To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEN McCLAIN, citizen of the United States, residing at Xenia, in the county of Greene and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Casket-Trimming Trucks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to undertaking appliances and more particularly to an adjustmentable support for a casket during the trimming operation.

The object of the invention is to simplify the structure as well as the means and mode of operation of such devices, whereby they will not only be cheapened in construction, but will be more efficient in use, convenient in operation, capable of being easily and quickly adjusted, and unlikely to get out of repair.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved form of adjustable casket support upon which the casket may be supported at different elevations and different inclined positions to facilitate the attachment of handles to the side and end panels and the upholstering and interior trimming.

With the above primary and other incidental objects in view, as will more fully appear in the specification, the invention consists of the features of construction, the parts and combinations thereof, and the mode of operation, or their equivalents, as hereinafter described and set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the assembled apparatus, one of the adjustable trestles being elevated and the other depressed. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device illustrating different positions of adjustment of the trestles and casket.

Like parts are indicated by similar characters of reference throughout the several views.

It is the practice of casket trimmers to turn a casket upon its side to facilitate the attachment of the side handles. For this purpose a comparatively low support is desirable. In recent years it has become a practice to apply end handles in addition to the side handles. While by turning the casket on its side and supporting it sufficiently low the operator can obtain a position of advantage to drive the attachment screws for the side handles, the attachment of the end handles becomes a more difficult matter and the operator is not able to work with the same ease and advantage.

The present device is designed to enable the operator to support the casket at a suitable inclination whereby the end panel will be presented in a position for convenient attachment of the end handles. After the handles are attached the upholstering and trimming operations are best performed with the casket in an elevated position. One of the primary objects of the present invention is to provide a universal supporting structure which will enable the casket to be presented successfully in the different positions named with ease and rapidity.

In constructing the device there is employed a rectangular main frame preferably, though not necessarily, provided with corner posts to which are attached supporting wheels or castors, thus enabling the device to be easily transported from place to place.

Pivoted at 4 to the sides of the main frame 1 are independently adjustable trestles comprising the parallel legs 5—5 and cross bars 6. The cross bars 6 are suitably padded to prevent injury to the casket placed thereon.

Located on the upper edge of the main frame 1 are a plurality of ratchet teeth or stop shoulders 7—7 adapted to be engaged by a transverse rod 8 carried upon the lower ends of the swinging arms 9 pivoted at 10 to the legs 5 of the trestles. The construction is such that the trestles may be swung vertically about their pivotal points 4 to different elevations and retained in adjusted position by the engagement of the transverse rod 8 against the ratchet teeth or stop shoulders 7. Thus by engaging the transverse bar 8 against different shoulders 7 the trestle may be supported at different elevations.

In the drawing only two stop shoulders have been shown on either side of the main frame 1 and at each end thereof. It is obvious, however, that any number of such teeth or stop shoulders may be provided to afford various intermediate degrees of adjustment.

To permit the adjustment bar 8 to be disengaged from the stops 7 while the operator steadies or lifts the end of the casket there is provided an arm 11 pivoted on the main frame 1 and extending beneath the transverse rod 8. Attached to the arm 11 is an
arched strap or keeper 12, preferably of metal, forming a slot 13 through which the rod 8 extends. It is obvious that the slot may be formed directly in the arm 11 in lieu of the strap or keeper 12. The arm 11 projects beyond the end of the main frame 1 to form a pedal or foot trip 14. The operator, by placing his foot upon the extension 14 of the arm 11 oscillates the arm upward and thereby lifts the bar 8 out of engagement with the stop shoulder 7, permitting the trestle to swing downward while the bar 8 rides upon the arm 11. By releasing the foot pressure upon the extension 14 the parts will fall by gravity and the transverse bar 8 will be engaged with the succeeding stop 7 while if the pressure is maintained the bar 8 will slide upon the arm 11 to the limit of its movement, permitting the trestle to fall to the extreme position.

Referring to Fig. 2, the casket positioned for the attachment of the side handles is shown by dotted lines in which position the supporting trestles are in their lowermost position as also shown by dotted lines. The side handles having been attached, and it being desired to attach the end handle, one of the supporting trestles is elevated to an upright position as shown by full lines at the right in Fig. 2 while the other trestle is allowed to remain in its depressed or lowermost position as shown by dotted lines at the left. The casket will thus be supported in an inclined position as shown by dot and dash lines which will present the end panel in convenient position for the attachment of the handle. Of course, to attach the handle to the opposite end panel the relation of the supporting trestles will be reversed. The handles being attached, the trestles are both elevated to upright position as indicated by solid lines to elevate the casket to convenient position to receive the upholstering and indentations. As before described, the trestles may be quickly and conveniently lowered by the operation of the foot trip.

While the device has been shown in the drawings as constructed of wood, which is most convenient and economical method of constructing the same, it is obvious that it may be constructed of metal and that other means of adjusting and holding the trestles may be employed.

From the above description it will be apparent that there is thus provided a device of the character described possessing the particular features of advantage before enumerated as desirable but which obviously is susceptible of modification in its form, proportion, detail construction, or arrangement of parts, without departing from the principle involved or sacrificing any of its advantages.

While in order to comply with the statute the invention has been described in language more or less specific as to certain structural features, it is to be understood that the means and construction herein described comprises but one mode of putting the invention into effect and the invention is therefore claimed broadly in any of its possible forms or modifications within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:
1. In a device of the character described, a main frame, a plurality of independently adjustable trestles carried upon the main frame, and means for independently maintaining the trestles in different positions of adjustment, and a foot trip to independently release each trestle from adjusted position.
2. In a device of the character described, a main frame, a supporting trestle pivotally connected thereto and moveable vertically to different elevations, a plurality of stop shoulders, a detent adapted to engage the stop shoulders to maintain the trestle in different positions of adjustment, and a release lever adapted to lift the detent out of engagement with the stop shoulders.
3. In a device of the character described, a main frame, two supporting trestles pivotally connected to the main frame and independently adjustable about their pivotal connections vertically to different elevations, a pair of swinging arms pivotally engaged by the transverse rods to maintain the trestles in adjusted position.
4. In a device of the character described, a main frame, two supporting trestles pivotally connected to the main frame and independently adjustable about their pivotal connections vertically to different elevations, a pair of swinging arms pivotally engaged by the transverse rods to maintain the trestles in adjusted position, and an independent release lever for each detent rod.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 31 day of May, A. D. 1916.

ALLEN McCLAIN.

Witnesses:
HARRY D. SMITH,
F. L. WALKER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."