

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. COOPER.

BURIAL CASKET, VAULT, &c.

No. 328,291.

Patented Oct. 13, 1885.

Fig. 1.

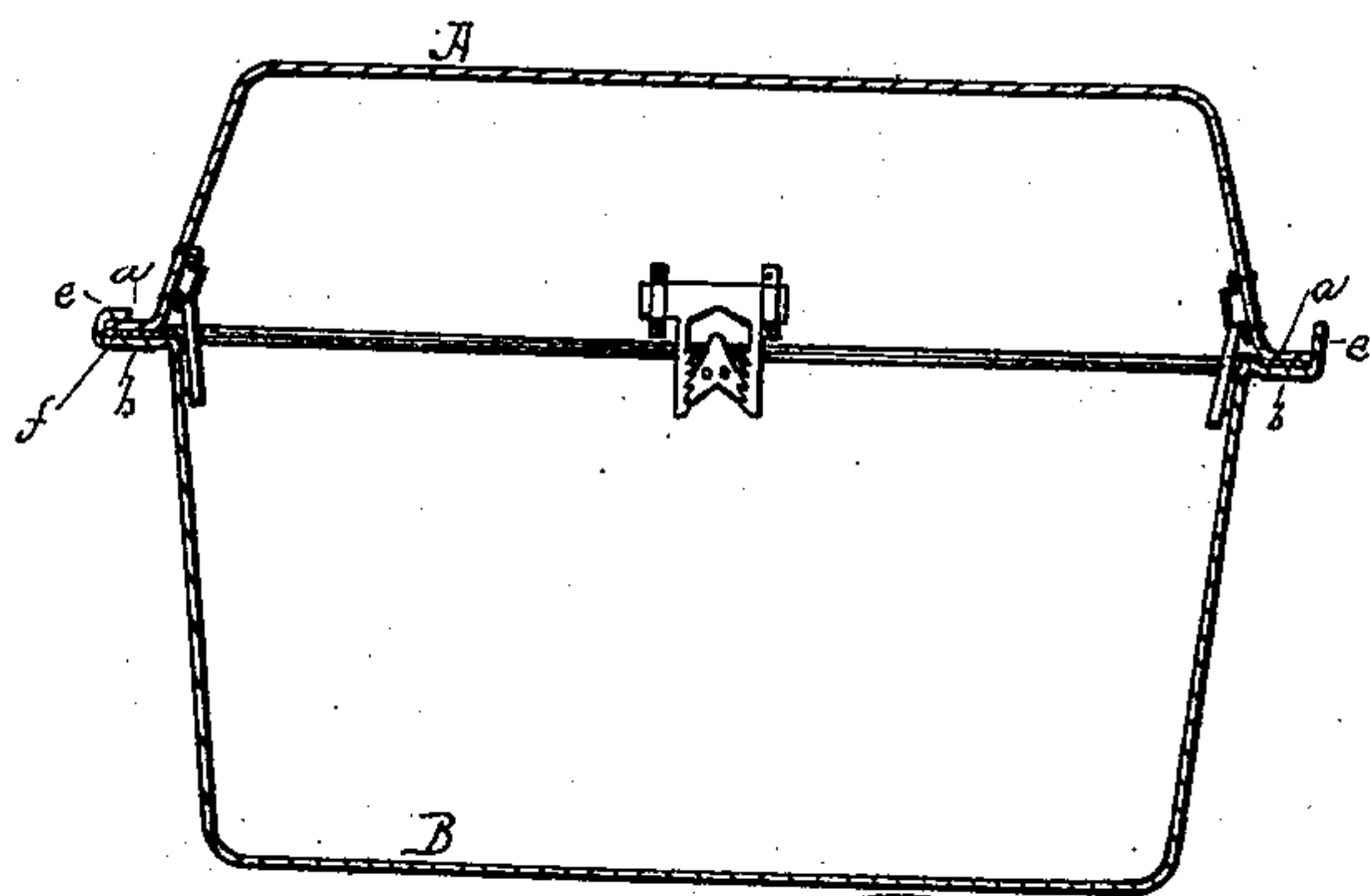


Fig. 3.

