

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. McGOVERN.
COFFIN.

No. 427,889.

Patented May 13, 1890.

Fig: 1.

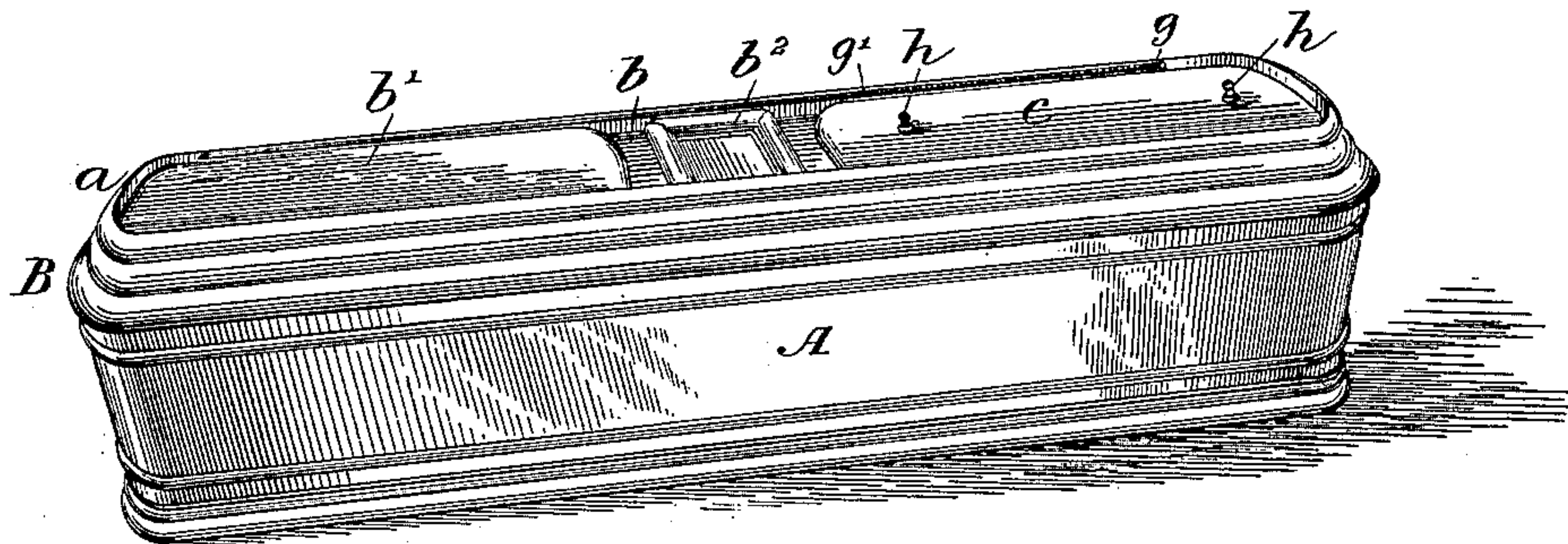


Fig: 2.

