

(Model.)

B. G. DEVOE.
SAFETY VAULT FOR COFFINS.

No. 255,149.

Patented Mar. 21, 1882.

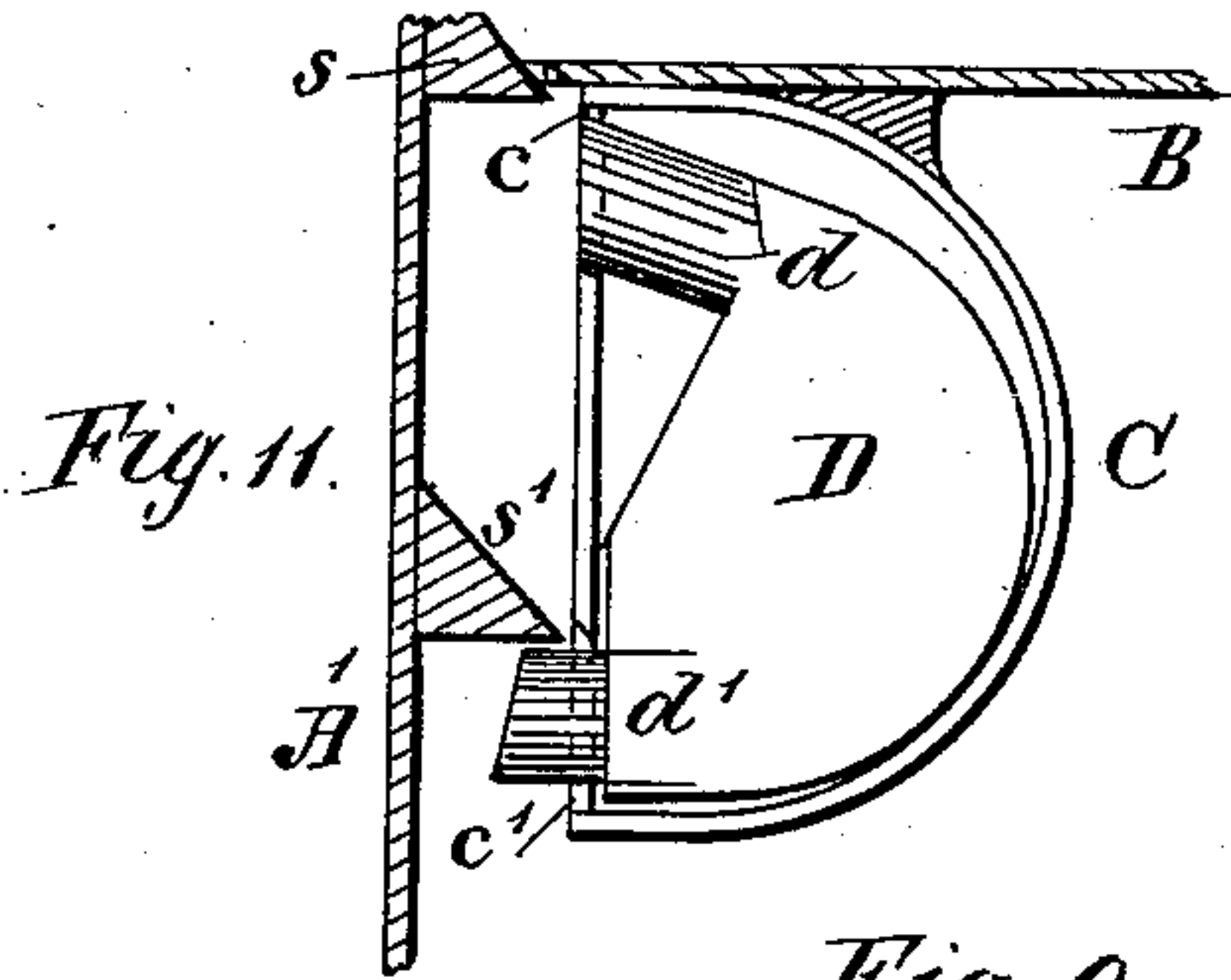
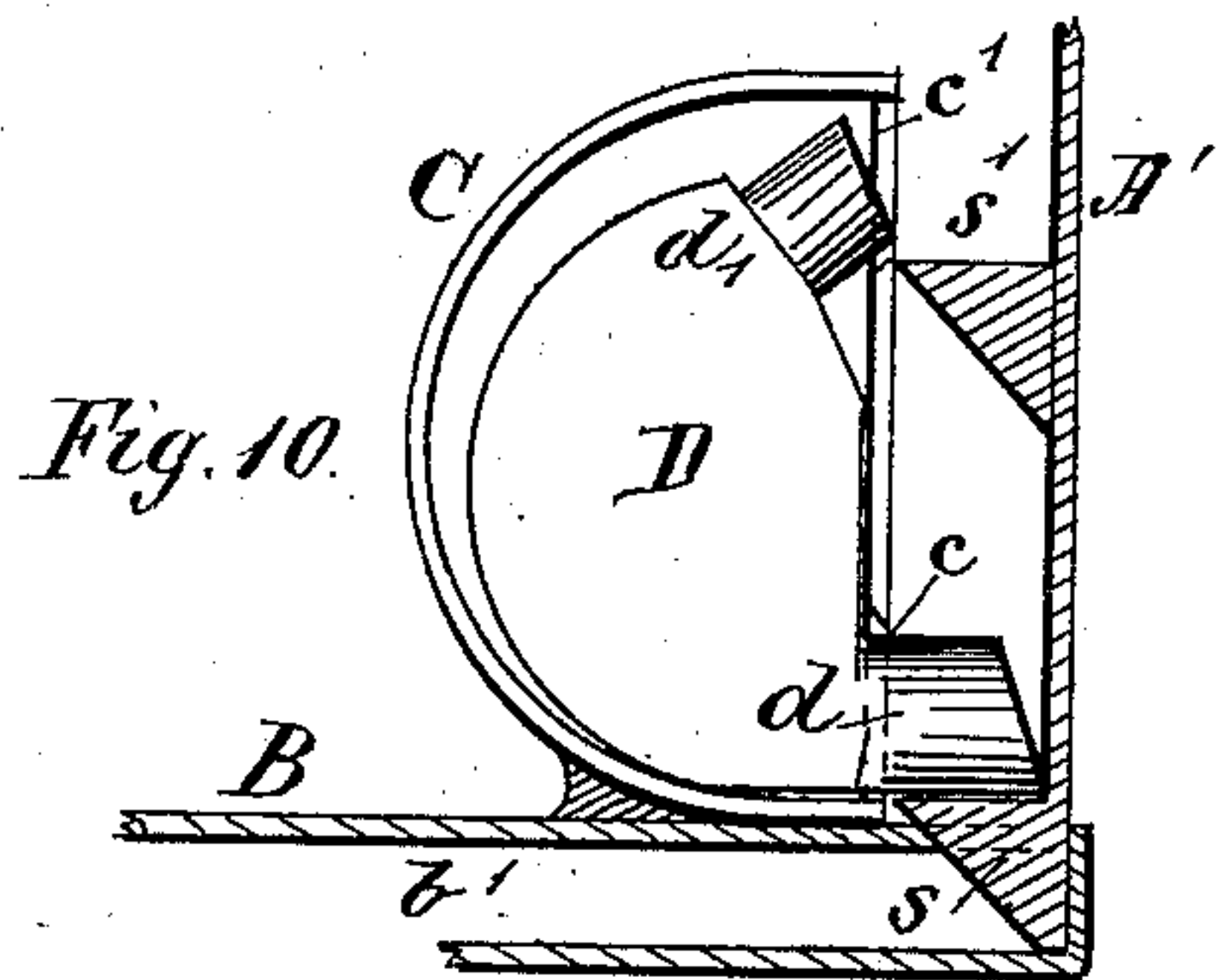


