L. D. BUNN.

Corpse Cooler.

No. 36,765. Patented Oct. 28, 1862.

Fig. 1.

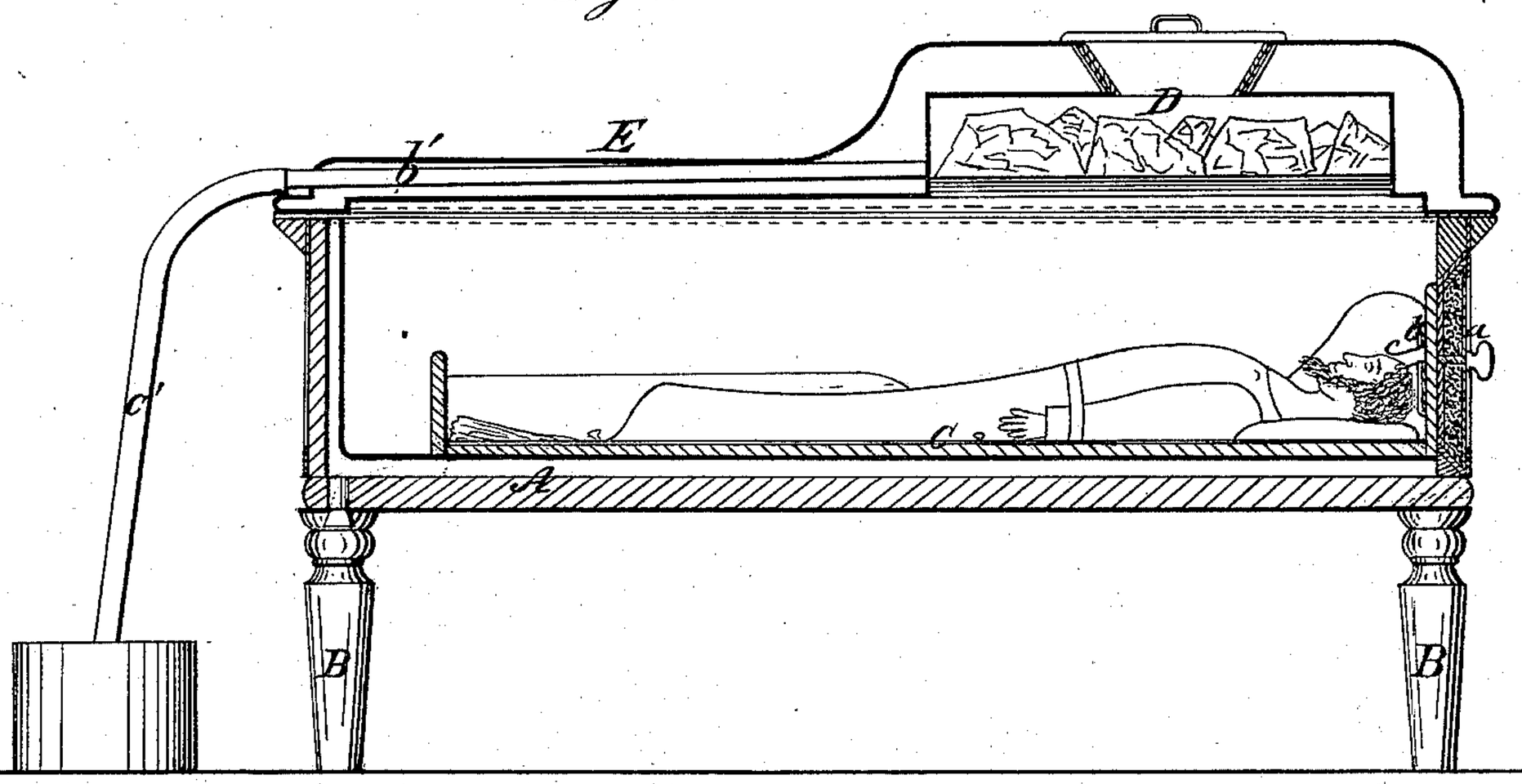
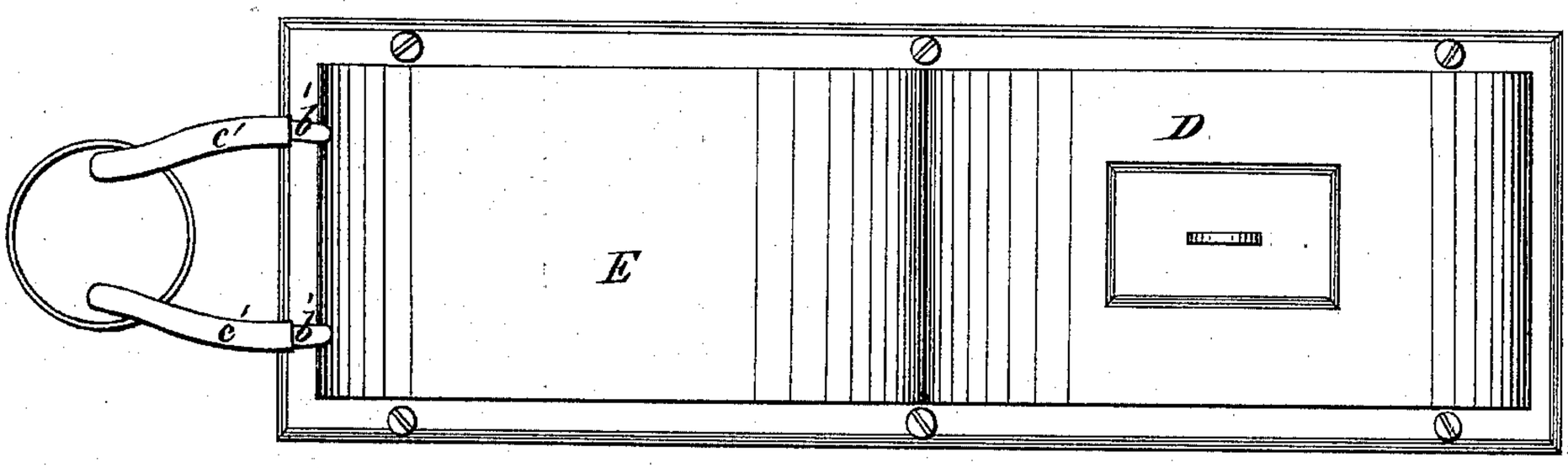


