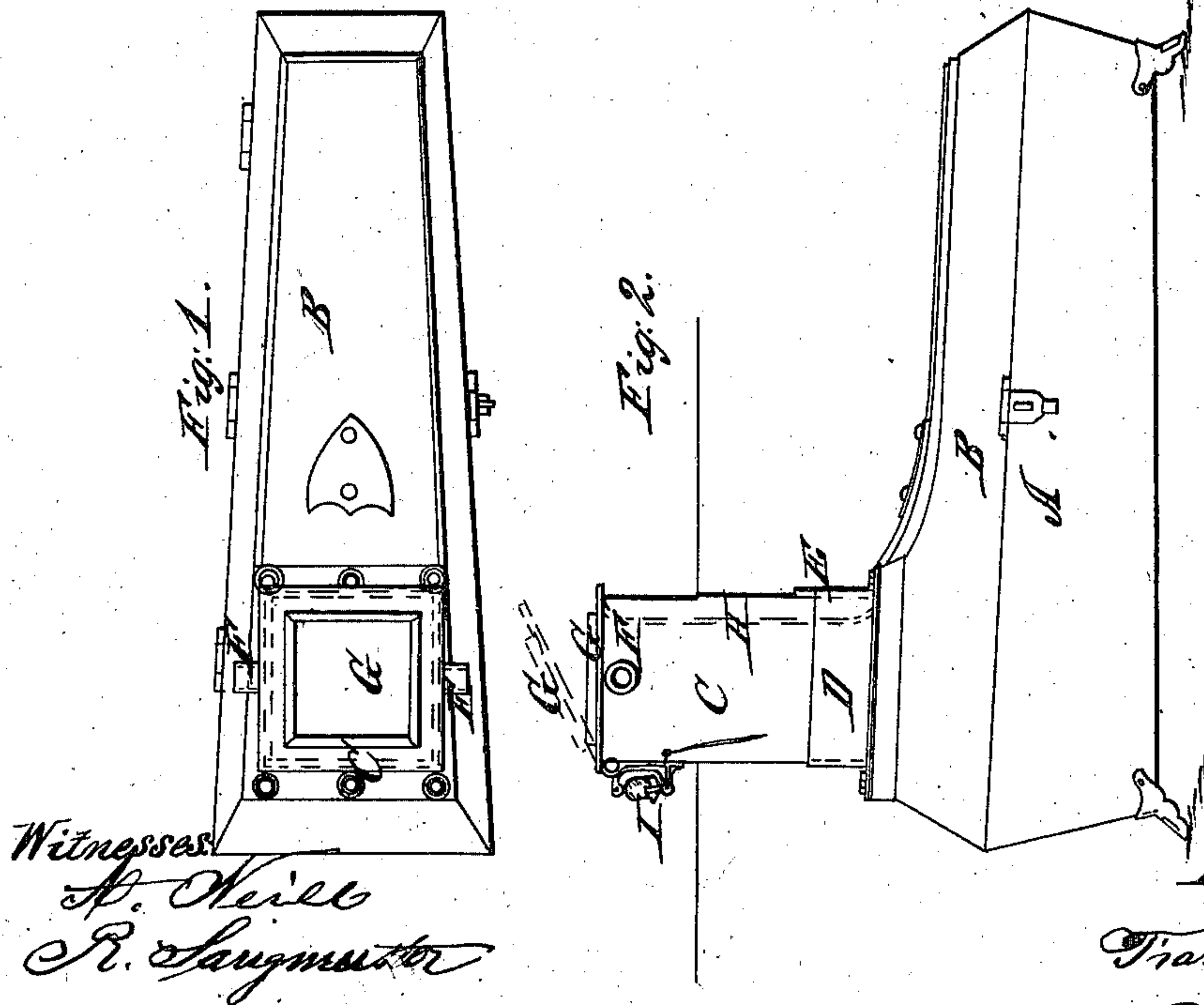
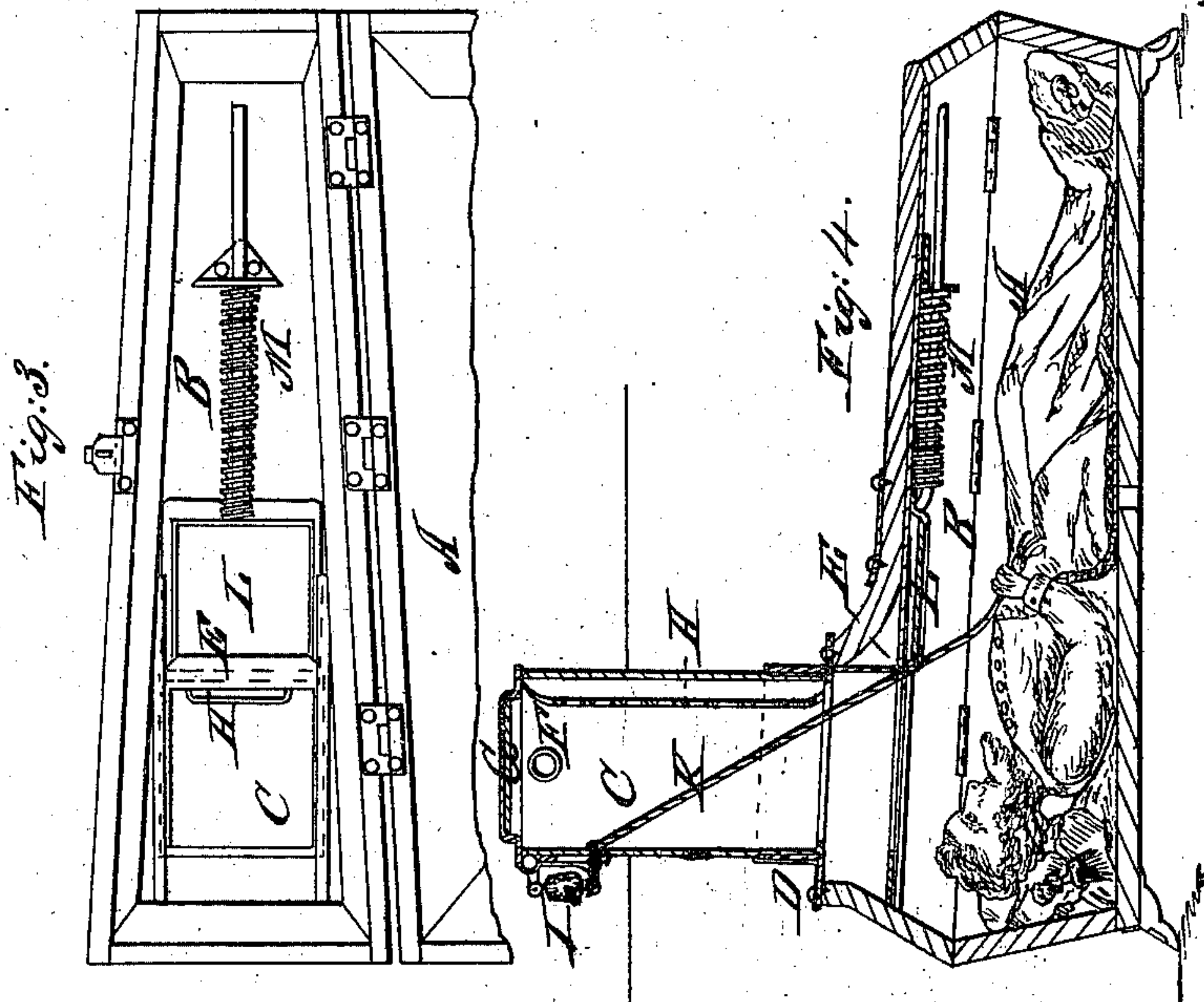


