

(No Model.)

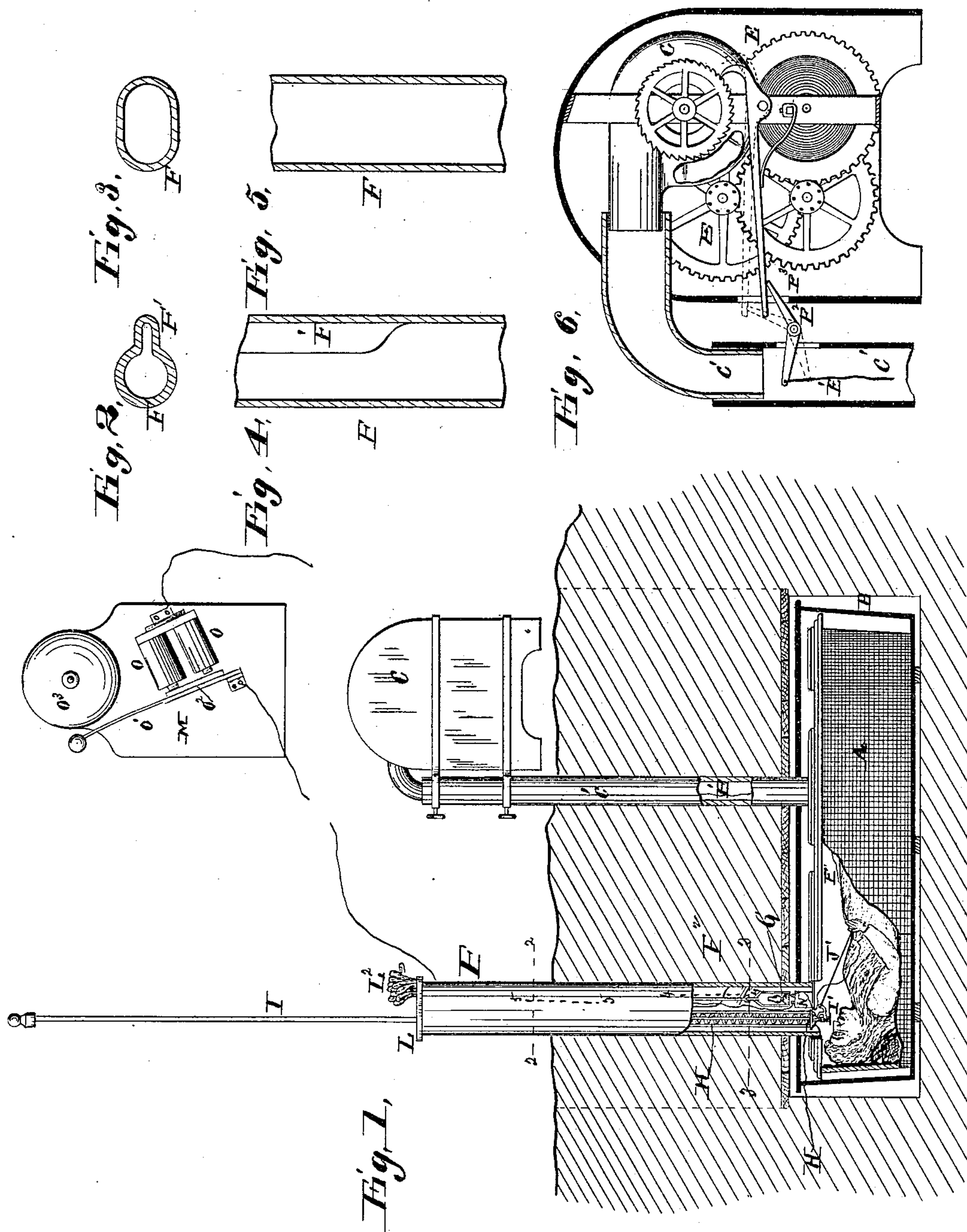
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C. SIEBER & F. H. BORNTRAEGER.

BURIAL CASKET.

No. 329,495.

