

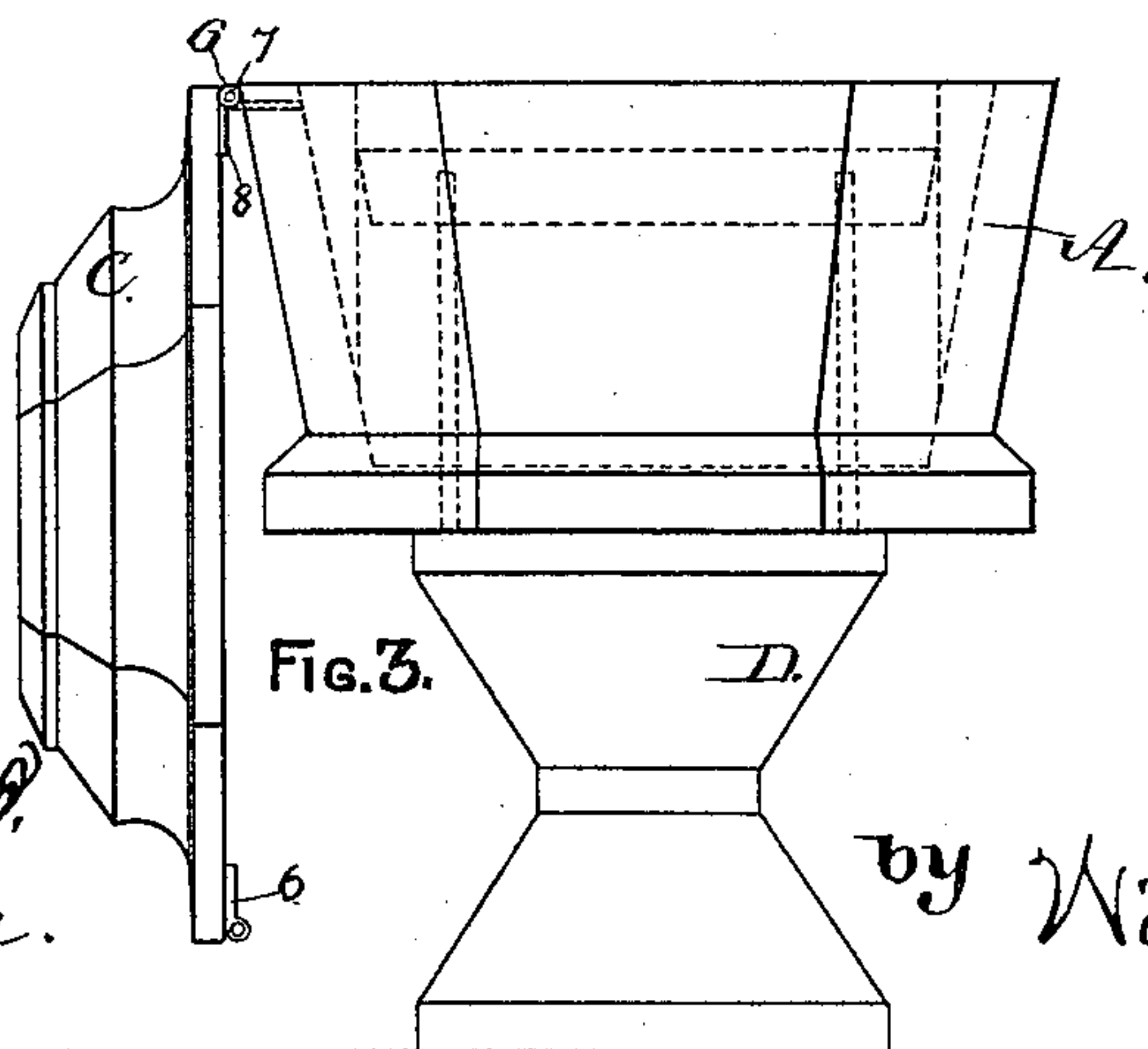
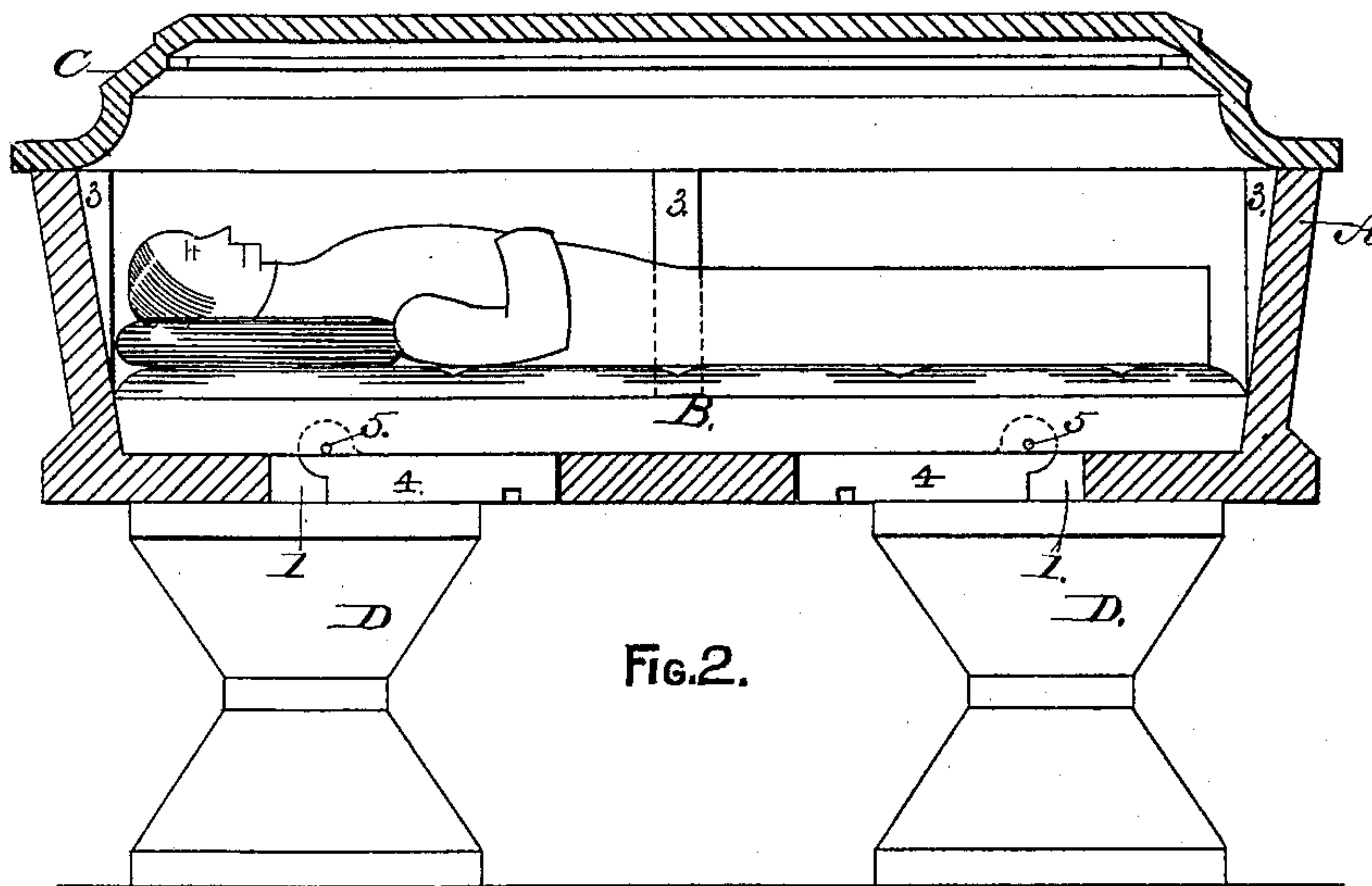
