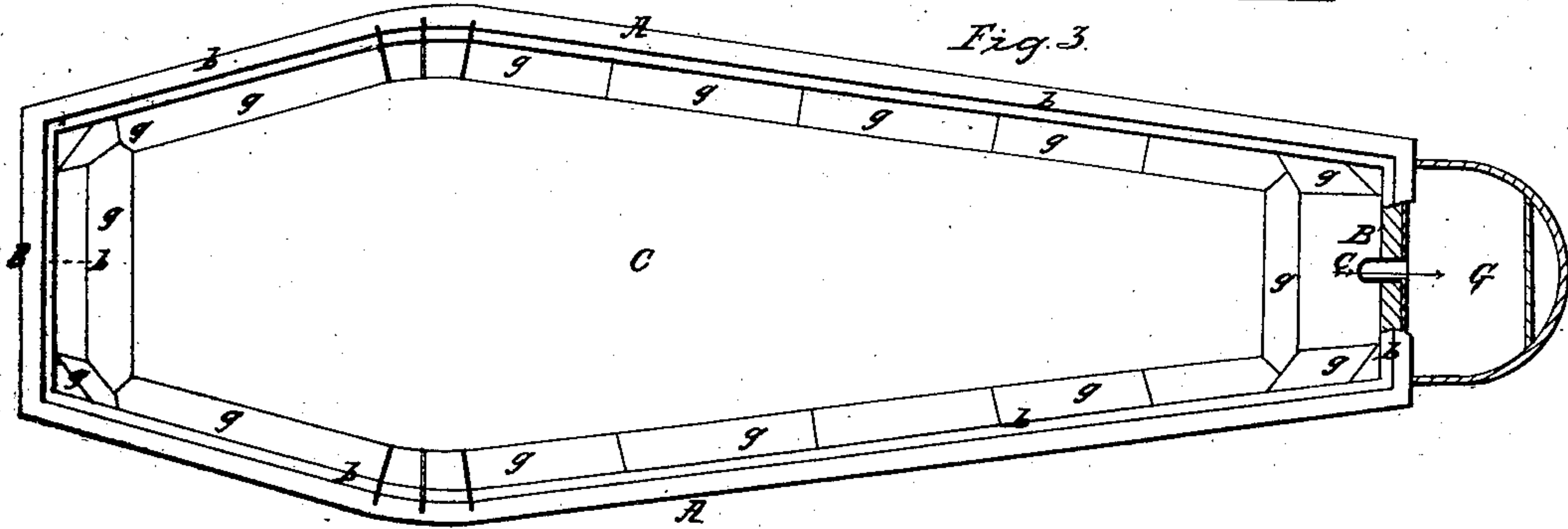
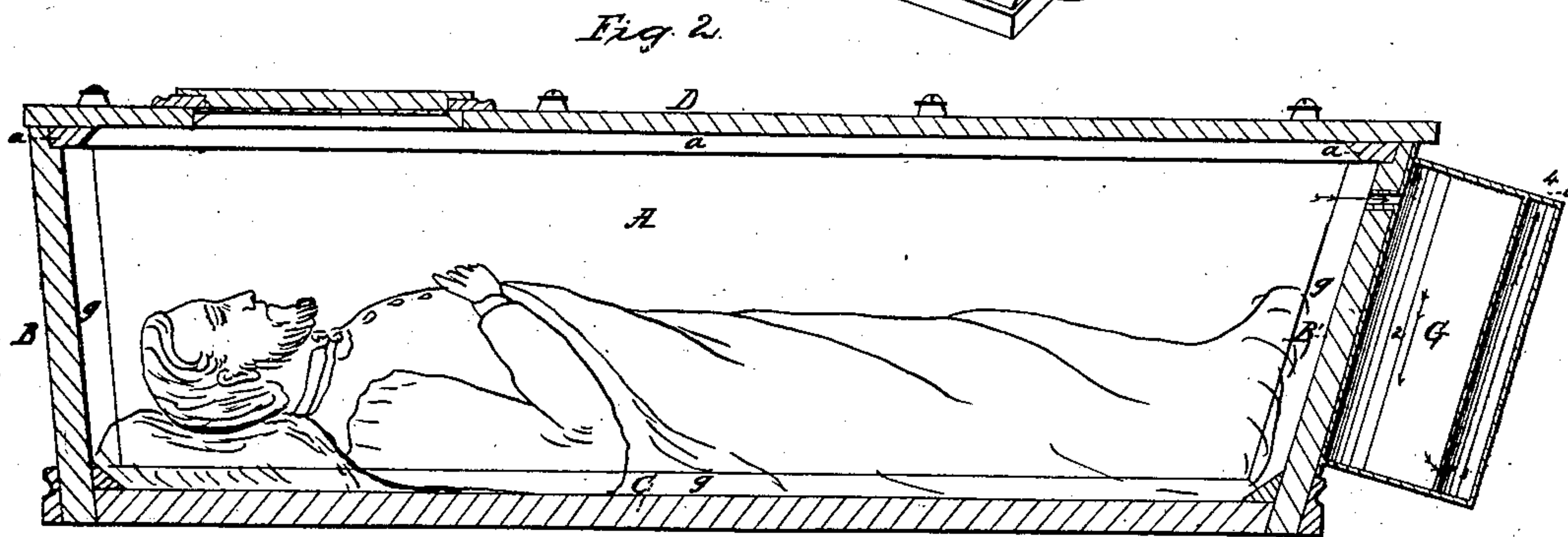