Fig. 9

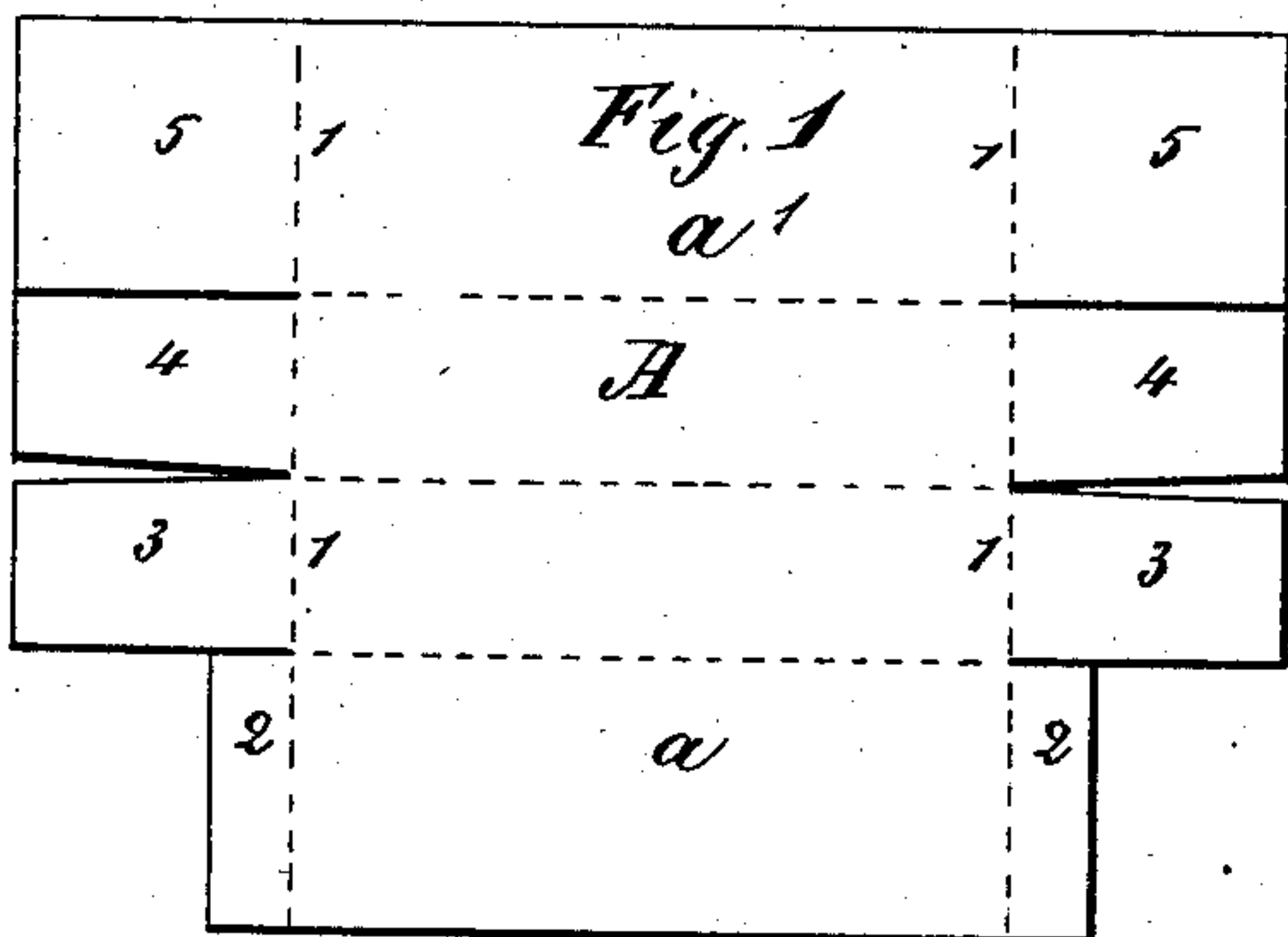
