

(No Model.)

C. KRAUSER.
HEAD REST FOR COFFINS.

No. 368,721.

Patented Aug. 23, 1887.

Fig. 1.

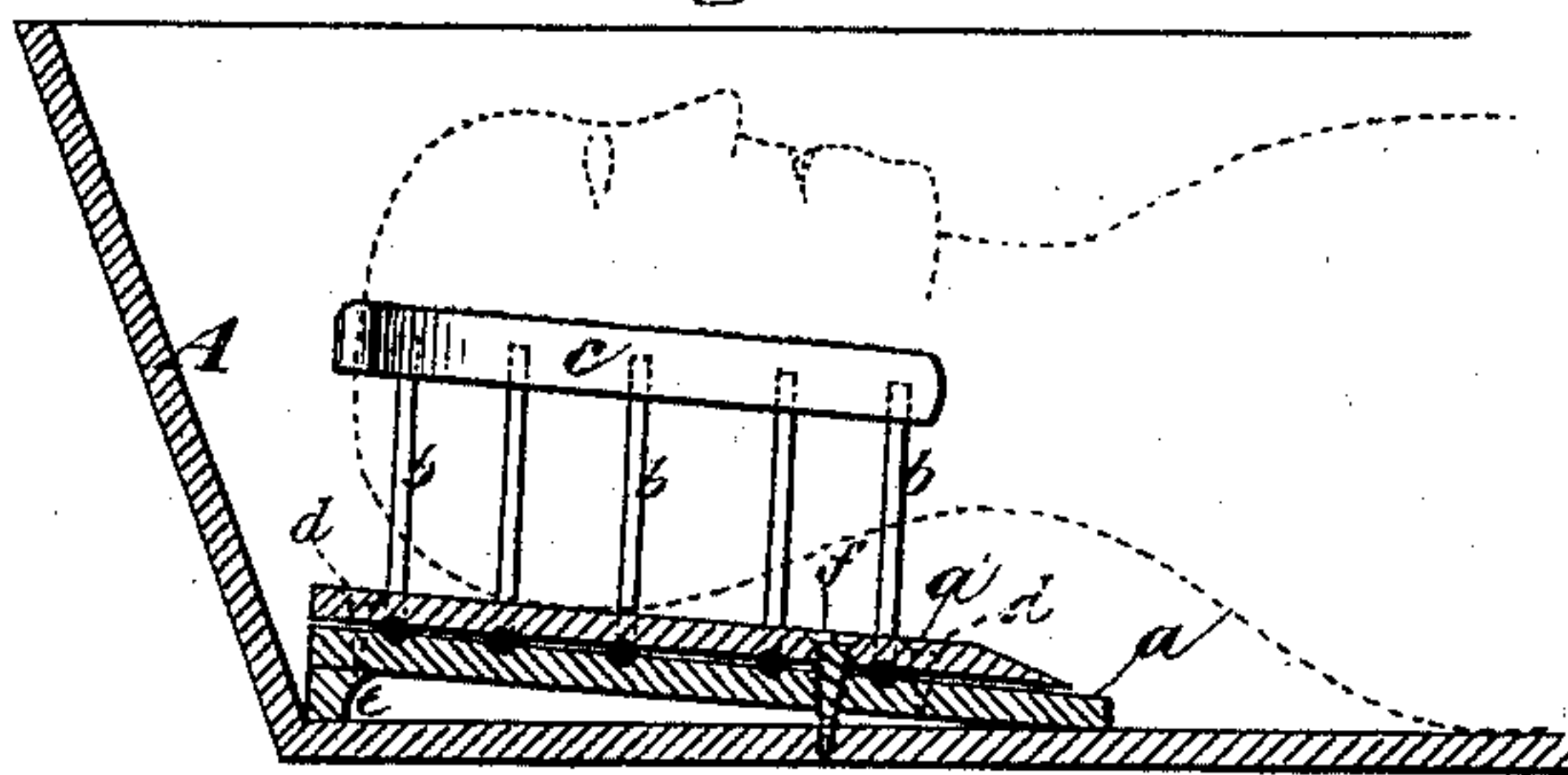


Fig. 3.

