(No Model.)

A. C. DILLMAN.

UNDERTAKER'S PEDESTAL.

No. 563,264. Patented July 7, 1896.

FIG. 1.

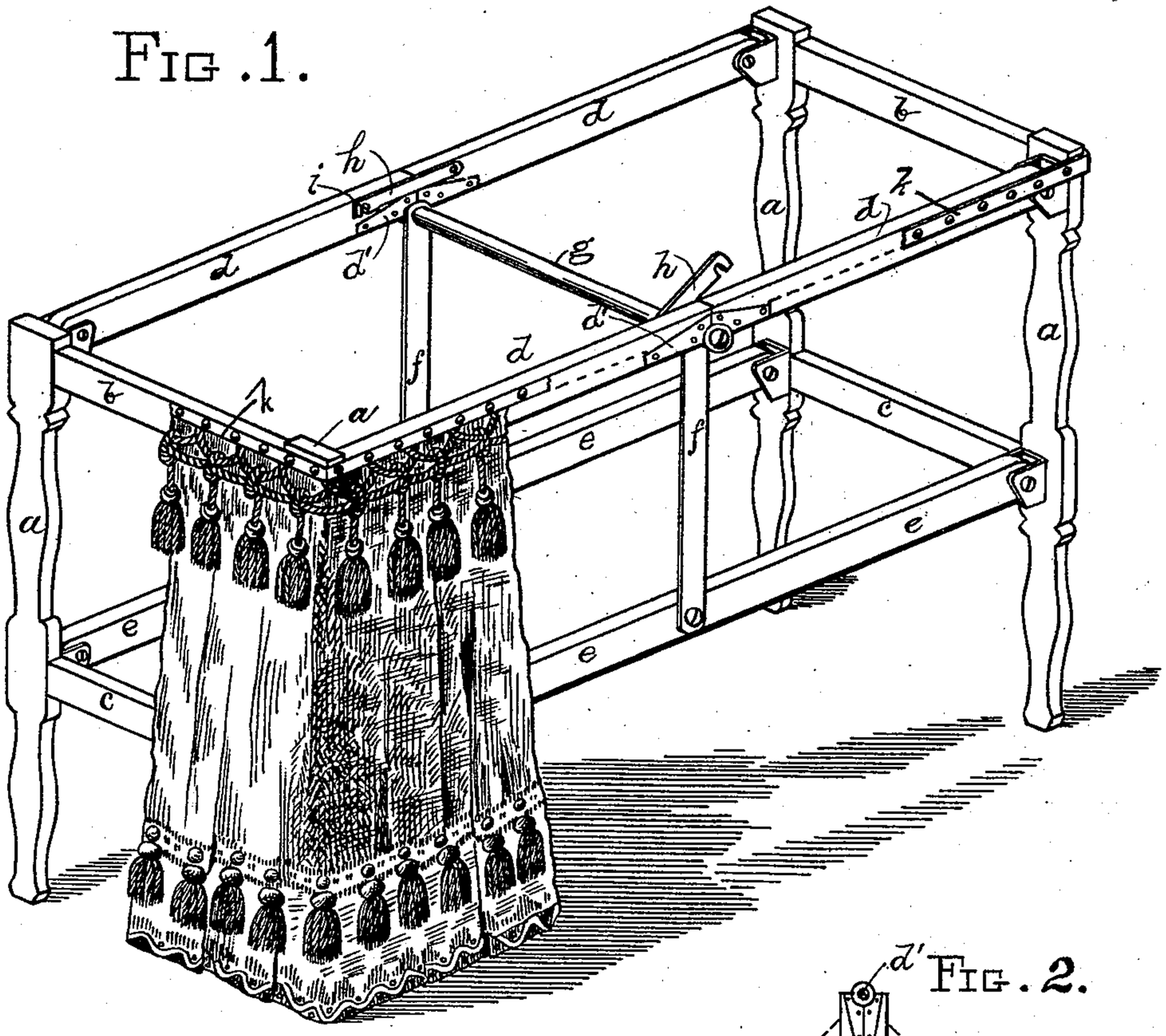


FIG 3.

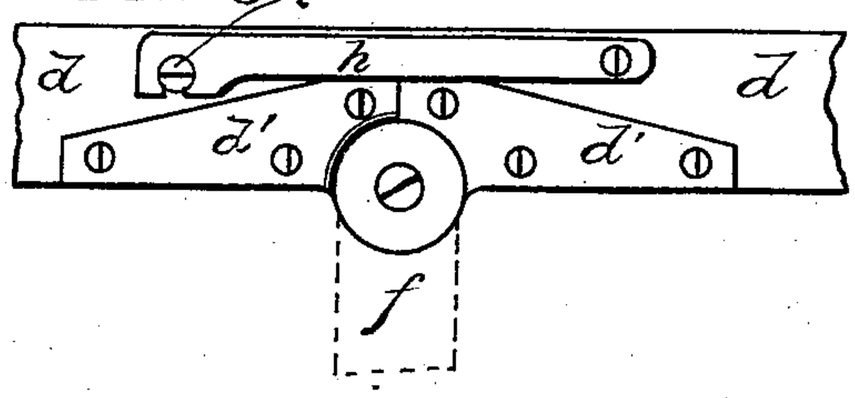
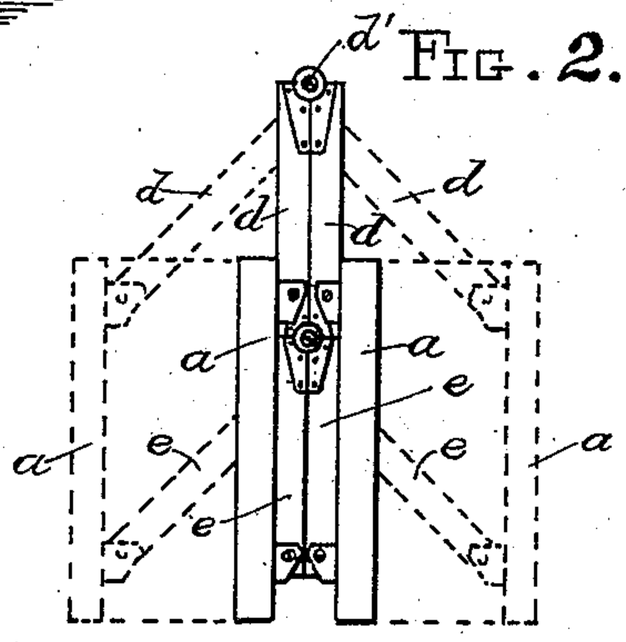