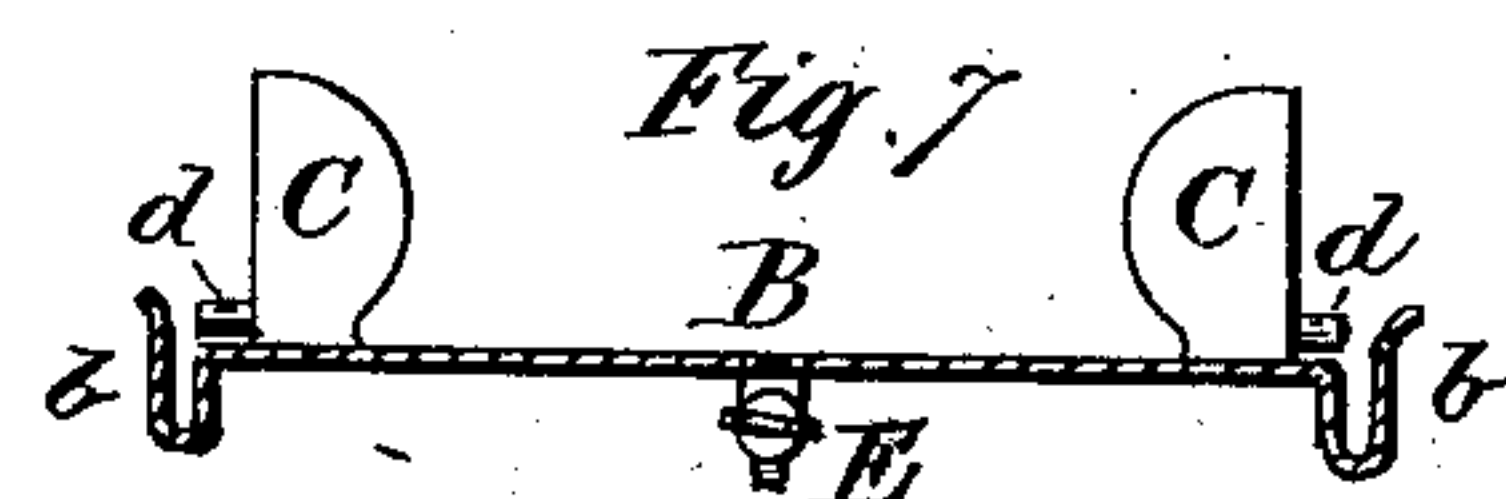