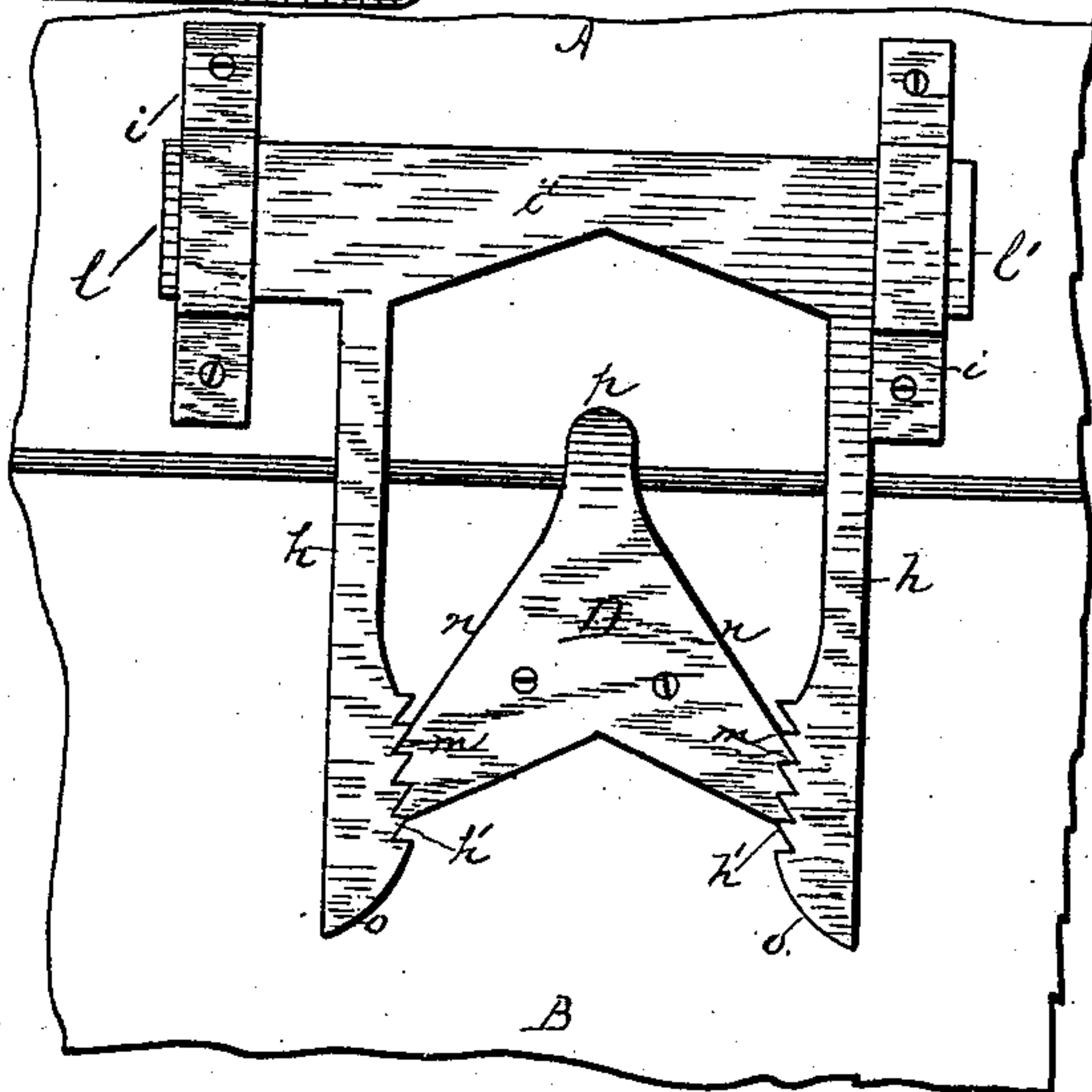


Fig. 2.