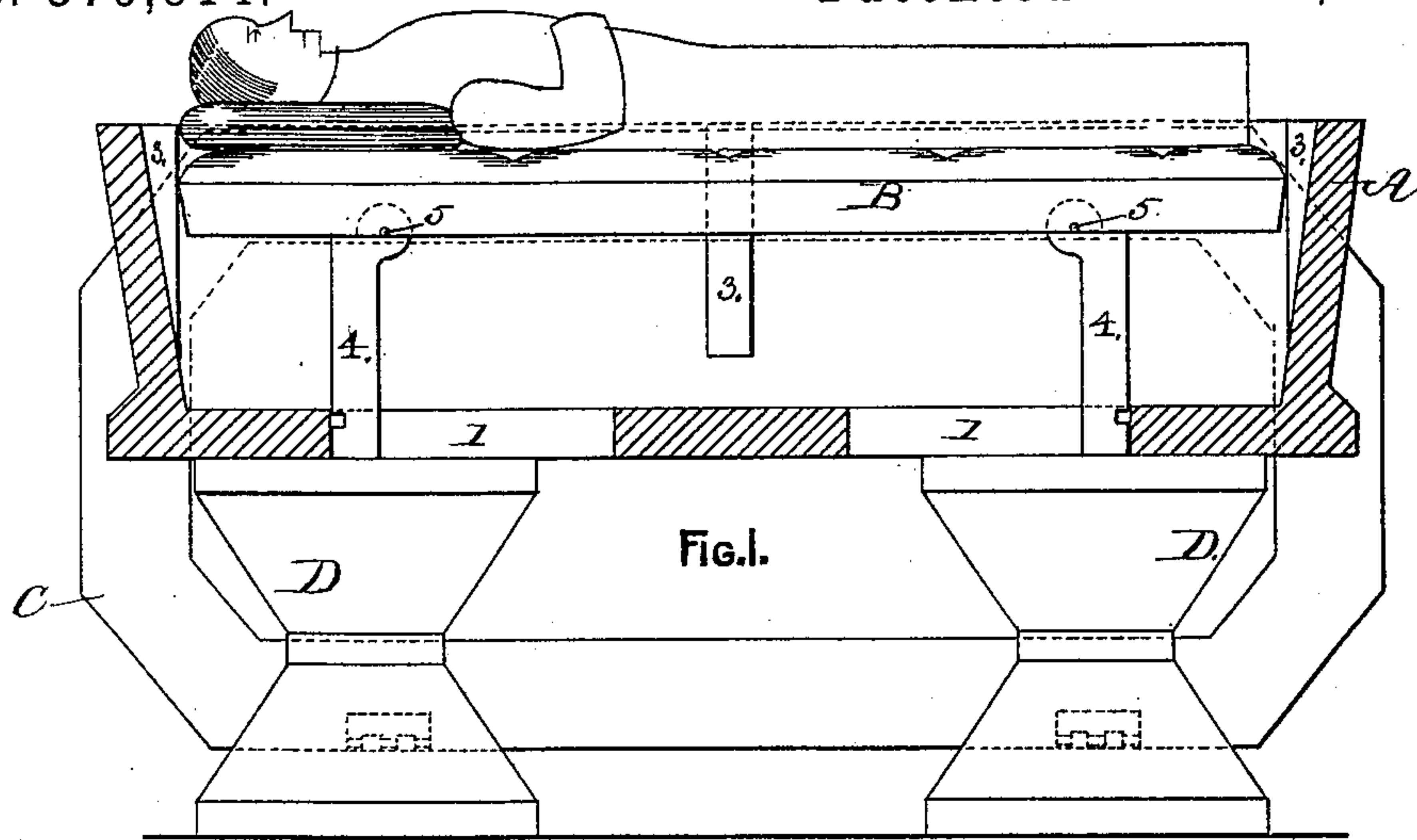
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. RICE.  
COFFIN.