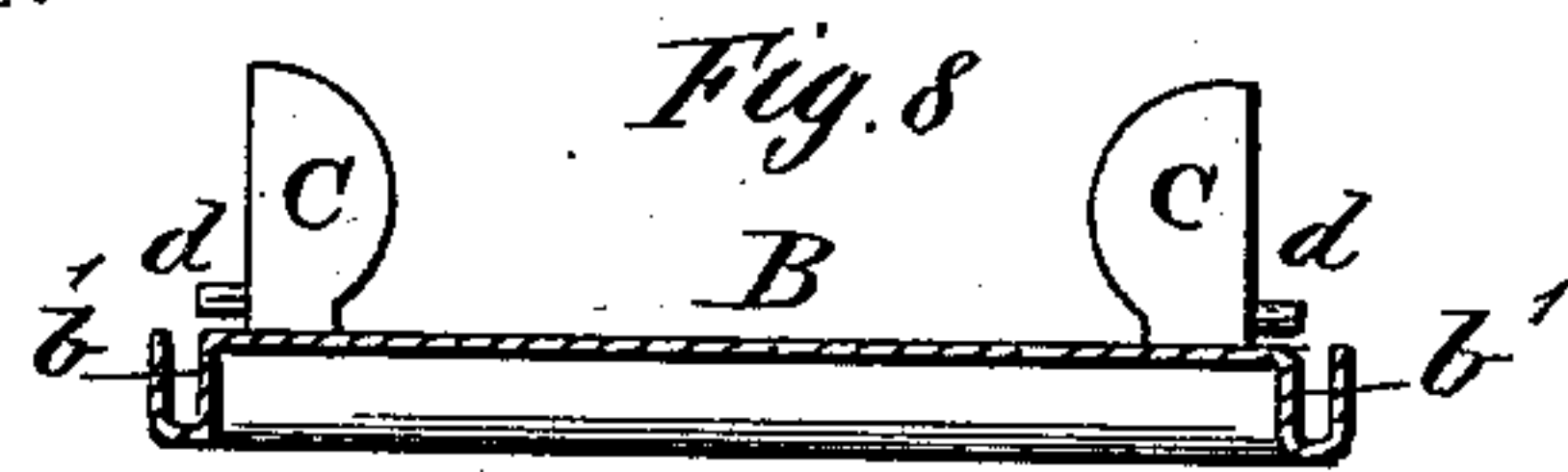
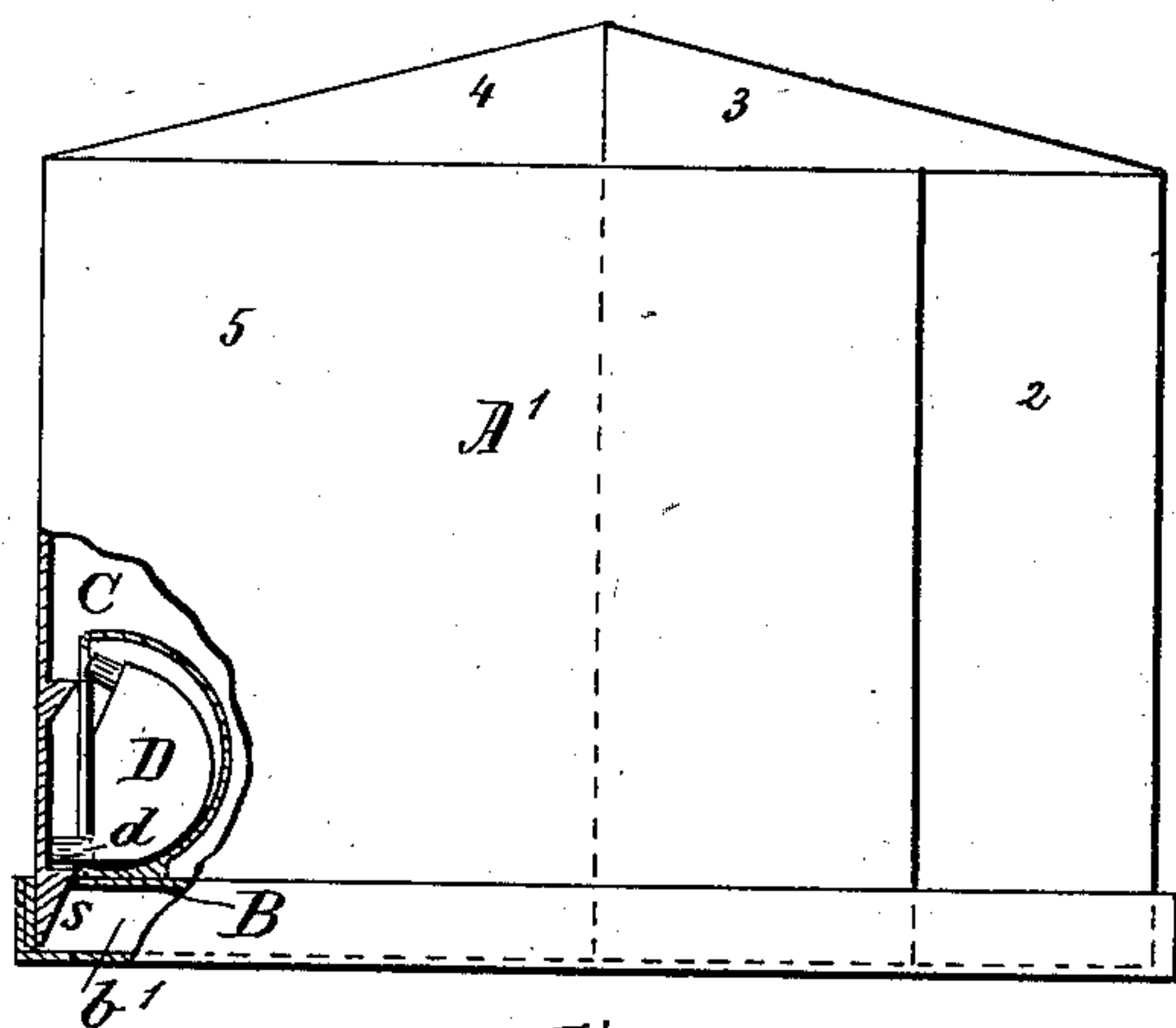
