

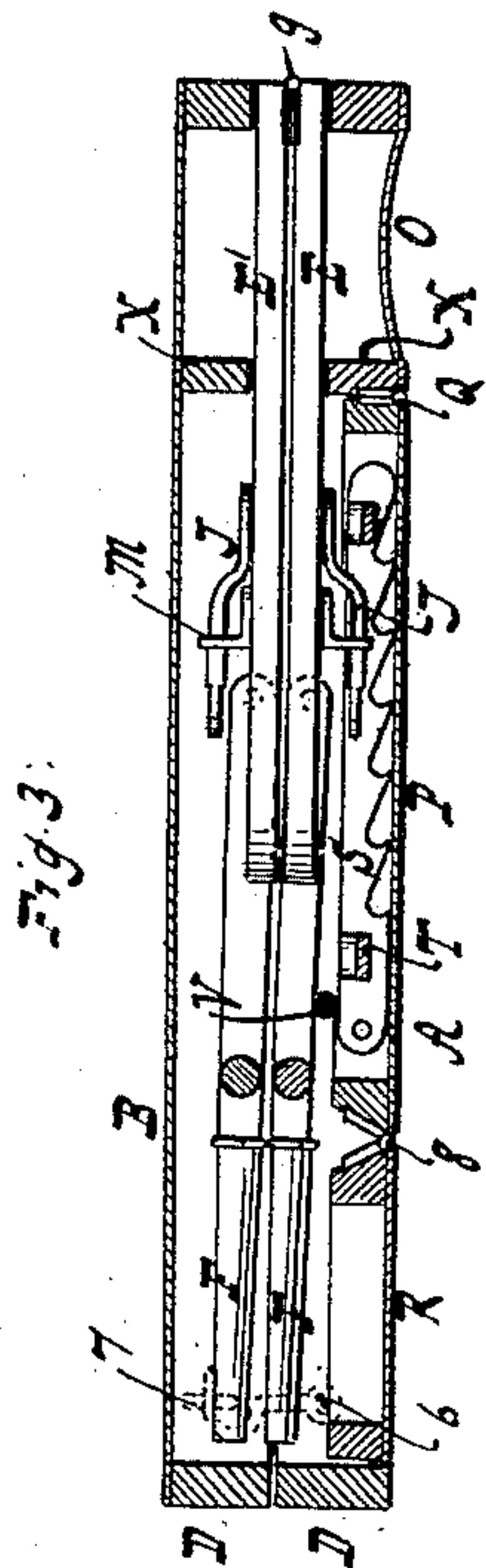
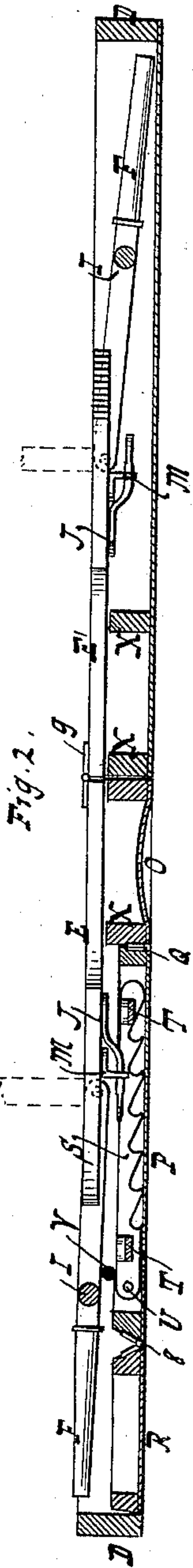
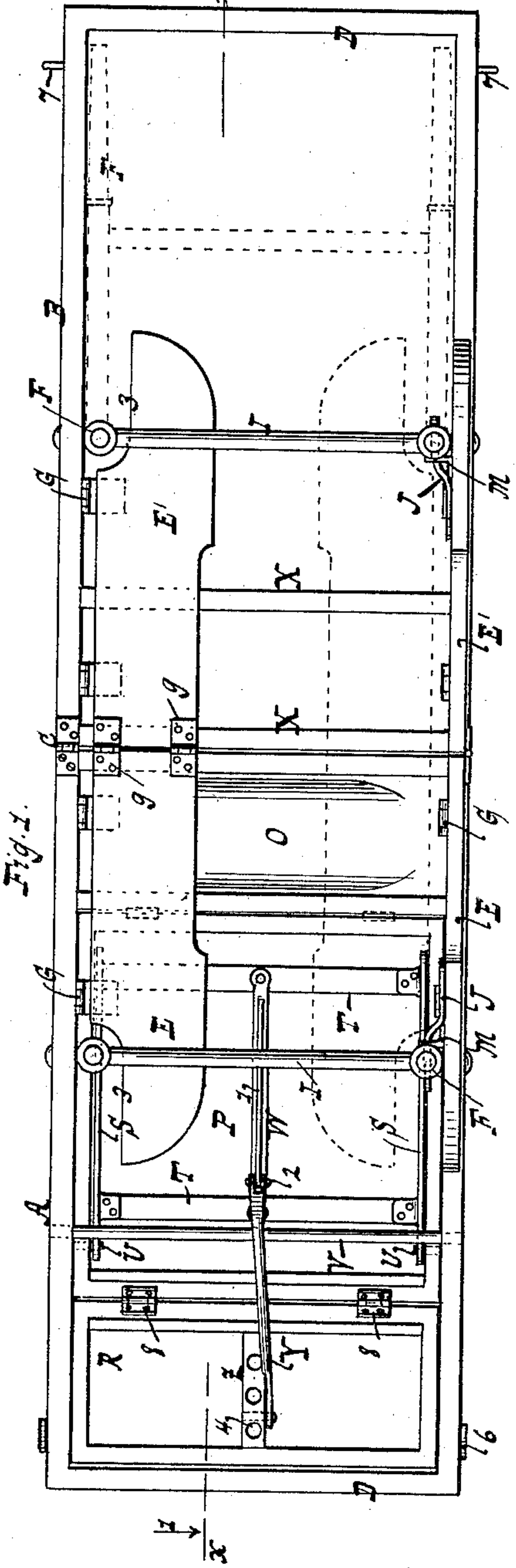
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

