

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL M. SPROGLE, OF ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN MOLDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 117,343, dated July 25, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL M. SPROGLE, of Annapolis, in the county of Anne Arundel and State of Maryland, have invented Improved Molds for Forming Blocks or Sections provided with Tongues and Grooves, of which the follow-

ing is a specification:

My invention relates to the combination of the various parts or pieces of molds designed to be used for the forming, from plastic material, of blocks or sections, the edges of which it is desirable to provide with perfect tongues and grooves, such as the parts or sections of which is constructed my improved burial-case, coffinvault, or receptacle, for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to me June 28, 1870. The object of the present invention is to provide strong, suitable, convenient, and effective molds for forming blocks or sections, the ends and edges of which are provided with projections or tongues and corresponding recesses or grooves, in which molds, when standing vertically, the plastic material designed to form the artificial stone—either cement combined with sand or gravel, or any other artificial-stone material—may be placed, either in a moist plastic state or in a comparatively dry state, and then rammed or pressed in such a manner that the plastic material will be forced into every part, angle, and groove of the molds, thereby forming the tongues and grooves perfectly; the molds being so constructed and the parts thereof so arranged and combined that, after being thus filled with plastic material by ramming or pressing vertically, when changed from a vertical to a horizontal position so as to rest flat upon one of its sides, the entire mold, except the under piece or side, which it is desirable should remain unmoved to serve as a support for the molded blocks or sections, readily admits of being conveniently and easily removed immediately or soon after the ramming or pressing of the plastic material within the mold, and removed with such advantage as to leave all the tongues and grooves perfect; the great advantage likewise follows that, by substituting an extra side piece, the mold is ready for use again, and the block or section can be left, without being removed or disturbed in the least, until perfectly hard and dry, being all the time properly supported in the place where formed.

Figure 1 is a plan of my improved burial-vault or coffin-receptacle. Fig. 2¹ is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 2² is an end elevation of the same. Fig. 3¹ represents the mold for the bottom pieces B B. Fig. 3² is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 4¹ represents the mold for the side pieces C C. Fig. 4² is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 4³ is a transverse section of the same. Fig. 5¹ represents the mold for the side piece D. Fig. 5² is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 5³ is a transverse section of the same. Fig. 61 represents the mold for the top pieces E E E. Fig. 6² is a transverse section of E. Fig. 7¹ represents the mold for the end pieces F. Fig. 7² is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 7³ is a

transverse section of the same.

I make my improved molds of wood or other suitable material, in such a manner (substantially as shown in the drawing) that there are but three detached portions to each mold besides the necessary clamps f for fastening the same securely when properly arranged and combined in the manner hereafter indicated, viz.: The first and second pieces, being what may be termed side pieces when the molds are standing vertically for ramming or pressing the plastic material, or what may be termed, when the mold is placed horizontally, the top piece and the bottom piece, (Fig. 6^2 , $a \cdot b$;) and, third, the portion composed of the four pieces—two top ends and two side ends—marked G in the various figures of the drawing, properly arranged, connected, and combined by means of the hinges c and the hasps and staples d. The various sides, ends, and parts of the molds thereby are capable, by reason of this arrangement and combination of parts, of being speedily, easily, and advantageously combined and fastened, and also of being speedily and advantageously separated and detached, in part or wholly, from each other, and consequently from the section or block therein molded, in the manner already described, for the purpose of providing the molded blocks or sections with tongues and grooves perfectly formed, the parts or pieces of the molds being provided with the requisite tongues and grooves, as indicated in the various figures of the drawing by

the dotted lines g and the arcs of small circles e. I contemplate varnishing or coating the interior of my molds with shellac, asphaltum, or some other equivalent material.

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

The molds herein described, consisting of the

hinged sides G, the top and bottom sections a b constructed with tongues and grooves, all arranged and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth

DANIEL M. SPROGLE.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH E. DICKSON, A. T. SANGSTON.