No. 379,814.

Patented Mar. 20, 1888.



Witnesses:

*S. B. Brewer,*  
*H. V. Scattergood.*

Inventor:

HENRY RICE,  
by *William H. Lowe,*  
Attorney.

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

H. RICE.

COFFIN.

No. 379,814.

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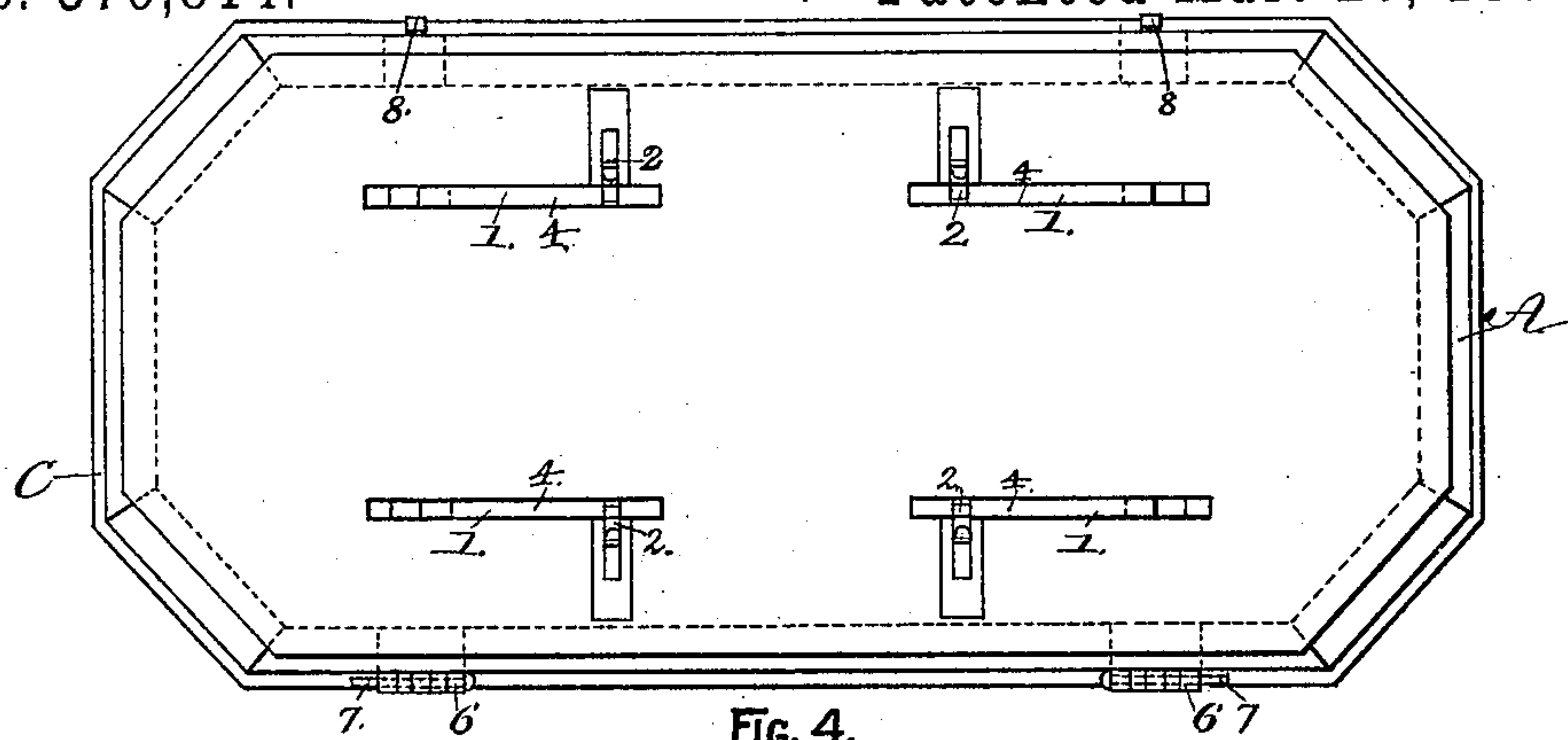


FIG. 4.