L. K. SMEDES.
EMBALMING BOARD.

No. 397,394.

Patented Feb. 5, 1889.



WITNESSES:

William Miller
Eduard Wolff

INVENTOR,

L. K. Smedes

BY

Van Santvoord & Hauff
his ATTORNEYS.

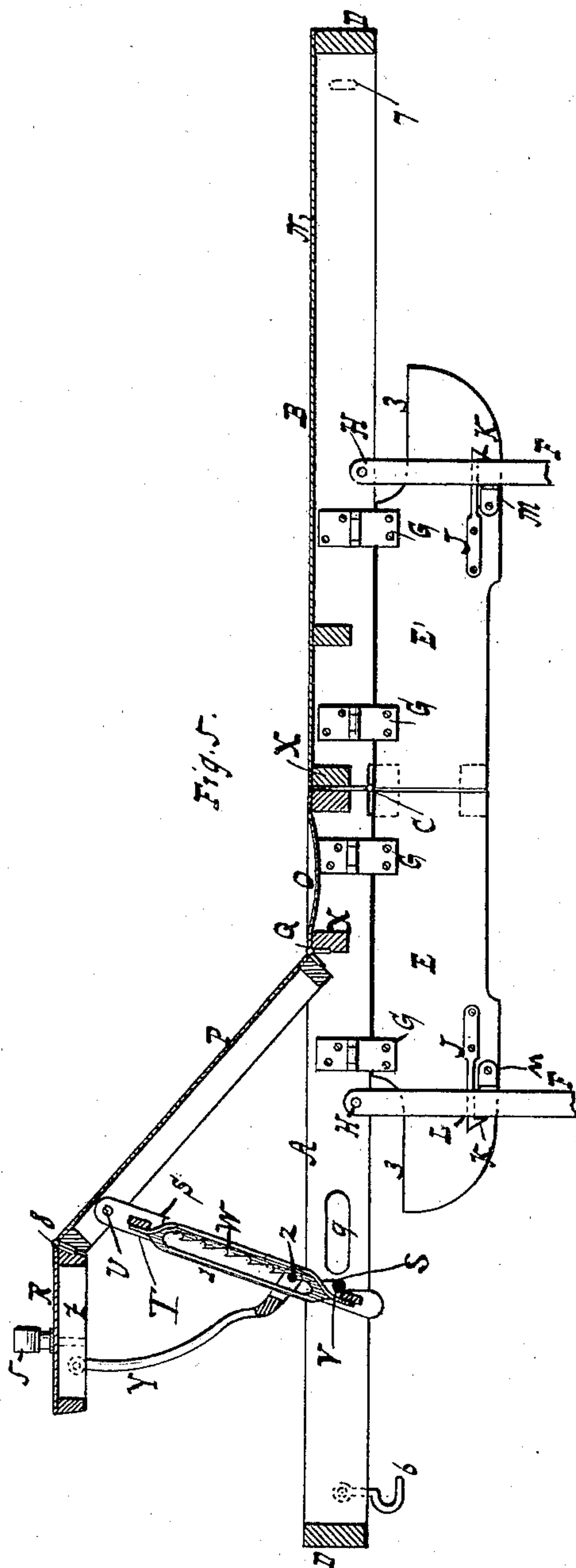
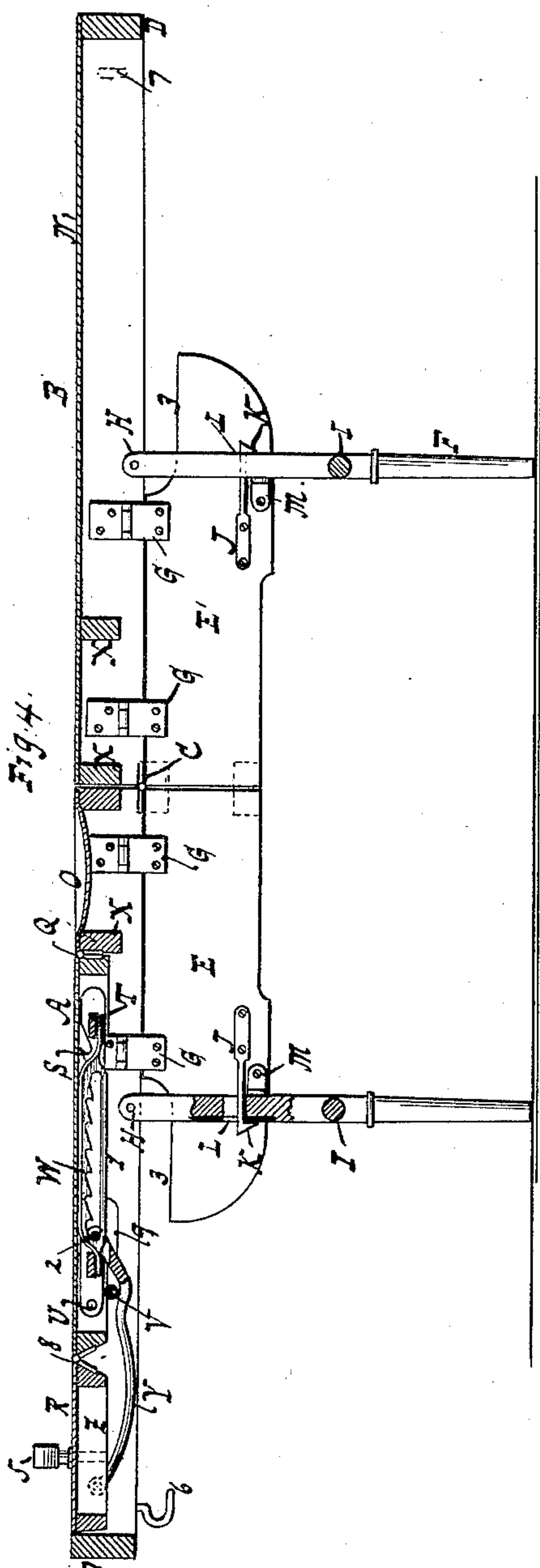
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEVI K. SMEDES, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

EMBALMING-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,394, dated February 5, 1889.

Application filed September 13, 1888. Serial No. 285,321. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEVI K. SMEDES, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county and State of New York, have
5 invented new and useful Improvements in Embalming-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an embalming-board; and it consists in an improvement in
10 the construction thereof, as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an under side view of an embalming-board constructed according to my invention and extended ready for use, excepting
15 that the side rail, E, which is farthest from the observer, is folded down. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of arrow 2. Fig. 3 is a
20 longitudinal section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1 as it would appear when the board is folded, looking in the direction of arrow 1. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1, the board being represented as standing on
25 its feet. Fig. 5 is a section similar to that shown in Fig. 4, except that the head-piece is raised.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

The embalming-board which is the subject
30 of this application is made in two divisions or sections, A and B, which are connected to each other by hinge-joints C C, so that they can be folded up to the position shown in Fig. 3. Each section is provided with a main outer
35 frame, D, to which the side rails, E E', and the legs F are hinged or pivoted. The frame D is suitably strengthened by cross-bars X.