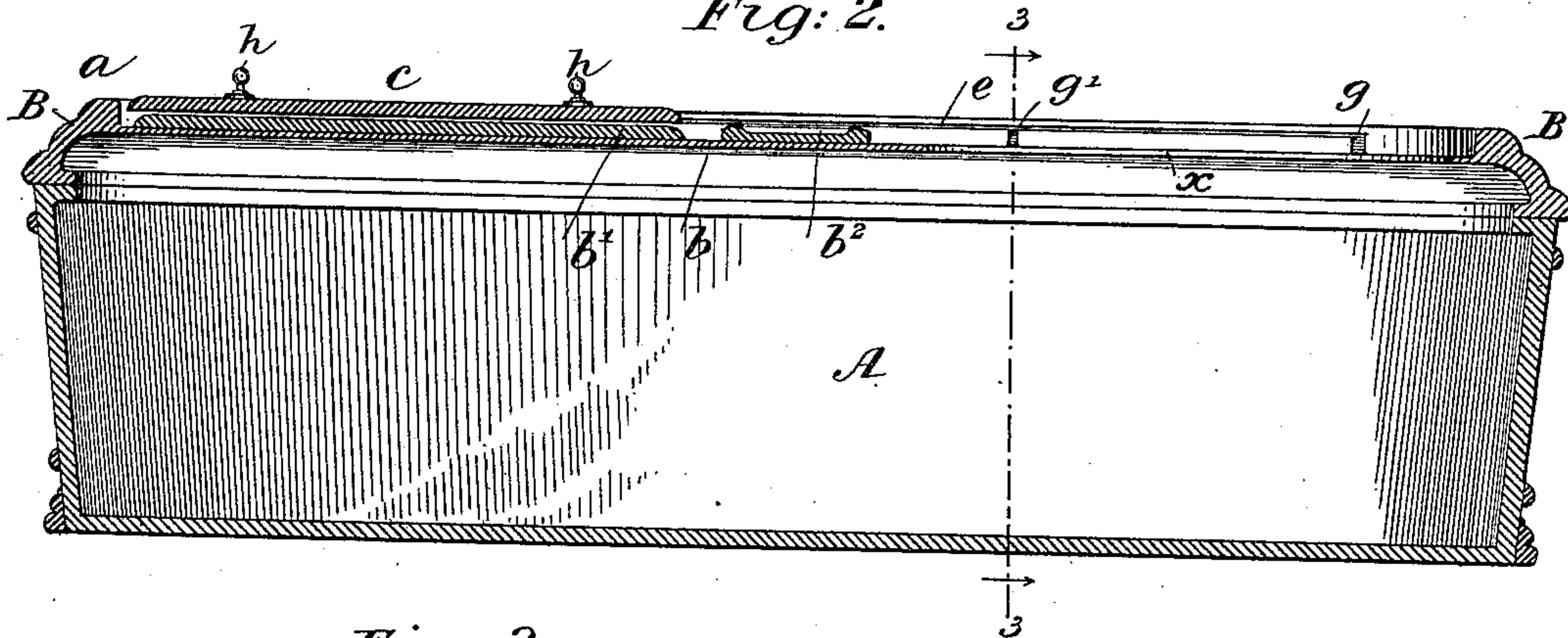


Fig: 3.

