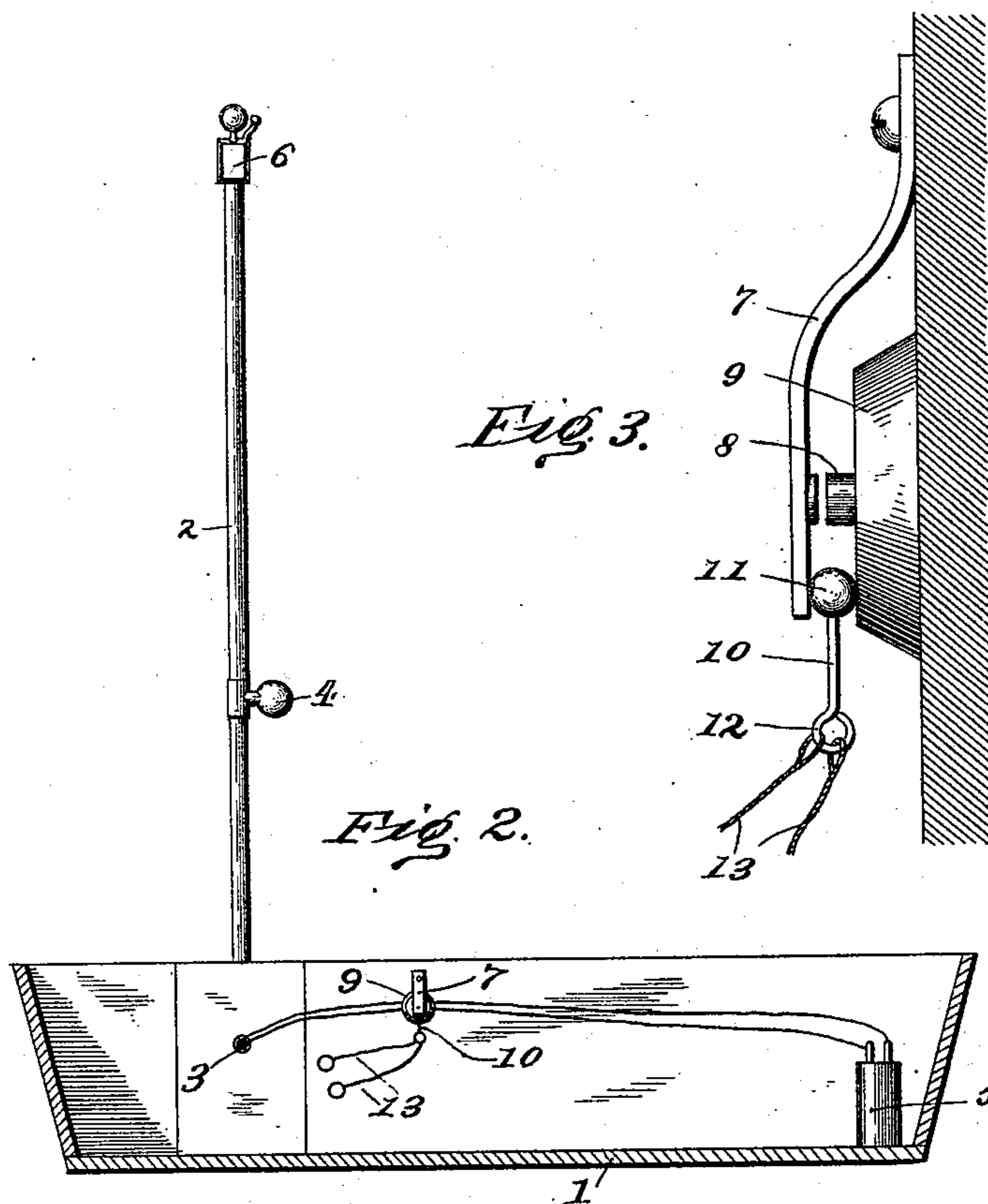