The side rails are made in two sections, E E', which are hinged to each other at *g g* in
40 the same line in which the hinges C C of the board are placed. The side rails are hinged at G G G G to the inner sides of the main frame D, as is plainly seen in Figs. 4 and 5. The joints of the hinges are placed above the
45 lower edge of said frame, so as to allow the side rails to swing up within the frame D, as shown in Fig. 2, thereby also causing the side rails, when unfolded, as in Figs. 4 and 5 and in that side of Fig. 1 which is nearest to the
50 observer, to be flush with the outer sides of the main frame D.

The legs F of the board, two in number for

each section A B, are pivoted to the main frame D at H, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, so that they can be folded up along the inner
55 sides of the frame, as represented in Figs. 2 and 3, and also in dotted lines in Fig. 1. The side rails are cut away at 3 3 to form recesses near their ends adjacent to the sides of the
60 main frame D, so as to prevent them from interfering with the legs F when the latter are folded up into the frame. The legs F of each section A B are connected by a cross-bar, I. When the legs F are swung down to the position
65 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, they are engaged by spring-catches J, which are fastened to the inner faces of the side rails, E E', having at their free ends beveled hooks K, which pass
70 through openings L made for them in the legs and catch by their hooks onto the legs, so as to lock them in their unfolded position. The legs are prevented from swinging open too far by stops M, which are also secured to the side rails.

It is obvious that when the sections A B of
75 the board are extended, and the side rails, E E', swung down, and the legs F brought down and engaged by the spring-catches J, as represented in Figs. 4 and 5, the sections A B and the side rails and legs are effectually locked
80 open.

The board has a covering, N, of wood or other suitable material, in which is formed a depression, O, extending across the table and
85 situated below and near the foot of the adjustable back P. The object of this depression is to provide a receptacle for the lower part of the body, and thereby prevent the subject under treatment from sliding downward when the back piece, P, is raised on its hinges.
90 The depression may be varied in depth according to the judgment of the builder. An opening in the covering N may be substituted for the depression, if desired.

The back P consists of an inner frame set
95 inside of the main frame D, to a cross-bar, X, of which its lower end is hinged by the hinges Q. The upper end of the back P is formed into an adjustable head-piece, R, which is hinged at 8 to a cross-bar of the back P, so as
100 to be adjustable thereon. The cross-bars of the back P and of the head-piece to which the hinges are applied are chamfered at their edges to permit of such adjustment as is

clearly shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5. The back P is provided with two ratchets, S, arranged at the ends of the ratchet-frame T, whose upper part is pivoted at U to the sides of the back P, the said ratchet-frame T being free to swing on the pivots U. The teeth of the ratchets S are engaged by the stationary detent V, whose ends are secured in the sides of the main frame D, as indicated in the several figures of the drawings. When the ratchet-frame T is folded up within the back P, as represented in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, it rests upon said stationary detent V, which then serves to keep it up within the sides of the back P.

The ratchet-frame T contains in the middle of its length another ratchet, W, which, in connection with the detent Y, serves to adjust the head-piece R upon the back P. This ratchet W has its teeth arranged reversely to the direction of the teeth of the ratchets S, as is indicated in Fig. 5, where the stationary detent V is represented to be in engagement with the lower tooth of one of said ratchets S, and part of the upper tooth of one of said ratchets S is seen projecting behind the back of ratchet W.

The detent Y is pivoted by its upper end to a bar, Z, of the head-piece R, and its lower end is forked, as indicated in Fig. 5. The ratchet W is a closed ratchet, and its front bar, 1, passes between the forks of the detent, whose forks are closed at their ends by a pin, 2, which engages the teeth of the ratchet W. By this construction of ratchet W and detent Y the detent is prevented from becoming disconnected from the ratchet.

The bar Z of the head-piece is provided with perforations 4 to hold the shank of a movable head-rest, 5, which may be set in one or another of them.

When the board is folded up for transportation or for storing it away, it is locked by means of hooks 6, which engage with eyes 7, provided in the sides of the main frame.

The sides of the main frame are provided with hand-holes 9 at convenient points for lifting and handling the board.

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

1. The divided embalming-board A B, and the folding legs F, pivoted to the main frame D and adapted to be folded up within the frame, in combination with the folding divided side rails, E E', hinged to the frame D and provided with recesses 3 3 and spring-catches J, substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination, with an embalming-board and its frame, of the adjustable hinged back P, the swinging ratchet-frame T, pivoted to the back and having ratchets S and W, the stationary detent V, secured to the frame of the board, the adjustable hinged head-piece R on the back, and the detent Y, pivoted to the head-piece, substantially as described.

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

LEVI K. SMEDES. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

J. VAN SANTVOORD,
E. F. KASTENHUBER.