Patented Nov. 3, 1885.



*Attest.*  
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*By Knicker Bros. atty.*

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 7.

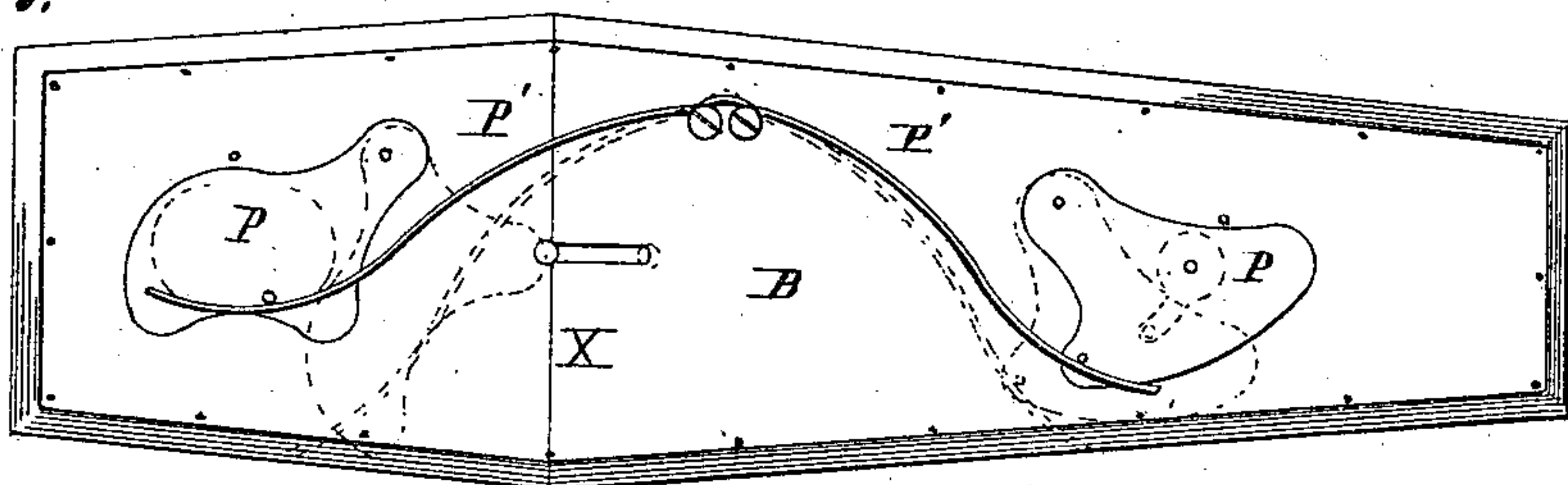


Fig. 8.

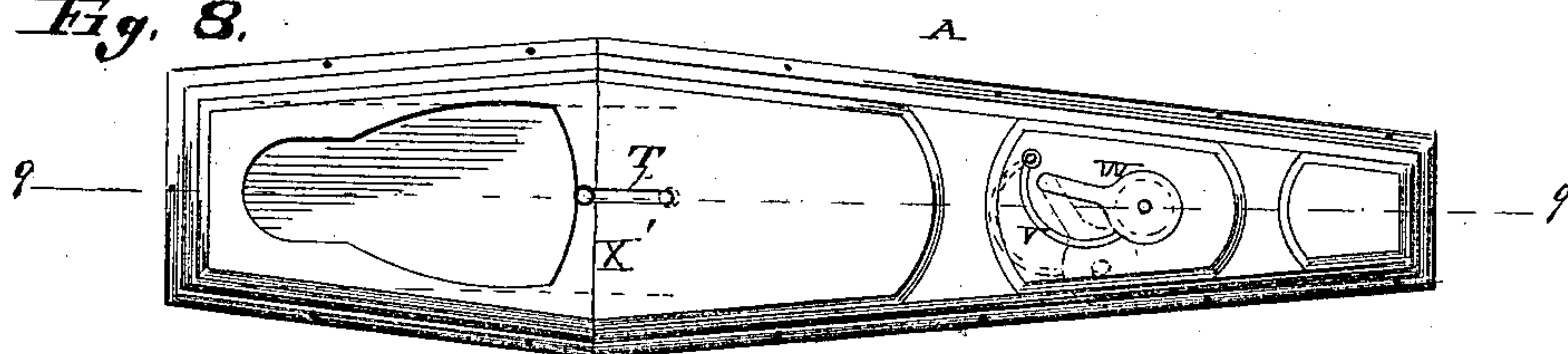


Fig. 9.