FIG. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTUS C. DILLMAN, OF BRYAN, OHIO.

UNDERTAKER'S PEDESTAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 563,264, dated July 7, 1896.

Application filed December 26, 1895. Serial No. 573,261. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTUS C. DILLMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bryan, Williams county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Undertakers' Pedestals, of which the following is a specification.

The pedestals or supports for coffins heretofore used by undertakers have consisted of draped pillars or frames which have been heavy, bulky, and unwieldy, and which have usually required an extra vehicle for their conveyance.

My invention relates to and its object is to provide a pedestal which shall be light and strong, and which may be folded into such compact form as to be readily stowed out of sight when not in use, and which may, if necessary, be conveyed in the front part of a hearse, thus dispensing with the necessity for an extra conveyance. I attain these objects by means of the device hereinafter described, and shown and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, made part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my folding pedestal with part of the drapery removed; Fig. 2, a diagrammatic side elevation of the same, showing the same in folded and partly-folded positions; and Fig. 3, an enlarged elevation of the hinge and catch hereinafter referred to.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

My device consists of an oblong rectangular frame supported by four legs *a*, one at each corner. The legs at each end are framed rigidly together, in pairs, by means of upper rails *b* and lower rails *c*. The two end frames thus formed are connected by upper side rails *d* and lower side rails *e*. These rails are, at each end, pivotally secured to the frames *a b c*. The rails *d e* are divided vertically midway of their length, the two meeting ends of the divided rails being pivotally secured together by a suitable hinge *d'*, secured to the under side of the rails. This arrangement of the hinges permits each of the rails to fold upwardly at its middle, while the meeting ends of the rail form shoulders or stops which prevent the rails from being folded downwardly further than a horizontal line. The pairs of rails *d e*, at each side of the frame, are connected by two vertical pieces *f f*, pivotally secured midway of the rails at the middle joints or hinges above mentioned. The two rails *d d* are also connected with each other midway of their length by cross-piece *g*, which, at each end, is secured axially of the hinges *d'*. One part of each of the two-part rails *d* is provided with a hook *h*, adapted to engage an eye or stop *i* upon the opposing part of said rail.

The operation of my device, thus far described, is as follows: When the feet of the four legs are upon the ground and the side rails are in horizontal position, the hooks *h* should be engaged with the eyes or stops *i*. The whole frame is now rigid and may be lifted and carried about as a common table. Now, if the hooks *h* are disengaged, and if the pedestal be lifted by the cross-piece *g*, the side rails *d e* will fold upwardly in vertical position, and the two end frames *a b c* will be drawn close together, being separated only by the breadth of the now vertically-disposed rails *d e*. It should be observed that the rails *e* are pivotally secured at their ends to the leg-pieces in a plane just inside of the vertical plane of the rails *d*, and that the vertical connecting-pieces *f* are, at their upper ends, secured to the inside of the rails *d*, and at their lower ends at the outside of the rails *e*. This disposition of the rails *d e* permits the lower rails, when folded, to project upwardly inside of and beyond the lower ends of the folded upper rails *d*, as shown in Fig. 2.

If desired, the folding pedestal above described may be provided with suitable drapery or curtains extending from the top of the pedestal to the ground. In such case the drapery is secured at the ends to the rails *b*, while at the sides the drapery is not secured to the rails, but is stretched upon an elastic tape *k*, running parallel with the upper side rail and secured at each end to a corner of the frame. When the pedestal is distended in position ready for use, the tape *k* is stretched and the drapery falls in regular folds, but when the frame is folded, as in Fig. 2, the tension upon the india-rubber tape being released, the tape becomes short enough to accommodate itself to the folded position of the frame, and the drapery secured to it is now

gathered in thick folds at the side of the frame.

Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an undertaker's pedestal, the four legs thereof framed rigidly together in pairs, forming the ends of the pedestal, two pairs of two-part side rails, pivotal connections between the ends of said side rails and said end frames, and pivotal connections between the meeting ends of said two-part rails, in combination with bars pivotally secured to and connecting said side rails, in pairs, and a horizontal cross-piece connecting the two upper side rails at their middle, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. In a folding pedestal, the four legs thereof framed rigidly together in pairs, forming the ends of said pedestal, side rails connecting said end frames and adapted to fold upwardly at their middle into vertical position, in combination with an elastic tape at each side of the pedestal secured to the ends thereof and a curtain secured to each end of the pedestal and to said elastic tape, whereby, when said pedestal is folded, the elastic tape will automatically fold said curtain to conform to the folded position of the pedestal.

AUGUSTUS C. DILLMAN.

In presence of—
W. H. DURBIN,
M. M. BOOTHMAN.