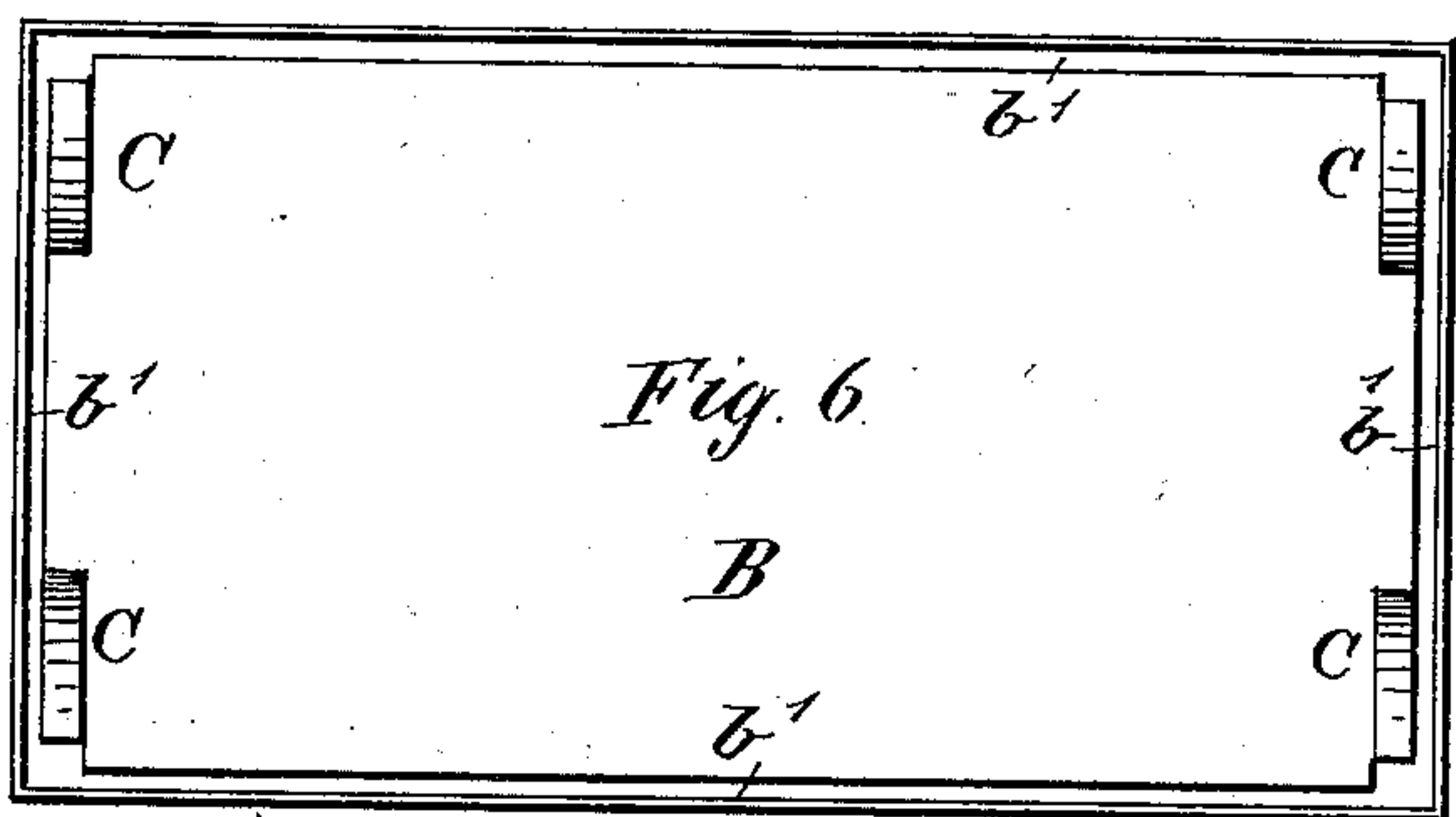