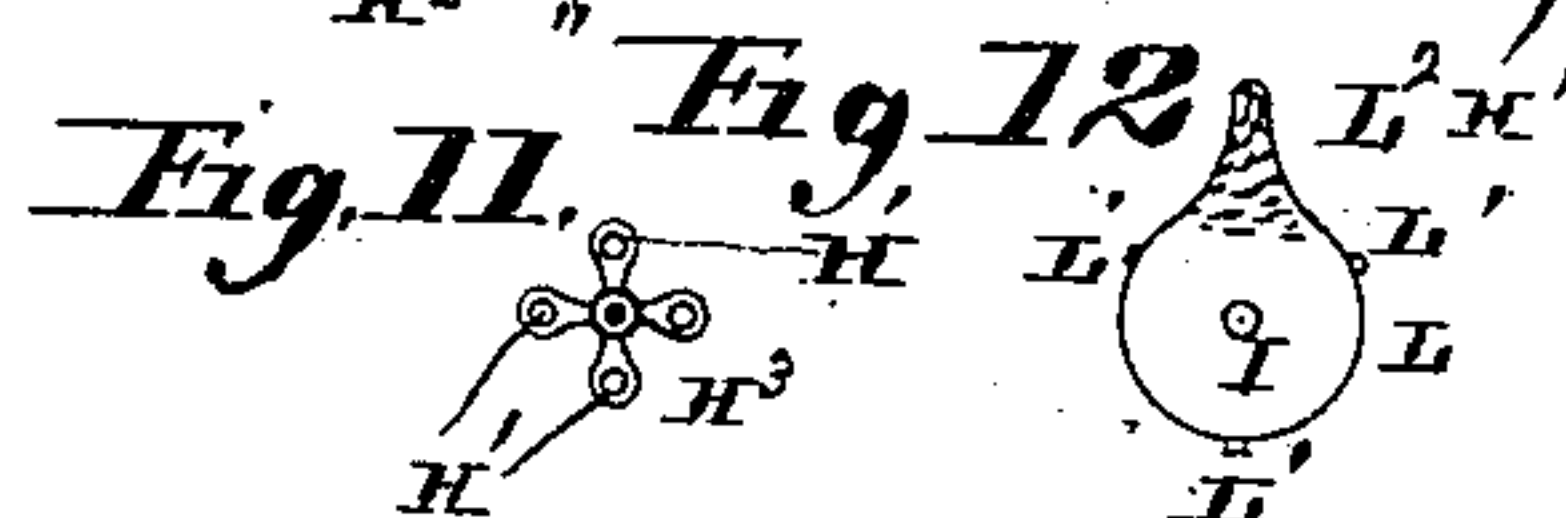
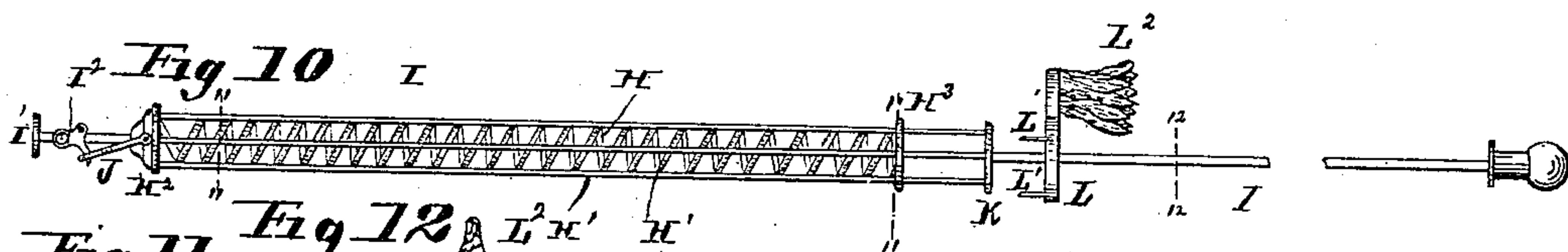
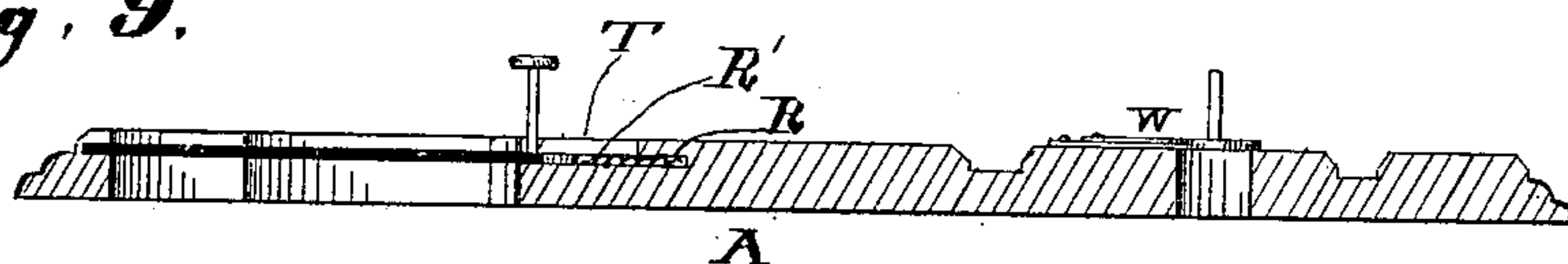