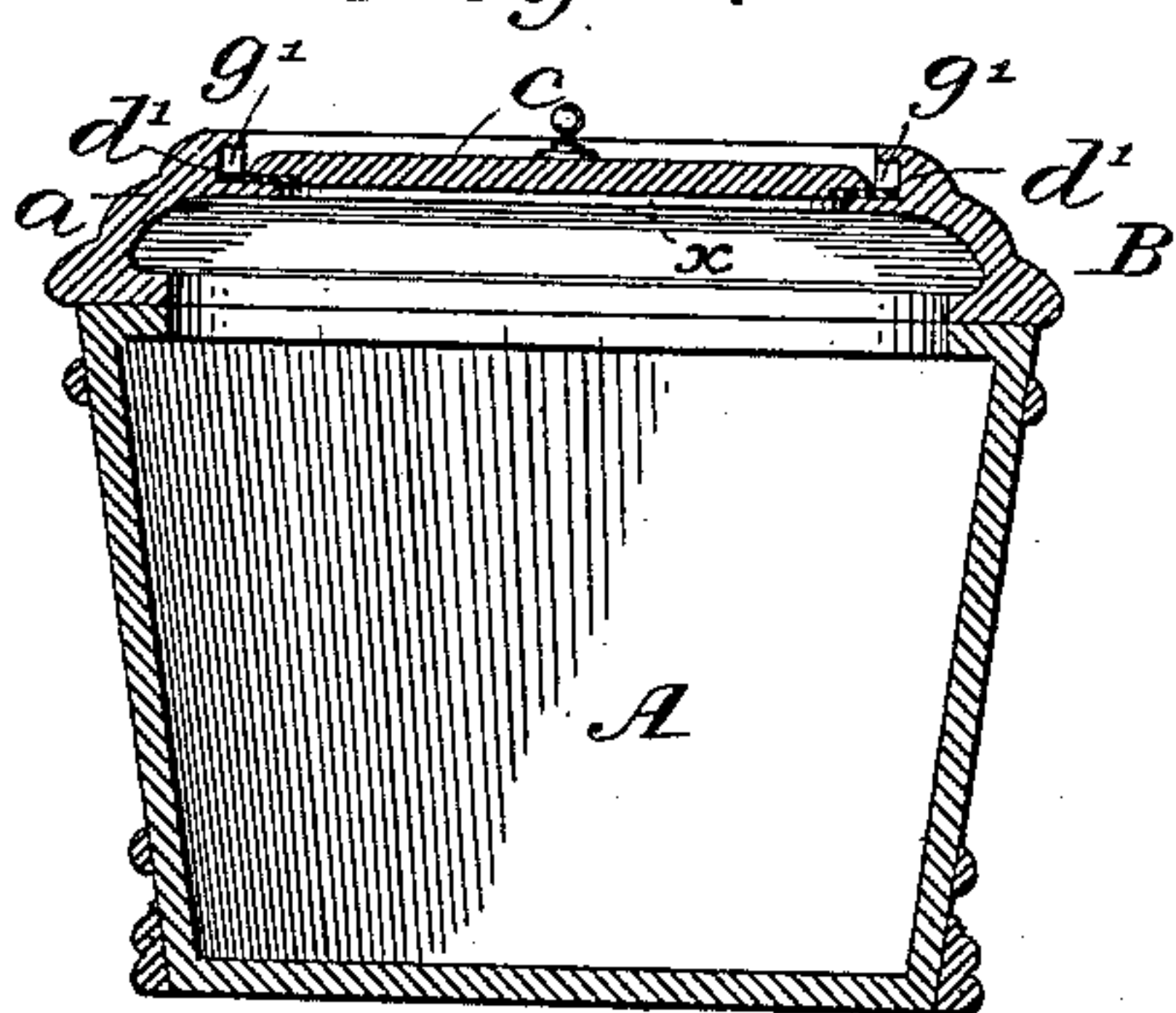


Fig: 4.