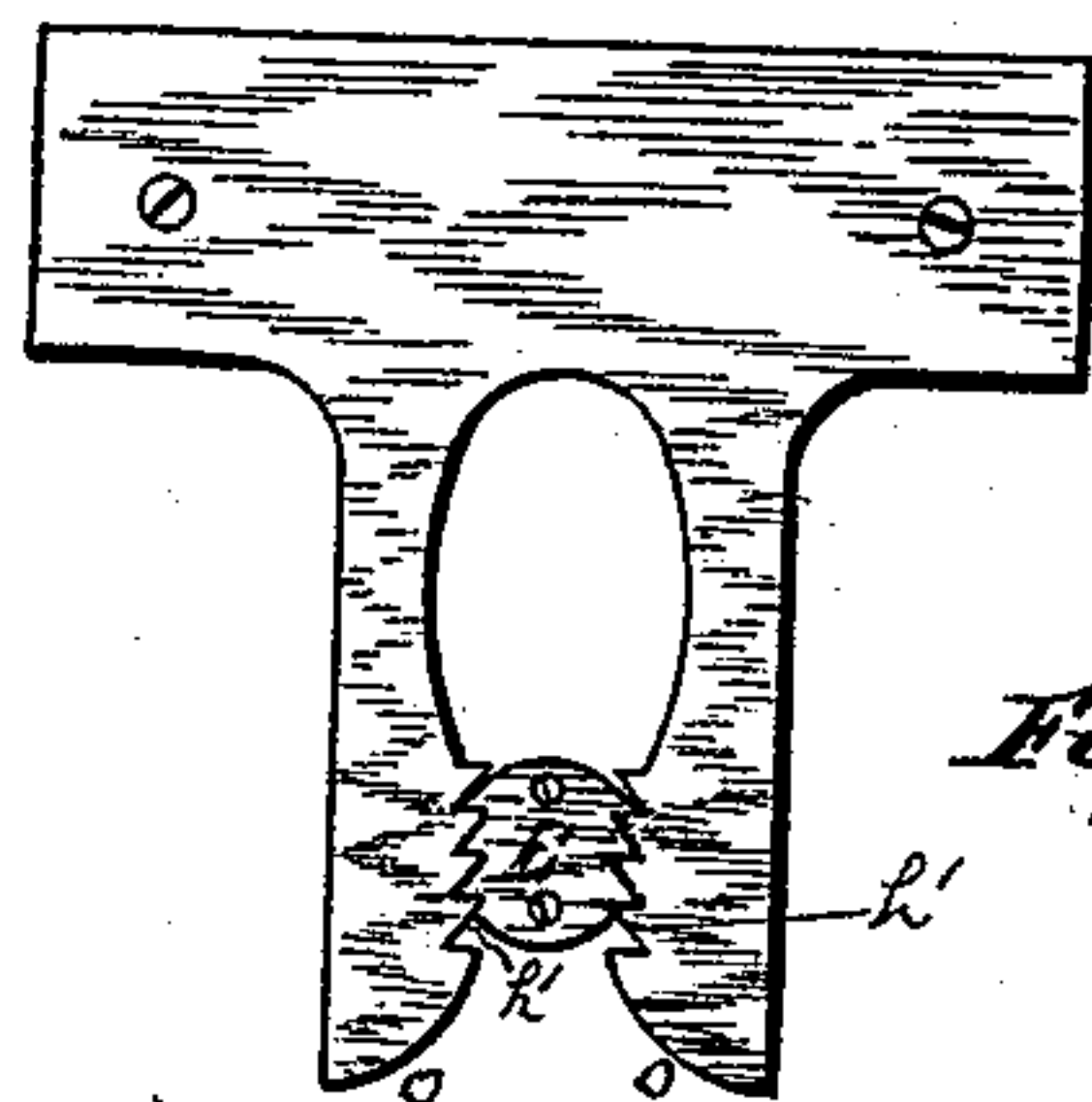
