

(No Model.)

W. P. SHERMAN.
EXHIBITOR FOR CASKETS OR COFFINS.

No. 518,335.

Patented Apr. 17, 1894.

Fig. 1.

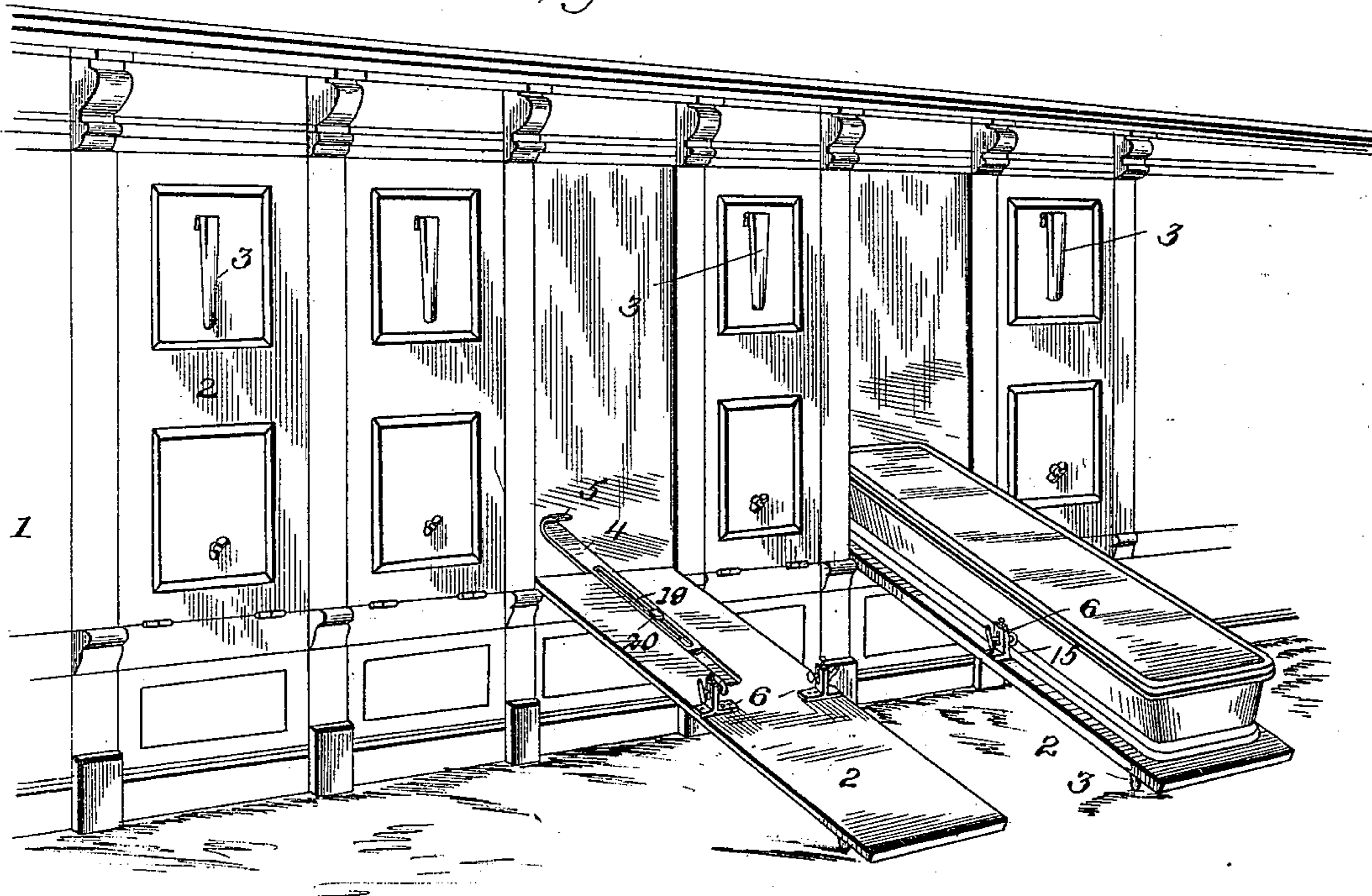


Fig. 2.

