G. L. CAMPBELL.

BURIAL CASE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 6, 1912.

1,137,696.

Patented Apr. 27, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

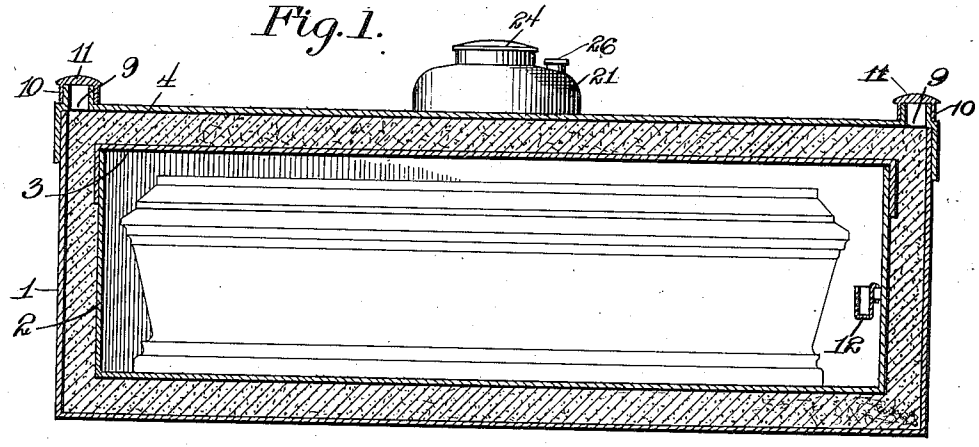


Fig. 2.

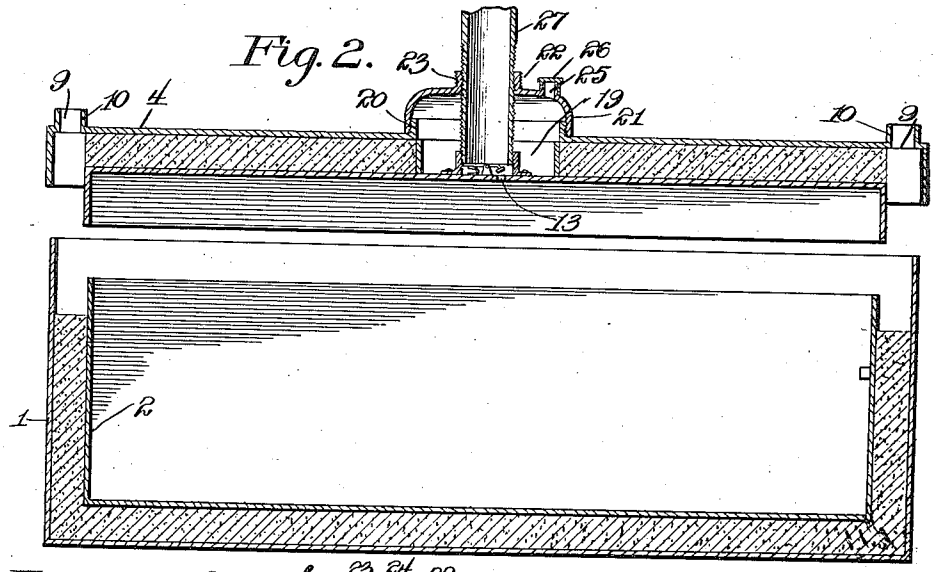


Fig. 5.

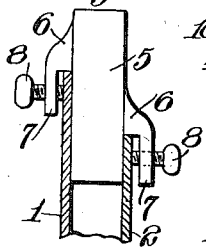


Fig. 4.

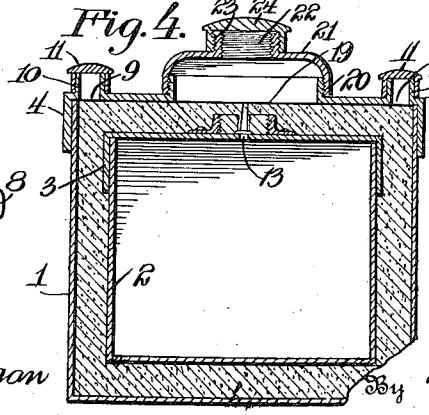
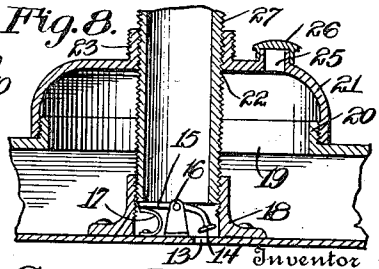


Fig. 8.



Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

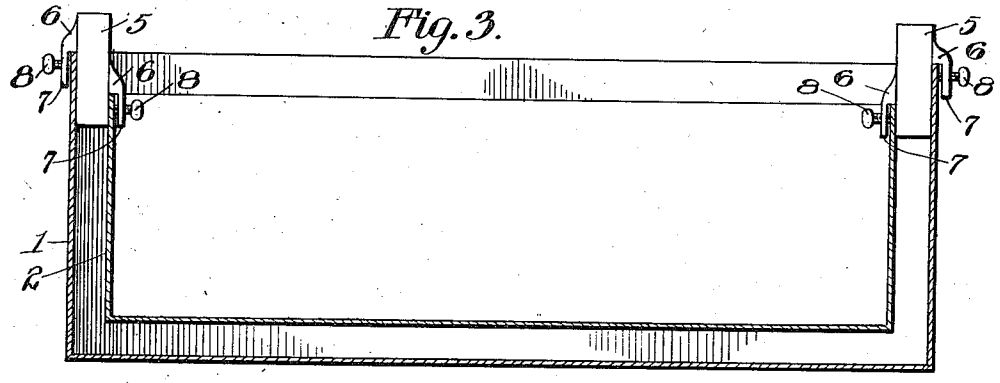


Fig. 7.

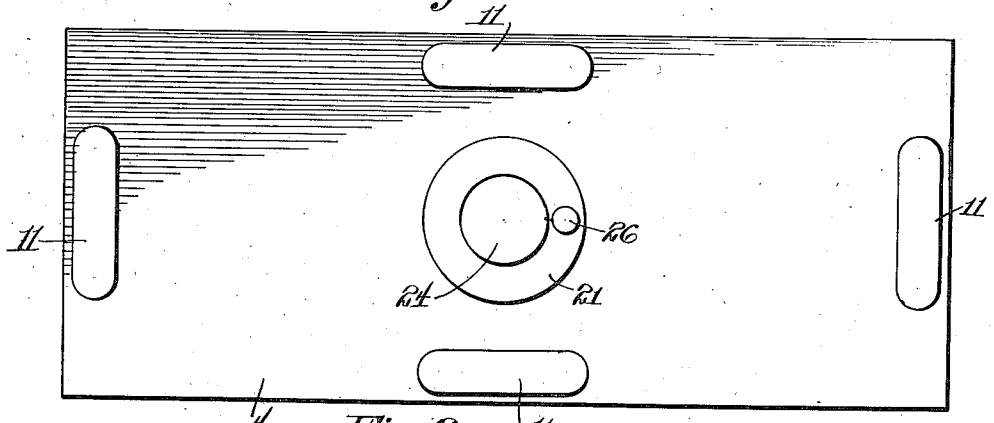
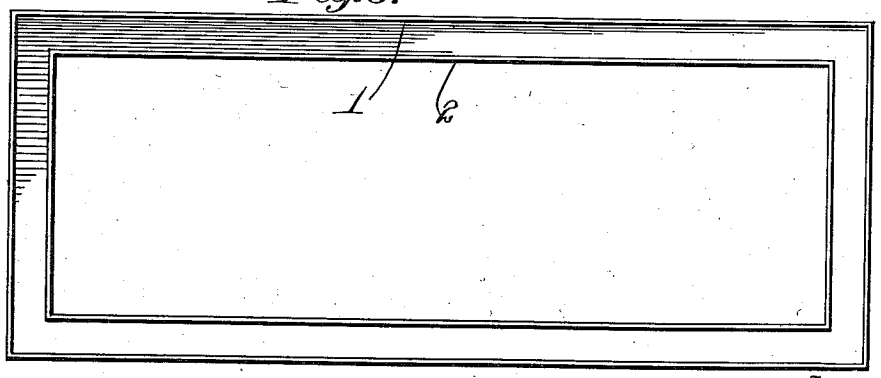


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BURIAL-CASE.