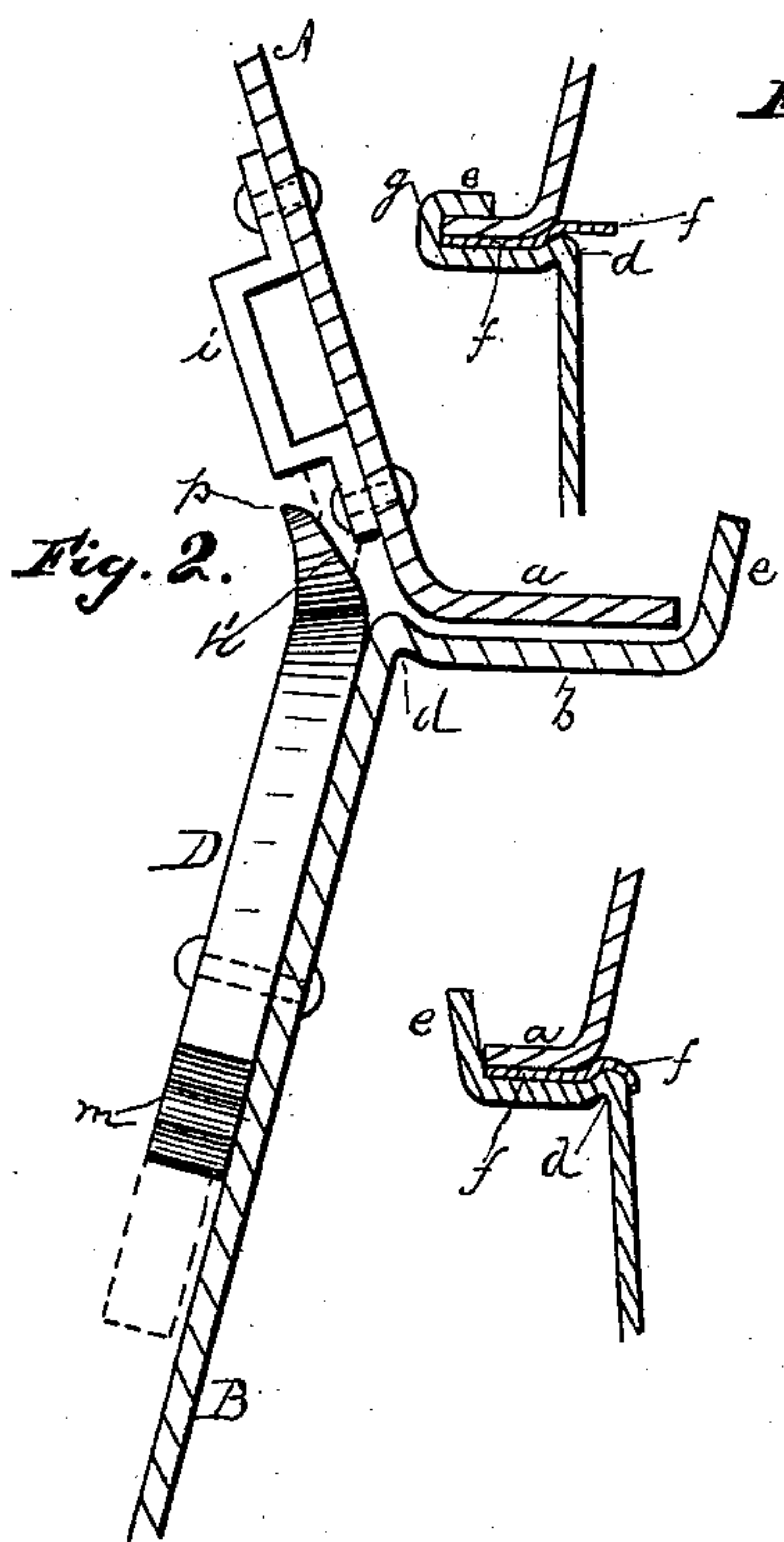


