of the chamber but of less width than the chamber whereby
10 is formed an unobstructed vertical space

along the inner wall of the chamber in which the facial portion of the bodies can be placed, and glazed apertures in said raised floor opening into the vertical space of the chamber, and an illuminating apparatus beneath the tank; substantially as described. 15

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Witnesses:

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