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS D. BUNN, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-PRESERVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **36,765**, dated October 28, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS D. BUNN, of Morristown, in the county of Morris and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Corpse-Preserver; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference in both views indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to arrest or check the decomposition of a body for several days from time of death, and to present the features in a perfectly-natural state as to expression, color, &c., on the day of funeral, and also keep the body free from smell.

The invention consists in the arrangement of a movable cooling-board, fitted into the body-chamber with an air-tight joint, in combination with an ice-box and cold-air chamber, forming the top or cover of said body-chamber, in such a manner that a body or corpse laid upon the cooling-board and introduced into the body-chamber is exposed to the cooling influence of the ice, without coming in contact with the moisture or water formed by the melting ice, and at the same time convenient access may be had to the corpse, if it is desired to look at the features of the deceased from time to time, or the corpse may be closed up air-tight, if that course is rendered advisable.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation with reference to the drawings.

A represents a box, made of wood or any other suitable material, and lined with sheet-zinc, if desired, and supported with legs B, which may be firmly inserted or arranged so that they can easily and quickly be removed whenever it may be desired. This box forms the body-chamber, and it may be constructed with double walls, the space between which forms an air-channel, whereby the interior of the body-chamber is excluded as much as possible from the influence of the external atmosphere. This air-channel may, however, be dispensed with; but at all events it is desirable to construct the body-chamber of a good non-conductor of heat. The chamber is open at one end to receive the cooling-board C. On this board the corpse is laid out after it has been washed and dressed, and the head-piece *a* of said board is provided with suitable staples, *b*, to retain a band, *c*, that serves to fasten the chin of the corpse. The edges of the head-piece *a* are cut off in an inclined direction, to correspond to the shape of the opening in the end of the chamber A, and when the cooling-board is in its place the joint between the head-piece and end of the chamber is rendered air-tight by strips of felt, cloth, india-rubber, or other suitable substance interposed between the edges of said head-piece and those of the opening in the end of the chamber A. The head-piece *a* may be made hollow, or with double walls filled in with coal-dust or some other non-conductor of heat, so that the corpse, when placed on the cooling-board and introduced into the chamber A, is perfectly secluded from the influence of the external atmosphere. The top of the chamber A is covered by the ice-box D and air-chamber E. This box and chamber is constructed with a bottom of thin sheet metal, and the ice-box is situated over the chest and bowels of the body stretched on the cooling-board, so that the cooling influence of the ice is exerted principally on those parts of the body which are particularly liable to decomposition. The water formed by the melting ice is carried off through two pipes, *b'*, which extend through the air-chamber E, and from which flexible tubes *c'* lead to a pail or other suitable receptacle.

The ice-box and the air-chamber may be surrounded by double walls, and the air-space formed between these double walls may be made to communicate by suitable channels with the air-space surrounding the body-chamber A, so that a continuous current of cold air passes around the whole device. The body or corpse to be preserved is thus perfectly protected against the influence of the moisture or water formed by the melting ice, and if the cooling-board is kept closed a comparatively small quantity of ice is sufficient to freeze the body and to preserve it from decomposition for several days.

If desired, the apparatus may be made in several sections, so that it can be carried from

place to place with ease and convenience, and that it can be put up in any part of a house where it would be impossible to take the full-sized apparatus having the body-chamber made in one piece and the legs rigidly attached to it.

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

The arrangement of the cooling-board C with head-piece *a*, in combination with the body-chamber A, ice-box D, and air-chamber E, all constructed and operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose shown and described.

LEWIS D. BUNN.

Witnesses:
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