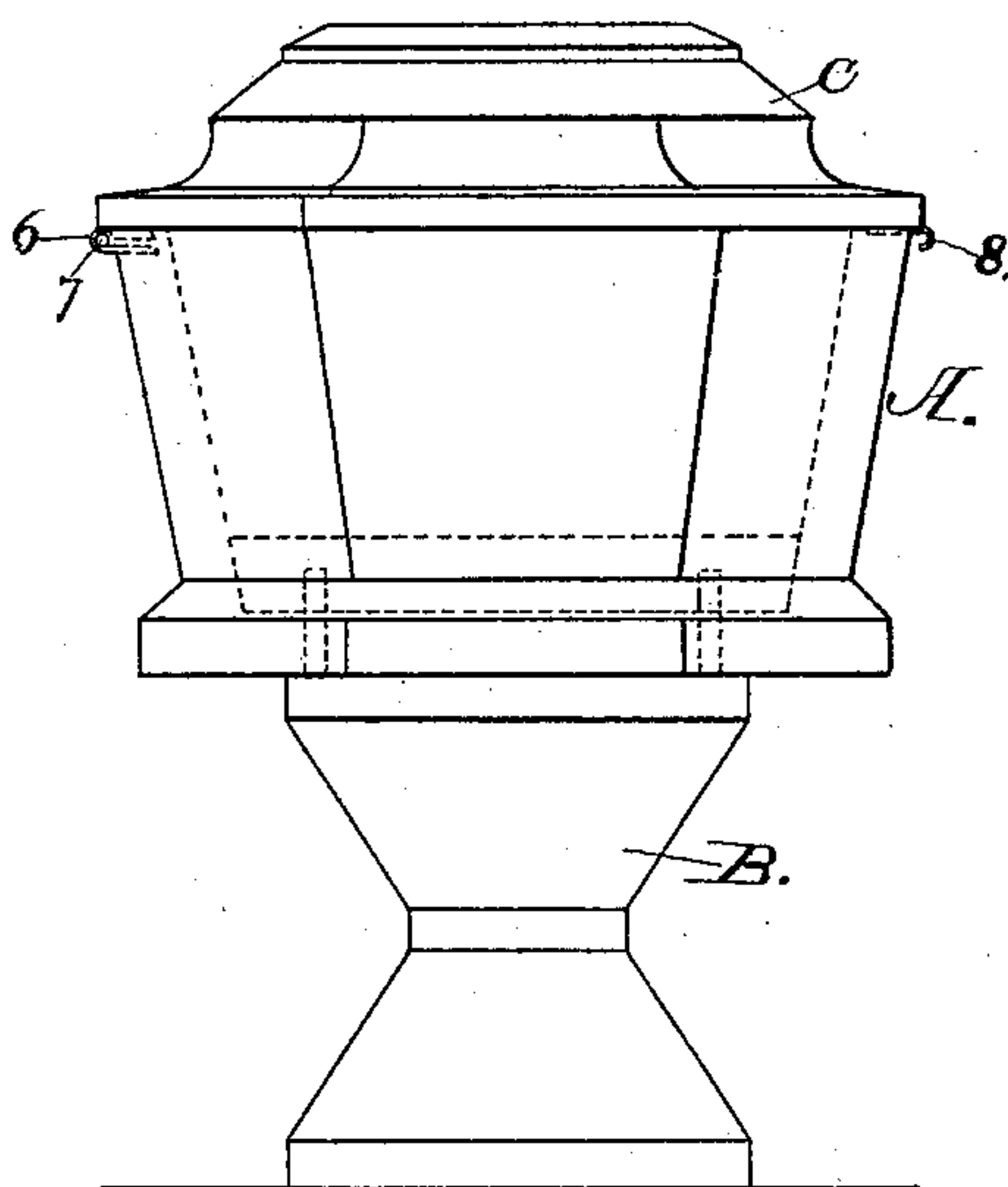


FIG. 5.

Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HENRY RICE, OF CASTLETON, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
FRANK P. HARDER AND JAMES R. DOWNER, BOTH OF SAME PLACE.

## COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 379,814, dated March 20, 1888.

Application filed November 15, 1887. Serial No. 255,198. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY RICE, of Castleton, in the county of Rensselaer and State of New York, have invented new and useful  
5 Improvements in Burial-Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in providing the bottom of the casket with a series of slotted openings, said casket having a movable bottom that  
10 is provided with adjustable supports which are independent of the body of the casket, and which correspond in number and position to the slotted openings in the bottom of the casket; and the object of my invention is to provide facilities for elevating the body of a deceased person  
15 above the level of an open casket, so that the remains can be readily viewed from any direction and at a reasonable distance, without getting directly over the casket, as required  
20 in the present form of burial-caskets. I attain this object by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which are herein referred to and form part of this specification, and in which—

25 Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the body of my casket with the cover in its suspended position and the movable bottom raised to bring the corpse into full view. Fig. 2 is a like section of the body of the casket and  
30 cover with the movable bottom in its lowered position. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the casket with its cover removed from its place on top of the casket. Fig. 4 is an inverted plan view of Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is an end elevation of the casket with its cover secured on  
35 its top.

