No. 849,435. PATENTED APR. 9, 1907.

T. A. STEVENSON.

BURIAL VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 13, 1906.

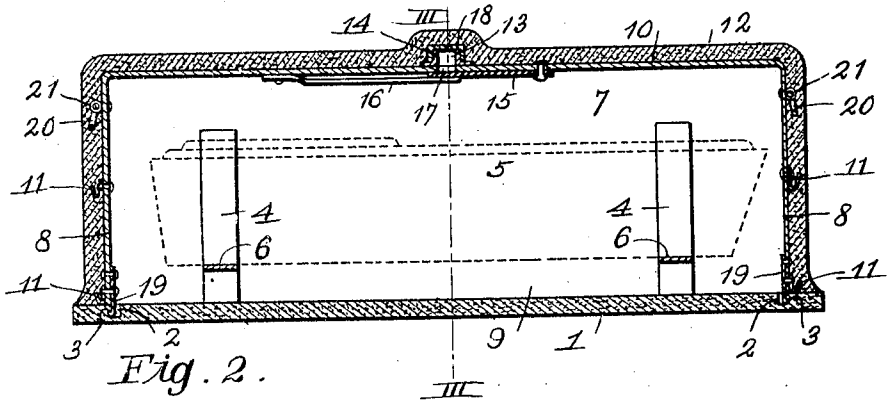
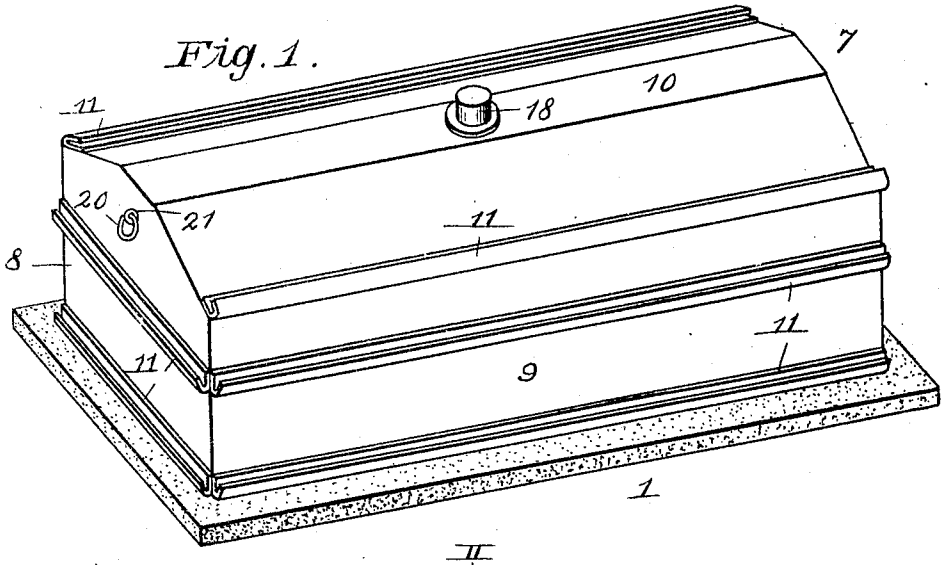


Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.



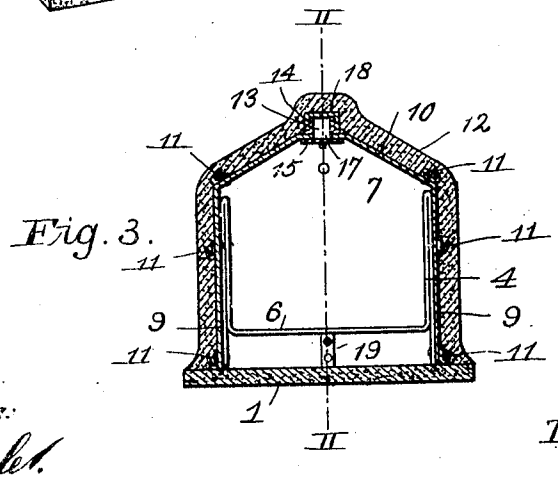


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE A. STEVENSON, OF LANSING, KANSAS.

