



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-PRESERVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 124,300, dated March 5, 1872.

Specification describing a new and Improved Corpse-Preserving Case, invented by JOHN F. WATERS and EDWARD G. WATERS, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania.

The object of this invention is to provide suitable, convenient, and effective means for preserving the corpses of deceased persons during the time which elapses between the first stages of decomposition and burial; and it consists in a case with a perforated lining, and with a space between the outer case and the lining, and otherwise so constructed that the corpse may be exposed to any disinfecting agent that may be employed, the construction and arrangement being as hereinafter more fully described.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of the preserving-case. Fig. 2 is a sectional side view, showing the mode of fastening the case to the foundation-plate or bottom. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section of Fig. 1 taken on the line *x x*.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents the sides and ends of a wooden box or case, of suitable size, having a perforated metallic interior lining, B, at its ends and bottom. Between the lining and the sides and ends of the case is an empty space, C. D is a false bottom, also perforated beneath the lining B, thus making the middle portion of the bottom double, as seen in Fig. 1, with a discharge-aperture, E, in the center. This portion A is fitted to a bottom or base, F, having one or more drawers, G, therein, arranged at the ends or any portion thereof for containing any disinfecting material or substance, either

such as are now known or may hereafter be discovered. The gases evolved from such disinfecting material will pass into and fill the interior from the space C at the sides and ends, and through the space H beneath. Any fluids which may escape from the corpse will pass into the space I beneath the double bottom, and may be drawn from the base by the spigot J. K K are transverse pieces to raise the base from the floor and protect the spigot. L L are test-holes through the top M of the case, by means of which the first indications of decomposition may be detected, and which is immediately arrested by the application of the disinfectant agents. These holes are closed by the slides *o o*. N represents a glass set in the top, through which the face of the corpse is visible. The top closes air-tight onto the case, and the case is designed to close air-tight onto the bottom F. The case is held tightly down to the bottom by the clutches and keys, four in number, more or less, seen at P. Q Q are handles.

We do not confine ourselves to the precise form or arrangement of any of the parts described, as they may be varied in many ways without departing from our invention.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A coffin-case, A, perforated lining B, having a space, C H, perforated bottom D, and disinfecting devices F G, constructed and arranged together as and for the purposes described.

JOHN F. WATERS.

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Witnesses:

WM. BURNETT,

S. CARR WOODHEAD.