Dec. 9, 1941. G. D. BROOKINS 2,265,263

BURIAL RECEPTACLE

Filed Dec. 26, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

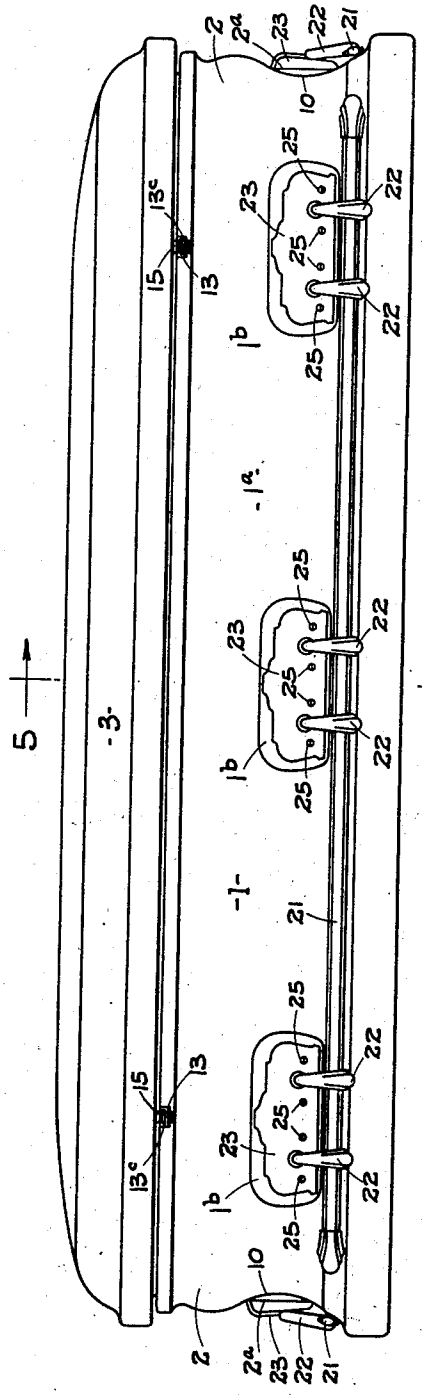

Fig. 1.

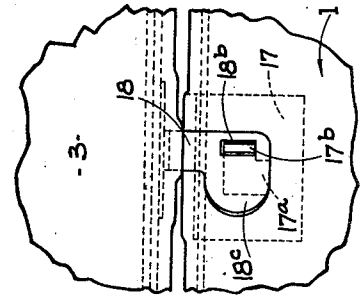

Fig. 4.

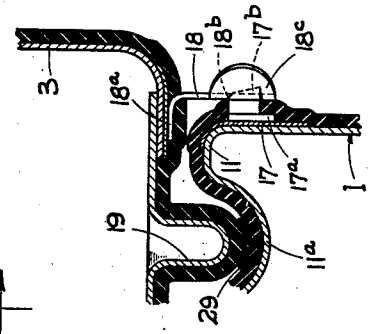

Fig. 3.

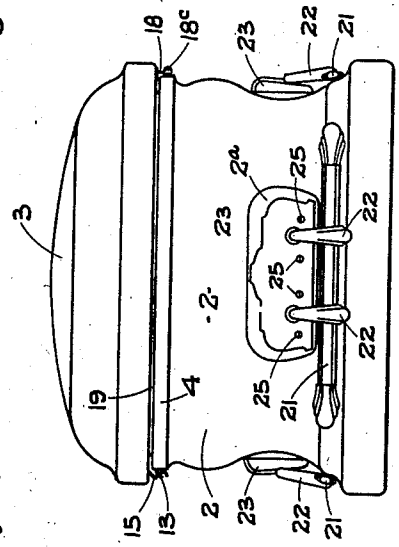

Fig. 2.