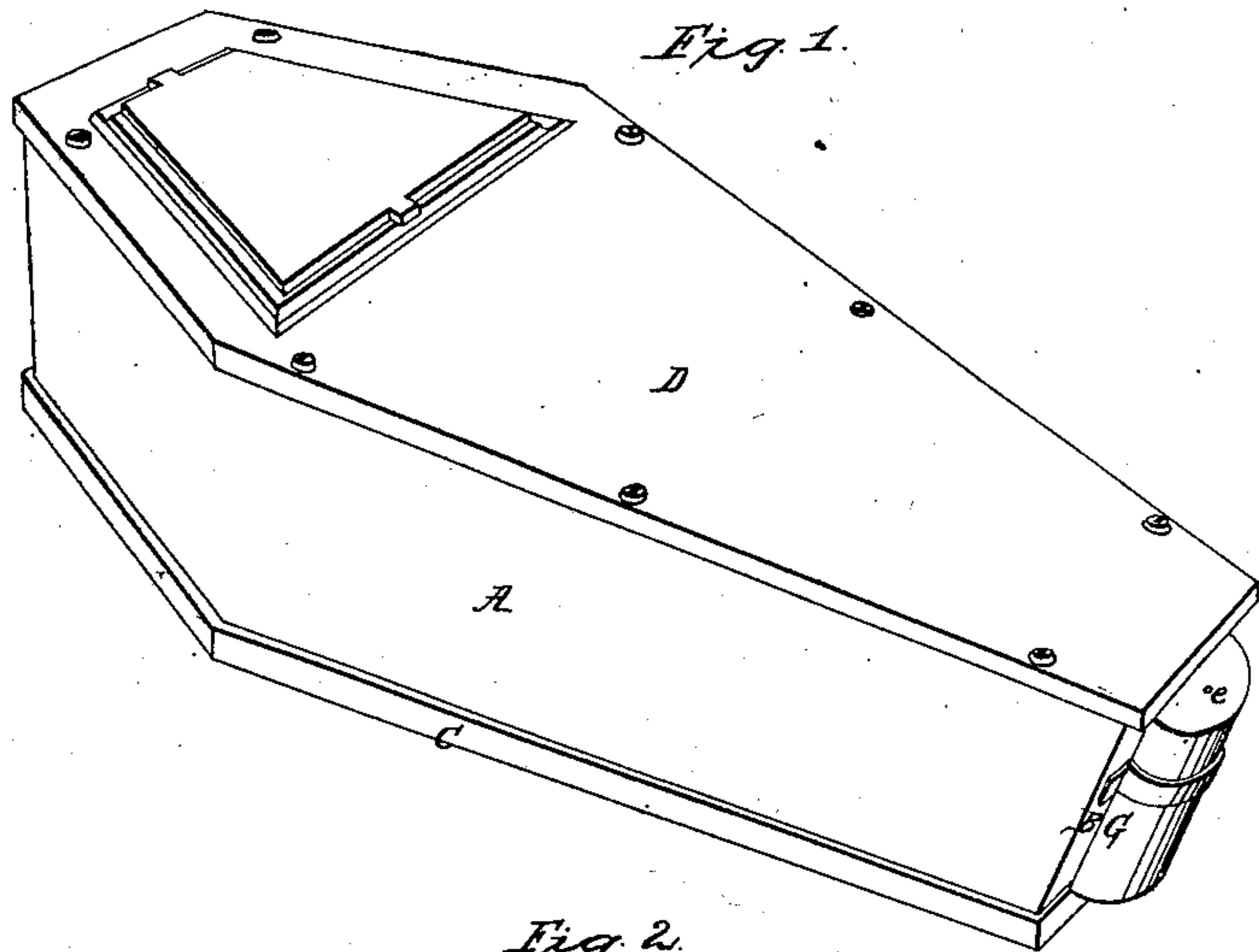


