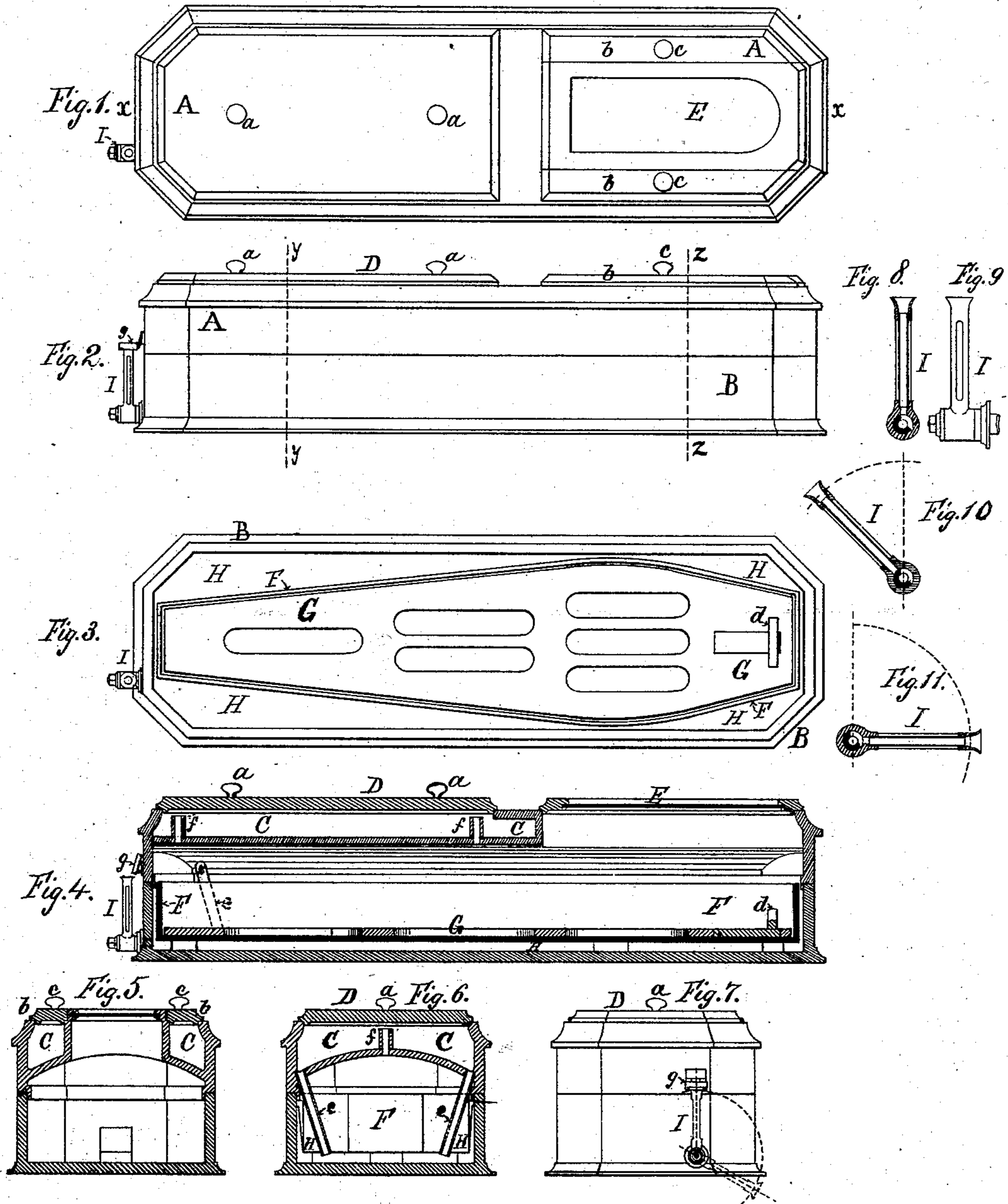


(No Model.)

J. H. FORSHAY.
Corpse Preserver.

No. 235,863.

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CORPSE-PRESERVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 235,863, dated December 28, 1880.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB H. FORSHAY, of the city of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and
5 useful Improvements in Corpse-Preservers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in
10 which—

Figure 1 is a top view; Fig. 2, a side elevation; and Fig. 3 a plan view, with the upper part or ice-chamber removed to exhibit the receptacle for the body. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal vertical section taken on the line *x x*, Fig. 1; Fig. 5, a vertical section taken on the line
15 *z z*, Fig. 2; and Fig. 6, a vertical section taken on the line *y y*, Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is an end elevation, showing the combined water-gage and
20 faucet; Fig. 8, a vertical section of the combined water-gage and faucet open, so as to connect with the water in the bottom chamber of the apparatus. Fig. 9 represents an outside elevation of the combined water-gage and
25 faucet; Fig. 10, a section, showing the combined water-gage and faucet closed; and Fig. 11, another section, showing the same open for discharging the water.

