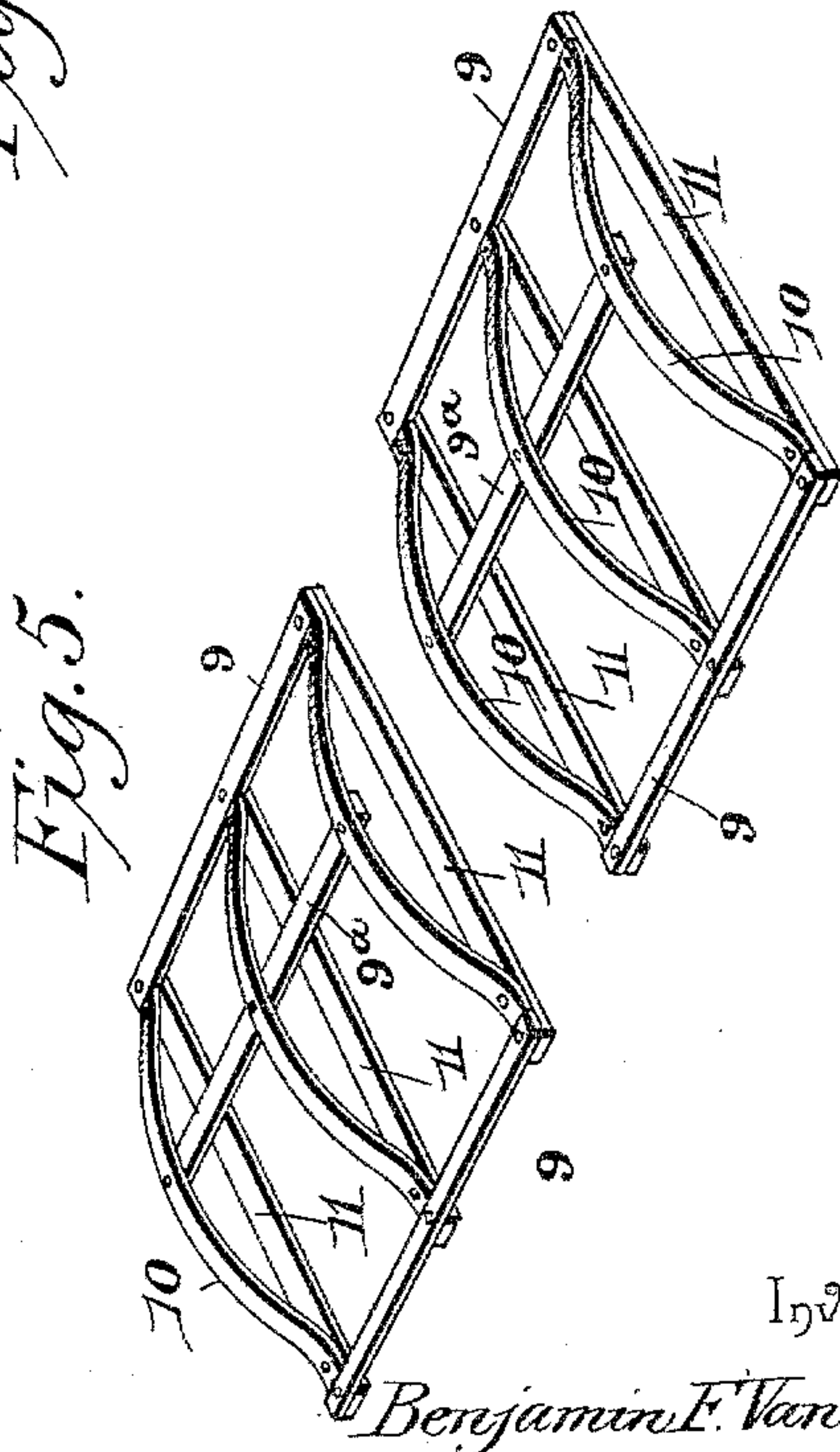