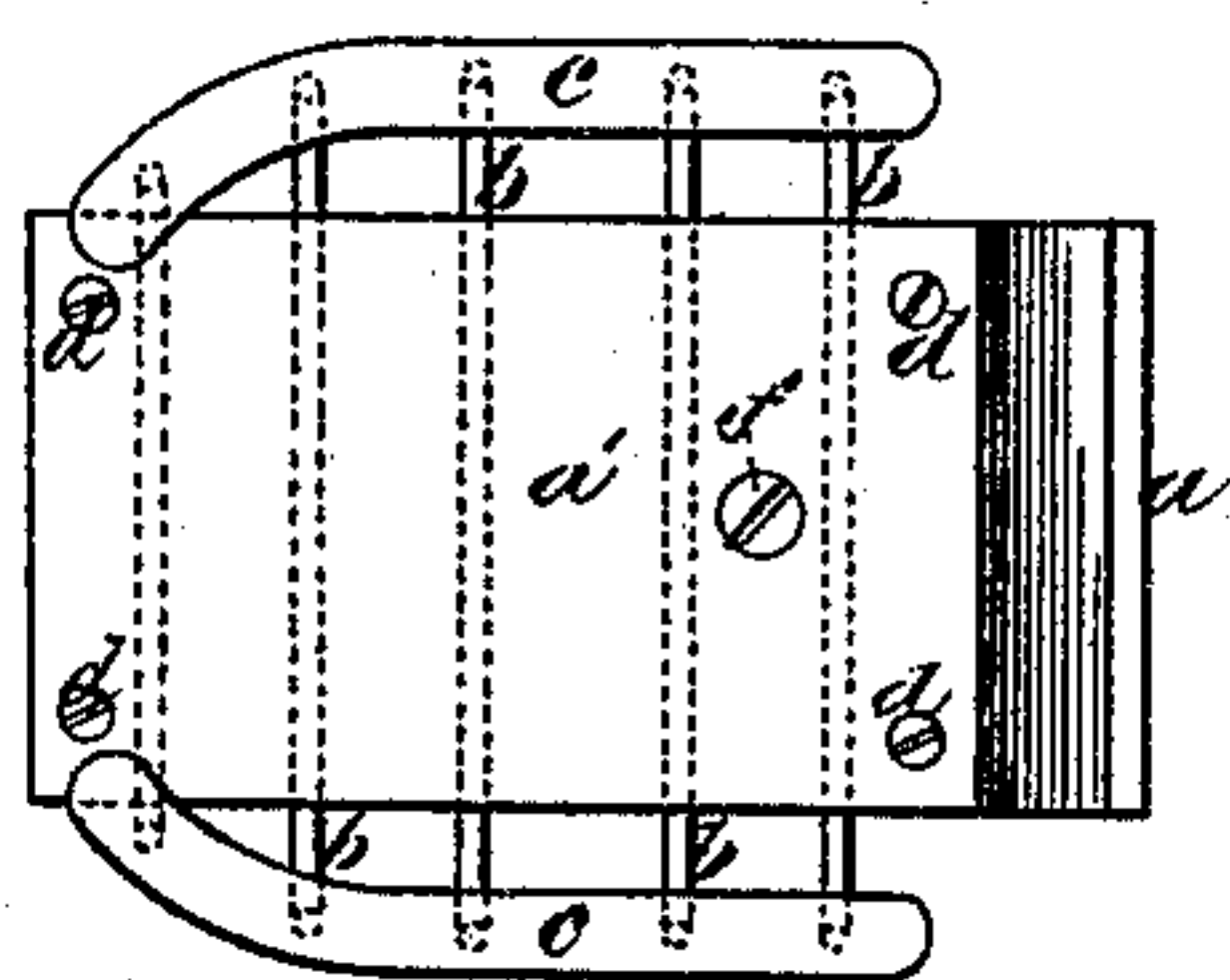


Fig. 4.

