No. 647,959. Patented Apr. 24, 1900.

D. GERWE.

COFFIN ATTACHMENT.

(Application filed Oct. 11, 1899.)

(No Model.)

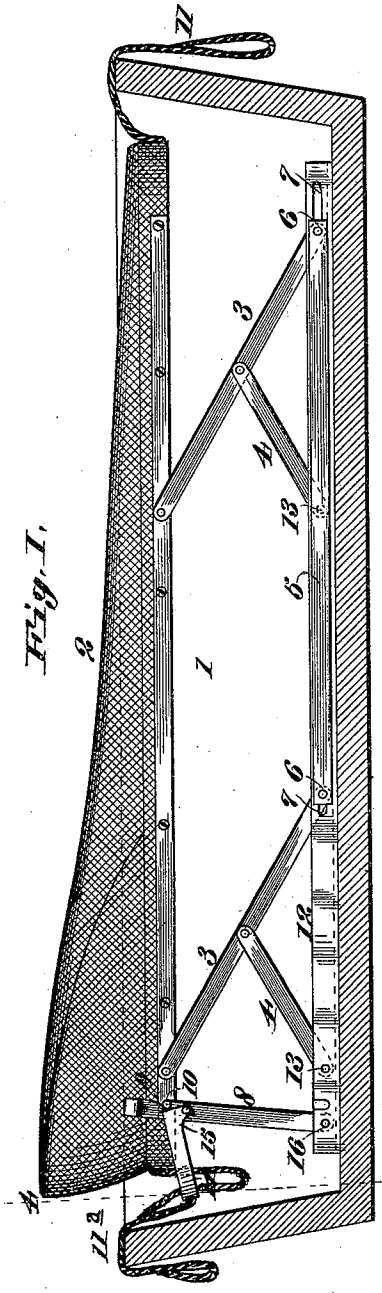


Fig. 1.

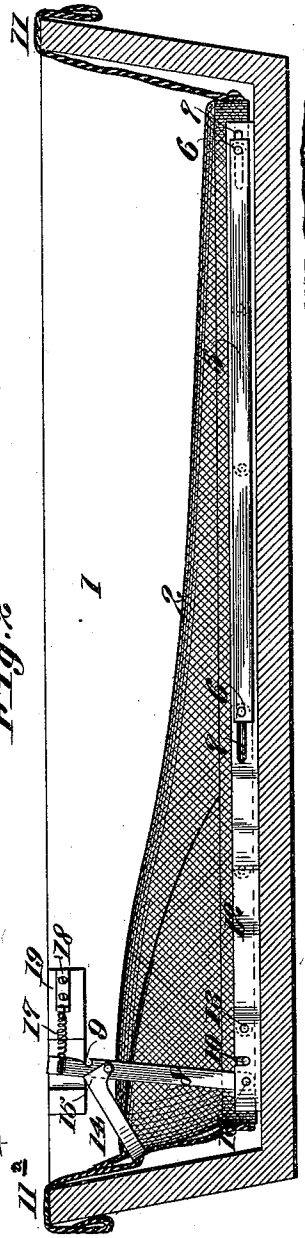


Fig. 2.

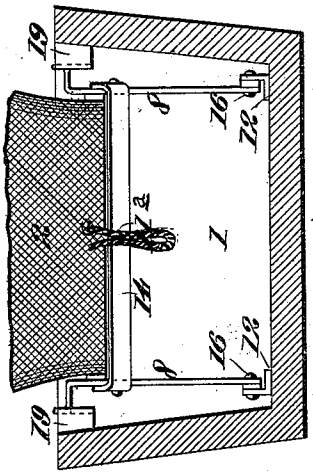


Fig. 4.

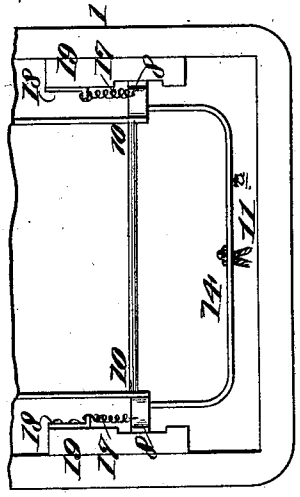


Fig. 3.

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COFFIN ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 647,959, dated April 24, 1900.