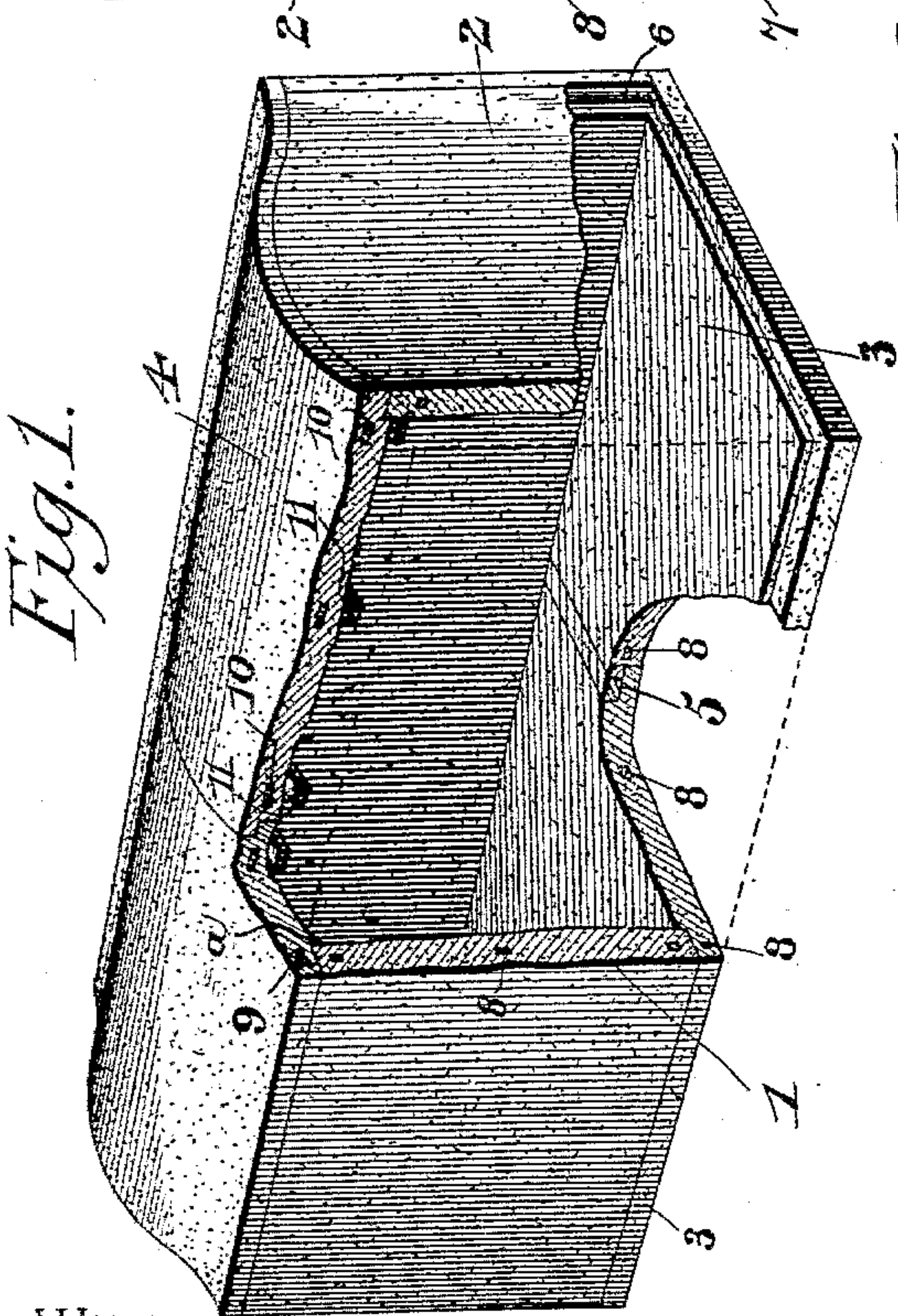