1,137,696. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 27, 1915.

Application filed November 6, 1912. Serial No. 729,825.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. CAMPBELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Burial-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to an improvement in burial cases and particularly to a case constructed to inclose and protect the casket or coffin proper and to insure the protection of the body inclosed against outside agencies of decay for a much longer time than is now possible.

The main object of the present invention is the provision of a burial case constructed initially of two metallic boxes practically identical except in point of size and the arrangement of one box within the other, said boxes being completely spaced apart, and the filling of the intervening space with a melted asphalt of well-known type which does not become brittle upon cooling but retains its elasticity to a considerable degree.

The invention in its preferred form of details will be described in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of the completed burial case, the casket being shown therein in outline. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the parts as constructed and arranged prior to positioning the sealing top of the case in place. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 prior to the introduction of the cement filling. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the case. Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view of the case with the spacing and holding blocks in position, whereby to secure the different boxes in spaced relation for the filling operation. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the case bottom or body. Fig. 7 is a plan view of the top cover of the case. Fig. 8 is an enlarged sectional view illustrating particularly the valve and coöperating means for exhausting the air from the inner case.

Referring particularly to the accompanying drawings, my improved burial case comprises two metallic boxes each complete in and including what may be termed body or base receptacles 1 and 2 and top or cover receptacles 3 and 4, the receptacles 2 and 3 constituting the inner box and receptacles 1 and 4 the outer box. The inner box has a length, breadth and height less than the similar dimensions of the other box, so that the former may fit completely within the latter with an intervening space on all sides, ends, top and bottom.

The purpose of the present invention is to have the space intervening between the body receptacles of the boxes and also the space intervening between the top receptacles of the boxes partly but not completely filled with the asphalt material in completing the structure as a burial case, so that there is in effect provided a single box body from the parts thus connected. The case is thus ready for the reception of the casket and after the latter has been introduced and the top placed in position the filling between the receptacles is completed.

In providing for the filling of the space between the receptacles of the case it is obvious that means must be provided for holding said receptacles in the proper spaced relation during such filling. To accomplish this result in a simple, expeditious manner I provide gage blocks 5 of a thickness corresponding approximately to the desired distance between the sections of the case. The gage spacing block is provided on each side with a clamp receptacle 6 including a lip 7 spaced from the box a distance to receive between said lip and block the wall of the section. Set screws 8 are threaded through the lips to engage the walls of the receptacles. The inner receptacle of the case body, which is of less height than the outer receptacle thereof is held in complete spaced relation to said outer receptacle by a gage spacing block 5, in assembling which the free upper edge of the inner case is rigidly connected to the block by the screw 8 engaging the edge of the section passed between the block and lip 7. In the desired operation any suitable number of these spacing blocks may be so engaged. The inner receptacle is then placed within the outer receptacle, a free edge of the latter passes between the lip and block of the outer clamp member, and the screw 8 thereof tightened. This operation, as clearly shown in the drawings, will support the respective receptacles of the body of the case in spaced relation. The same spacing is provided for the top receptacle of the case, but in this instance the top receptacles are of approximately the same height so that when com-

pleted the inner receptacle of the top has its marginal edge projecting below the outer receptacle thereof as clearly shown in the drawings. The space between the receptacles of the body and between the receptacles of the top is then filled by the asphalt, leaving, however, unfilled the space included between the marginal edges of the top and the extreme upper portions of the body between the sides and end edges thereof, this unfilled space being left for subsequent filling to complete the sealing operation of the top and body of the case, after the top has been placed in final position.

The upper or outer receptacle 4 of the top of the case is formed at appropriate points adjacent the side or marginal edge thereof with what may be termed filling openings 9 there being preferably four such openings at equidistant points between the ends and between the sides. The openings may if desired have vertically projecting walls coincident therewith as at 10 to form filling tubes which latter may also be provided with covers or lids 11 to complete the ornamentation or finish of the top of the case.