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4

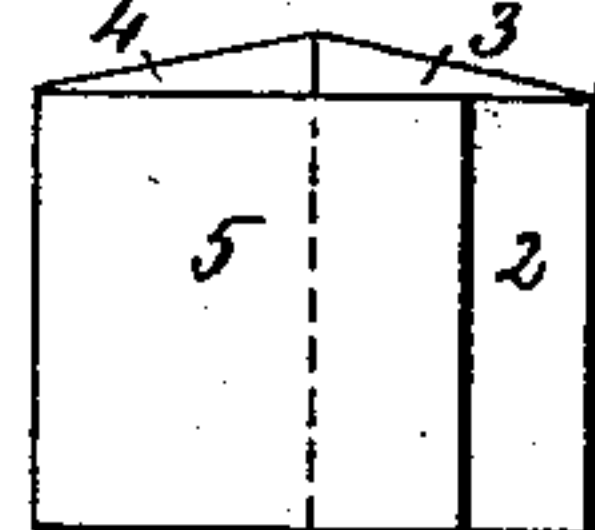
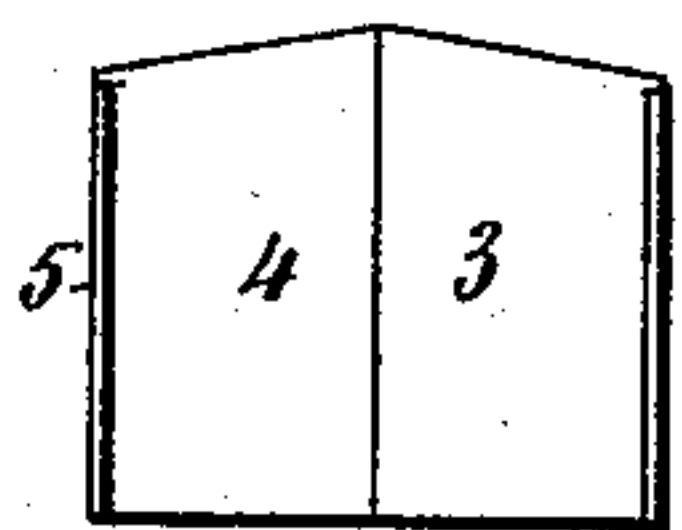


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN G. DEVOE, OF KENTON, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN H. AYERS, OF URBANA, OHIO.

SAFETY-VAULT FOR COFFINS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 255,149, dated March 21, 1882.

Application filed November 14, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN G. DEVOE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kenton, in the county of Hardin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety-Vaults for Coffins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of safety-vaults for coffins or coffin-safes which are automatically locked when the body or cap is applied to the base; and it consists in a novel construction of the body or cap of the safe, whereby said body may be made of a single sheet of metal, as hereinafter described.

The invention further consists in constructing the base of a single plate of cast metal, having the lock-cases cast thereto or therewith, substantially as hereinafter fully described.

The invention further consists in the means employed for automatically locking the body of the vault to the base or for unlocking the same, as hereinafter fully described; and, lastly, the invention consists in the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter fully set forth, and as shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows in plan view a pattern-sheet from which the body or cap of the vault is constructed. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 show the manner of constructing the body of the vault with the pattern-sheet. Figs. 5 and 6 show in plan views two methods of constructing the base, and Figs. 7 and 8 are transverse sections of the same. Fig. 9 is an elevation of the vault, the body thereof being partly broken away to show the interior of one of the locks. Figs. 10 and 11 are reversed elevations of the locks, showing their operation of locking in both positions.

Like letters of reference are employed to indicate like parts in all the figures of drawings.

A is the pattern-sheet from which the body of the vault is made. Two of its corners on the same side of the sheet are partially cut away to a point near the line 1, where the ends

of the sheet are bent, leaving a narrow flap, 2, that is slitted from its edge to said line 1. The sheet has two central flaps, 3 4, at each end, cut away along their central adjacent lines, so that when said flaps are bent down their edges will come in contact with each other, as shown in Fig. 3. The longer side of the sheet A has at each end a flap, 5, that, when bent over the flaps 3 and 4, will lie with their edges in contact with the edges of the short flaps 2, as shown in Fig. 4. The sheet A, after being stamped out of suitable sheet metal in the shape described, and shown by Fig. 1, is creased or bent centrally, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 9, to form the ridge of the roof. The end flaps 3 and 4 are next bent down, as shown in Fig. 3, and then the sides *a a'*, the end flaps 2 and 5 of which are bent over the end flaps 3 and 4 to complete the body. The overlapping end flaps may be riveted together, or they may be united by means of solder or by brazing, or in any other desired or preferred manner. It will be seen that when the usual boiler-rivet is used but a comparatively small number of such is required, while in vaults of this class, as heretofore constructed, and so far as known to me, the body is usually composed of five sections, riveted together in the same manner as the sections of boilers are riveted together.

The advantages of my improved construction of vault-body over those heretofore used will therefore be readily seen, both as far as economy in the construction and strength are concerned.