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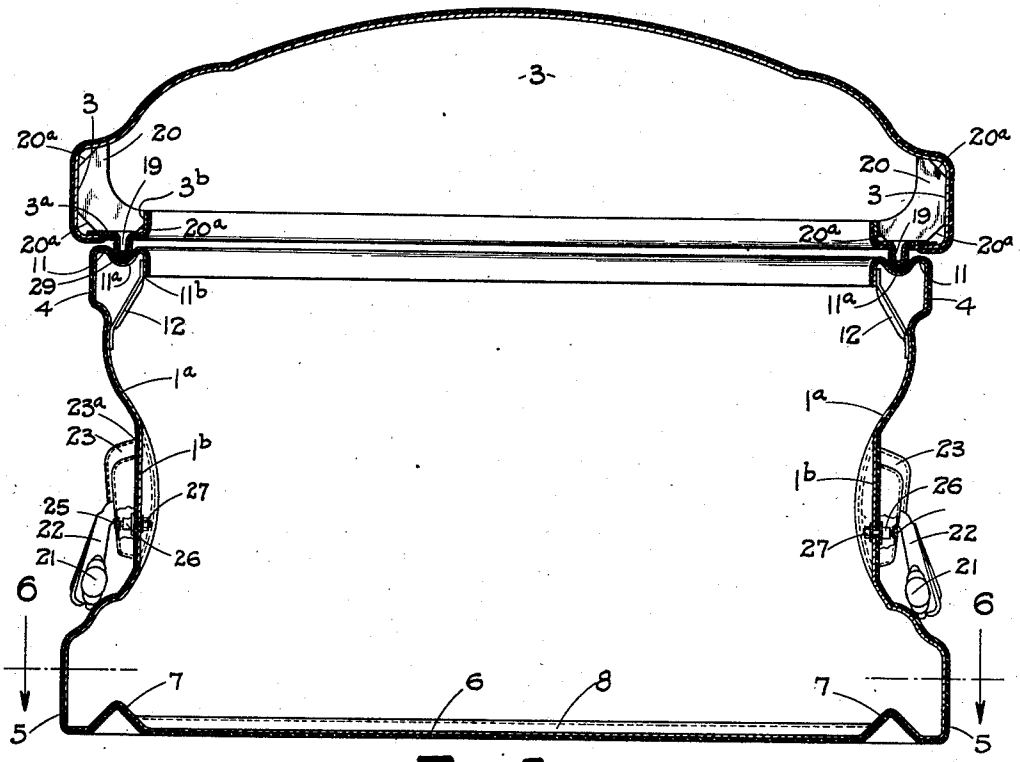

FIG. 5.

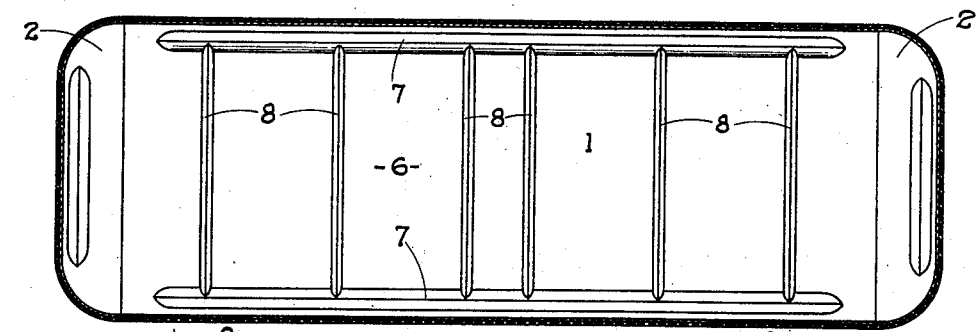

FIG. 6.

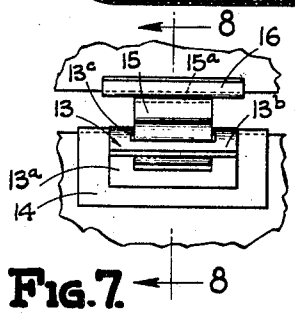

FIG. 7.

