

H. LEE.
Corpse Preserver.

No. 103,060.

Patented May 17, 1870.

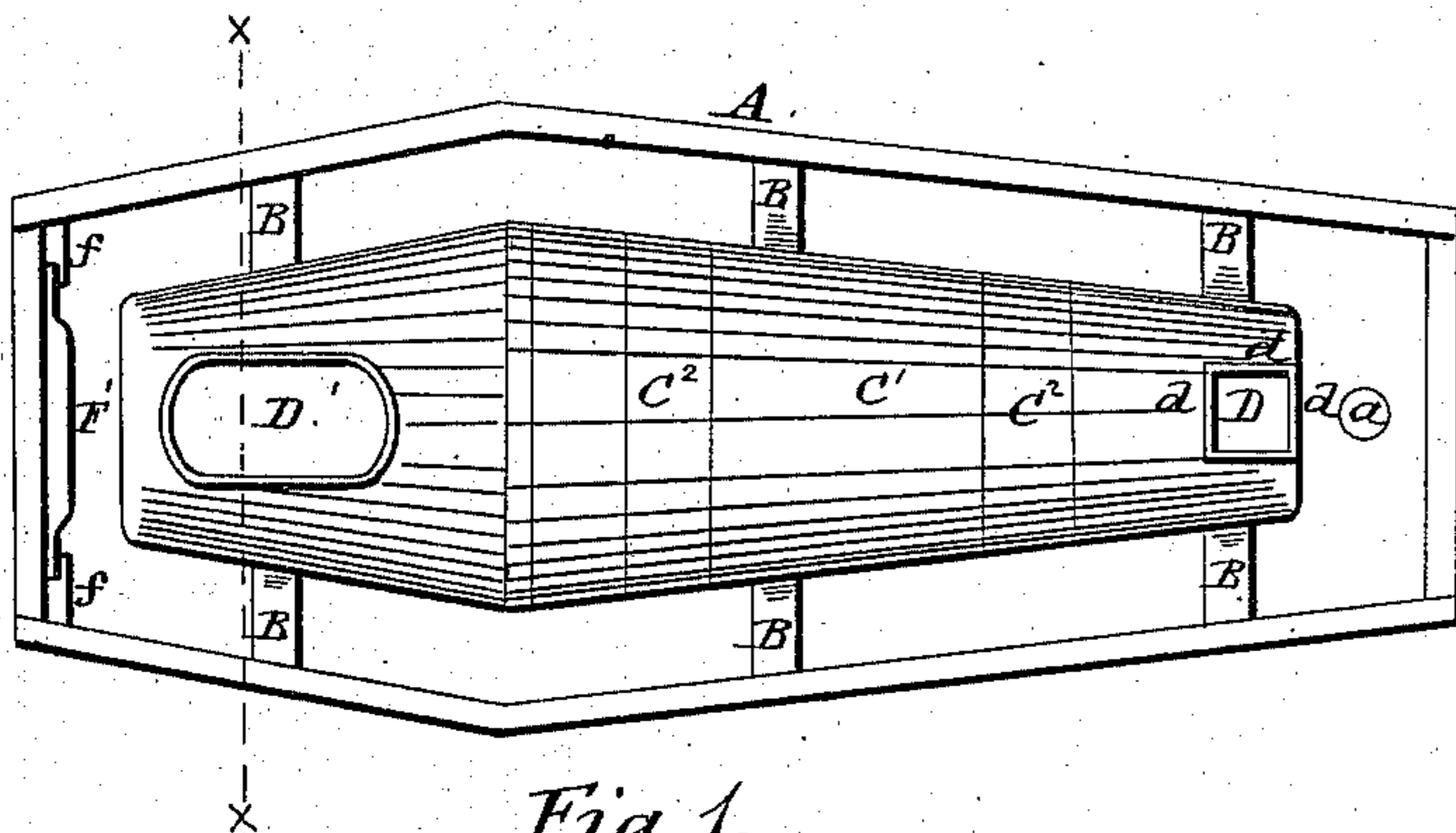


Fig. 1.

