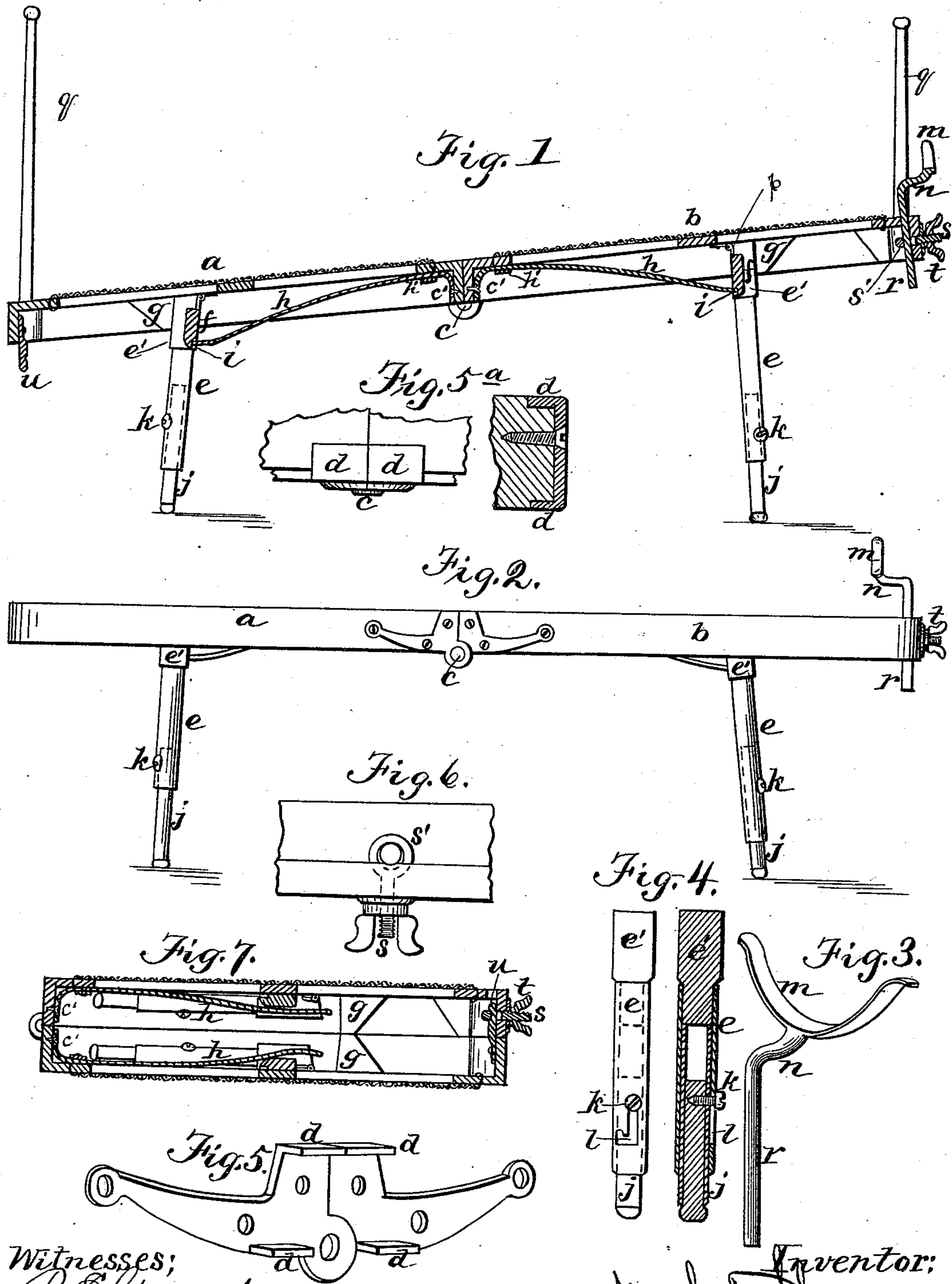


(No Model.)

N. T. SHAW.  
EMBALMING TABLE.

No. 355,476.

Patented Jan. 4, 1887.



Witnesses;  
R. E. Grant  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NOAH T. SHAW, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE ENTERPRISE  
MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

## EMBALMING-TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 355,476, dated January 4, 1887.

Application filed August 11, 1886. Serial No. 210,630. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NOAH T. SHAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Embalming-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

My improvement relates to folding tables used in preparing corpses for burial and for embalming; and the objects of my improvements are to provide a convenient and safe means for adjusting the table for embalming purposes in inclined position, and in horizontal position for laying out the body, to render the hinge-joining of the table-sections strong and safe, and to provide for safely holding the legs when extended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a vertical longitudinal section of my improved table as adjusted for embalming purposes; Fig. 2, a side view of the table as adjusted for laying out the body. Fig. 3 shows a revoluble head-rest detached. Fig. 4 shows one of the adjustable legs detached. Figs. 5 and 5<sup>a</sup> show the flanged hinges for the joining of the table-sections. Fig. 6 shows the clamping device for the revoluble head-rest, and Fig. 7 shows the table-sections folded and secured by the same device which fastens the revoluble head-rest.

The table-sections *a* and *b* are hinged together, so as to be folded with the legs and form a cabinet for containing the canopy and embalming appliances. These sections are made strong, and preferably of cane bottoms. The hinges are plates lapped and joined by strong pintle-rivets *c*, and secured to the outer sides of the section-frames so as to abut at the joining edges of the table-sections. This is the common way of securing the hinge-plates of the table; but the fastening-screws do not afford sufficient strength, and the frames are liable to split at the corners of their hinged ends, and endanger the falling of the table under the weight of the body. To avoid this and make the hinge-joining strong and durable, I provide each leaf of the hinge with a top and bottom side flange or projecting plate, *d*, which extends over the opposite edges of the frames *a b* at their joining ends, and form

braces to prevent the splitting of the frames at their corners. This is shown in Figs. 5 and 5<sup>a</sup>, so that each hinge-leaf forms a metal binder for the corner of the frame to which it is screwed, and renders it unnecessary to provide middle supporting-legs for the table when in use.