BURIAL-VAULT.

No. 849,435. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 9, 1907.

Application filed August 13, 1906. Serial No. 330,323.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE A. STEVENSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lansing, in the county of Leavenworth and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burial-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in burial-vaults; and my object is to provide a device of this character for inclosing and preserving the corpse and the casket containing the same from the destructible elements to which they are subjected when buried in the ground. The vault is arranged to permit the escape of the gases arising from the decomposing body and at the same time exclude water, which is one of the most destructible elements, from the casket.

The invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section of the same on line II II of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on line III III of Fig. 2.

In carrying out the invention I employ a bed-plate 1, consisting, preferably, of cement and provided near its ends with cavities 2, having shoulders 3.

4 designates a pair of U-shaped standards for supporting the casket 5 a few inches above the bed-plate. The lower terminals of said standards extend downwardly below their transverse portions 6 and are firmly embedded in the bed-plate.

7 designates a case which is open at its bottom portion and consists of end walls 8, side walls 9, and a top wall 10. Said case is made, preferably, of metal, and its side and end walls are reinforced with retaining-strips 11 of V form in cross-section to assist in supporting a coat of cement 12, applied to the case for the purpose of protecting the same from moisture. The case is shorter and narrower than the bed-plate, so that the latter will project beyond the sides and ends thereof and afford a broad foundation therefor.

13 designates a valve arranged in the top wall 10 and consisting of a tube 14, a leather strip 15, secured to the inner side of the top wall, and a flat spring 16, also secured to the inner side of the top wall, which normally holds the free end of the leather strip across the inlet-port 17 of the valve. Tube 14 is provided with a removable cap 18, which prevents said tube from becoming clogged with foreign matter.

19 designates spring-catches secured to the lower portions of the end walls and adapted to engage shoulders 3..

20 designates rings carried by eyebolts 21, secured to the upper portions of the end walls.

In practice the bed-plate is lowered to the bottom of the grave. The casket containing the corpse is then lowered until it rests upon the transverse portions of standards 4. Ropes are then rove through rings 20, and the casket is lowered to the bed-plate, care being taken to have the spring-catches 19 engage shoulders 3. However, as the side walls of the case snugly fit the sides of the standards and the latter extend above the top of the casket they will in a measure serve as guides in directing the case to its proper position upon the bed-plate. An air-pump is next connected to the valve, so that air may be forced into the case under sufficient pressure to prevent any water which may enter at the joint between the case and the bed-plate from rising high enough to reach the casket resting upon the standards. The case and the projecting portion of the bed-plate is then covered with the cement coat 12, which protects the case and seals the joint between the same and the bed-plate, or, if desired, said coat may be applied before the case is lowered, in which event the rings and the valve would be left exposed until after the case had been placed in position upon the bed-plate.

The joint between the bottom of the case and the bed-plate, however, is the weakest part of the vault and will crack and afford an avenue of escape for the powerful gases that will arise from the decomposing body, so that the case will not be ruptured by said gases, but owing to the weight of the case sufficient pressure will remain therein to prevent water from rising to the casket.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a structure of the character described, in combination, a case open at the bottom and provided with longitudinal reinforcements, and a bed-plate upon which said case is adapted to rest, said bed-plate being longer and wider than the case so that it will pro-

ject beyond the sides and ends thereof, and a coat of plastic material covering the case and the projecting portion of the bed-plate, for the purpose set forth and described.

2. In a structure of the character described, a bed-plate, a case open at the bottom and adapted to be placed upon said bed-plate, and standards for supporting the casket, said standards extending from the bed-plate to a point above the casket to form guides for the case when lowering the same upon the bed-plate, substantially as described.

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

THEODORE A. STEVENSON.

Witnesses:

F. G. FISCHER,

WM. A. LINGLER.