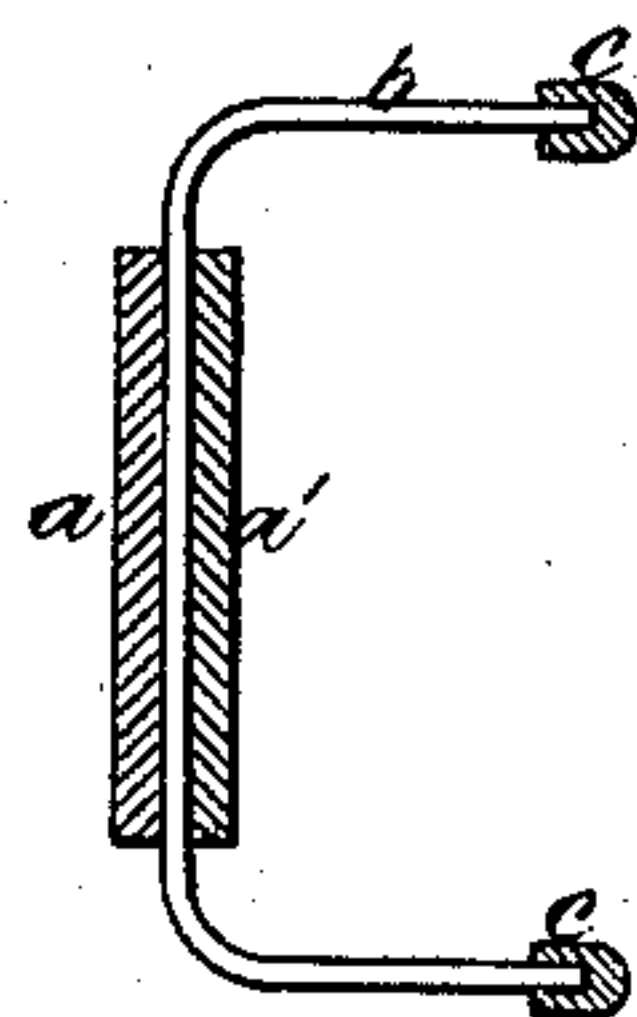


Fig. 2.