F. Vester.

Coffin.

N^o 81,437.

Patented Aug. 25, 1868.



Witnesses:
H. Kiehl
R. Langmuir

Inventor:
Frank Vester

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANZ VESTER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVED BURIAL-CASE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 81,437, dated August 25, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANZ VESTER, of Newark, in the county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Burial-Cases or Coffins for the dead; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, of which—

Figure 1 is a top view; Fig. 2, a side elevation; Fig. 3, an under side view of the lid; and Fig. 4, a longitudinal and vertical section.

The nature of this invention consists in placing on the lid of the coffin, and directly over the face of the body laid therein, a square tube, which extends from the coffin up through and over the surface of the grave, said tube containing a ladder and a cord, one end of said cord being placed in the hand of the person laid in the coffin, and the other end of said cord being attached to a bell on the top of the square tube, so that, should a person be interred ere life is extinct, he can, on recovery to consciousness, ascend from the grave and the coffin by the ladder; or, if not able to ascend by said ladder, ring the bell, thereby giving an alarm, and thus save himself from premature burial and death; and if, on inspection, life is extinct, the tube is withdrawn, the sliding door closed, and the tube used for a similar purpose.

In the said drawings, A denotes the body of the coffin; B, the lid. C represents a square tube, which is seated in a square base, D, attached to the lid of the coffin, and held in place by a spring-bar, E, connected with the sliding glass door L. This square tube C extends from the lid of the coffin to and above the surface of the grave, and has air-inlet openings F F, which communicate with the body of the coffin, and has also a glass door, G, on its top, which may be easily raised or seen through, for inspection of the person laid in the coffin. The said tube contains a

ladder, H, by which the person laid in the coffin may, on returning life, ascend to the surface of the earth; and the said tube has near its top a bell, I, from which a cord, K, is suspended, the lower end of said cord being placed in the hand of the person laid in the coffin, as shown in the drawings. On the inside of the coffin-lid is a sliding glass door, L, actuated by a spring, M, which closes the coffin, excluding the air when the tube C is withdrawn from the coffin.

The operation of my invention is as follows: The supposed corpse being laid in the body A of the coffin, and the cord K placed in the hand of the corpse, the cord is next drawn through the tube C and attached to the bell I, and the tube C placed in the base D, on the lid of the coffin. The coffin is now lowered into the grave, and the grave filled up to the air-inlets F F. Now, should the person laid in the coffin, on returning life, desire to ascend from the coffin and the grave to the surface, he can do so by means of the ladder H; but, if too weak to ascend by the ladder, he can pull the cord in his hand, and ring the bell I, giving the desired alarm for help, and thus save himself from premature death by being buried alive. Should life be extinct, the tube C is removed, the door L closed, and the tube used for a similar purpose.

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

1. The application of the tube C and ladder H to a burial-case or coffin, substantially as and for the purposes described and set forth.

2. In combination with the tube C and ladder H, the cord K and bell I, for the purposes substantially as set forth and described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature this 9th day of July, 1868.

FRANZ VESTER.

Witnesses:

A. NEILL,

R. SANGMEISTER.