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES  
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INVENTOR  
John Cooper  
by R. K. Evans  
his Attorney

(No Model.)

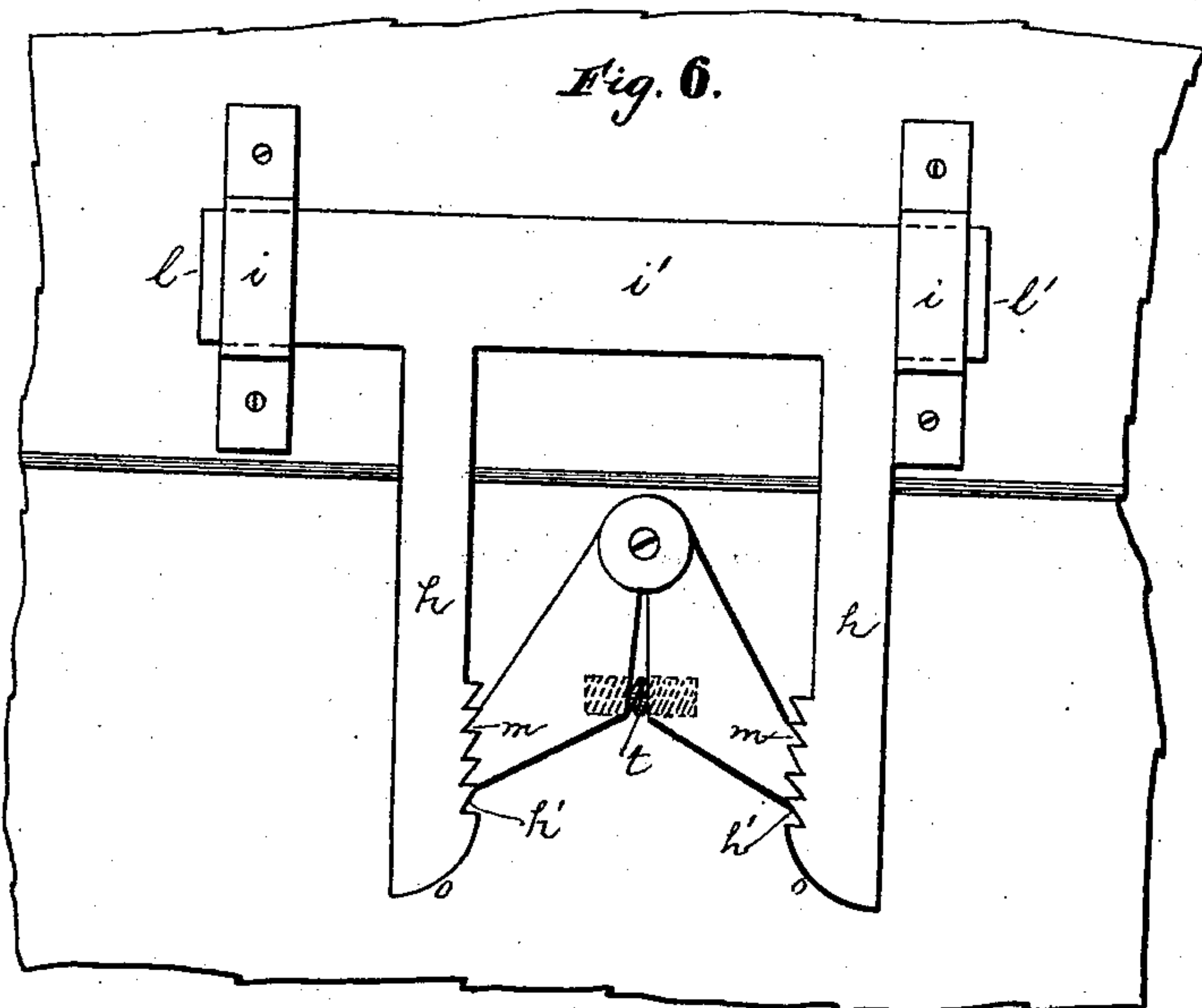
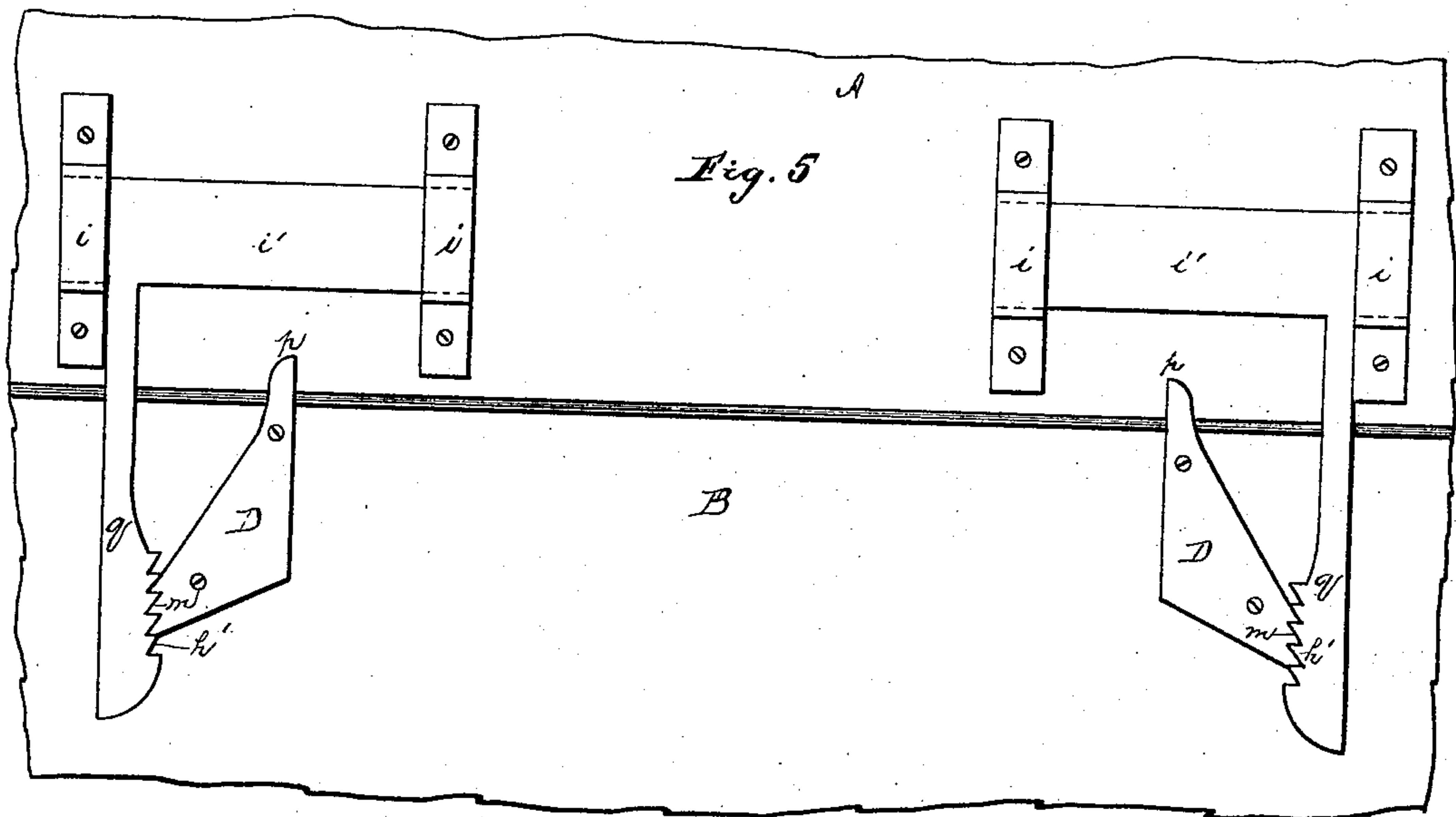
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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WITNESSES  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN COOPER, OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO.

