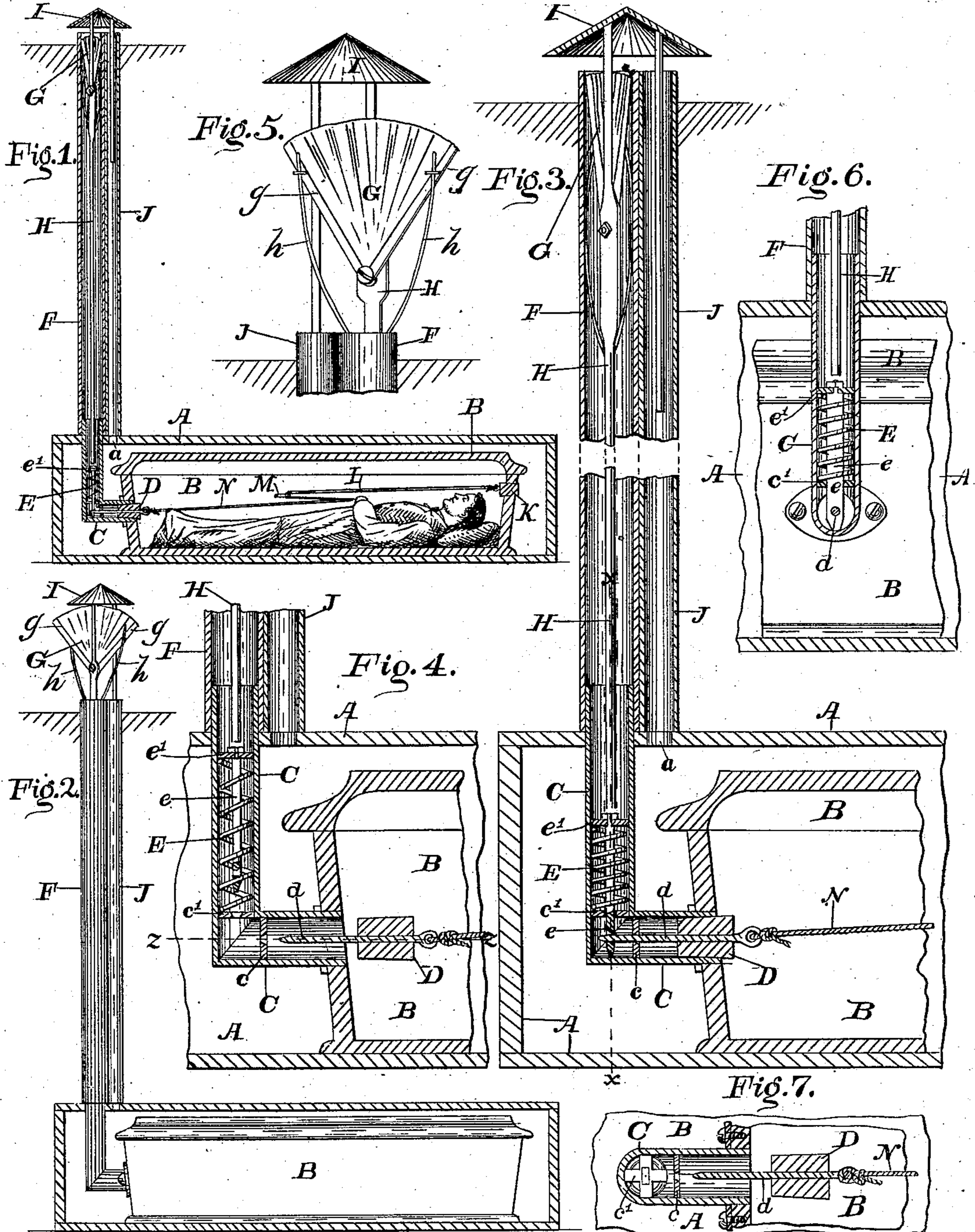


(No Model.)

A. FEARNAUGHT.  
GRAVE SIGNAL.

No. 260,379.

Patented July 4, 1882.



WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT FEARNAUGHT, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

## GRAVE-SIGNAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,379, dated July 4, 1882.

Application filed March 30, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT FEARNAUGHT, of the city of Indianapolis, county of Marion, and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grave-Signals, of which the following is a specification.

My said invention consists in providing a signal whereby persons who have been buried under the mistaken impression that death had occurred can, upon returning to consciousness, inform the person in charge of the cemetery of that fact, so that they may be disinterred, and at the same time obtain a supply of air.

It further consists of some details of construction and arrangements of parts, all as will hereinafter be more particularly described.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are a part hereof, and on which similar letters of reference indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a central vertical section of a casket and case with my invention applied as it appears when in use; Fig. 2, a side elevation of the casket and invention, the case being in section; Fig. 3, a section, similar to that shown in Fig. 1, of the principal working parts of the device and the parts immediately surrounding them, on an enlarged scale; Fig. 4, a view similar to the bottom portion of Fig. 3, but with the spring released, as when the signal is up; Fig. 5, a view from the opposite side of the parts shown in the upper end of Fig. 2; Fig. 6, a vertical section on the dotted line  $xx$ , Fig. 3; and Fig. 7 a horizontal section, looking upward from the dotted line  $zz$  in Fig. 4.