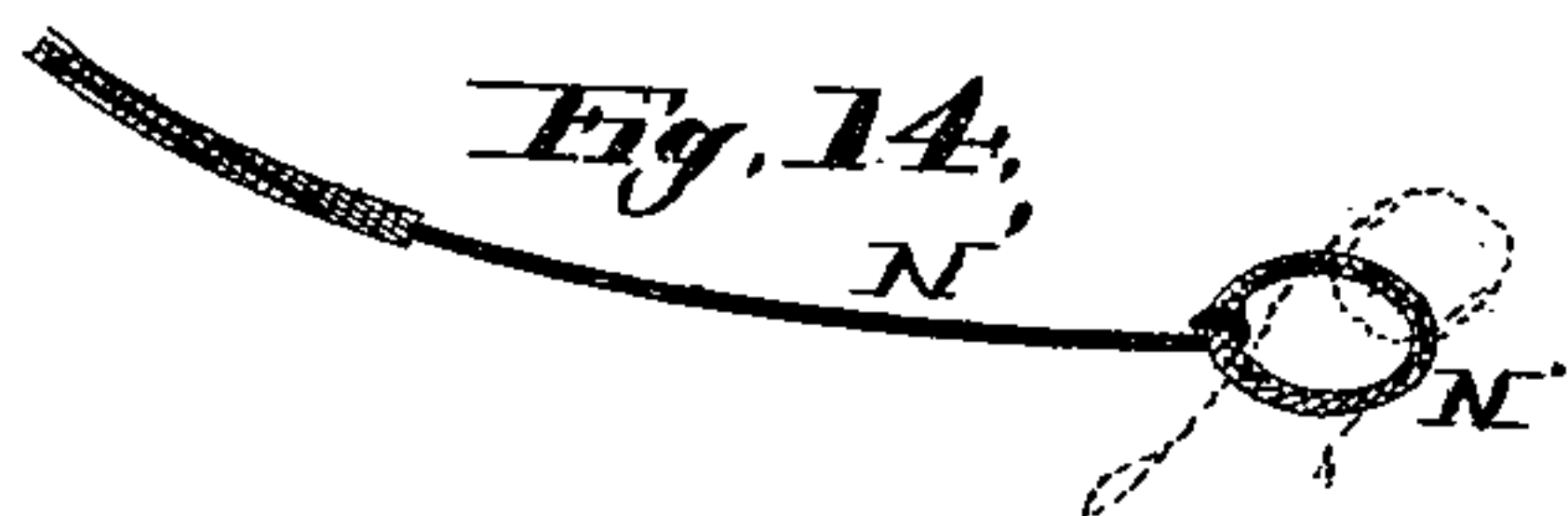
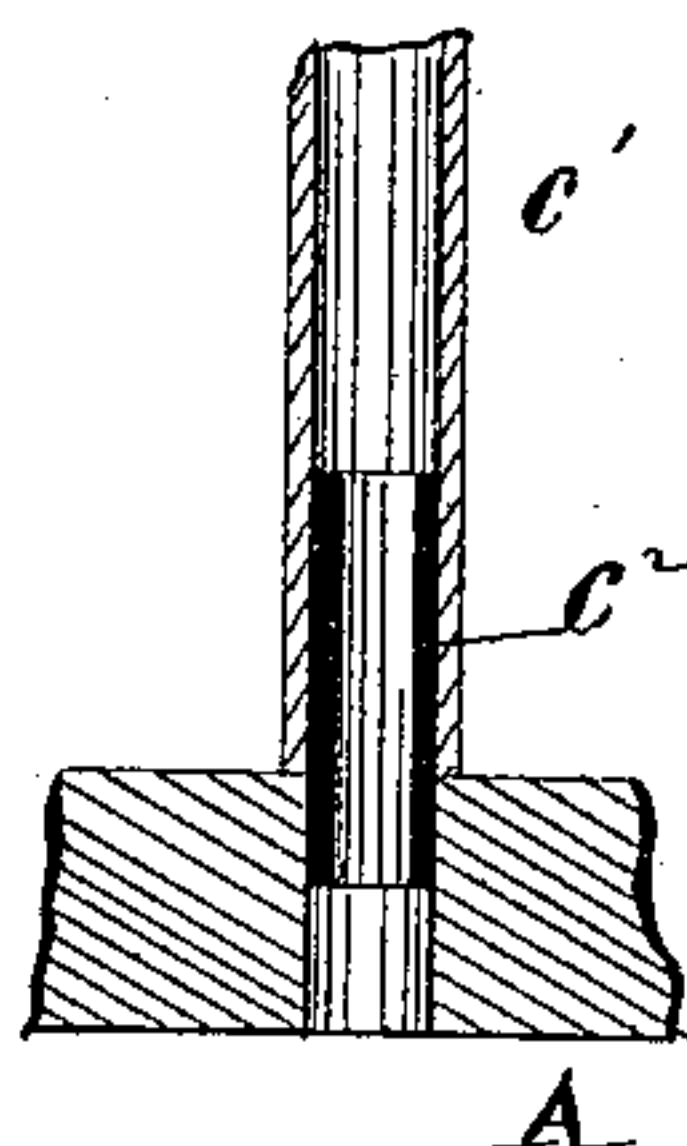