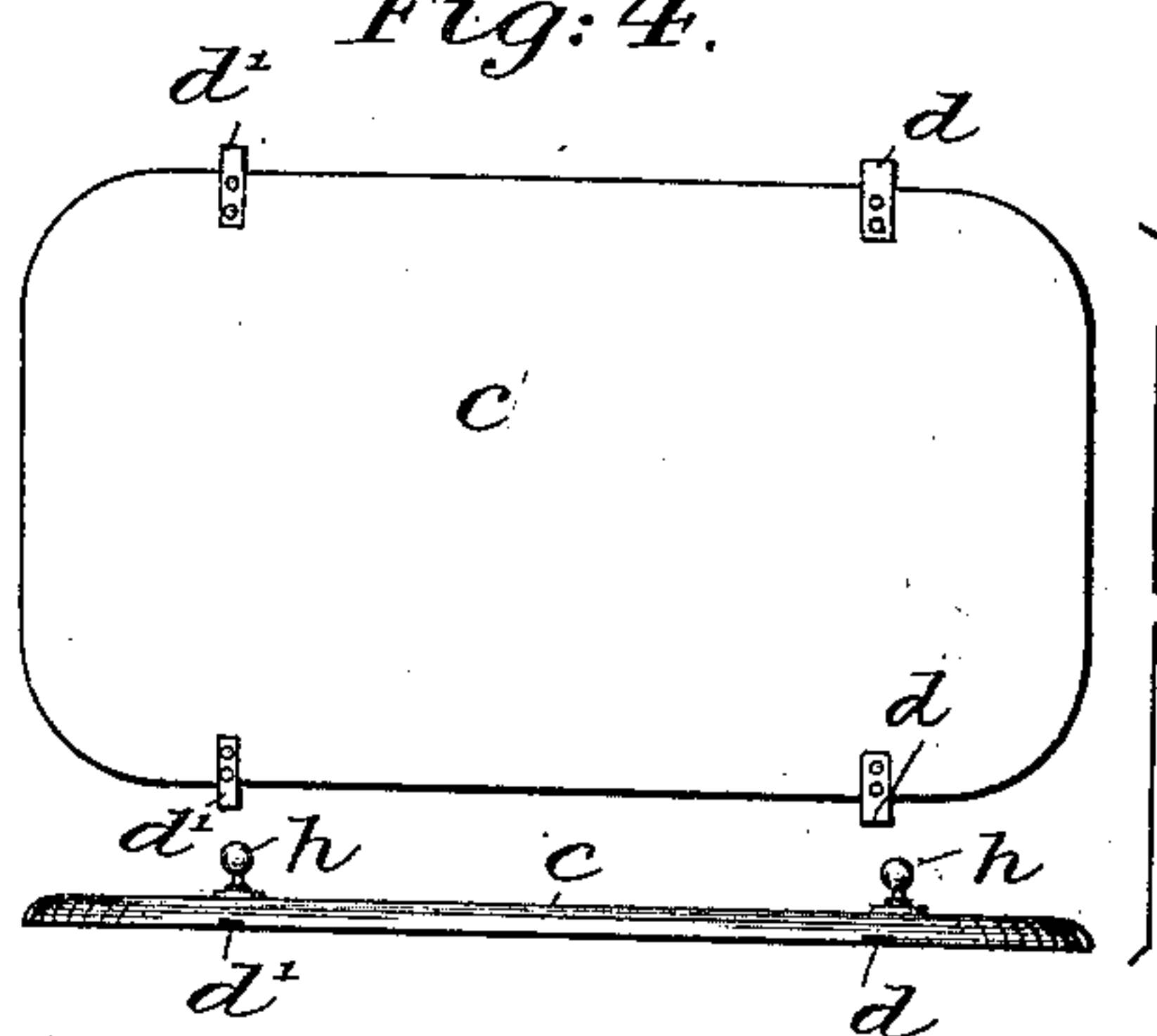
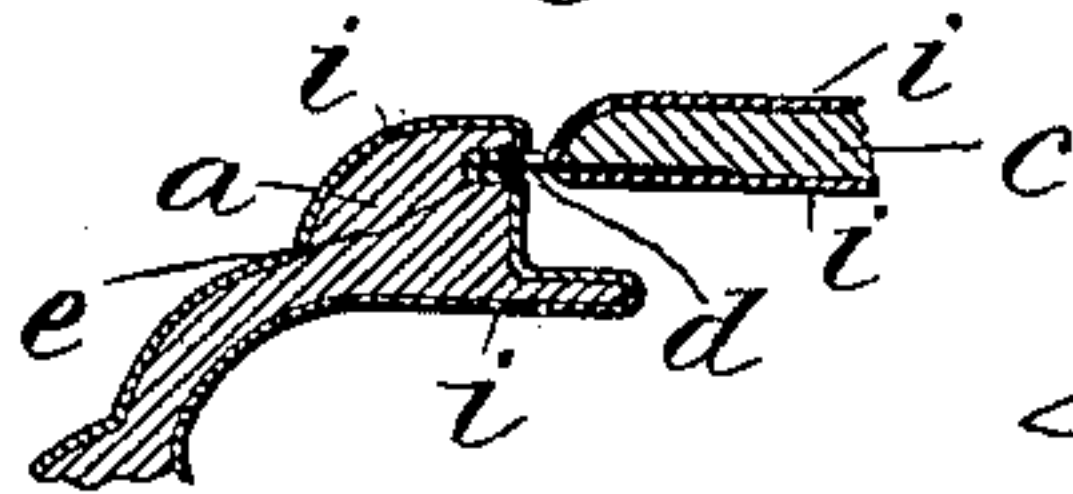