In the final sealing of the case which it is understood is in no instance completed until the original asphalt filling previously described is completely set in final condition when cool, a cover receptacle is applied to the box receptacle, as shown, and the liquid asphalt poured into one or more of the openings 9, the remainder of the openings serving as outlets for the contained air. The filling operation is continued until the space remaining unfilled between the walls of the top and body is completely filled, whereby the case forms a completely inclosing box of asphalt interiorly and exteriorly lined with metal and all air between the receptacles is completely excluded.

In those instances where it is desired to sterilize the air within the inclosing case I prefer to secure to the inner surface of the receptacle 1 of the body a cup 12 in which for example permanganate of potash crystals are placed and liquid formaldehyde poured upon the same just prior to placing the cover section in place and sealing the same. The gas thus generated will absolutely sterilize the air contained within the case, as will be well understood. If it is desired to exhaust the air from the inner case or to force a sterilizing gas within the case I provide a means therefor, illustrated more particularly in Fig. 8, the construction permitting this operation consisting in forming in the inner section 3 of the cover at an appropriate point a small opening 13 designed to be closed by a valve 14 carried on a lever 15 pivotally mounted upon a standard 16 secured to the receptacle, the free end of the lever being held in valve closing position by a leaf spring 17, as shown. Surrounding the valve and opening is an interiorly threaded nipple 18 secured to the case. A comparatively large circular opening 19 is formed in the outer receptacle 4 of the cover concentric with the nipple 18 and of materially grater diameter than the same, the edge of the opening being coincident with an upstanding threaded sleeve 20. A screw cap 21 is adapted to engage the threaded sleeve 20, said cap being formed with an opening 22 in alinement with the opening in the nipple having an exteriorly and interiorly threaded wall 23, the exterior threads being arranged to cooperate and receive a closing cap 24. A filling opening 25 is also formed in the cap 21, said opening being designed to be closed by a slip cap 26.

In inducing sterilizing gas into the case or exhausting the air therefrom a pipe section 27 is introduced through the opening 22, the cap 24 having been removed, said pipe section being connected with the interior threads of the wall 23 of the nipple, the lever 15 being so arranged that in screwing the pipe sections in place the free end of the lever is engaged and operated to lift the valve 14. In the use of this means the initial filling of asphalt is prevented from entering the space between the receptacles 3 and 4 within the boundary of the opening 19, any removable protecting means being used for this purpose. After the application of the pipe section 27 the liquid asphalt is poured through the opening 25 and completely fills the remaining space surrounding the pipe section 27. While the asphalt is in liquid condition the pumping operation is carried out through the pipe 27, withdrawing the air or introducing the sterilizing gas. The pipe section is then unscrewed sufficiently to disconnect it from the nipple 18, causing the lever to seat the valve through the action of the spring and also permitting the liquid asphalt to flow in over these parts and completely seal them. The pipe section 27 is then gradually withdrawn the liquid asphalt completely filling the space occupied thereby. The caps 24 and 26 are then placed in position and the operation is complete.

In the improved type of burial case it is absolutely imperative that the filling medium be a substance which does not become hard and brittle on cooling and the asphalt contemplated for use herein is water-proof, acid-proof and with the case described there is provided a hermetically sealed protection for the casket which will not only prevent the usual decay of the body but which will insure against danger of contagion in transporting or holding services over those dying from virulent or contagious diseases.

What is claimed is:—

1. A burial vault comprising a housing,

a closure hermetically sealed thereon, said closure being provided about centrally with a cavity and also having a valve seat in the bottom of said cavity, a valve mounted in connection with the seat in the closure, means to limit the outward movement of said valve, and at the same time permit air to be extracted from the housing, and means applicable to the cavity in said closure for sealing the valve in its seat after the air has been extracted from the housing.

2. A burial case including receptacles to be held in spaced relation by an impervious elastic filling, a valved opening formed in one of the receptacles, an enlarged concentric opening formed in the other of said receptacles, a cap closing said enlarged opening and having a filling opening and a pipe receiving opening, a pipe receiving nipple carried by the first-mentioned receptacle in alinement with the pipe receiving opening of the cap, and a cap closing the filling opening in the first-named cap.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE L. CAMPBELL.

Witnesses:
RODGERS K. FOSTER,
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