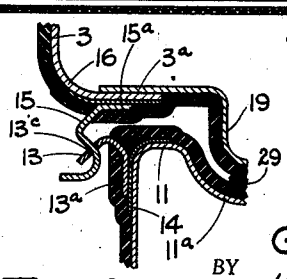

FIG. 8.

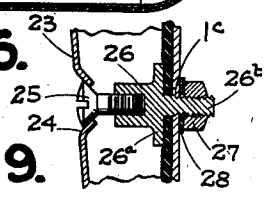

FIG. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BURIAL RECEPTACLE

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Application December 26, 1940, Serial No. 371,680

6 Claims. (Cl. 27—3)

This invention relates to improvements in burial receptacles, such as caskets and vaults, of the metallic type.

The general purposes and objects of my invention are to provide a metallic burial receptacle which shall be rustproof, waterproof and verminproof; which can be hermetically sealed; and which will be light in weight and inexpensive of production. Further and more limited purposes and objects of my invention and the manner in which all of the purposes and objects of my invention may be realized will be explained at length in the detailed description appearing hereinafter, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of a complete burial receptacle made in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 an end elevation of the said receptacle; Fig. 3 a detail in section and Fig. 4 a detail in elevation showing the construction of one of the lid-fastening devices; Fig. 5 an enlarged sectional view through the receptacle, taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 6 a sectional plan of the receptacle taken on a plane indicated by the lines 6—6 of Fig. 5; Fig. 7 a detail in elevation and Fig. 8 a detail in section showing the construction of one of the hinges for the lid; and Fig. 9 a detail in sectional elevation of the means for securing the handles to the body and lid.

The burial receptacle which is illustrated and which will be described herein comprises a foundation of sheet metal, pressed to suitable shape, and having applied thereto a thin coating of elastic rubber, whereby this protective coating will not crack or chip through the expansion and contraction of the metal foundation to which it is applied. The manner in which the metal foundation parts of the receptacle are formed and constructed will now be described, following which an explanation will be given of the manner in which the protective rubber coating is applied to these parts.

The metal foundation consists generally of a body, comprising a main section and end sections which, after having been subjected to the pressing operations necessary to give them their desired shapes, are united by welding; also a lid.

Referring to the drawings, wherein the various parts are designated by reference characters, 1 denotes the main section and 2 the end sections of the body, and 3 the lid of a burial receptacle of the casket type. As shown herein, the main and end sections of the body and the lid are given shapes which will render the receptacle as a whole attractive in appearance. This shaping is accomplished by a pressing operation, wherein hot roller 18 gauge steel is preferably employed, this thickness being adequate, when the body and lid are formed in the manner to be described, to insure adequate strength as well as the desired lightness in the finished product. As will appear more particularly from Figs. 2, 5 and 6, the sides 1a of the main body section are curved inwardly between the tops and bottoms thereof, the portions of the sides above the incurved portions merging with top and bottom corner beads 4 and 5 in such manner as to present an ornamental appearance while contributing to the strength of the tops and bottoms of the sides.

In order to strengthen the bottom 6 of the receptacle, the main section thereof is provided with upwardly projecting inverted V-shaped ribs 7, adjacent to each side thereof and extending throughout the major portion of the length of the bottom; also with inverted V-shaped ribs 7a adjacent to each end thereof. The former ribs serve the double function of strengthening the bottom and of providing convenient hand-holds when the receptacle is being transported through narrow spaces, such as doorways, wherein the ordinary handles cannot be employed, and the latter ribs also strengthen the bottom and provide convenient hand holds where ordinary handles are omitted. The bottom is further strengthened by transverse inverted V-shaped ribs 8 pressed upwardly from the bottom and having their ends mitered onto the adjacent sides of the ribs 7.