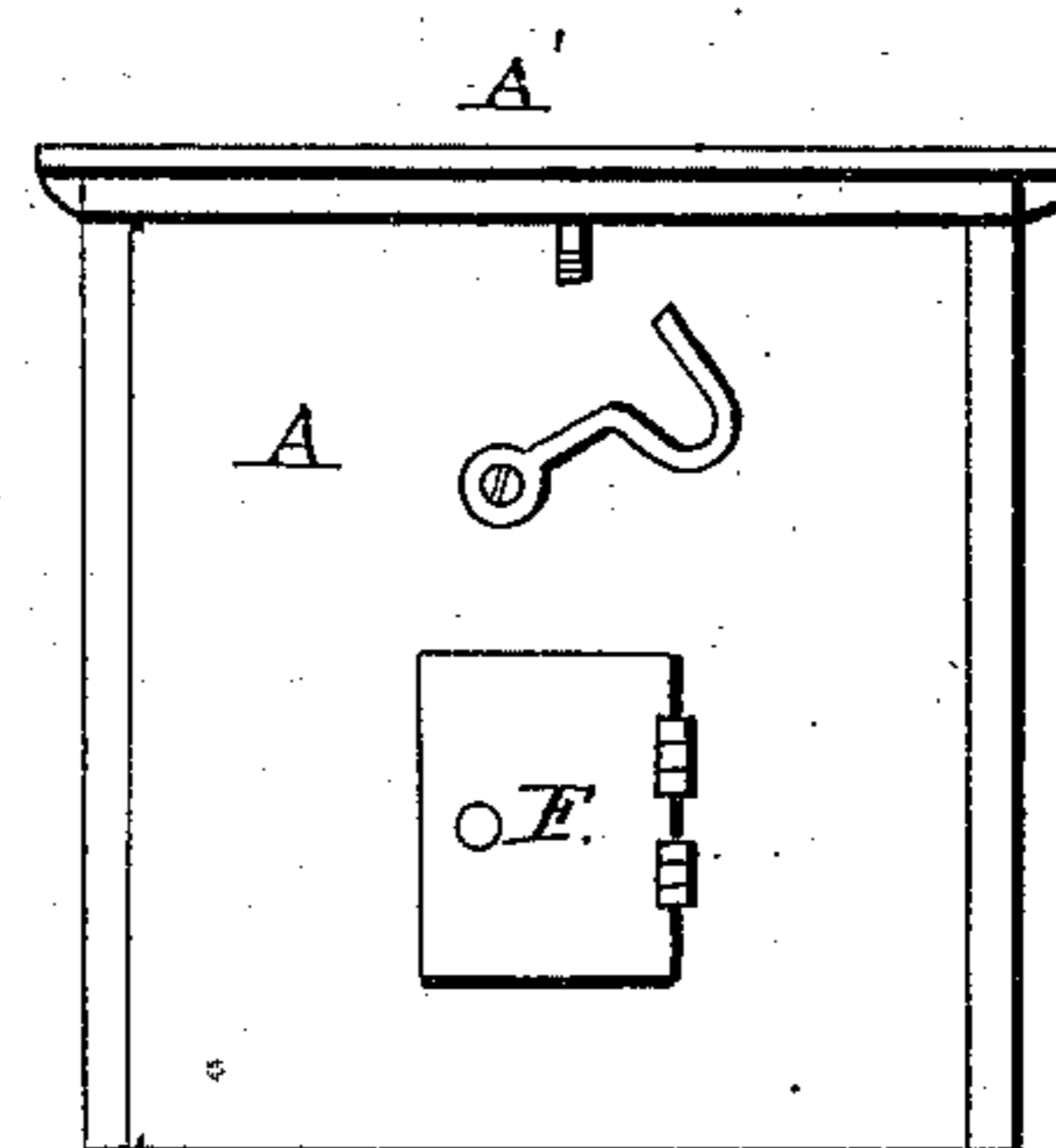


Fig. 2.