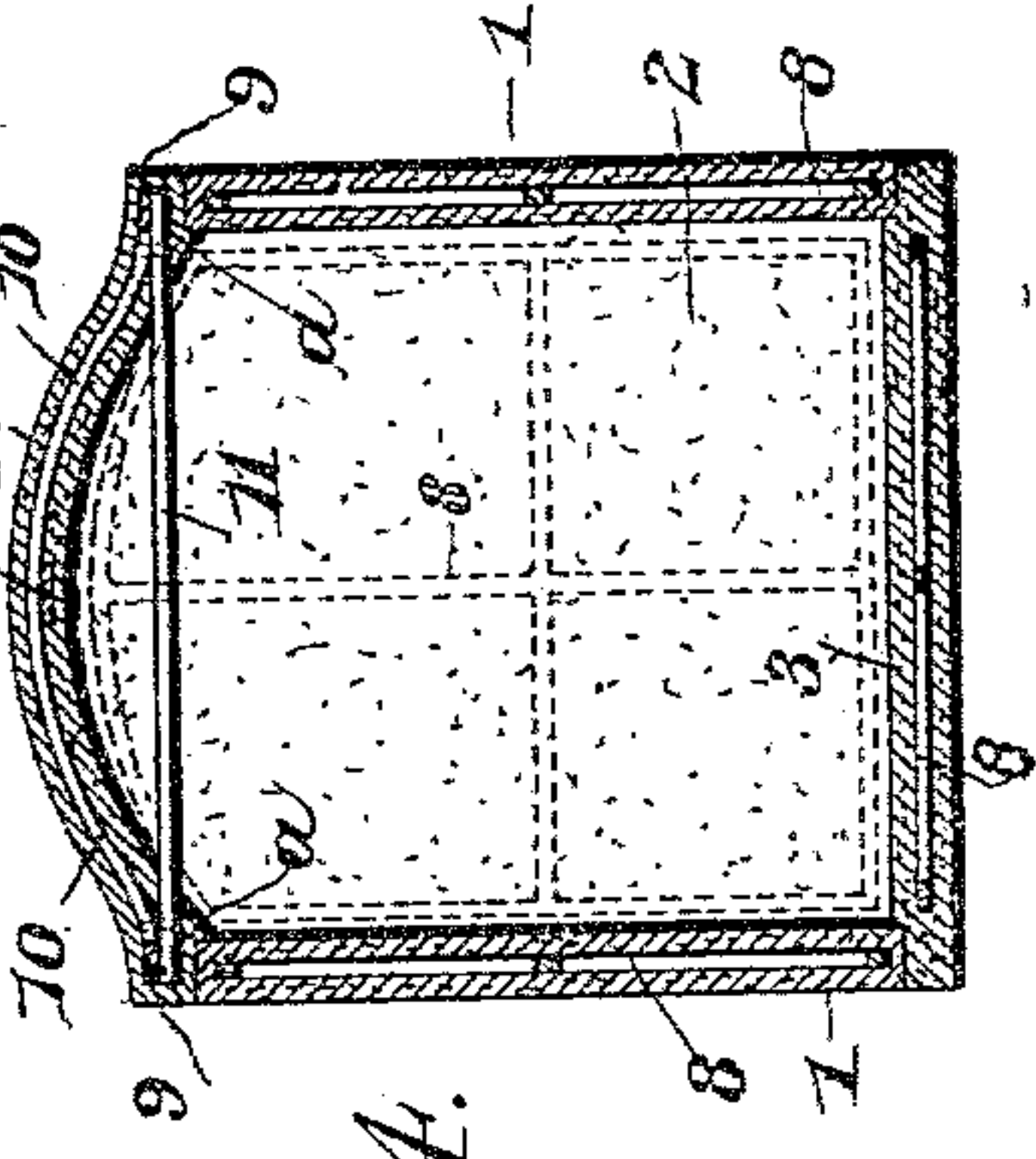