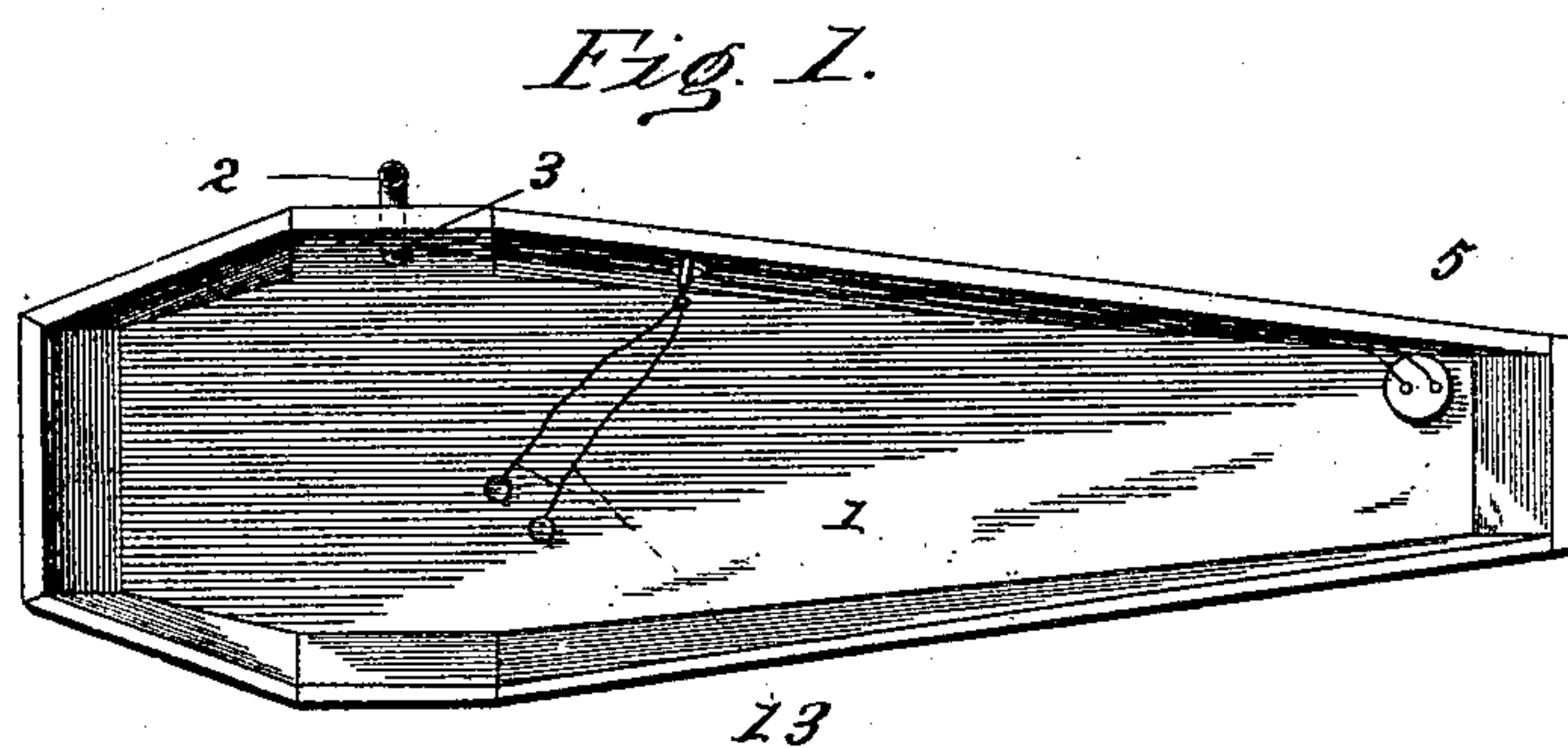