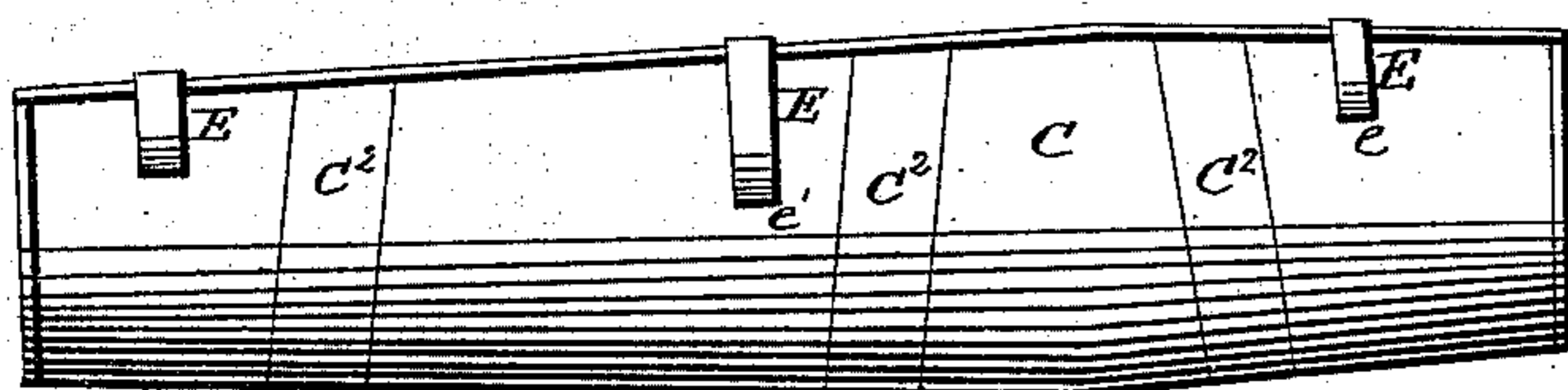


Fig. 3.