The main section of the body of the receptacle is made separately from the end sections 2, the said sections being welded together after they have been given their desired shapes by the pressing operations to which they are respectively subjected. It will be noted that the end sections are so shaped as to constitute continuations of the contours of the sides of the main body section, the former sections being provided each with inwardly curved portions 10 corresponding to and registering with the inwardly curved portions of the sides. The upper and lower portions of the end sections are also shaped to provide continuations of the corresponding parts of the main body section.

In order to provide suitable means for attaching the handles to the sides of the receptacle, the incurved portions of said sides and ends are flattened, as shown at 1b and 2a, to provide substantially vertical base plates for the attachment thereto of the back plates to which the handles are secured. Three such base plates 1b are provided on each side and one such base plate 2a

is provided for the side of each end. These base plates are provided with holes, such as shown at 1c. The manner in which the back plates are secured to these base plates will be described hereinafter.

In order to strengthen the tops of the sides and ends and at the same time provide suitable means for sealing the lid thereto, the top of each side and end is pressed into the form of an enlarged bead having a substantially horizontal top flange, the flanges at the tops of the sides being indicated at 11, and said flanges each being provided, between the inner and outer edges thereof with a downwardly extending concave groove, such as shown at 11a, the inner end of such horizontal flange merging with a downwardly extending flange, such as shown at 11b. The bead formed by the top of each side and end and by the flanges such as 11 and 11b strengthen the tops of the complete body and provide, with the parts to be described hereinafter, a hermetic seal for and with the lid.

For the purpose of strengthening the portions of the sides which support the lid, suitable brace plates 12, preferably of 16-gauge metal, are welded to the outer sides of the downturned flanges 11b and to the portions of the sides below the strengthening beads. Each side may conveniently be provided with three such brace plates, although the particular number and location of said brace plates may, of course, be varied as desired.

Cooperating hinge and locking members are secured respectively to opposite sides of the metal foundations of the lid and body of the receptacle, prior to the application of the rubber coating thereto. The hinge construction which I prefer to employ is shown in detail in Figs. 7 and 8, wherein 13 denotes a hinge plate of non-rusting metal having a downturned portion 13a which is welded to a strip of non-rusting metal 14, the latter being welded to the flange 11 of the bead which is formed at the top of one of the sides of the body of the receptacle. The hinge plate extends outwardly beyond the side wall of the body and is bent downwardly, as shown at 13b, and is provided in such downwardly and outwardly extending portion with a slot 13c for the reception of the lower end of a cooperating S-shaped hinge plate 15 of non-rusting metal having a flattened upper end 15a which is welded to a strip 16 of non-rusting metal, the latter being welded in turn to the substantially horizontal portion 3a of the metal foundation 3 of the lid, which portion, as will be explained hereinafter, forms part of the means for effecting a seal between the lid and the top of the body of the receptacle. Two such hinges will preferably be provided, being located adjacent to the ends of the body and lid.

The opposite sides of the body and lid are provided with cooperating latching members constituting locks, as illustrated in detail in Figs. 3 and 4. Each of the latching members, which are secured to the top of one of the sides of the body of the receptacle, consists of a plate 17 of non-rusting metal which is welded onto the top of the side, extending preferably onto the top flange 11 of the bead. This plate has welded thereto a base plate 17a of non-rusting metal carrying a detent 17b which is adapted to engage a slot provided for its reception in the lower portion of a latch plate 18, formed of non-rusting metal (such as spring brass), bent into angular form and having a flange 18a at the upper end thereof by which it is welded to the metal portion 3 of the lid. The lower end of this latch plate is provided with the slot 18b for the reception of the detent 17b and with an outwardly projecting portion 18c for engagement by the thumb or finger of the operator for the purpose of unlatching the parts of the lock. Two such locks are preferably provided and are so located as to enable the portions 18c to be engaged simultaneously by the opposite hands of the operator.