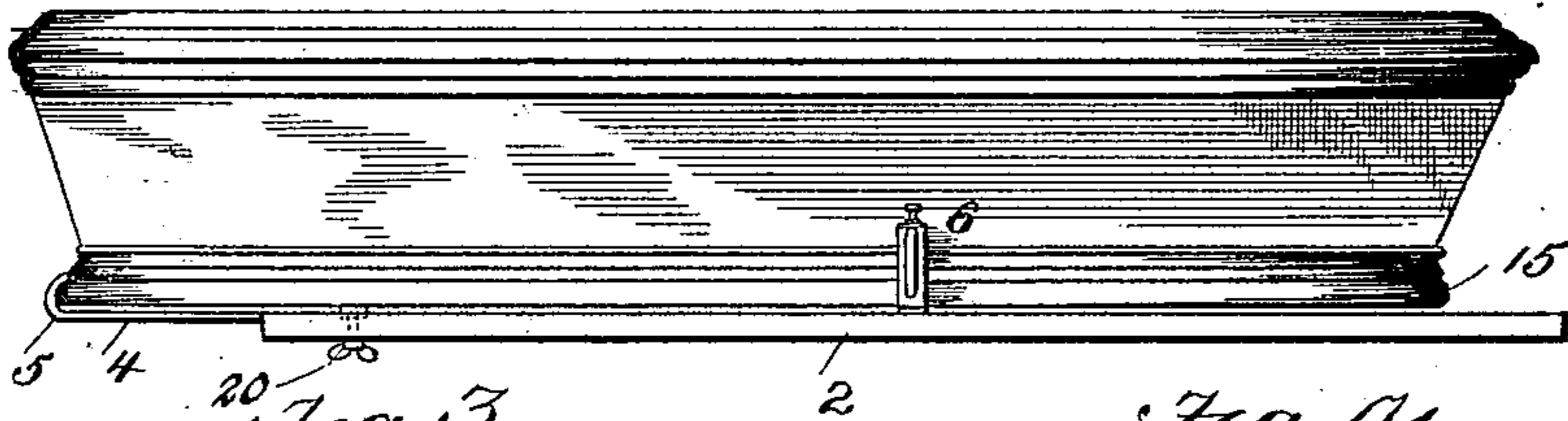


Fig. 3.