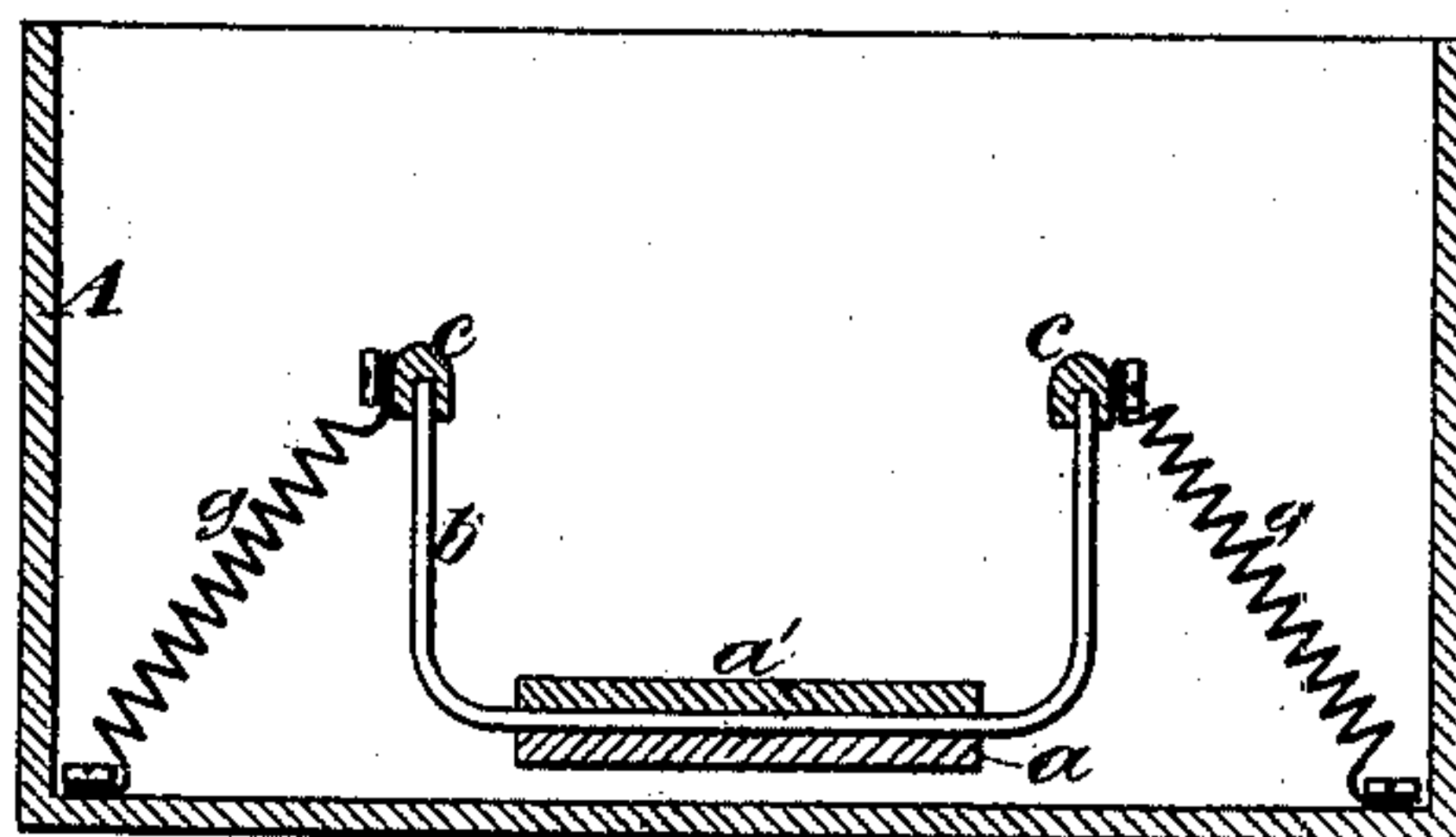
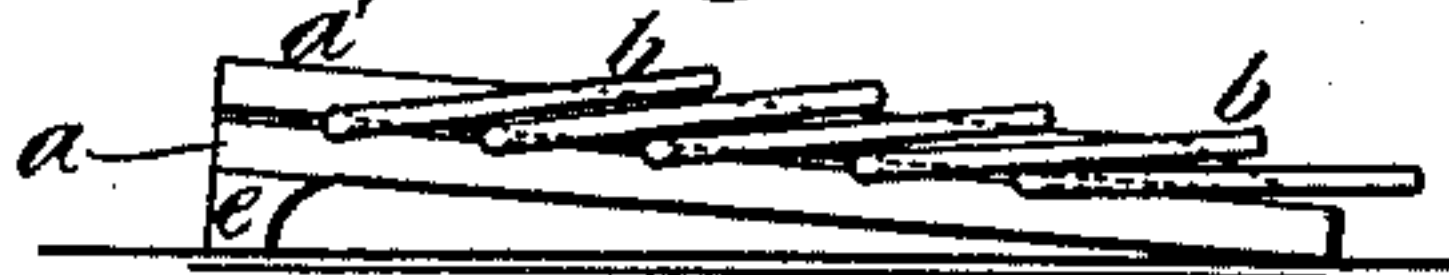


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

Geo. H. Botts
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CYRUS KRAUSER, OF LEEPER, PENNSYLVANIA.

HEAD-REST FOR COFFINS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 368,721, dated August 23, 1887.

Application filed January 22, 1887. Serial No. 225,069. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CYRUS KRAUSER, of Leeper, in the county of Clarion and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Head-Rests or Pillow-Blocks for Coffins and Burial-Caskets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive and easily-concealed means of keeping the head of a corpse in proper position in a coffin or casket during the shaking and jolting to which the coffin or casket and the contained corpse are often subject in funerals by being carried over rough roads for long distances, and which, without some means for this purpose, are apt to produce an unsightly and often very repulsive distortion of the head.