Application filed October 11, 1899. Serial No. 733,250. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID GERWE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Coffin Attachments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to coffins equipped with vertically-movable false bottoms. Its principal object is to make the support for the false bottom automatic in its action, so that the entire strength of the operator may be applied to the raising or lowering of the bottom.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification and wherein like symbols refer to like parts wherever they occur, Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of a coffin, showing my device with the false bottom raised. Fig. 2 is a like view with the false bottom lowered. Fig. 3 is a top view of the end with the false bottom removed, and Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 1.

The body of the coffin consists of a box or casket 1 of any suitable form. Inside thereof is a false bottom or couch 2, preferably upholstered. This false bottom is arranged to move up and down, and any suitable mechanism may be used for maintaining it in horizontal position. In the construction shown in the drawings there are four parallel links 3, pivoted to the couch at one end and having their opposite ends provided with studs 6. These studs 6 slide in elongated slots 7, formed in angle-irons 12, which are fastened to the bottom of the coffin. At their middle points each of said links 3 is pivotally fastened to another link 4 of one-half its length and whose end is pivotally fastened at 13 to the angle-iron 12, and rods 10 are pivotally fastened to the parallel links to maintain them in proper relation. The couch is furnished with hand-grips or cord loops 11 for use in raising or lowering it. By this arrangement the couch is raised and lowered in a horizontal position at whatever point the lifting force may be applied.

In order to support the couch in its raised position, one or more standards 8 are pivotally fastened to the angle-irons 12 at the bottom of the coffin. These standards are arranged near an end of the couch and on opposite sides thereof and are provided with a notch or socket 9 in the edge adapted to receive lugs or studs 10, projecting laterally from the sides of the couch. These studs are for safety and convenience provided with a rod 10, extending through the couch.

Each of the supporting-standards 8 is drawn toward its corresponding projecting stud by means of a tension-spring 17, fastened to said standard and to the edge of the coffin or fitting 18 thereon. In order to limit the range of movement of the standards, blocks 19 are mounted on the sides of the coffin and provided with slots for the standards to work in. By this arrangement the spring 17 automatically pulls the standards 8 into position for their notches 9 to engage with the studs 10 of the couch as soon as the couch has reached the proper elevation. In order to release such engagement, cams or wipers 15 are pivotally mounted on the standards in position to bear against the studs. A convenient arrangement for releasing both standards at once is to have the two cams connected by a yoke or bail 14, bridging the end of the couch. In this case the pivot is located in the lower edge of the bail near its end or in a downward projection therefrom, so as to form, in effect, a bell-crank lever, the upper end of the bail being arranged to bear against the lug. When the bail is raised by means of the hand grip or cord 11^a, fastened thereto, its ends strike against the studs 10 on the couch, which studs thereupon become the fulcrums of the cam-levers, and the standards are forced to turn on their pivots 16, so as to carry the supporting-standards from under the studs.

Obviously my invention admits of considerable modification in construction. For instance, other kinds of springs may be used instead of a tension-spring. Other forms of cams or levers operating separately or together may be used instead of the bail or yoke, and the cams may be located on the side of the coffin. The supporting device may be duplicated at each end of the couch, and any means may be used for raising or lowering the couch and maintaining its proper position. The cord of the trip-cam may also be fastened to the lifting-cord of the false

bottom at such a point as to release the couch just before the lifting-cord becomes taut. I do not therefore desire to limit my claims to the construction hereinbefore described, as the invention consists, broadly, in equipping a coffin having a movable bottom with an automatically-acting device for bringing the couch-support into and out of operative relation to the couch.

What I claim is—

1. A coffin having a vertically-movable false bottom, a horizontally-movable support for said false bottom and automatically-acting means operative to cause said support to automatically engage and hold said false bottom at an elevated position, substantially as described.

2. A coffin having a vertically-movable false bottom, a support therefor pivoted at or near the true bottom, and a spring for drawing said support into operative position relative to said bottom, substantially as described.

3. A coffin having a vertically-movable false bottom provided with studs projecting laterally therefrom, and a spring-actuated standard pivoted at or near the bottom of the coffin and having a notch or socket in its edge adapted to receive said stud, substantially as described.

4. A coffin having a vertically-movable false bottom provided with studs projecting laterally therefrom, and a spring-actuated standard pivoted at or near the bottom of the coffin and having a notch or socket in its edge adapted to receive said stud, and a cam operatively connected to said standard and arranged to disengage it from said stud, substantially as described.

5. A coffin having a vertically-movable false bottom provided with laterally-projecting studs, spring-actuated standards pivoted at or near the coffin-bottom and having sockets in their edges adapted to receive said studs, and a bail pivoted on said standards and having its ends arranged to constitute cams bearing against said studs, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:
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