Fig: 10.



INVENTOR:

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WITNESSES:
John D. Kennel
J. H. Caplinger

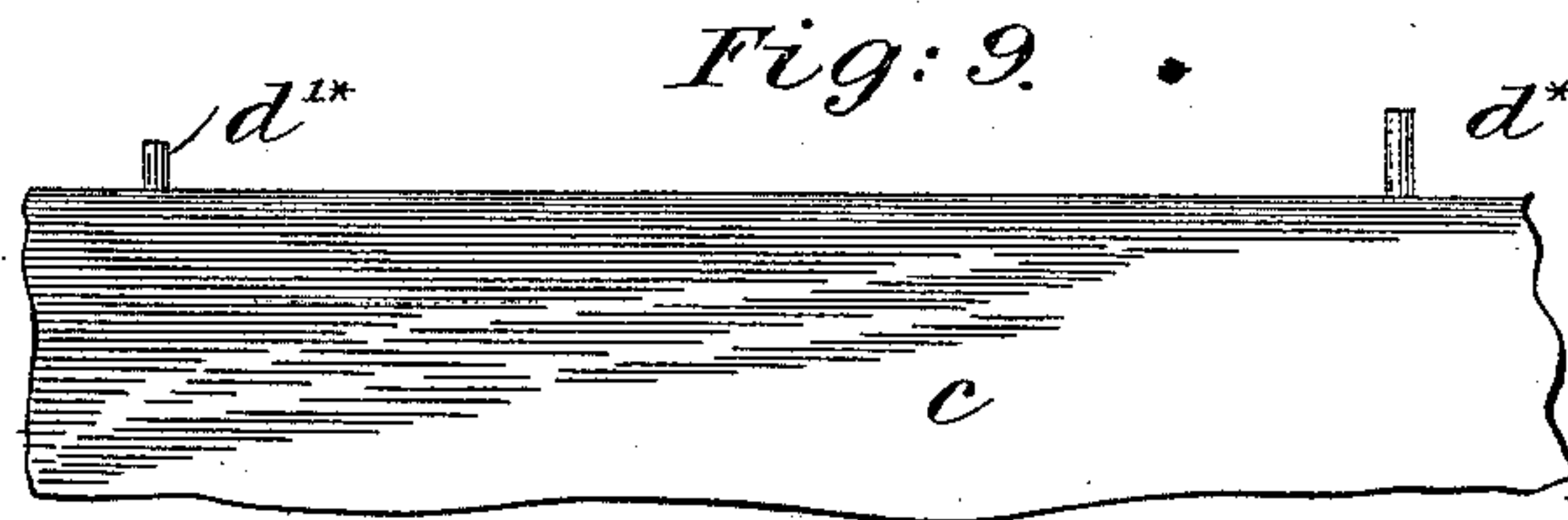
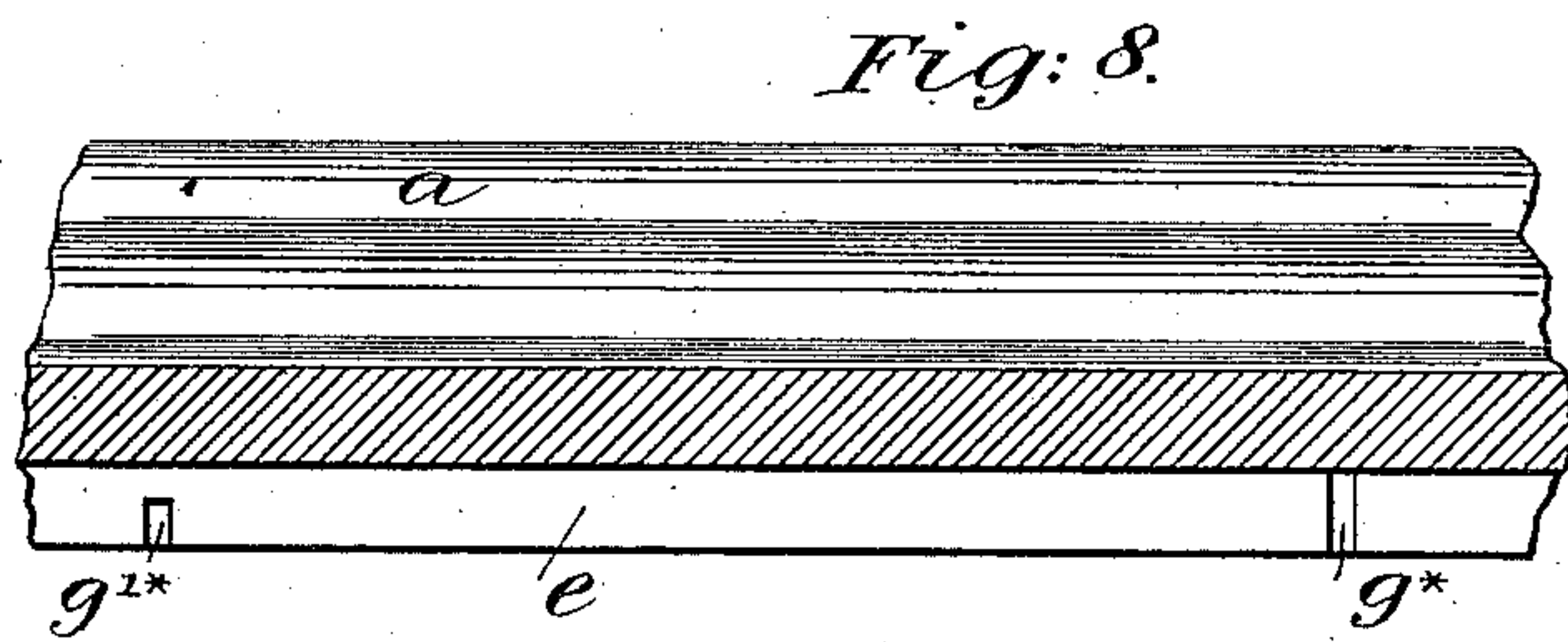