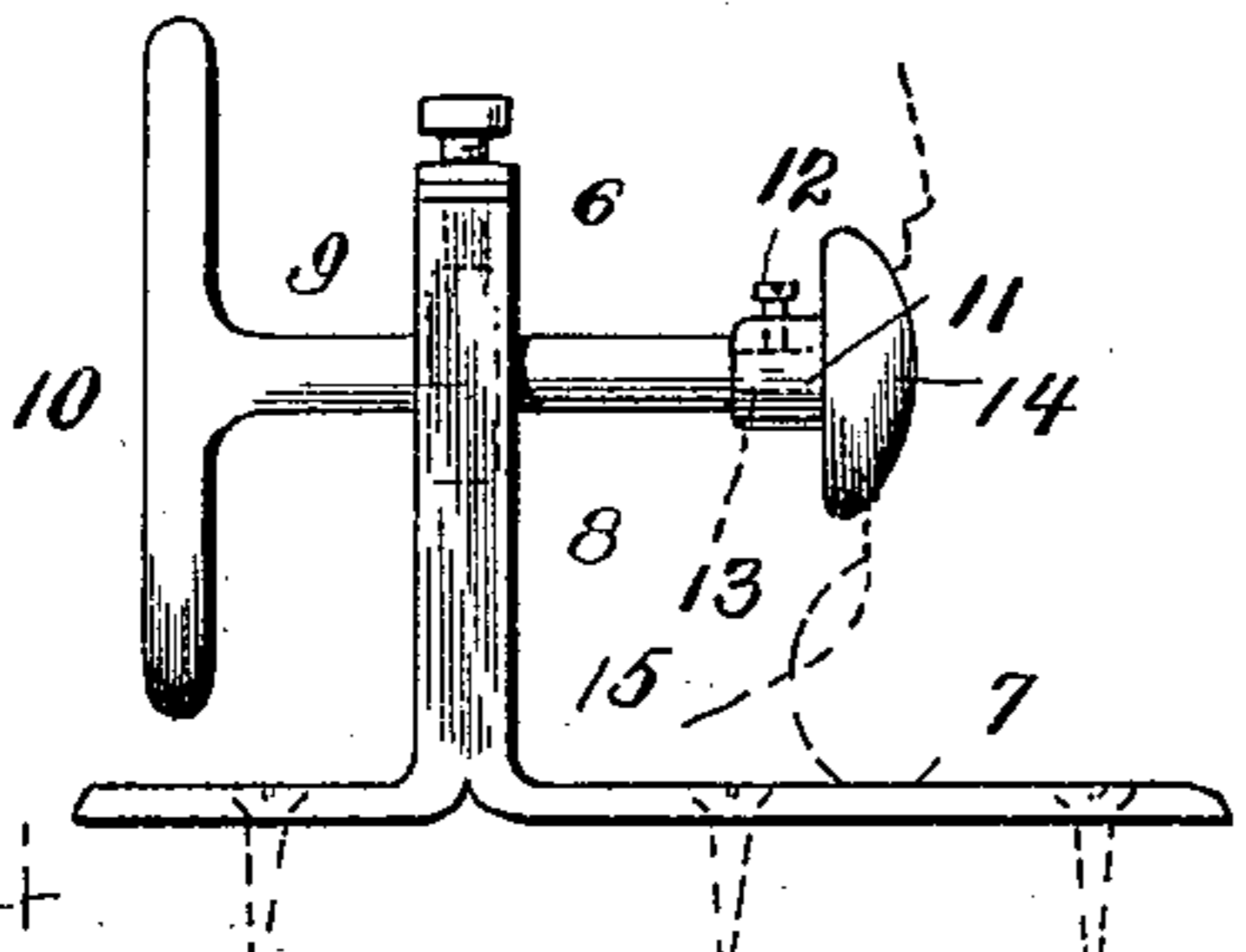
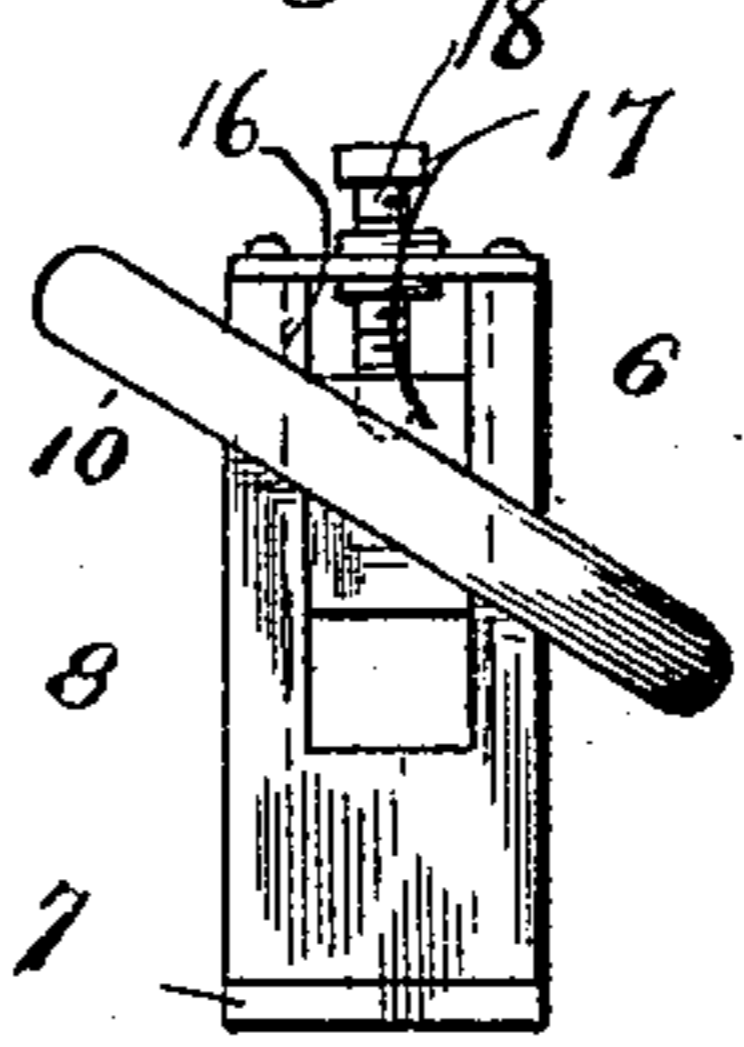


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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EXHIBITOR FOR CASKETS OR COFFINS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 518,335, dated April 17, 1894.