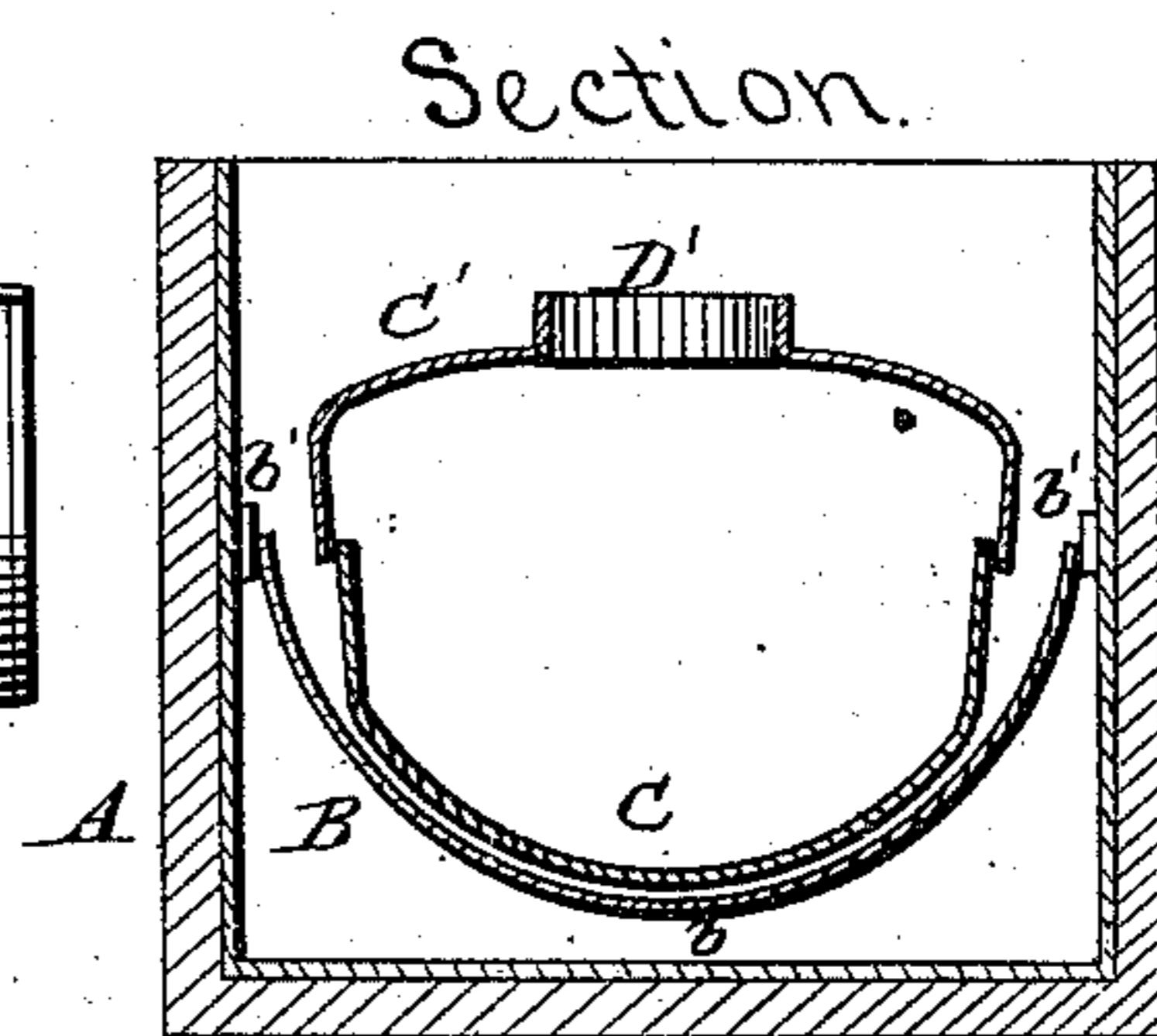


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

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HENRY LEE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent No. 103,060, dated May 17, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-PRESERVERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY LEE, of Washington city and District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corpse-Preservers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view, the cover of the box being removed.

Figure 2 is an end view.

Figure 3 is a side view of the lower section of the case.

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line *x-x*, fig. 1.

My improvement relates to that class of inventions designed, by the aid of ice, to preserve the bodies of the dead during that period which shall intervene between their decease and the time of their interment. The object of this, as well as the entire class of inventions alluded to, is to furnish suitable means of accomplishing the desired result without packing the ice directly upon and around the corpse, as was formerly universally, and is even now, to a great extent, the practice. This old custom was effective, but, for many reasons, was still objectionable. It lacerated the feelings of friends, besides being troublesome as well as uncleanly.

The nature of my invention consists in securing in a suitable box or case, metallic lined, hooped or curved support-bands. On these bands rests the metallic case designed to receive the body. This inner case is constructed in two sections, it being divided at or near its horizontal center line. The upper section or cover is designed, when in position, to fit loosely over the lower, and is held at the desired height, immediately above, but entirely free of the body, by means of reverse double loop-hooks. The upper section or cover, like the lid of the outer case or box, is to be provided with a glazed opening, through which the face of the body can be seen, and also with an additional opening, through which escapes the heat as the same is thrown off by the corpse.

My invention also consists in providing the box with a metallic sliding door, which communicates with an opening cut through the outer surface of the box, whereby the ice can, as fast as it melts, be replenished without in any manner disturbing the case that contains the body.

The advantages of this arrangement will readily suggest themselves. The support-bands are so arranged that the inner case is held in such relative position to the interior surface of the outer case or box as to allow sufficient space for ice not only to be packed under but entirely around the same. Thus it will be

observed that I am enabled to completely imbed the body in ice, and still securely protect it from all direct contact with the same.

