

F. O. DOWNER.

BURIAL CASKET.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 31, 1920.

1,381,908.

Patented June 21, 1921.

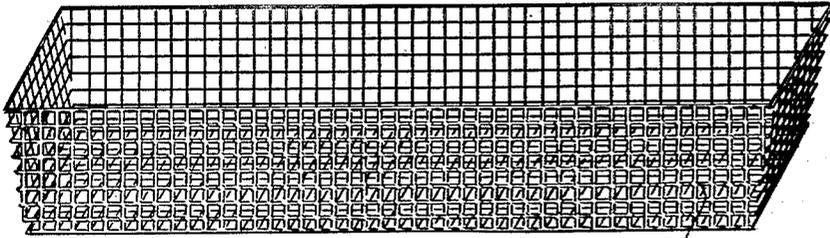


Fig. 1.

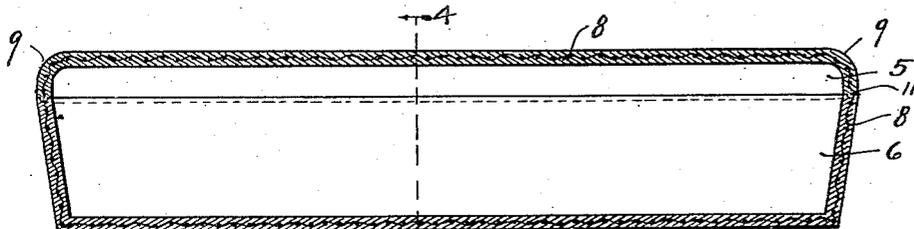


Fig. 2.

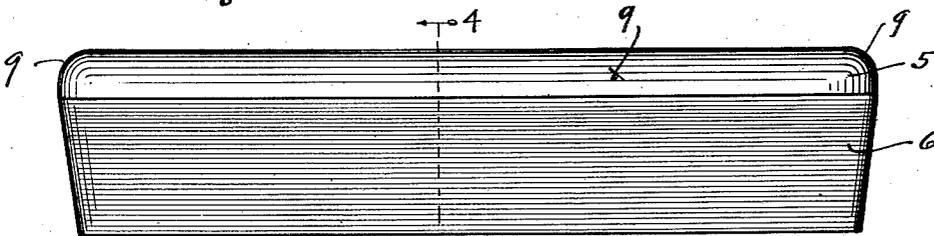


Fig. 3.

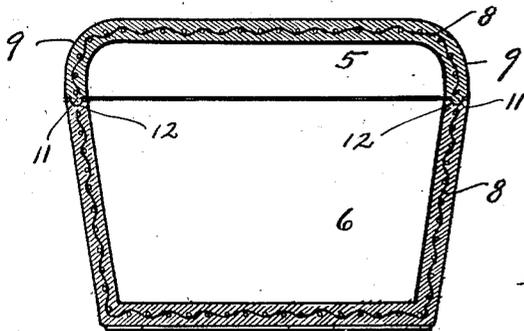


Fig. 4.

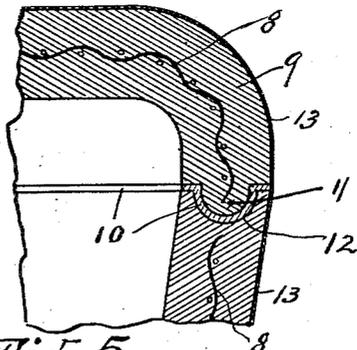


Fig. 5.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED O. DOWNER, OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO SHIRLEY BROTHERS COMPANY, INCORPORATED, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

BURIAL-CASKET.

1,381,908.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 21, 1921.

Application filed March 31, 1920. Serial No. 370,149.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED O. DOWNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Battle Creek, in the county of Calhoun and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Burial-Casket, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in burial caskets, and the object of the invention is, first, to form a casket out of cement, concrete, or the like inexpensive stone-making material, the body and cover of which casket will each be monolithic, strong, and durable, and in which a corpse may be sealed up air-tight. Second, to reduce the weight within the limits of portability for pallbearers so the casket and corpse may be handled in the usual manner; and, third, to provide a neat-looking casket in any of the standard patterns.

I accomplish the above and other objects which will hereinafter appear, by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which like characters of reference indicate like parts of the device.

Figure 1, is a perspective view of a metal reinforcement in the form of a basket, for the body of the casket. Fig. 2, is a longitudinal, vertical, central section of a complete casket made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 3, is a view in side elevation of the casket shown in Fig. 2, and Fig. 4, is a cross section, on a larger scale, on the line 4-4, of Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of a corner of Fig. 4.

The finished casket is in two, separable, monolithic parts, a body 6 and a cover 5. Both are preferably formed of cement with a middle-reinforcement of perforate metal 8. This will preferably be a cloth woven out of heavy wires, with a mesh approximately two inches square. The wires are welded together at each intersection. The wire cloth is made into a basket of corresponding size and shape for the proposed casket, and the corners are securely and rigidly united.

This, with the welding of the wires at all intersections, makes a strong and rigid reinforcement for the cement walls, and the smallness of the mesh insures strong and ample anchorage for the casket handles, (not shown) at any place where it may be desired to attach them. The reinforcement as above made up is placed in the mold, and the cement in a liquid state is then poured

in and completely envelops it in a monolithic member.

Inasmuch as a flat casket-cover would become dished and drawn out of register where it joins the casket-body, or become otherwise broken by the weight of the earth filled into the grave and settling down, particularly after the grave-box has become decayed, I prefer to make it self-supporting by arching the corners 9. The cover is also reinforced with wire cloth in the same manner as has been described for the body.

When the casket is closed for the last time, the meeting joints between the body and cover are made secure and water-tight by a layer of cement 10. A tongue 11 and groove 12 are provided in the joint between the body and cover, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, to insure continued registration of the adjacent casket members. The casket is finished to a perfectly smooth surface inside and out to enable a finish to be applied in a smooth and even manner. Broadcloth, for example, is often glued to the outside, and, as is well known, any little unevenness of surface of the casket will show plainly through the cloth 13, Fig. 5. To avoid any injury to the hearse the bottom of the casket is preferably covered with paper or cloth 14, glued thereto. See Fig. 4.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A burial casket having a monolithic body and a separate monolithic cover, the upper corners of the cover being curved and each of said casket members being reinforced with wires woven to approximately a two inch mesh welded at the meeting places of the wires and formed into baskets with rigid walls and corners, the wires of said baskets being filled and covered with a cementitious material forming a light and readily portable casket the surfaces of which are finished smoothly and have a covering of thin material adhesively applied thereto, said body and cover meeting in a tongue and groove joint to keep the joined members in register, said joint being finally sealed with a water-proof cement.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 19th day of March, 1920.

FRED O. DOWNER.