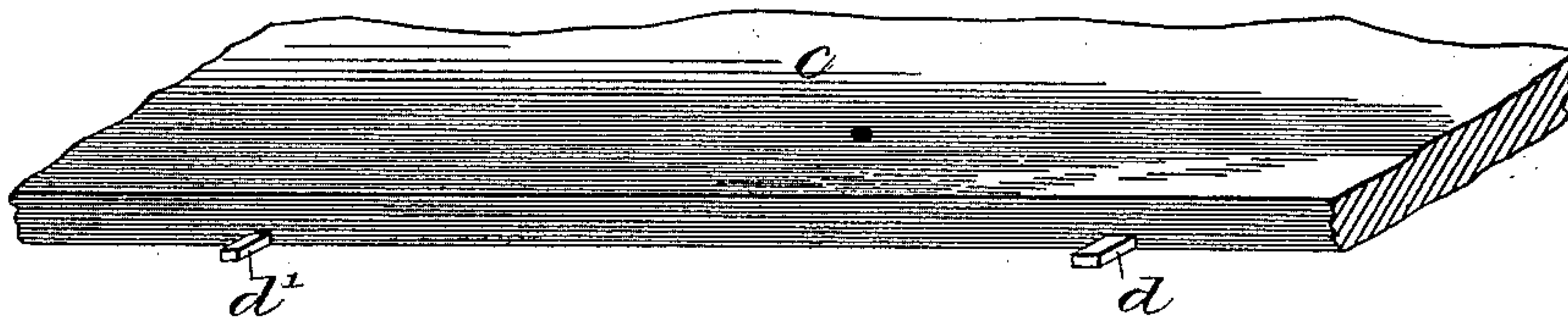
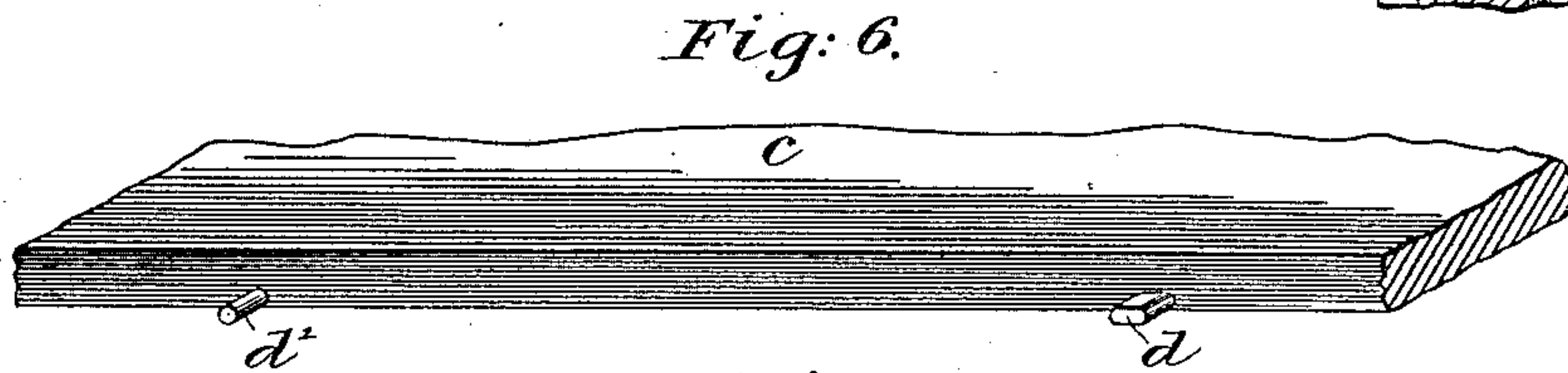
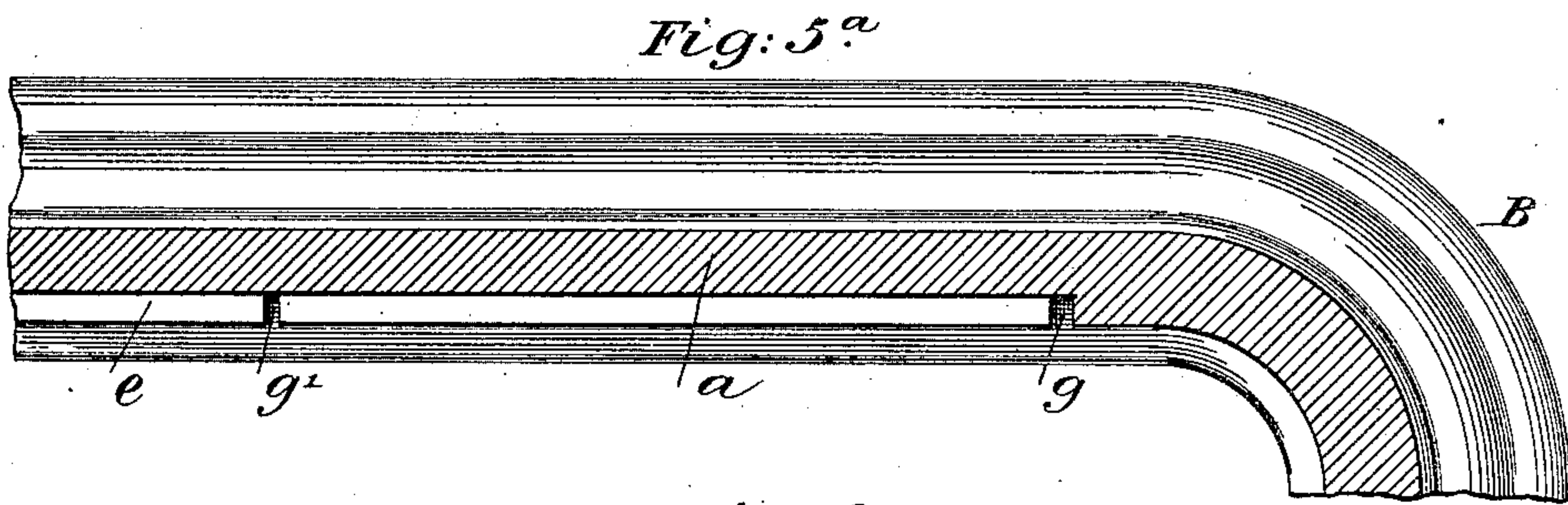
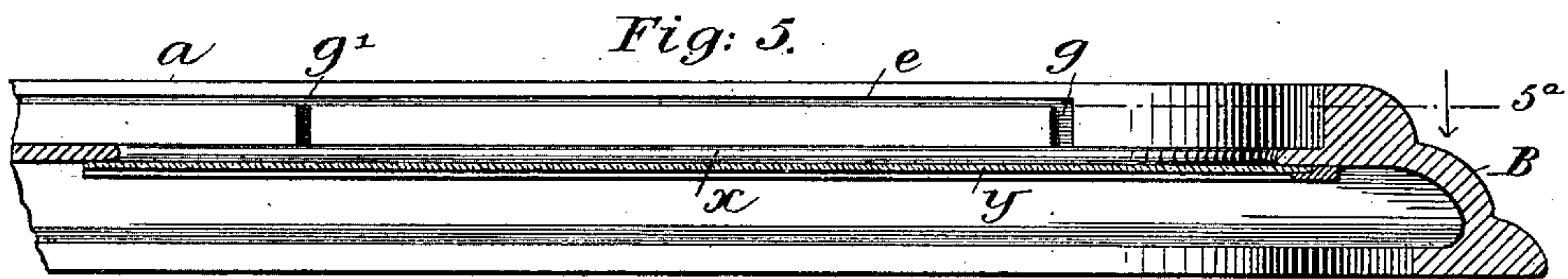
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INVENTOR:

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WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS MCGOVERN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 427,889, dated May 13, 1890.

Application filed September 16, 1889. Serial No. 324,047. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS MCGOVERN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Burial Cases or Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of burial cases, caskets, or coffins in which the lid of the casket, &c., is provided with a sliding cover-section; and the object of my invention is to improve the construction illustrated in the United States Letters Patent No. 407,897, granted to me July 30, 1889. In this patent I show and describe a casket in which the lid has a sliding cover-section, the edges whereof engage and slide in grooves in the elevated marginal rail of the lid. This section is adapted to slide over and above the fixed cover-section of the lid, and the grooves wherein it slides are made wider vertically at the head end of the casket in order that the said sliding section may descend at this point to the level of or flush with the fixed section. I find that this construction renders the grooves unsightly and seriously mars the appearance of the casket. In the construction herein set forth the grooves are rendered very inconspicuous, and the same or better results are attained.

My invention will be fully described hereinafter, and its novel features carefully defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrative of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a case or casket embodying my invention. This view shows the sliding panel or section in its normal position, or closed. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the casket, showing the sliding panel displaced, or open. Fig. 3 is a transverse section in the plane indicated by line 3 3 in Fig. 2, but representing the sliding panel in section. Fig. 4 shows the sliding panel detached, the views representing the under side and edge thereof. Figs. 5 and 5^a are enlarged fragmentary views illustrating the form of the grooves. Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation, and Fig. 5^a is a sectional plan, the plane of the section being indicated by line 5^a 5^a in Fig. 5. Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 illustrate constructions that will be hereinafter described.

A represents the body of the casket, and B the removable lid of the same. These may be in general of the usual construction, and may be made of any suitable material. My present invention relates solely to the lid B. About the margin of the lid is a raised rim *a*, and integral with this rim is the depressed covering portion *b* of the lid. This covering portion has a raised foot-panel *b'*, a raised center panel *b²*, and at the head end of the casket there is an aperture *x* in the portion *b*, which will usually be furnished with a glass plate *y*, as seen in Fig. 5. This use of a glass plate is common in caskets and coffins and forms no part of my invention.

To cover the aperture *x*, I employ a sliding panel *c*, which will be preferably of the same size, contour, and thickness as the foot-panel *b'*, whereby when the panel *c* is in place, as seen in Figs. 1 and 3, it will give the lid of the casket a uniform appearance. The panel *c* fits quite snugly between the side portions of the raised rim *a*, as seen in Fig. 3, and is provided at its lateral edges with oppositely-arranged projecting dowels *d d* and *d' d'*, which project into grooves *e e* in the respective inner faces of the rim *a* and form bearings or supports in said grooves for the sliding panel. The grooves *e* are very narrow, measured vertically, and are purposely made so in order that they may be as inconspicuous as possible, and they are arranged, moreover, so as to enable the panel *c* to be slid over and above the foot-panel *b'*, as seen in Fig. 2. The dowels will also be thin or slender, so that they may slide freely in and along the grooves, and they may be of steel or other stiff metal, if desired. Preferably the dowels will be placed close to or flush with the lower face of the panel *c*, as represented in Figs. 6 and 7, which show, respectively, two forms of said dowels.