Fig. 13



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES SIEBER AND FREDERICK H. BORNTAEGER, OF WATERLOO, ILL.

## BURIAL-CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 329,495, dated November 3, 1885.

Application filed August 24, 1885. Serial No. 175,168. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, CHARLES SIEBER and FREDERICK H. BORNTAEGER, of Waterloo, Monroe county, and State of Illinois, have  
5 invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Life-Guard Signals for People Buried in a Trance, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being  
10 had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of a coffin with our improvement applied, part of the apparatus being shown in section and part in side view. Fig. 2 is a transverse section taken on  
15 line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on line 3 3, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail vertical section taken on line 4 4, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a similar view taken on line 5 5, Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is an enlarged vertical section of the fan and mechanism for operating  
20 it. Fig. 7 is a top view of the box, illustrating the manner of operating the valves or covers. Fig. 8 is a similar view of the top of the coffin. Fig. 9 is a vertical section of the top of the coffin, taken on line 9 9, Fig. 8. Fig.  
25 10 is a side view of the signal removed. Fig. 11 is a transverse section taken on line 11 11, Fig. 10. Fig. 12 is a section taken on line 12 12, Fig. 10. Fig. 13 is an enlarged section showing the manner of securing the lower end  
30 of the fan or glass tube to the top of the coffin. Fig. 14 is a detail view showing the lower end of the wire leading from the battery to the body in the coffin.

