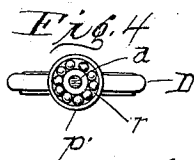
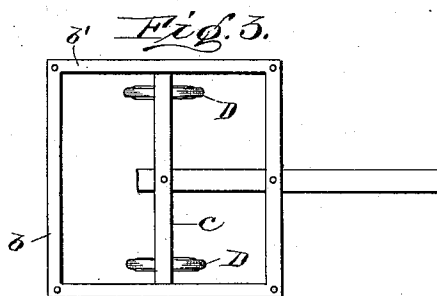
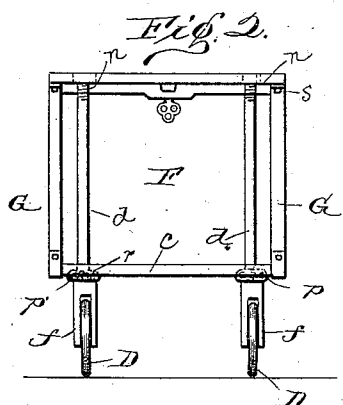
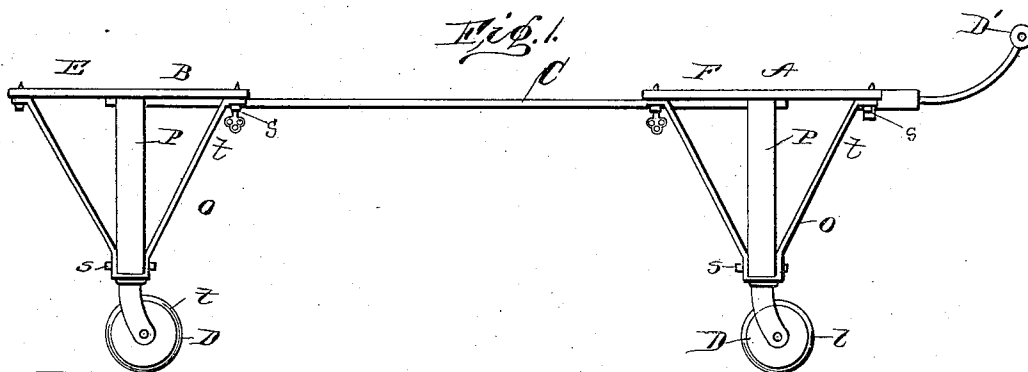


S. M. TOTTEN.  
BIER.

Patented Mar. 30, 1897.



witnesses:  
J. M. Fowler Jr.  
J. L. Cleas.

D' *Inventor:*  
Samuel M. Follen  
By Addonoy & Durbin  
his Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL M. TOTTEN, OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA.

## BIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 579,658, dated March 30, 1897.

Application filed September 14, 1896. Serial No. 605,807. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL M. TOTTEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Vermillion, in the county of Clay and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Biers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to funeral-biers, and has for its object the arrangement of movable supporting-standards in alinement to provide extensible and contracting platforms to receive caskets of any length.

A further object of my invention is to provide a structure that is strong, light, and adapted to receive drapery, and that can be easily moved around in a room or church, through narrow doors, aisles, and other places where it is inconvenient for pall-bearers to handle a casket; and to these ends my invention consists of a pair of skeleton-like standards that are held in position by an extensible connecting-rod and which are mounted on universally-movable wheels or rollers.

I attain these objects by mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation; Fig. 2, an end view, and Fig. 3 a top plan view. Fig. 4 represents a top plan view in cross-section of the ball-bearing joint.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

The truck or bier consists of standards A and B, that are held in proper relative position by an extensible connecting-rod C. The truck is mounted on wheels D D and is provided with a handle D'.

Each standard is organized in a like manner, the details of which are as follows: The platform E of the standard comprises a rectangular-shaped frame composed, preferably, of longitudinal side bars or sills *b b'*, of metal, which are cast in one piece, as shown. Arranged transversely thereto is a vertical central frame F, preferably of rectangular shape and similarly constructed. The sides of this latter frame form upright posts P P, that are flush with the sides of the platform, while the bottom bar serves as a base-bar *c*. The structure is strengthened on each side by a double

oblique truss-bar *t t*, that extends from the respective ends of the platform to and about the base-bar, and is so shaped as to fit the latter, to which it is securely bolted by screw *s*. 55

To further strengthen the framework of the standard, the top portion of the frame is connected with the base-bar by tie or strut rods *d d*. These rods are preferably spaced apart, as shown in Fig. 2, while the lower portion of said rods is provided with pedestals *p' p'*, that shoulder against the bottom side of the base-bar and which are held in that position by reason of the screw-threads and nuts *n* at their upper extremities. Said pedestals are also provided with ball-races *r* and form one member of a ball-bearing joint. The other member of the ball-bearing joint is formed in the top portion of a forked piece *f*, in which the wheel or roller D is journaled. The rims of the wheel may be provided with pneumatic tires *t t*. 60 65 70

Having described my invention, what I desire to claim as my invention is—

1. In an extensible bier the combination of two skeleton wheeled standards that are detachably connected by a single rod, adjustable along its length, each of said standards consisting of a rectangular frame forming a platform and an upright frame centrally secured and suspended at right angles thereto by means of double truss-bars, said upright frame being provided with spaced vertical tie-rods which are extended to form supporting-legs, said legs being rotatably mounted on wheel-forks carrying rollers, the crowns of which are provided with ball-bearing joints, substantially as described. 75 80 85

2. In an extensible bier the combination of two skeleton wheeled standards that are detachably connected by a single rod, adjustable along its length, each of said standards consisting of a rectangular frame forming a platform and an upright frame centrally secured and suspended at right angles thereto by means of double truss-rods, said upright frame being provided with spaced vertical tie-rods which are extended to form supporting-legs, said legs being rotatably mounted on wheel-forks carrying rollers, the crowns of which are provided with ball-bearing joints; and an extensible handle-bar attachment that 90 95 100

is slidingly mounted and adjustable longitudinally in one of said standards, substantially as described.

3. In an extensible bier a frame having a  
5 rectangular top, a rectangular supporting-frame and a pair of double brace-trusses arranged and rigidly secured in parallelism to form side brackets, and struts forming stationary uprights that are pivotally mounted

upon universally-movable wheels or rollers, 10 substantially as described.

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

SAMUEL M. TOTTEN.

Witnesses:

C. W. RUNYAN,

H. J. DAVENPORT.