In order to enable the panel *c* to descend and rest upon the cover *b* about the aperture *x* when the said panel is slid to its normal position, lateral slots, recesses, or grooves *g* and *g'* are formed in the inner faces of the side portions of the rim *a*, extending from the slots *e* down to the surface upon which the panel *c* is destined to rest. These lateral grooves are so placed as to receive the respective dowels *d* and *d'*. Two pairs of dow-

els are used in order to provide the proper four points of support for the panel *c* in its sliding movement, and in order that the dowels *d*, nearest the head end of the panel, may not drop into or catch in the lateral grooves *g'* when the panel *c* is raised and slid down toward the foot of the casket, the said dowels are by preference made wider than the dowels *d'*, the lateral grooves *g* being of course made wider than the grooves *g'*. This construction is not absolutely essential, as the operator may slide the panel *c* without it if care be taken; but it avoids the liability of the dowels at the head end of the panel catching in the lateral grooves *g'* when they pass over the latter.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the dowel *d* made from a rod or wire of oval section and the dowel *d'* made from a rod or wire of cylindrical section; but they may both be made of sheet metal, as seen in Fig. 7, the dowel *d* being made a little wider than the dowel *d'*.

The difficulty sought to be remedied by making one pair of dowels wider than the other and one pair of lateral grooves correspondingly wider than the other may be obviated by an equivalent construction illustrated in Figs. 8 and 9, the former of which is a section similar to Fig. 5^a and the latter a plan view of a part of the sliding panel *c*, provided with dowels. In these views the lateral grooves *g^x* and *g'^x* are of the same width, and the corresponding dowels *d^x* and *d'^x* are also of the same width and made to fit the grooves; but the dowels *d'^x* are made shorter than the dowels *d^x* and do not extend into the full depth of the grooves *e*, and the grooves *g'^x* are correspondingly abbreviated in depth, as seen in Fig. 8. This will prevent the lower dowels *d^x* from dropping into the shallower grooves *g'^x*.

The construction of the grooves as herein described and the use of thin or slender dowels to play therein render the grooves very inconspicuous, which is an important desideratum in this class of structures.

In order to displace the panel *c*, it is only necessary to raise it until the dowels enter the longitudinal or main grooves *e*, when it may be slid to the position seen in Fig. 2.

I have shown the panel *c* provided with buttons or lifters *h*, whereby it may be conveniently operated, and it may also be provided with a fastening to retain it in place when the casket is closed; but this forms no part

of my invention, and I have not shown it in the drawings.

I have shown my invention applied to a burial-case of wood, the sliding panel *c* being also of wood; but the case or casket may be of metal as well, and the panel *c* may be of metal also—as sheet metal, for example. In this case the dowels may, if desired, be integral with the sliding panel.

In the principal figures I have not shown the casket covered with cloth; but it may be and usually is so covered. In Fig. 10, which is a fragmentary sectional view on a large scale, I have shown the parts covered with cloth *i*. A fold of this cloth extends into the groove *e* in such a manner as to substantially fill the same, and to the eye the groove will present the appearance of a mere crease in the fabric; but the yielding nature of the soft fabric will permit the thin smooth metal dowels to slide freely and noiselessly along said groove, displacing the fabric as it moves. The dowel may be of thin steel plate smoothed and rounded at its edges, so as not to cut or tear the cloth.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination, with the body of the casket, of the removable lid of the same, said lid having a raised marginal rim *a*, provided with narrow longitudinal grooves *e* in the inner faces of said rim and with lateral branch grooves, as *g* and *g'*, from the grooves *e*, and the sliding panel *c*, provided at its edges with dowels, as *d* and *d'*, arranged to engage said lateral branch grooves when the panel is in place, as set forth.

2. The combination, with the body of a casket, of the removable lid thereof, said lid having a raised marginal rim *a*, a cover portion *b*, with an aperture *x* therein, grooves *e* in the inner faces of the raised rim and above the level of the portion *b*, lateral grooves *g* and *g'*, branching from the grooves *e*, the groove *g* being larger than the groove *g'*, and the sliding panel *c*, provided with dowels *d* and *d'* of unequal size, engaging the said grooves, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOMAS MCGOVERN.

Witnesses:

HENRY CONNETT,
J. D. CAPLINGER.