The base or bottom B of the vault may be made of sheet metal and provided with stirrups *b*, to receive and hold the body or cap A' of the vault. It is provided at each corner with a gravity-lock, composed of a cylindrical casing, C, provided with an opening, *c*, at the lower end of its straight side or edge. The case incloses a cam-shaped gravity-bolt, D, provided with a locking-nose, *d*, and the body of the vault is at each corner provided with a stop, *s*, with which the locking-nose *d* engages when the body or cap is set upon its base, and is thus held by said bolts against vertical movement. By means of this arrangement the body A' cannot be lifted off the base. When the vault is, however, turned bottom upward, the bolts D

slide downward by gravity, and the nose *d* is retracted from the stop *s* automatically, and the base is then free to be removed from the cap or body *A'*.

5 This lock is designed for use with that class of vaults or coffin-safes that are not intended to be permanently sealed or locked. To prevent such vaults being tampered with, the body *A'* thereof is secured to the stirrups by soldering or brazing, or other suitable means that
10 would require such preparations and so long a time to remove the body as to prevent its being attempted for illicit purposes.

Instead of stirrups, as shown in Figs. 5 and
15 7, the base-plate *B* may be provided with a channel or groove, *b'*, as shown in Figs. 6 and 8, all around its edges, to receive the edges of the cap *A'*, said channel or groove forming a continuous stirrup all around the base *B*, and,
20 like the stirrups *b*, said channel performs the function of feet, upon which the vault or safe is supported. Cement or solder may be run in the channel to hermetically seal the vault and prevent its being readily tampered with.

25 The lock-cases *C* may be open on that side facing the end walls of the cap *A'*, as such walls will hold the cam or gravity bolts *D* in proper position.

Instead of making the base-plate *B* of sheet
30 metal, it may be made of cast metal, and the groove or channel *b'*, as well as the lock-cases *C*, cast with the said plate, as shown in Figs. 6 and 8. In either construction the lock-cases form guides that will facilitate the setting of
35 the cap *A'* upon its base *B*, as will be readily seen.

When the safe or vault is intended to remain permanently locked I use the same gravity-lock, except that in this case the bolt *D* is pro-
40 vided with a second locking-nose, *d'*, that will project through the opening *c'* of the lock-case *C* and engage the stop *s'* on the cap *A'* when the vault is turned bottom upward, so that the base cannot be removed from the cap when in
45 that position.

The advantages of my improved coffin vault or safe consist, first, in the economy of its construction; second, in the fact that it may be
50 when temporarily locked yet present difficul-

ties such as will deter the illicit tampering therewith; third, that it may be hermetically sealed for the purpose of preserving the bodies inclosed therein, and to facilitate the latter the base or cap may be provided with a stop-cock, 55
E, to which an air-pump may be attached for the purpose of exhausting the air therefrom after it has been hermetically sealed.

Having now described my invention, what I desire to claim and secure by Letters Patent 60 is—

1. The method of constructing the body or cap of coffin safes or vaults, which consists in first forming a blank, *A*, by stamping from a piece of sheet metal; second, forming a longi- 65
tudinal crease or bend in said blank to form the ridge of the roof; third, folding down the end flaps 3 4 and the sides *a a'*, respectively; fourth, folding the end flaps 2 and 5 over the flaps 3 and 4, and, lastly, connecting said flaps 70
together, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. In a coffin safe or vault, the combination, with the cap or body *A'*, of the base *B*, provided at its edges with a downwardly-projecting flange, or its equivalent, constructed to 75
form a support for said base-plate, and having a channel or groove for the reception of the edges of said cap and a guide at each corner to guide the cap into proper position, substan- 80
tially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a coffin safe or vault, the combination, with the cap or body *A'*, of the base *B*, provided with a channel, or its equivalent, around its edges, and a lock-case at each corner, con- 85
structed to form guides and automatically lock said cap to the base when applied thereto, substantially as shown and described.

4. In a coffin safe or vault, the body or cap provided with stops or keepers *s s'*, in combi- 90
nation with the base provided with a groove or stirrup along its edges, the lock-cases *C*, and gravity-bolts *D*, all arranged for operation substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 95
presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN G. DEVOE.

Witnesses:

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D. M. AYERS.