(No Model.)

F. EGERLAND & J. M. FREESE.  
COFFIN.

No. 534,254.

Patented Feb. 19, 1895.



Witnesses

*Theo. L. Gatchel.*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANZ EGERLAND AND JOHN M. FREESE, OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA.

## COFFIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 534,254, dated February 19, 1895.

Application filed November 15, 1894. Serial No. 528,904. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, FRANZ EGERLAND and JOHN M. FREESE, citizens of the United States, residing at Sioux Falls, in the county of Minnehaha and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffins; and we 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.

Our invention relates to improvements in coffins or burial caskets, the object of the same being to provide a device of this character, which is designed to prevent the suffocation of persons accidentally buried alive and enable them to sound an alarm, indicating that life is not yet extinct.

The invention consists in the provision of a coffin of ordinary construction provided with a tube or pipe leading from the surface of the ground to a point inside the coffin for the purpose of providing air to maintain the life in a revived person, the said pipe having a globe attached at one point between the coffin and the surface of the earth adapted to hold disinfecting material to prevent the discharge of poisonous or obnoxious gases from the coffin. We also supply the coffin with an electric battery, the wires therefrom leading through the air inlet pipe to an alarm on the outside of the ground, the circuit of said alarm being closed by a slight movement of the revived person.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of a coffin made according to our invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical central longitudinal section of the same, showing the air inlet pipe leading therefrom. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the circuit closing device.

Similar numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the various views.

1 represents a coffin, and 2 a pipe leading from inside thereof to the surface of the earth, or to a point some distance above it. This tube leads from one side of the coffin and enters the same through an opening therein, as shown at 3. At a point about midway between the coffin and the surface of the earth we lo-

cate a globe 4, in which is placed a suitable disinfecting substance for the purpose of preventing noxious gases from rising from the coffin, to the surface of the earth. Situated at any suitable point inside the coffin is an electric battery 5, preferably a dry battery, the same having circuit wires leading therefrom up through the pipe 2 and connecting with an annunciator or alarm 6 on the outside of the earth. This circuit is normally open, and at a point inside the coffin is a push button or other circuit closing apparatus, as shown in Fig. 3. This consists of a strong flat spring 7, which when raised, is adapted to engage and press against the push button 8 for the purpose of closing the circuit and ringing the alarm. Between the spring 7 and the abutment 9 forming a part of the push button device, we place a bar 10, preferably made with a ball 11 on its outer end which is of wider diameter than the height of the button 8, and which keeps the spring 7 normally out of engagement with said button. At the outer end of the bar 10 the same is formed with a loop 12, to which are attached cords 13, the other end of which are fastened to any suitable part of the corpse, preferably the fingers thereof. By this construction it will be seen that if by any chance a body once buried revives, it will not become suffocated by reason of the fact that fresh air is supplied to the coffin through the tube or pipe 2, and also, the slightest movement of said revived body will withdraw the bar 10 from engagement with the spring 7, which, when released, will depress the push button 8, close the circuit through the battery 5 and the annunciator 6 and thereby sound the alarm, giving notice of the fact that the revival has taken place of the body inside the coffin.

The invention has been described in its preferred form, but it is obvious that many minor changes may be made therein without departing from the nature or spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

Having now described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a device of the character set forth, the combination with a coffin, of an air inlet pipe leading from the inside of said coffin to the

surface of the earth, and provided about mid-  
way of its length with a globe in which dis-  
infecting substances are placed, an electric  
battery in said coffin and an alarm or annun-  
5 ciator on the outside of the earth in circuit  
with said battery, a circuit closer on the in-  
side of said coffin, consisting of a flat spring  
adapted to throw in contact the circuit ter-  
minals, a bar for normally holding said spring  
10 out of engagement with said circuit terminals,  
having cords attached thereto and to the  
corpse, whereby upon the movement of the

corpse the said bar is pulled out of engage-  
ment with said spring, and the alarm is actu-  
ated, substantially as and for the purpose de- 15  
scribed.

In testimony whereof we have signed this  
specification in the presence of two subscrib-  
ing witnesses.

FRANZ EGERLAND.  
JOHN M. FREESE.

Witnesses:

G. H. KILAND,  
WM. FUERSTE.