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

A is the outer box, and may be of any desired form. This box A is to be lined with zinc or other suitable metal.

A' is the top or lid of this box, and may be constructed in one piece, or, if preferred, in two sections, the same being hinged together in the usual manner. The lid A' is provided with a glazed opening.

At or near the bottom of the box, or in the bottom of the same, is an outlet-tube, *a*, through which the water produced by the melting of the ice is drawn off.

B B are the support-bands, and are three or more in number. These bands are of metal, and should be of such length that, when attached to the interior of the box A, they will be caused to so bend as to be nearly semicircular in form, as clearly shown in fig. 4, the lower point *b* of said bands being about three inches above the floor of the box A. This space between the lower points *b b* of the bands B B and the bottom of the box A enables the undertaker to arrange the ice well under the supports, and, consequently, under the body.

These bands B B may be secured directly to the sides of the box A; or bearing-blocks *b' b'*, if desired, may be introduced between the same and the bands.

C is the lower, and C' the upper section or cover of the case which is to receive the body. These sections C C' may be constructed of any suitable metal, and of any desired form. I usually construct them nearly circular, as clearly shown in sectional view, fig. 4, as this is a convenient form, not only to pack the ice around, but also the one best adapted to carry off the water, thus preventing its detention on the top of the cover. On both sections I secure brace-bands C² C², for the purpose of strengthening the same. This interior case, as well as the outer box A, of course, may be constructed of any size the undertaker or manufacturer may desire, care being taken that their relative proportions shall be such that, when the interior case is in position, resting on the bands B B, sufficient space shall be left between said case and the outer box to afford a suitable chamber in which to pack the ice. In its dimensions, the cover C' of the interior case is to be somewhat greater than are those of the lower section C, so that, when the former is placed in position on the latter, it will fit loosely over the same.

This cover C' is provided with an opening, D, through which escapes the heat which the corpse always throws off.

This opening is to be protected by flanged sides *d d* entirely inclosing the same, so as to prevent its being

obstructed with ice, or the passage of ice or water through the same to the body.

This cover C^1 has also a glazed opening, D' , which, in connection with the opening in the lid A' of the box A , renders the face of the corpse at all times visible.

$E E$ are double reverse-looped hooks, and may be of metal or any other suitable material.

One of the loops of these hooks fits over the side of the section C of the interior case, and the other affords a bearing-support for the cover C^1 .

Each case should be provided with sets of these hooks, having shanks of different length, as shown at $e e'$, fig. 3, so as to enable the case to properly accommodate itself to bodies of different rotundity.

Through the head of the outer surface of the case A is cut an opening that is closed by the door F , as seen at fig. 2, which communicates with the opening in the lining that the sliding metallic door F' protects.

This sliding door is held in position, so as to allow of its free movement, by means of wooden cleats $f f$.

The operation is as follows:

The interior case is to be removed, and the ice properly placed in the bottom of the box, and around the sides to as high a point as can conveniently be done to leave the bands $B B$ unobstructed. The corpse having been placed in the interior case, it is re-

turned to its position on the bands. The ice is then placed completely around the same. Through the doors $F F'$ ice can at any time be replenished in the bottom of the box without disturbing the interior case. Of course the water caused by the melting of the ice can be drawn off through the tube a , or the tube may always be left open, a drip-pan being placed under the same to receive the water.

Having thus fully described my invention,

What I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The sections $C C^1$, the latter having the vertical flanged opening D , and double reverse-looped hooks $E E$, when the same are so combined and arranged as to furnish a case, substantially as described, as and for the purpose specified.

2. The box A , doors $F F'$, bands $B B$, and the interior case $C C^1$, and loops $E E$, when the whole are so combined and arranged as to operate substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

Witnesses:

HENRY LEE.

EDWIN JAMES,

EDM. F. BROWN.