The same letters indicate like parts in all
30 the figures.

The object of my invention is to produce a corpse-preserver which, while being fully as effective in its operation, will present none of the objectionable features of the old-fashioned
35 ice-box in use for many years past, and which is now occasionally used in severe cases. This old-fashioned box is simply a common wooden box, in the bottom of which ice is placed, the body being laid on this bed of ice and covered
40 completely, with the exception of the face, with ice. This box is placed on horses or benches or other supports, and a tub or other receptacle placed beneath it to catch the water from the melting ice as it escapes through a hole
45 in the bottom of the box. This old method is very objectionable to many persons, for the reason that the ice is brought in direct contact with the body, and, besides, the whole contrivance presents a crude and unhandsome
50 appearance, and the constant dripping of the water falling from the box into the tub is also

a very serious objection, especially to sensitive people.

Many attempts have heretofore been made to construct a corpse-preserver to overcome
55 the objections to the old-fashioned box and at the same time be equally as efficient. In all these improved corpse-preserving boxes now in use the body is placed upon a perforated board or support on the bottom of the box, and the ice is placed in pans in the top of the box, which pans can be removed and replaced
60 at will. In some of these boxes the water, as fast as the ice melts, is conducted off and discharged through a tube or pipe into a tub or
65 other receptacle, while in others, in order to dispense with the tub or other receptacle, the water is allowed to remain in the pans with the ice until they are removed, or occasionally
70 drawn off by means of a siphon. Although these improved boxes present a handsome casket-like appearance, yet they are far less effective in their operation than the old-fashioned ice-box above mentioned, and cannot be
75 depended upon with any certainty except in ordinary cases, as they only tend to freeze the face and front part of the body, and have little or no effect on the back, the very place where the blood settles and decomposition generally
80 first takes place, so that in very many cases the old-fashioned ice-box, with all its objectionable features, has to be resorted to.

By my invention I am enabled to construct a corpse-preserving casket of ornamental appearance, and in which all parts of the body
85 are acted upon equally and effectively, and all tendency to decomposition surely arrested, no matter how severe the case may be.

My invention consists in constructing the casket in two equal, or nearly equal, parts,
90 closely fitted together and lined throughout with zinc or other suitable material. In the lower part of the casket, and a suitable distance above the bottom, I place a coffin-shaped box or receptacle, preferably made of galvanized iron, for holding the body to be preserved.
95 This coffin-shaped receptacle is supported on shoulders or flanges attached to the inner walls of the casket, and the walls of this receptacle extend up to, or nearly to, the top of the walls
100 of the lower part of the casket, and the body lies in the bottom of this receptacle upon a

support, preferably made of wood and perforated, this perforated support being provided with a rest at one end for the head of the body, which can be raised or lowered to elevate or depress the head. The space beneath and around the body-receptacle forms a chamber for the reception and retention of the water from the melting ice in the ice-chamber, which is located in the upper part of the casket, the water being conducted into this bottom chamber from the ice-chamber by means of a pipe or pipes. The upper part of the casket directly over the ice-chamber is fitted with a suitable top or cover, which can be taken off when charging the ice-chamber, and the forward or head end with a glass panel to permit a view of the face and bust of the corpse.

My invention also consists in providing the ice-chamber with pipes or tubes extending from near the top of the same and above the ice down into the cold-air chamber, in which the body-receptacle is placed, through which the cold air can circulate, these pipes or tubes being provided with caps or covers which can be put on, when charging the ice-chamber, to close communication between the cold-air chamber and the outside atmosphere.

My invention also consists in providing one end of the lower part of the casket with a combined water-gage and faucet for indicating the height of the water in the bottom chamber and for discharging it from such chamber as occasion requires.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A, B represent my improved corpse-preserving casket, which is constructed of two equal, or nearly equal, parts, and of any suitable size and shape. I construct it, preferably, of some hard wood lined with zinc. In the upper part, A, is located the ice-chamber C, which is provided with a removable cover or top, D, having knobs or handles *a*, and in the forward or head end of part A is fitted a glass panel, E, through which a view can be had of the face and bust of the corpse, the ice-chamber extending on each side of this glass panel, and these portions of the ice-chamber being also provided with removable covers *b* and knobs or handles *c*.