Our invention relates to an apparatus whereby a person buried in a trance or before death is enabled to give a signal and to put into operation a fan or air-blast mechanism to force  
35 air into the coffin; and our invention consists in features of novelty hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a coffin inclosed in an ordinary rough box, B, as usual.

45 C represents a fan connected to the coffin by means of a tube or pipe, C', that extends from the fan to the top of the coffin, and immediately at the coffin we prefer to place a short tube, C<sup>2</sup>, between the main pipe and the top  
50 of the coffin, as shown in Fig. 13. This forms

a secure connection, and at the same time permits the easy removal of the pipe when the proper time comes for it to be removed. The fan is operated by any suitable train of gearing, E, and this gearing is set in operation by  
55 the movement of the body in the coffin, with which it is connected by means of a cord, E', connected to the hand of the person, and to a trigger, E<sup>2</sup>, placed beneath a lever, E<sup>3</sup>, of the clock-work of the fan. The movement of the  
60 person's hand will force the lever and trigger into the position shown by dotted lines, Fig. 6, which will start the movement of the clock-work and the rotation of the fan, thus forcing air into the coffin. Connected to the front end of  
65 the coffin, and projecting upward through the ground, is a large tube, F, preferably made oval in transverse section, as shown in Fig. 3, at its lower end, and made round, with a projection, F', at its upper end, as shown in Fig. 2. 70  
G represents a lamp supported in the lower part of this tube, the supporting wire or string fitting into the projection F' of the upper part of the tube. The object of making the lower  
75 part of the tube oval is to permit the suspension of the lamp, and by making the upper part of the shape described the supporting wire or string of the lamp is held in the projection F', where it is not interfered with by anything coming  
80 in contact with it. The lamp is introduced by passing it down through the large part of the tube, as shown in Fig. 2, and then is swung over beneath the projection F' when it reaches the lower part of the tube. Above the lamp is  
85 a reflector, F<sup>2</sup>, to throw the light upon the face of the body, so that a person looking down through the tube can see the face of the body in the coffin. Within this tube is a spiral  
90 spring, H, held between four rods, (more or less,) H', which are supported at the lower end by a disk, H<sup>2</sup>, and at the upper end by a spider, H<sup>3</sup>. (See Figs. 10 and 11.) Extending up through this spring, disk, and head is a  
95 staff or rod, I, the lower end of which is secured to a small disk or head, I', and a trigger or dog, I<sup>2</sup>, the latter of which engages over a bail or loop, J, on the disk H<sup>2</sup>. This  
100 trigger is connected by a string, J', to the hand of the body in the coffin, and any movement of the hand will pull the trigger from



the bail, and as soon as this takes place the spring will pull the disk  $H^2$  up toward the spider-lever, forcing the rods  $H'$  upward. The spider is made fast to the staff or rod, so as not to move thereon, and the rods pass freely through the spider. Connected to their upper ends is a disk,  $K$ , which also passes loosely over the rod or staff, and is moved upward by the action of the spring, as described. Connected to this latter disk by pins  $L'$ , fitting in holes therein, is a plate,  $L$ , carrying feathers or other signals,  $L^2$ . This plate is carried up also by the action of the spring connected to the top of the rod or staff, thus giving a signal that indicates the movement of the body, which has disengaged the dog from the bail, as above described, and in addition to this signal we also prefer to form an arm which will also be put into action by the movement of the body. One manner of doing this is by means of a simple electric alarm device, (shown at  $M$ , Fig. 1,) connected by means of a wire passing down through the tube and connected to a battery,  $N$ , located at the lower end of the tube. A wire leads from the battery to the person's hand, and this wire is insulated, except for a short distance, as shown at  $N'$ , Fig. 14. It has on its end an insulated ring,  $N^2$ , which may fit over the thumb of the body, and when the hand is moved the exposed part of the wire will come in contact with the body, completing the circuit between the alarm and the ground to the body in the coffin. This arrangement, however, may be changed, if desired, and another means of forming a connection between the battery and ground substituted therefor.