In said drawings, the portions marked A represent the case ordinarily used to inclose a coffin or casket before burial; B, said casket or coffin; C, a tube in the form of an elbow, leading from the end of the casket to the top of the case; D, a stopper in the horizontal part of said tube; E, a spring in the vertical part thereof; F, a tube set over the mouth of the tube C, and extending to or above the top of the ground; G, a flag or other signaling device located inside of said tube; H, a rod on which said flag is mounted; I, a cap on said rod; J, a tube alongside the tube F, leading to an orifice in the case A; K, Fig. 1, a stopper which fills an orifice in the opposite end of the casket from the tube C; L, a cord attached thereto; M, Fig. 1, an eye or pulley through

which said cord passes, and N a cord attached to the stopper D.

The operation of my said invention is as follows: Before the casket is put in use the tube C is attached, the spring E is pressed down, and the stopper D is inserted, the stem  $d$  of the latter passing through the bearing  $c$  and entering the stem  $e$  of said spring, as shown most plainly in Fig. 3. Said spring is supported and said stem guided by the cross-bearing  $c'$ . The cord N is connected to the stopper D and to the wrist of the supposed corpse. The stopper K is inserted in the orifice in the other end of the casket, and the cord L is passed through the eye or pulley M, and also connected to the wrist of the supposed corpse. The casket being closed up and placed in the grave, the tubes F and J (which should be fastened together) are then set in position, the one covering the upper open end of the tube C and the other the hole  $a$  in the case A. When in this position the signal G and its rod H are forced down into the position shown by Figs. 1 and 3, the lower end of the rod resting on the cap  $e'$  or on the upper end of the stem  $e$ . The grave is then filled in the usual manner.

Should it prove that the supposed death was only a case of suspended animation, the buried person would, upon returning to consciousness, by a slight movement of the hand (whether voluntary or involuntary) pull out both the stoppers D and K, thus releasing the spring and throwing up the signal into the position shown by Figs. 2 and 4, and at the same time establishing a circuit through which cold air will freely circulate from the outside, thus ventilating the casket and permitting respiration until the grave can be opened. The tube J and the opening wherein the stopper K is inserted are for this last-mentioned purpose, as a single opening is not sufficient to establish a circulation of air. When the signal is thrown up it immediately attracts the attention of any person in sight of the grave, as it is or should be constructed of a red or other equally bright-colored fabric. The fabric is secured to the arms  $g g$ , which are pivoted to the rod H, and said arms are operated to spread apart by the springs  $h h$ , also secured to said rod, and thus display the signal to the fullest extent.

In order to secure the advantages of this in-

vention, it is of course necessary that some person should visit the vicinity of the grave frequently during the period of uncertainty as to the fate of the buried person, in order that the work of disinterring the body may at once be proceeded with should the signal be raised.

While of course this signal can be mischievously raised from the outside, such raising need not deceive any person, as, unless the spring E has been released, the signal can be readily put back in place, while if it has been the signal cannot be forced into the tube so that it will remain. As is readily apparent, the spring cannot be released except from the inside, and therefore it can at once be certainly ascertained whether or not the signal has been properly displayed.

After the body has been buried so long as to render it impossible that life should remain, the tubes F and J, together with the signal and other parts connected thereto, can be removed, the hole which they occupied filled up, and the grave will then present the ordinary appearance. That portion of the apparatus which is removed is capable of repeated use.

The cap I covers the two tubes extending above the ground after the manner of a roof, as shown, to keep rain from entering said tubes, as well when the signal is hoisted as when it is lowered.

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

1. A grave-signal the essential features

whereof are a tube leading to the coffin or casket, a signal-flag therein, a spring by which said signal-flag may be forced vertically upward above the top of said tube, and means for releasing said spring which may be operated from the inside of the coffin, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in a grave-signal apparatus, with the signal, of the spring E and the stopper D, the stem of the latter being adapted to engage with the stem of the former, and to be disengaged by a cord attached thereto and extending inside the coffin, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of the tube F, the rod H, the fabric G, the arms *g g*, and the springs *h h*, forming a grave-signal, substantially as shown and specified.

4. The combination, with the signal G and rod H, of the tube C, having bearings *c* and *c'*, the spring E, having stem *e*, the stopper D, having stem *d*, and the cord N, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of the two tubes, the two stoppers, the signal, and means, substantially as described, for operating the same, all substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 27th day of March, A. D. 1882.

ALBERT FEARNAUGHT. [L. S.]

In presence of—

C. BRADFORD,

CHAS. L. THURBER.