

United States Patent Office.

JEAN MAURICE DUFOURNET AND LOUIS CLEMENDOT, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

Letters Patent No. 77,806, dated May 12, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN PRESERVING THE WOOD OF COFFINS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, JEAN MAURICE DUFOURNET, gentleman, and LOUIS CLEMENDOT, civil engineer, of Paris, in the French Empire, have invented a new and useful Impermeabilizing Process applicable to Coffins and other receivers of the like nature; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

Heretofore the proper imperviousness of coffins and the like was obtained by constructing such receivers entirely of lead or other metal. But this method was found expensive, and therefore a more simple and economical method was desirable, in order to enable all classes to take advantage of the benefits arising from impervious vessels of this character.

The object of our invention, therefore, is to produce an impervious coffin, simple in construction, and so reduced in cost of manufacture, as to be readily introduced by the trade, and it consists in rendering coffins and other receivers, which are made generally of wood, perfectly air and water-tight, and consequently thoroughly preserving from decay the bodies enclosed therein.

First we render the wood of which the coffin or other receiver is made, quite indestructible, by coating it inside and outside with any antiseptic matter, in such manner as to prevent any intrusion of liquids or air to the interior, or any evolving of miasmas from the inside to the outside, from taking place.

The lining used for our improved coffins, &c., may be tin, lead, copper, or other thin metallic sheets, generally known by the name of metallic papers, or papers metallized on both surfaces; or metallic sheets, having either of their faces coated with varnish, or equivalent, whereby dampness and oxidation are effectively prevented; or metallic sheets, having either of their faces covered with a thick or thin layer of paper or pasteboard, may be used, or any other coating in which glue is not used to cause its adhesion to the wood; or metallic powders spread over the wood surface, and stuck thereto by any suitable means; or, we use instead of metallic papers and powders, as above described, paper or pasteboard sheets rendered impervious by any antiseptic substance used for preserving wood.

Or, again, the same paper, pasteboard, &c., sheets coated over with metallic sheets.

These various coatings we apply on either the internal or external walls of the coffin, &c., or on both. For rendering the closing-joint of the coffin tight, we employ a floating margin extending from the lining, and turned down on the lid or body of said coffin, &c.

This margin or extension may be secured in position by any suitable means. By our process we obtain—
First, perfectly tight and indestructible coffins, &c.

Second, the complete preservation of the corpse or other bodies.

Third, we prevent any liquid from running through the coffin at any point, or any obnoxious effluvia from being exhaled therefrom.

These results, which we obtain so economically, could not otherwise be obtained, excepting by the use of lead coffins, or by the ordinary embalming process, which are too expensive to be brought into general use.

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

The process as described, applicable to coffins and the like wood receivers, for the purpose of preserving the corpse or other bodies enclosed therein, and which consists of—

1. Rendering the wood indestructible, by coating it over with any antiseptic matter.
2. Covering the coated wood with metallic sheets or suitably-prepared papers, so as to obtain perfect air and water-tight surfaces, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified.

DUFOURNET,
L. CLEMENDOT.

Witnesses:

DEMOS,
A. GUION.