The lid is strengthened at the bottom by having the lower edge of the metal foundation 3 thereof formed into a large inturned bead comprising the lower inturned end of the metal foundation 3 and a rib 19 projecting downwardly from the substantially horizontal flange 3a of a non-rusting metal strip the outer portion of which flange is welded onto the inturned edge of the metal foundation. This strip has a vertically extending flange 3b on the inner side of the rib 19.

To strengthen further the lower edge portions of the lid, a suitable number of metal gusset plates 20 are provided, each having its top and its outer side edge welded to the portion of the metal foundation 3 which is located above the inwardly projecting bead at the bottom of the foundation and each having its bottom and inner edge welded to the flanges 3a and 3b respectively. For convenience of welding, the outer corners of these gussets may be cut away, as indicated at 20a.

The metal portions of the body and lid of the receptacle having been completed and assembled in this manner, the exterior surfaces of the body and lid foundations are next covered with elastic rubber, these surfaces having been first subjected to an operation for roughening or pitting the same sufficiently to enable efficient adhesion to be obtained between the same and a coating of rubberized cement applied thereto. This roughening or pitting of these surfaces may be accomplished by abrasive blasting.

The outer surfaces of the metal foundation parts having been coated with rubberized cement, the rubber covering, preferably in the form of thin sheets of crude rubber approximately one-eighth inch thick, is applied by rolling the sheets onto the cement coating by rolls of suitable contour—it being noted that all corner angles are sufficiently rounded to permit the rolling tool to exert the proper pressure upon the rubber throughout the entire extent of these corner angles, as well as between the rubber and the other portions of the cement-covered foundation, thereby to obtain proper adhesion between the rubber and the cement. The rubber cover may be given any desired color, either by mixing suitable coloring material with the crude rubber, or by spraying the coloring material upon the outer surface of the rubber after the curing operation.

As a modification of the present preferred manner of applying the crude rubber to the cement, the rubber may be sprayed onto the cement by a suitable gun, applying several coatings until the desired thickness of coating has been obtained.

The metal foundation of the lid and body having been thus coated with the crude rubber, these parts are placed in a heat chamber, where they are subjected to a temperature and for a duration of time sufficient to effect a curing of the rubber covering such as to render it elastic and not liable to be broken or cracked through

contraction and expansion of the metal foundations to which the covering is applied.

After the rubber coating shall have been applied and cured in the manner described, the elongated handles 21 are then secured in place in the following manner: each handle has arms 22 secured thereto and pivotally connected in a well known manner to a back plate 23, shown in detail in Figs. 5 and 9. These back plates have each a peripheral edge 23a adapted to engage the rubber covering on one of the base plates 1b, 2a, the body of each back plate propecting outwardly from such edge and providing an outer wall to which the arms 22 are secured. This outer wall is also provided with countersunk tapered seats 24 adapted to register with the holes provided in the subjacent base plates 1b or 2a of the metal foundation of the body and with the registering openings in the rubber covering. Each of these seats receives the head of a screw 25, which screw is threaded into an internally threaded hub 26 of a connecting element, the hub being provided with a base flange 26a which is adapted to engage the portion of the rubber cover surrounding the registered opening in said cover and in the base plate. This coupling member is provided with a threaded stud 26b which extends through the said registering openings, and the flange of the coupling member is drawn into tight and leak-proof engagement with the rubber covering by means of a nut 27 and a washer 28. The connecting members and the bases 23 are preferably of non-rusting metal.

By the construction and arrangement of parts described and illustrated herein, the hinges, the latches and the handles, all comprise parts which, while having parts therof located outside the burial receptacle, are connected to the metal foundation in such manner as will render them incapable of causing rusting of the latter. The hinge construction shown and described herein permits the lid of the receptacle to be opened for the purpose of "viewing the remains." Prior to the final closing of the casket, self-curing cement, indicated at 29, is applied to the groove 11a and the lid is then locked in place with the rib 19 seated in the cement.