Each table-section is provided with legs *e*, hinged so as to support each end of the table when in use, and to be folded within their respective frame-sections. The legs are connected together at their hinged ends by a flat cross-bar, *f*, and they are hinged to the under side of the table-frames, so as to be extended against supporting-blocks *g* on the inner sides of said frames. To secure the legs when extended a plate-spring, *h*, is fastened to the end frame at the joining ends of the table-sections, and its free end fits into a recess, *i*, in the cross-bar *f* in such a manner that the force of the spring is exerted to place its free end in said recess, and hold the legs when open firmly against their supporting-blocks *g*. In the folded positions of the legs they are held by the spring-plates bearing against the flat sides of the cross-bars *f*, as seen in Fig. 7, and thus the legs are held closed while folding the sections.

As a means for adjusting the table in an inclined position, I construct each leg of two telescoping sections, both sections being formed of metal tubes, the foot-section *j* sliding within the leg-section and having a movement of about two or three inches. Having both the head and foot legs provided with movable foot-sections *j* gives the advantage of a comparatively short movement of each foot-section to obtain the proper inclination of the table, and therefore gives the advantage of having comparatively short foot-sections and greater firmness to the table. The tubing for the legs is driven firmly upon the hinged wood part *e'*, and the tube for the foot-section is driven firmly upon a core, and the adjustment of the foot-sections within the tubular legs is made by a screw, *k*, passing through an L-shaped slot, *l*, in the legs into the tube of the foot-section.

In adjusting the table all the foot-sections are moved. If to incline the table for em-



balming, the foot-sections of the foot-legs are moved fully into the latter, and the foot-sections of the head-legs are fully extended, as in Fig. 1, thus dividing the movement between the feet of the head and foot legs gives the table an inclination of about six inches. If to place the table for laying out the body, then the feet of the head-legs are fully moved in and the feet of the foot-legs are fully moved out, making the table horizontal.

The head-rest *m* is a semi-ring, and is formed upon the crank end or arm *n* of a stem, *r*, which is passed vertically through an opening in the end of the frame-section and clamped thereto by a horizontal eyed screw, *s*, and clamp-nut *t*, as seen in Figs. 1 and 6, by which the rest can be raised and lowered as may be required. The crank-arm *n*, carrying the semi-ring, is the novelty in this head-rest, because such crank-arm adapts the rest to bodies of different lengths by turning the crank-arm outward, as in Fig. 1, or inward, as in Fig. 2, the vertical stem being of cylindrical form to allow it to be turned in the eye *s'* of the clamping-screw. In this adjustment the head-rest is turned a half-revolution upon its stem and clamped against the inner side of the table-frame by screwing the thumb-nut of the screw-stem against the outer side of said frame.

When the table is folded, the head-rest is removed, and the eyed screw *s* serves as the means of fastening the folded sections together by a pin, *u*, projecting from the foot end of the foot table-section, in position to pass into the eyes *s'*, in place of the stem of the head-rest, and be clamped, like the latter, against the inner side of the head end of the head-section, as seen in Fig. 7. The canopy is set upon the posts *q* in the usual way.

The joining or hinged ends of the frame-sections are preferably formed of cross-bars of L shape in cross-section, and it is in the angle of each cross-bar that I secure the bent end *c'* of the plate-spring *h* by screws passing through the bent end of the spring into the vertical part of said bar, while a keeper, *h'*, fastens the straight part of the spring to the under side of said bar, as shown in Fig. 1. This construction allows of the use of a strong plate-spring, relieves the screw-fastenings of all strain, and gives the desired safety in the springs as a means for holding the hinged legs safely when supporting the table, and particularly during the operation of handling the body during the embalming and laying out operations.

Referring to the tubular extensible legs, it will be seen that they are of unequal length, their vertical slots are of equal length, and their foot-sections are of equal length, so that when the foot-sections are fully extended said foot-legs will equal in length the head-legs when their foot-sections are unextended. This is the construction which gives the advantage of short extensible foot-sections and renders the table firm in use.

The state of the art shows that hinged table-sections have been provided with hinged legs, and that the latter have been provided with telescoping adjustable foot-sections, whereby the table may be adjusted in different positions. It also shows that plate-springs and hook-bars have been provided for each hinged table-section, for holding the legs in position when extended and when folded. So far, however, as my knowledge and information extend, the foot and table legs of unequal lengths, each provided with foot-sections of equal lengths, each having equal adjustment in any position of the table, is new. The provision of the L-shaped plate-springs bound to the end bars by keepers to render them safe and effective in their function of holding the hinged legs when extended is also an improvement upon similar devices for the same purpose, and my claims are limited to such specific matters of improvement.

I claim—

1. The combination, with the hinged frame-sections, of the hinged tubular legs of unequal lengths, each having a vertical L-slot, *l*, of equal length, a telescoping foot-section of equal length, and the stop-pins *k*, fixed to said foot-sections, as shown, and for the purpose described.

2. The hinged frame-sections provided with hinged legs, and the L-shaped plate-springs *h*, having their angle ends secured to the vertical sides of the frame end bars, their straight parts fastened by keepers *h'* to the horizontal part of said end bars, and their free ends bearing upon the cross-bars of the hinged legs, as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

NOAH T. SHAW.

Witnesses:

A. E. H. JOHNSON,  
M. A. BALLINGER.