The improvement consists in certain novel combinations of parts, hereinafter described and claimed, constituting a pillow-block, by which the desired object is accomplished.

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the head portion of a coffin and of my improved pillow-block applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view corresponding with Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan of the pillow-block. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of the same. Fig. 5 is a side view of the pillow-block having the cheek-pieces removed and the side bars turned down or folded.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The pillow-block consists, generally, of two base-boards, *a a'*, a series of ribs, *b*, made of steel wire or light elastic metal, and two cheek-pieces, *c*, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3; but sometimes I add diagonal elastic side braces, *g*, on each side, as shown in Fig. 2.

The base-boards *a a'*, which are clamped together by screws *d*, have provided in their opposite faces transverse grooves to form bearings for the straight lower parts of the ribs *b*, which are substantially of the shape of a letter **U**, with the central portion of the bottom extended laterally on a straight line, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The cheek-pieces consist of pieces of wood, which are nearly straight for the greater portion of their length, but have those ends which are to come nearest the head

of the coffin *A* bent slightly inward to come partly over the crown of the head of the corpse. They have holes bored about half through them from the under side to receive the ends of the ribs and hold up the latter, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the ribs entering freely into said holes, so that the cheek-pieces may be easily removable to permit the folding down of the ribs, as shown in Fig. 5, in which condition they may remain until the pillow-block is to be used.

The lower base-board, *a*, is represented in Fig. 1 as having a riser, *e*, attached to the bottom at the end which comes next the head of the coffin to give the base a suitable inclination. The pillow-block is to be secured to the bottom of the coffin or casket by a screw, *f*, or screws passing through it and screwing into the bottom of the coffin, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, one screw being sufficient if the base abuts against the head of the coffin.

The parts are so proportioned that the cheek-pieces stand up about even with or slightly above the ears of the recumbent corpse in the coffin, and so that the said pieces will lie close to and embrace nearly the whole length of the sides of the head.

The cheek-pieces and ribs constitute flexible and elastic walls to support the sides of the head of the corpse, and the ribs, while being capable of yielding laterally, may be stiff enough of themselves to prevent lateral displacement or turning of the head; or they may be further supported and sustained by elastic diagonal thrust-braces *g* on each side, said braces consisting of or comprising coiled springs, and being secured at their lower ends to the outer parts of the bottom or lower parts of the sides of the coffin and at their upper ends to the cheek-pieces.

The method of using this pillow-block or head-rest is as follows: The pillow-block having been placed in the coffin, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, take, say, half a pound of fine cotton and pad the inside of the block or rest as evenly and smoothly as possible, then take a piece of white damask, silk, or linen, or other fabric, about fourteen to sixteen inches wide and about twice as long, and spread it evenly over the top of the entire rest or block. Now let the head of the corpse rest upon that portion

of the cloth immediately over the block or rest, and the weight of the head will cause it to sink with the cloth down upon the cotton bed prepared for it, and the ends of the cloth
5 will hang over each side of the rest or block and so entirely conceal it from view that no one would suspect its presence, and the repulsiveness of any machine-like structure in a coffin be entirely done away with.

10 It may be here stated that the entire cost of such a head-rest or pillow-block without upholstery need not be more than six cents; yet it meets all requirements, and may before its use be folded up in so small compass as to be
15 easily kept out of sight.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the base consisting of two boards and screws for clamping them

together, the ribs clamped between said boards 20 and projecting upward on opposite sides thereof, and the cheek-pieces placed on the upper ends of said ribs, substantially as herein described.

2. The combination, in a head-rest or pillow-block for coffins, &c., of a base, ribs fitted 25 to turn in said base for the purpose of being set up or folded down, and cheek-pieces removably attached to said ribs, substantially as herein described.

3. The combination, in a head-rest or pillow-block for coffins, &c., of a base, flexible 30 side walls, and external elastic lateral braces, substantially as herein described.

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Witnesses:

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