## BURIAL CASKET, VAULT, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 328,291, dated October 13, 1885.

Application filed June 27, 1885. Serial No. 169,975. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN COOPER, of Mount Vernon, in the county of Knox and State of Ohio, have invented certain Improvements in  
5 in Burial Caskets and Vaults; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

10 Figure 1 is a vertical cross-sectional view illustrating a casket made after my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical sectional view through the joint of the sections. Fig. 3 is an elevation of my improved interior automatic  
15 lock. Figs. 4, 5, and 6 illustrate modifications of the locking device.

The object of my invention is to produce a sectional water and air tight burial casket or vault which shall be proof against the attacks  
20 of resurrectionists or robbers; and to this end my invention consists in a sectional struck or stamped metal casket, vault, or similar device having the edges of the sections joined by a novel interlocking joint, whereby the recep-  
25 tacle for the corpse may be made air and water tight.

My invention further consists in a new and improved locking device, whereby the sections are secured together at the maximum pressure with which they are brought in contact.  
30

My invention also consists in providing one section with a permanently-attached gasket to rest within the joint, and having an interiorly-projecting edge, to which is secured the trim-  
35 mings of the casket or vault.

In order that those skilled in the art may make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

40 In the said drawings, A B are two sections forming a burial-receptacle, and are constructed by die-presses or other convenient means for stamping or pressing each of them from a single piece of metal, so that the only seam in  
45 the structure will be where the sections join.

In making burial-caskets I should prefer to use, say, about one-sixteenth of an inch thick plate-steel, while the metal used for the vault structure would be much heavier. However,  
50 I do not confine myself or the spirit of my invention to any particular kind or thickness of metal.

The sections A and B are in the press given the general desirable conformation for the use designed, and are provided with abutting  
55 flanges as follows: Section A is provided along its entire edge with a flange, *a*, bent out at an angle which will be the same as that in which is bent flange *b* on section B, so that the faces of the flanges will come truly and snugly to-  
60 gether. The edge of section B is given a short return-bend, *d*, then projects into the flat or horizontal flange *b*, and the extreme outer edge being turned up into a vertical flange, *e*, which has an alternative use, as will be hereinafter  
65 fully described. The short return-bend given the metal at *d* makes a slight projection above the plane of flange *b*, and serves to lock behind the inner edge of flange *a*, the outer end of which rests against the inner side of the  
70 vertical flange *e*, so as to prevent any tendency of flange *a* to move off of flange *b*. The return-bend *d* and the heel *f* of the flange of section A also form a curved or biting bearing on the gasket or packing inserted between the  
75 flanges and insuring an air-tight joint.

The upwardly-turned flange *e* may be made to perform a dual office in using my invention. If the structure be a casket, or made of thin metal, the flange *e* may be allowed to remain  
80 in a vertical position, as seen on the right side of Fig. 1, and form a trough for cement or wax to seal the joint with; or the flange *e* may be turned down over the edge of flange *a* and further secure the joint, as seen to the left in  
85 Fig. 1, and at *g*, Fig. 2.

The gasket *f* is preferably permanently secured to flange *b*, and when the parts are put together it projects slightly within the casket or vault in order that it may be the medium,  
90 directly or indirectly, of securing the trimmings to the interior of the casket or vault by sewing, tacking, or any convenient method. A wooden strip may be first secured to the inwardly-projecting edge of the gasket,  
95 and to this strip the trimmings may be secured.

The interior automatic-locking device is constructed as follows: At intervals around one section, A, adjacent to the edge, are se-  
100 cured a series of pairs of sockets, *i i*, into which fit short bars *i'*. Depending from said bars *i' i'* are pairs of spring holders or legs *h*, provided on their inner sides with a series



of teeth or projections,  $h' h'$ , raking upward. The distance between the outside surface of one of the legs  $h$  and the end of bar  $i'$  is greater than the distance between the outer surface of the other leg and the other end of said bar  $i'$ . By this construction I am enabled to place the bars  $i'$  in the sockets  $i$  by an endwise movement, the longer end,  $l$ , of the bar being passed first into its socket, and then reversing the movement so as to thrust the shorter end,  $l'$ , into its socket until the leg  $i'$  adjacent to the shorter end,  $l'$ , brings up against the socket, in which position the legs are in position for locking.

