Jan. 3, 1939. J. F. BENOIT 2,142,553

UNDERTAKER'S APPLIANCE

Filed May 11, 1938

Fig.1.

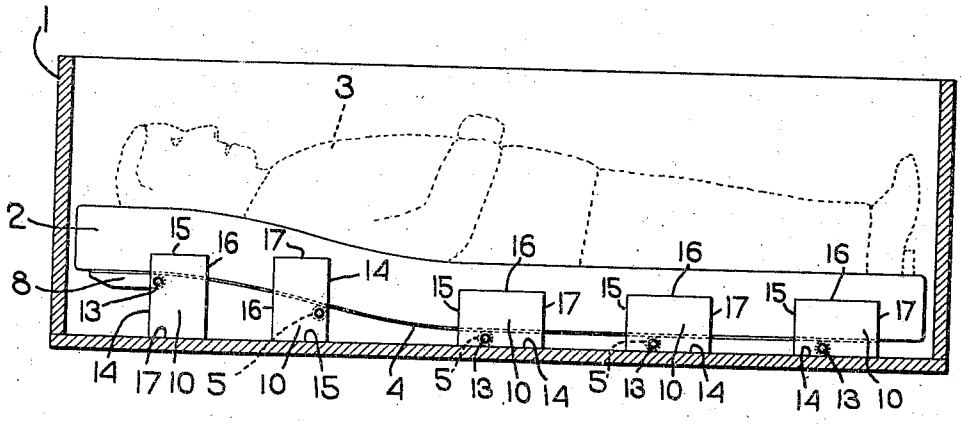


Fig.2.

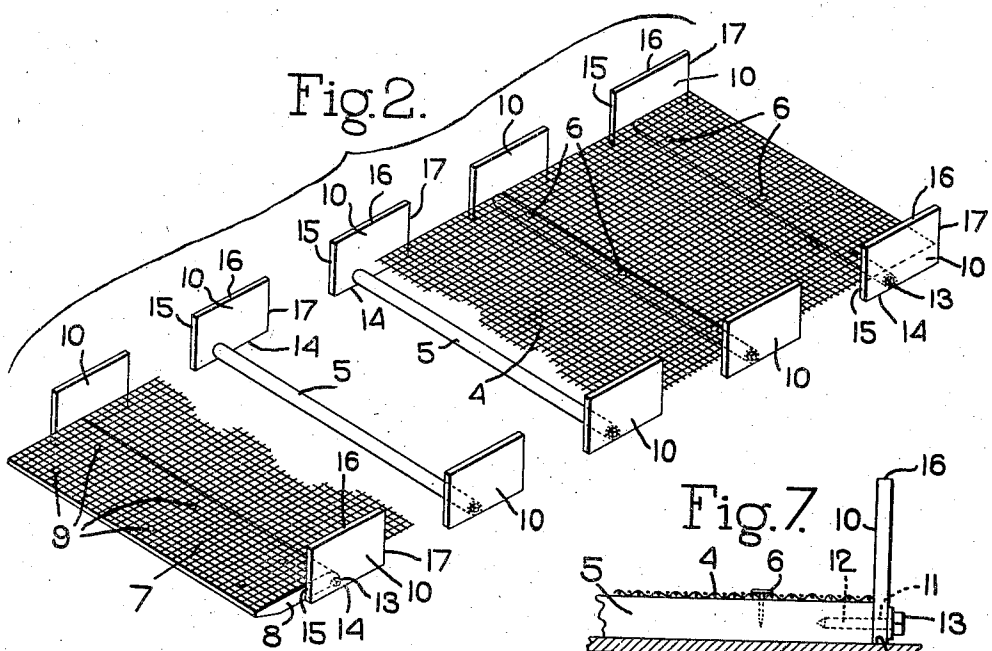


Fig.7.

Fig.3.

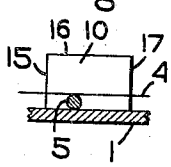


Fig.4.

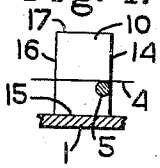


Fig.5.

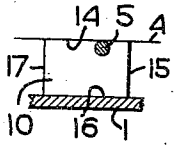
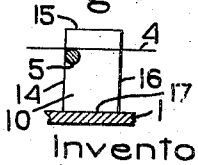


Fig.6.



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Patented Jan. 3, 1939 2,142,553

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,142,553

UNDERTAKER'S APPLIANCE

Joseph F. Benoit, Wells, Maine

Application May 11, 1938, Serial No. 207,199

4 Claims. (Cl. 27—12)

This invention relates to an undertaker's appliance in the nature of an adjustable body support adapted to be placed within the casket for supporting the body, and one of the objects of the invention is to provide a body support which is simple and inexpensive to manufacture and which can be adjusted vertically at different points along its length to provide a body support having a contour to give the body within the casket any desired position.

In order to give an understanding of the invention I have illustrated in the drawing a selected embodiment thereof which will now be described after which the novel features will be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view through a casket shell illustrating my improved body support in use;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view with part broken out illustrating the improved body support;

Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are fragmentary views showing the different positions in a vertical direction into which the body support may be adjusted;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view through the body support taken on the line 7—7, Fig. 1.