The alarm we have shown consists of the well-known device composed of magnets  $O$ , hammer  $O'$ , carrying an armature,  $O^2$ , and the bell  $O^3$ , against which the hammer strikes.

When this apparatus has remained in place a few days after the body is buried, or sufficiently long to cover the period of time in which the body might recover from the trance, it would be removed by withdrawing the tubes and filling the places which they occupy with dirt. To prevent this dirt entering the coffin, we secure upon the box ( $B$ ) lid, valves or slides  $P$ , which are held back away from the openings while the tubes are in place, and as soon as the tubes are withdrawn the valves or covers are moved over the openings by a suitable spring,  $P'$ . The usual glass of the coffin is also held back from the opening at the head of the coffin, and when this tube is removed the glass, which works in grooves, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9, is moved forward to its normal position, covering the opening by means of a spring,  $R$ , placed behind the glass in an opening or socket,  $R'$ , in the cover of the coffin. The glass may be provided with a stem or projection, by which it is pulled back against the spring to allow the tube to be inserted, this pin or projection working in a

slot,  $T$ , in the top of the coffin. (See Figs. 8 and 9.)

We do not wish to confine ourselves to the exact form and arrangement of the apparatus shown for the purpose described, as the same may be changed without altering or affecting the essential characters of our invention.

The top of the coffin may have a valve,  $W$ , hinged to it, as shown in Fig. 8, which will be closed, when the tube  $C$  is withdrawn, by spring  $V$ . The valve is shown closed in full lines, Fig. 8, and open in dotted lines.

The preferred top of the outside case may be divided in two parts, as indicated by the line  $X$ , Fig. 6, and the top of the coffin may be divided in two parts, as shown by the line  $X'$ , so that by removing the front part of these covers the body can be taken out of the coffin without removing the dirt from over the coffin.

What we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a life-guard signal for people buried in a trance, the combination of a tube extending from the coffin upward through the ground, a lamp suspended in the tube, and a reflector above the lamp, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a life-guard signal for people buried in a trance, the combination of the tube extending from the coffin upward through the ground, a lamp suspended in the tube, and a reflector above the lamp, the tube being oval in transverse section at its lower end and made round with projections at its upper end, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the coffin, of a tube extending upward therefrom, a spider and a fixed rod in said tube, a spring surrounding said rod, rods passing through openings in said spider, disks secured to the extremities of said rod, a signal secured to the upper one of said disks, a bail and trigger connecting the lower disk with the fixed rod, and connection between the body and the trigger, as set forth.

4. The combination, with a coffin, of an electric-alarm circuit having a make and break and connection between said make and break and the body in the coffin, as set forth.

5. In a life-guard signal for people buried in a trance, the combination of the coffin, a fan, and a connection between the fan and the body in the coffin, whereby the fan is set in motion by the movement of the body, substantially as set forth.

6. In a life-guard signal for people buried in a trance, the combination of the coffin, fan, tube connecting the fan with the coffin, train of gearing for operating the fan, and connection between the gearing and the body in the coffin, substantially as set forth.

7. In a life-guard signal for people buried in a trance, the combination of the coffin, tubes extending upward from the coffin, valves



or slides pivoted to the top of the coffin, and springs for operating the valves or slides when the tubes are removed, substantially as set forth.

- 5 8. In a coffin, the combination, with the glass, of a groove in which it slides, a spring within said groove, a slot opening from said groove, and a stem projecting through said

slot and secured to the glass, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

CHARLES SIEBER.

FREDERICK H. BORNTAEGER.

In presence of—

GEO. H. KNIGHT,

BENJN. A. KNIGHT.