At intervals around the interior of section B corresponding in position and number to bars  $i'$ , and adjacent to the edge, are riveted or otherwise secured a series of studs or projections, D, which may be of any desired form and provided with downwardly-raking teeth  $m m$ , to engage with the teeth  $h' h'$  on the legs  $h h$ . The sides  $n n$  of the projection D are diagonal, so that the descending legs  $h h$  will with certainty properly straddle the stud or projection D, and to further insure this operation the lower ends of the legs are made flaring, as seen at  $o o$ . The extreme upper end,  $p$ , of projection D passes slightly above the edge of section B, and is curved inwardly, as seen at  $p'$ , Fig. 2, to serve as a guide to bring the edges and flanges of the sections to place at the various points of attachment.

In interior automatic coffin-fastenings heretofore made the catches or locking devices have been only provided with some one predetermined fastening-point, which may fail to secure the edges of the sections hermetically, because of the distortion of the sections from cooling or handling, leaving one catching-point too loose and another too tight. In such cases, to avoid the difficulty named, special fitting of each locking device would be required. In my invention, it will be observed, no such difficulty will arise, for the reason that the series of progressive locking points hold the sections together at the maximum point of compression at each lock, so that the flanges can be forced together throughout their extent and be so held, and no rebound can take place.

In the modification of the locking device shown in Fig. 4 the spring serrated fastening-legs spring over a cylindrical stud, E, having serrations cut in its face on opposite sides of a vertical line.

In the modification shown in Fig. 5 the locking device is divided, as it were, into two parts. A single leg,  $q$ , is fastened to bar  $i'$ , and the stud has a single serrated face. These fastenings, as an entirety, are arranged in

pairs, as shown, the spring on each leg holding bars  $i'$  steadily in place.

In the modifications of my improved locking device shown in Fig. 6 the spring is transferred from the depending legs to the projection or lug. This is done by making the legs rigid and serrated, and dividing the projection or stud vertically, leaving two swinging hinged portions, having an interposed spring,  $t$ , whereby the two swinging sections act as pawls having teeth, which engage with each of the rigid legs.

The manner of connecting the locking-legs  $h h$  and bars  $i'$  to the section through the medium of the sockets  $i i$  enables me to keep said bars and legs separate from the coffin-section during handling and transportation, and readily apply them when the sections are about to be locked together, thus avoiding any accidental locking.

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

1. In an interior-locking casket or similar structure, the bifurcated spring-holding device  $h h$ , provided with teeth or serrations and secured to one of the casket-sections, in combination with a stud or projection provided with serrated faces and secured to the other casket-section, substantially as described.

2. In an interior automatic fastening for caskets and similar devices, the combination of the sockets  $i i$ , bar  $i'$ , projecting legs  $h h$ , provided with teeth  $h' h'$ , and stud D, having diagonal faces  $n n$ , and provided with teeth  $m m$  to interlock with the teeth on the legs  $h$ , all constructed, arranged, and operated substantially as set forth.

3. In an automatic-locking casket, the locking-stud D, provided with the curved extension-piece  $p$  to guide the edges of the sections to place, substantially as described.

4. In a sectional metallic casket, the edge of one section provided with the flange  $a$ , in combination with the edge of the other section, having a return-bend,  $d$ , plane flange  $b$ , and upwardly-turned supplemental flange  $e$ , all constructed, arranged, and operated as set forth.

5. A sectional metallic casket or similar structure, in combination with a gasket interposed between the sections, permanently secured to one and projecting inward to provide means for securing the trimmings to the interior, substantially as described.

JOHN COOPER.

Witnesses:

W. E. ROBERTS,  
A. B. MOORE.