S. H. Young,

Coffin,

N^o 40,137.

Patented Sep. 29, 1863.



Witnesses:
R. D. Campbell
C. Schaffer

Inventor:
Sam^l H. Young
by his City's
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL H. YOUNG, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 40,137, dated September 29, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL H. YOUNG, of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Coffins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved coffin. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the middle of the coffin. Fig. 3 is a top view of the coffin without the lid.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the three figures.

My invention relates to an improvement in air-tight coffins, which have a deodorizing compartment constructed at one end of them. Such coffins heretofore have been made of metal wherever they have proved practical and useful.

My invention is designed to render practical the substitution of wood for metal. It further is designed to obviate the inconvenience arising from having the deodorizing-chamber a part of the coffin-body proper.

The first improvement that I have made consists in making the coffin-body of wood planking and closing the bottom joints by a system of blocking, as hereinafter described, the top joint being made tight by a "drop-rabbit" and a strip.

The second improvement consists in coating the blocking-joints and the entire interior surface of the coffin with a gas-tight mixture, so as to fill up the pores of wood and the joints in a manner to make the blocking continuous and solid.

The third improvement consists in a metallic deodorizing-box, made with a partition under which the gases have to pass before they can escape from it, in combination with a wooden coffin, made with plank sides, joint-blocking, and coated gas-tight on its interior and at the joints of the blocking, all as hereinafter described. The said deodorizing-chamber being made outside of the coffin, and arranged so as to be accessible in order to clean it out, I replace new and efficient compounds without disturbing the coffin or suffering an inconvenience from the smell of the decayed corpse.

To enable others skilled in the art to under-

stand my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, A A represent the two sides, B B' the head and foot boards, C the bottom, and D the lid, of a coffin, which parts are, or may be, constructed and put together in the usual manner. The upper edges of the two side boards, and also those of the end boards, are rabbeted inside to receive a projecting strip, *a*, which is secured to the bottom of the lid D, as shown in Fig. 2, so that by coating the strip *a* and the edges of the rabbet *b* with white lead and litharge a perfectly air-tight joint will be formed at these points when the lid D is screwed down in its place. The joints of the side, bottom, head, and foot boards are closed by means of triangular strips *g*, of wood, which form, when properly secured in place, a continuous "blocking," as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The entire interior of the coffin is now coated with a mixture composed of beeswax and naphtha, which is applied with a brush when about the consistency of varnish. This composition fills up the pores of the wood, rendering it air-tight, and also cements the continuous blocking *g* and makes it very solid. A wooden coffin can in this way be made perfectly air-tight; but as such a coffin would be very liable to burst, in consequence of the force of gas inside, it is therefore necessary to make some vent for the escape of gas. This I accomplish, and at the same time deodorize the gas, by boring a hole through the foot-board and introducing therethrough a tube, *e*, which is of sufficient size to allow the gas from the interior of the coffin to escape in such quantities as to prevent all liability of the bursting or springing of the joints of the coffin. The outer end of this tube *e* communicates with a box, G, which is secured in any suitable manner to the foot-board B'. Within this box is put any of the well-known deodorizing compounds, through which the gas is made to pass before it can escape from the box G. This has the effect of purifying the gas and depriving it of its offensive odor. This box G is made with a partition closed at all points except at its bottom, where an orifice is cut for the gases to flow through. By this arrangement the gases will take the course indicated by the arrows 2, 3, and 4, and thus they will be thoroughly deodorized before they

escape. This box may be made of metal, closed tightly at every part except the gas-exit *e'*. The deodorizer may remain for any length of time in this box, and renewed from time to time as it loses its efficacy. The box *G* may be so applied to the coffin that it can be removed, if desired, and when made neatly and applied to the coffin it will have a very good appearance.

From this description it will be seen that I am enabled to make a coffin which possesses all the advantages of the metallic cases, in so far as preventing the escape of obnoxious gases, and which is much lighter and cheaper than these metal coffins. The coating of wax and naphtha renders the wood and the joints

of the coffin gas-tight, and enables me to prevent the escape of gas at all points except where it can be passed through a purifying compound.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Arranging the deodorizing chamber on the outside of the coffin-body instead of within it, in the manner and for the purpose described.
2. The combination of the external deodorizing-box with the wooden coffin, made air-tight by the means hereinabove set forth.

SAMUEL H. YOUNG.

Witnesses:

THOMAS LYNCH,
SAMUEL CARLISS.