In the lower part, B, of the casket, and at a suitable distance above the bottom thereof, I place the body-receptacle F, which I preferably construct of galvanized iron and in the shape of a coffin. This body-receptacle is supported in place on shoulders or flanges projecting from the inner walls of part B of the casket, and its walls extend up to, or nearly to, the top of said walls of part B. In the bottom of this receptacle F is placed the body to be preserved on a support, G, which I preferably make of wood and perforated, as shown, and which is provided at one end with a head-rest, *d*, capable of being raised and lowered to elevate or depress the head of the body, as desired.

The ice-chamber C is provided with two or more pipes or tubes, *ff*, (two being shown in

the drawings,) which I preferably make of galvanized iron. These pipes or tubes *ff* extend from near the top of the ice-chamber and above the ice therein down into the cold-air chamber, in which the receptacle F, containing the body, is placed, and are for the purpose of providing a free communication for the cold air between said chambers, the said pipes or tubes being provided with caps or covers, which can be put on when the top or cover of the ice-chamber is removed, to close communication with the cold-air chamber.

H is the ice-water chamber, located in the bottom of part B of the casket, and extending underneath and around the outer walls of the body-receptacle F. The water, as fast as the ice melts in the ice-chamber C, is conducted from such chamber through a pipe or pipes, *e*, into this chamber H, and there retained, imparting its cold to the bottom and sides of the body-receptacle F.

To prevent the water from overflowing the body-receptacle F, I attach to one end of the lower part, B, of the casket, near the bottom, a combined water-gage and faucet, I, the construction of which will be readily understood from the drawings, for indicating the height of water in chamber H, and discharging it therefrom as occasion requires. When this gage-faucet I is in an upright position communication is established with the water in chamber H, and the height of the water in said chamber correctly indicated. By turning the gage-faucet to the right, as shown by Fig. 11, the water can be discharged from chamber H into any suitable receptacle provided to receive it; and by turning the gage-faucet to the left, as shown by Fig. 10, all communication between it and the chamber H is cut off, and no water can escape from said chamber.

To prevent air from entering through the gage-faucet, as well as to sustain it in an upright position, I provide it with a cap or cover, *g*, which is made flat on top and swelled or convex on the under face, and hinged to the casket, just above the flaring open top of the gage-faucet, so that by turning down this hinged cap *g* the swelled lower part will fit into the flaring open top of the faucet, thus effectually closing it and preventing it from turning, and by turning up the hinged cap *g* the gage-faucet will be released, and can then be turned to the right or left, as required.

The mode of operating my improved corpse-preserver is as follows: The upper part, A, being lifted off, the corpse is placed in proper position on the perforated support G, in the bottom of the receptacle F. The part A is then replaced and the covers D *b b* of the ice-chamber C taken off. The ice-chamber is then charged or packed with finely-chopped ice intermixed with rock-salt to facilitate the melting, the caps or covers being placed on the air tubes or pipes *ff* during the packing of the ice-chamber. When the ice-chamber has been thus sufficiently packed the caps or covers are removed from the tubes or pipes *ff*, and the covers

D *b b* of the ice-chamber put on. As fast as the ice melts in chamber C the water is conducted from said chamber, through the pipe or pipes *e*, into the chamber H, underneath and around the walls of the body-receptacle F, where it is retained.

From the foregoing it will be seen that by keeping the receptacle for the body continually immersed in the ice-water it will get intensely cold, and impart this cold to the body contained within it, and that this, together with the cold air passing down through the pipes or tubes *f f*, and through the bottom of the ice-chamber, under and around the body, through the perforated support G, on which it lies, will subject every part of the body to intense cold, and thereby arrest and prevent all tendency to decomposition, and keep the body in a perfect state of preservation—a result which cannot be attained by any of the corpse-preserving caskets to me known; and I will here remark that in extremely bad cases, where it may be necessary to expedite the cooling of the body-receptacle F, the chamber H may be charged with ice, instead of waiting for said chamber to become filled with ice-water from chamber C.

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

1. In a corpse-preserver, the combination of the ice-chamber C, air tubes or pipes *f f*, provided with caps or covers, pipe or pipes *e*, body-receptacle F, ice-water chamber H, and faucet-gage I, as and for the purpose substantially as described.

2. In a corpse-preserver, the combination of the ice-chamber C, pipe or pipes *e*, body-receptacle F, and ice-water chamber H, as and for the purpose substantially as described.

3. In a corpse-preserver, the combination of the ice-water chamber H, located under and around the walls of the body-receptacle F, and the combined water-gage and faucet I, substantially as described.

4. In a corpse-preserver, the combination of an ice-chamber arranged above the body-receptacle, a water-chamber arranged below and partially surrounding such body-receptacle, and pipes for connecting such chambers to convey the melted ice or ice-water from the former to the latter, whereby the body is enclosed by a refrigerant, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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