As represented in the drawings, A indicates the body of my burial-casket, which may be made in any preferred form and finished in  
40 any preferred style. In the bottom of said casket there are four longitudinally-slotted openings, 1, and a corresponding number of ordinary spring catches, 2, so arranged that one of said catches will be at the outer side of  
45 each of said slotted openings with the end of the bolt of said catch projecting into the slotted opening, as shown in Fig. 4. When the body of the casket is made with flaring sides, as shown in the drawings, guiding-strips 3  
50 should be fixed at the inner sides of said body for the purpose of producing a parallel way

in which the movable bottom will be guided in its movements.

B is the movable bottom that is fitted into the body of the casket, so as to be moved up and  
55 down therein. Said movable bottom is preferably upholstered to correspond with the finish of the interior of the casket, and is provided with adjustable supports or legs 4, which are hinged to said movable bottom, as at 5, and are  
60 so arranged that they will lie in the slotted openings 1 when thrown up, as shown in Fig. 2, and in that position will be secured in place by the spring-catches 2. Said adjustable supports  
65 are adapted to swing downwardly through the slotted openings 1 to maintain the movable bottom B in its raised position, as shown in Fig. 1.

C is the cover or lid of the casket, and it is preferably attached to the body A by means  
70 of separable hinges 6, which are connected together by detachable pins 7, so that said cover can be readily removed from the body of the casket. The cover C has on its edge opposite the hinges 6 hooks 8, which, when the pins 7  
75 are inserted in the parts of the hinges secured to the body A, may be engaged over said pins to hold the cover suspended in a convenient place where it will be practically out of the way but in easy reach when required for use.  
80

The operation of my burial-casket is as follows: The movable bottom B being at the bottom of the body of the casket, as shown in Fig. 2, the undertaker, standing at one end of the casket, reaches around and draws back  
85 the spring-catches at the corresponding end of the casket, and thereby he releases the adjustable supports 4 at that end of the casket. Simultaneously therewith he raises the end of the casket at which he is standing, for the purpose of permitting the adjustable supports to swing down into a vertical position. He then permits the body of the casket at that end to return to its lower position. After this is accomplished he goes to the opposite end of the casket and repeats the operations just described,  
95 so as to leave the casket resting on the trestles D, with the movable bottom B raised as shown in Fig. 1. The movable bottom B when raised is restored to its position at the lower part of the body of the casket in the following manner: One end of the casket is raised until the  
100



corresponding end of the movable bottom  
bears on the bottom of the casket and the ad-  
justable supports at the raised end are lifted  
clear from the trestle. The adjustable sup-  
ports at the raised end of the casket are then  
swung upward and secured in the correspond-  
ing slotted openings in the bottom of the cas-  
ket, and the raised end of the casket is low-  
ered, with the corresponding end of the mov-  
able bottom resting on the upper face of the  
bottom of the casket, after which the oppo-  
site end of the casket is manipulated in the  
same manner, and thereby the movable bot-  
tom will be left resting on the upper face of  
the bottom of the casket, and the adjustable  
supports will be in the slotted openings formed  
in the bottom of the casket.

I do not confine myself to the precise means  
herein shown and described for fastening the  
adjustable supports to prevent their protrusion  
below the bottom of the body of the cas-  
ket, as it is obvious that any simple device—  
like a revolving button, for instance—will ef-  
fect the same purpose.

I claim as my invention—

1. A burial-casket having a series of slotted  
openings formed in its bottom, and a movable  
bottom provided with adjustable supports  
which correspond in number and position to  
the said slotted openings, said supports being  
hinged to the movable bottom, so as to swing  
into and out of said slotted openings and there-  
in fastened while in their raised position, as  
and for the purpose herein specified.

2. In a burial-casket, the combination of  
the body of the casket and its cover connected  
together by separable hinges, said cover having  
on its edge that is opposite to the one on which  
the hinges are secured hooks which are made  
independently of said hinges, but which are  
fitted to engage with the hinge-pins of the  
parts of said hinges that are secured to the  
body of the casket for the purpose of suspend-  
ing said cover in a reversed position from the  
body of the casket, as herein specified.

HENRY RICE.

Witnesses:

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