It will be evident, from the foregoing description, that I have produced a burial receptacle capable of realizing in an efficient manner all of the purposes and objects of the invention as stated hereinbefore.

This application is a continuation in part of my application Serial No. 282,611, filed July 3, 1939.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a cover each having a pressed metal foundation, the body foundation having an integral inwardly extending bead formed at the top thereof and extending therearound, the said bead comprising an inwardly projecting flange having a groove intermediate the inner and outer edges thereof and a flange extending downwardly from the inner edge of the former flange, brace plates each welded to the inner surface of the downwardly projecting flange and to the inner surfaces of the sides below the latter flange, a coating of elastic rubber covering the exterior surface of the body foundation and extending to and including the exterior surface of the said bead, the cover foundation being provided at its bottom with an inwardly projecting bead extending therearound and having a downwardly projecting tongue adapted to enter the said groove, a covering of elastic rubber for the said cover foundation including the bead and the tongue thereof, and means for effecting a seal between the tongue and the groove.

2. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a cover each having a pressed metal fundation, the body foundation having an integral inwardly extending bead formed at the top thereof and extending therearound, the said bead comprising an inwardly projecting flange having a groove intermediate the inner and outer edges thereof and a flange extending downwardly from the inner edge of the former flange, the cover foundation having an inwardly extending bead formed at the bottom thereof and extending therearound, the latter bead comprising a strip of metal welded to the inturned edge of the bottom of the cover, said strip comprising an inwardly extending flange provided intermediate of its inner and outer edges with a downwardly extending tongue adapted to enter the groove in the bead on the top of the body and being provided at its inner edge with an upwardly extending flange, gusset plates welded to the last mentioned flange and to the inner surface of the metal foundation of the cover above the said strip, the said foundations having each a covering of elastic rubber applied to the exterior thereof and including the exposed outer portions of their respective beads.

3. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a cover each having a pressed metal foundation, the body foundation having at its top an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound and the cover foundation having at its bottom an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound, brace members each welded to the inner surface of the flange at the top of the body foundation and to the inner surfaces of the sides of the foundation below said flange, brace members each welded to the inner surface of the flange at the bottom of the cover foundation and to the inner surface of the metal foundation of the cover above said flange, and a covering of elastic rubber applied to the exterior surface of each of said foundations and including the opposed outer engaging portions of the flanges thereof.

4. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a cover, each having a pressed metal foundation, the body foundation having at its top an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound and the cover having at its bottom an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound, brace members each welded to the inner surface of the flange at the top of the body foundation and to the inner surfaces of the sides of the foundation below said flange, and a covering of elastic rubber applied to the exterior surface of each of said foundations and including the opposed outer engaging portions of the flanges thereof.

5. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a cover each having a pressed metal foundation, the body foundation having at its top an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound and the cover having at its bottom an inwardly projecting flange extending therearound, brace members each welded to the inner surface of the flange at the bottom of the cover and to the inner surface of the metal foundation on the cover above said flange, and a covering of elastic rubber applied to the exterior surface of each of said foundations and including the opposed outer engaging portions of the flanges thereof.

6. A burial receptacle comprising a body and a

cover each having a pressed metal foundation, the body foundation having an inwardly extending flange formed at the top thereof and extending therearound and having a flange extending downwardly from the inner edge of the former flange, the cover foundation having an inwardly extending flange formed at the bottom thereof and extending therearound and provided at its inner edge with an upwardly extending flange, and bracing members welded to the downwardly extending flange and to the walls of the body foundation therebelow and bracing members welded to the inner surface of the upwardly extending flange and to the portions of the cover foundation thereabove, and a covering of elastic rubber applied to the exteriors of the said foundations and including the opposed outer engaging portions of their respective inwardly projecting flanges.

GUY D. BROOKINS.