In the drawing 1 indicates the casket shell within which is a mattress member 2 on which the corpse 3 is resting.

My improved body support is designed to provide an adjustable support for the mattress 2 and it comprises a mattress-supporting body 4 which is flexible in the direction of its length but is stiffened in a transverse direction. This body 4 may conveniently be made of wire netting or a strip of canvas or any other similar web material and it is secured to and rests on a plurality of transverse bars 5, there being five such bars illustrated in the drawing. The web 4 constituting a mattress-supporting body may be secured to these transverse bars in any suitable way, as by means of tacks or screws 6. At the head end of the body support the web member 4 extends beyond the end transverse bar 5, as shown at 7, and this extended portion 7 is secured to a transversely extending reenforcing member 8 by means of tacks, screws or other fastening devices 9, said reenforcing bar serving to reenforce and support the end portion 7 of the web 4.

To provide for the vertical adjustment of the mattress-supporting web 4, I propose to employ a plurality of supports 10 at each side of the web 4, said supports being constructed so that they can be adjusted to vary the vertical position of the web 4.

A convenient support for this purpose consists of a rectangular block which rests on one edge, and to provide for the vertical adjustment I have pivoted each block 10 to the end of a cross member 5 and have so located the pivot point of each block that it is at a different distance from each of the four edges of the block. The pivot connection may conveniently be in the form of a trunnion member 11 having a screw-threaded shank 12 to screw into the end of the transverse bar 5, said trunnion member being provided with a wrench-receiving head 13 and being formed with a plain unthreaded portion adjacent said head which extends through an aperture in the block 10.

The trunnion-receiving aperture of each block is so positioned that it is at a different distance from each of the four edges of the block. For instance, such trunnion-receiving aperture is nearest to the edge 14 of the block, the distance between said aperture and the edge 15 being greater than between the aperture and the edge 14, and the distance between the aperture and the edge 16 being greater than that between the aperture and the edge 15 but less than that between the aperture and the edge 17.

When the body rest is in use it is placed in the bottom of the casket 1 and is supported by the rests or supports 10. Since these blocks or supports 10 are pivotally connected to the cross bars 5, each block can be readily turned to bring any one of its edges into contact with the bottom of the casket, and further since all these blocks are independent from each other each block can be turned into any position independently of any other block.

In Fig. 2 the blocks 10 are all shown as positioned so that the body rest will be supported on the edges 14 of the blocks and in this position the body rest is at its lowest adjusted position, as indicated in Fig. 3. If it is desired to raise the entire or any portion of the body support slightly, then the appropriate blocks 10 may be turned so that they will rest on the edges 15, as shown in Fig. 4. If it is desirable to raise any portion of the body support still further, then the appropriate blocks may be turned into the position shown in Fig. 5 so that they rest on the edges 16, and if the maximum vertical adjustment is desired then the blocks will be turned so as to rest on the edges 17, as shown in Fig. 6.

In order to give the body the desired appear-

ance when in the casket, it is sometimes necessary to raise the entire body and sometimes necessary to raise only a portion of the body, such as the head and shoulders, etc.

With my improvements this adjustment of the body support to give the body the desired appearance may be made while the body is in the casket. When the body support is first placed in the casket the blocks may all be adjusted into the position shown in Fig. 2 which will give the mattress 2 its lowest position. After the body 3 has been placed in the casket then any portion of the mattress support may be raised by simply reaching into the casket at the sides of the body and turning the appropriate blocks 10 into the desired position, and this may be accomplished without in any way disturbing the body 3.

In Fig. 1 the blocks 10 at the head end of the mattress support are shown as adjusted to rest on the edges 17, thereby giving the head end of the support its maximum elevation. The second blocks 10 are adjusted so that they are resting on the edges 15 which will hold the portion of the mattress support underneath the shoulders of the body 3 in an intermediate position. The other three blocks are shown as adjusted to rest on the edges 14.

My improved body support can be inexpensively manufactured and can be readily made of any length. It is a self-contained unit adapted to be placed in any casket and its use involves no special construction of casket.

I claim:

1. A body support for undertakers' use comprising a body portion in the form of a web of flexible material adapted to be placed in a casket, bars extending transversely of the web and to which the latter is secured, and means for supporting each bar at a plurality of different elevations independently of any other bar.

2. A body support for undertakers' use comprising a body portion in the form of a web adapted to be placed in a casket, bars extending transversely of the web and to which the latter is secured, and means at the end of each transverse bar for supporting the latter at a plurality of different elevations.

3. A body support for undertakers' use comprising a body portion in the form of a web adapted to be placed in a casket, bars extending transversely of the web and to which the latter is secured, and a rectangular block pivotally secured to the end of each bar with the pivot point of each block at a different distance from each of the four sides thereof whereby by turning the blocks into different positions the body portion may be adjusted to different vertical elevations.

4. A body support for undertakers' use comprising a body portion in the form of a web adapted to be placed in a casket, and a plurality of rectangular supporting blocks pivotally secured to the body portion at each side thereof with the pivot point of each block at a different distance from each of the four edges thereof.

JOSEPH F. BENOIT.