Application filed September 12, 1893. Serial No. 485,349. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM P. SHERMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Butte, in the county of Silver Bow and State of Montana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Exhibitors for Caskets or Coffins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to devices for holding caskets or coffins on doors for exhibition or other purposes, and has for its object to provide a device of the character set forth that will securely hold the caskets or coffins without employing screws or any other devices which will make holes or openings in the said caskets or coffins.

With this and other objects in view, the invention consists of the construction and arrangement of the several parts as will be more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cabinet, showing a portion of the doors thereof let down to display the coffin or casket and embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a portion of a door and casket or coffin in position. Fig. 3 is an edge elevation of the clamp. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the clamp.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a cabinet of any suitable length and height, having a series of drop doors 2 hinged at their lower edges at a distance above the lower portion of the cabinet, so that when the said doors are let down, they will rest in an inclined position. Each of the said doors is provided with a leg 3 at the upper portion thereof, which may be used in lowering or raising the door, and forms a support when the latter is lowered, as fully shown in Fig. 1. To the lower central portion of each door is secured one end of an adjustable arm 4 which projects beyond the door and is provided with a hooked end 5. Intermediate of the upper and lower ends of each door, and located on opposite sides of the inner surface of the same, are a pair of aligned catches or

fastenings 6, which comprise a base-plate 7 having an upright 8 with an opening therein, in which is mounted a vertically adjustable clamping screw-shank 9, with an outer handle 10, and an inner engaging head 11, which is secured to each inner screw-shank by a set-screw 12. In fastening the head 11 to the end of the shank, a mortise and tenon is preferably used as at 13, and the head 11 is provided with a rubber covering 14 to prevent abrasion or injury to the casket or coffin at the point where it catches the same.

At the bottom of caskets, or coffins, an extended molding 15 is generally employed which surrounds the same, and the heads 11 are adjusted inwardly toward each other over the said moldings. Previous to this adjustment the foot portion of the casket or coffin is brought to bear on the arm 4 and the hooked end of said arm engages the molding at this point. By this arrangement it will be seen that the head end of the casket or coffin will be located toward the outer end of the door when the latter is lowered or let down, and, owing to the difference, in some constructions of caskets and coffins, in width between the head and foot portions thereof, the movement of the casket or coffin downwardly on the door is obviated when the said door is in an upright position.

By means of the construction set forth, it will be seen that no holes or openings are made in the casket or coffin in securing the same, and a convenient means of display is provided and at the same time when not desired to be exposed to view, the caskets and coffins may be temporarily kept under cover or stored with evident advantages.

It will be observed that the opening in the cabinet for the doors as well as the doors themselves, are shorter than the length of the casket or coffin shown, so that when the said doors are elevated and in closed position, a portion of the casket or coffin on each door is held supported in the lower part of the cabinet thereby obviating the formation of a door of unusual length or a similar door-opening, and this advantage is principally attained by the employment of the arm 4 in connection with each door.

It is obviously apparent that many minor changes in the construction and arrangement

of the several parts might be made and substituted for those shown and described, so long as they are within the scope of the invention, without departing from the nature or spirit of the latter.

The clamping screws which hold the casket in place, will, instead of being made to catch all caskets in the same place, be adjustable in a slot and groove 16, in which is mounted a head 17, supporting the said screw shank 9, and adjustably controlled by a set screw 18, so as to fasten just above or below the molding on caskets, in view of the fact that caskets of different manufacture have the moldings in different places, *i. e.* different distances from the bottom of the same. The support or arm at bottom of door will also have a slot 19 and set screw 20 so as to shorten or lengthen for caskets of different lengths.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. In an exhibitor of the class described, the combination of a cabinet, having a series of drop doors, an arm extending beyond the

lower hinged end of each door and having a hooked end, and fastenings intermediate of the ends of each door, adapted to be adjusted inwardly toward each other, and supplied with suitable buffers, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a door, of an arm secured to one end thereof, having an outer hooked free end, and a pair of fastenings located intermediate of the ends of said door, and comprising screw-shanks with heads on the inner opposing ends thereof, supplied with rubber coverings, the same being adapted to hold a casket or coffin for the purpose of exhibition or display, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM P. SHERMAN.

Witnesses:

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F. A. TAYLOR.