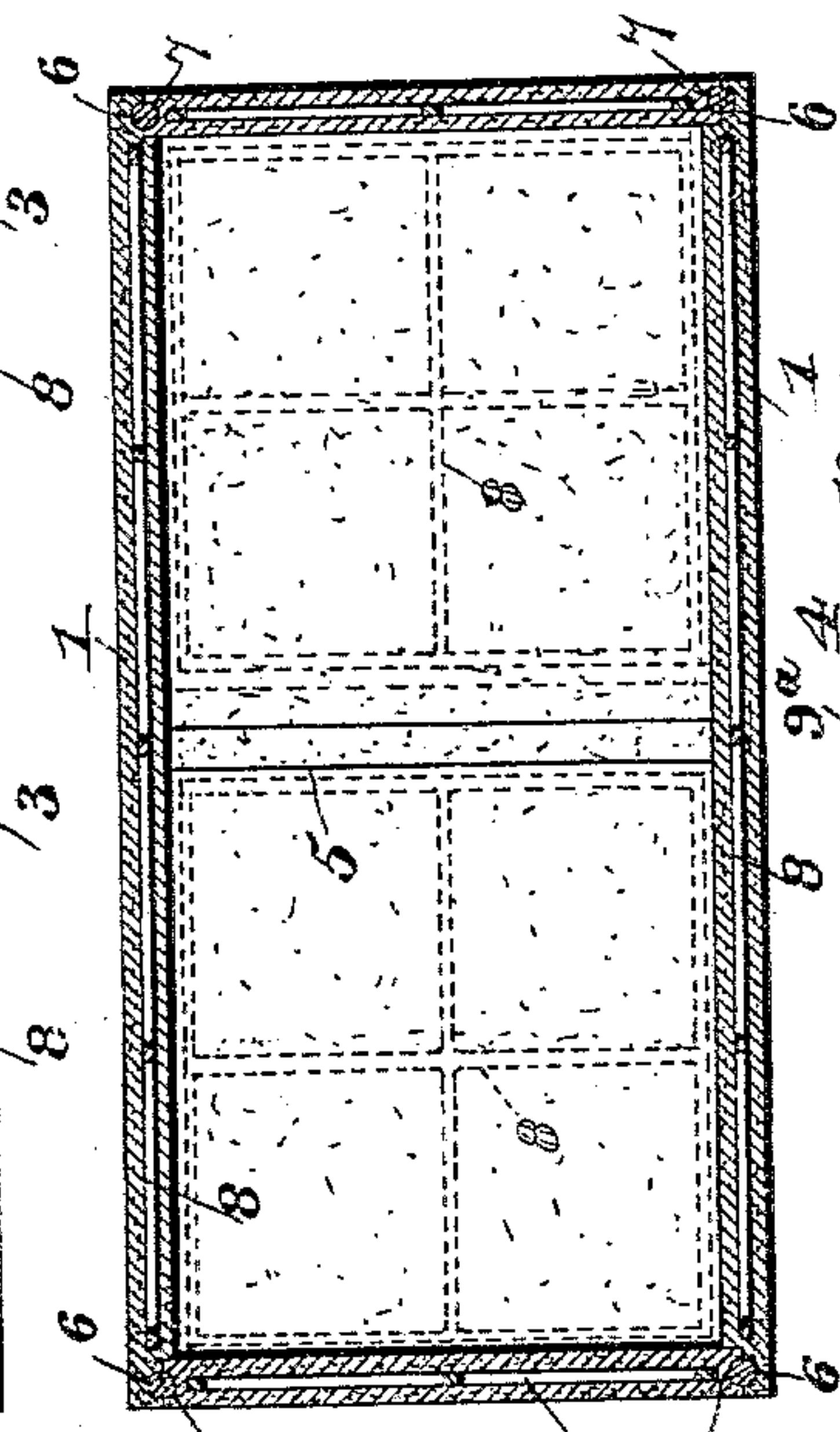
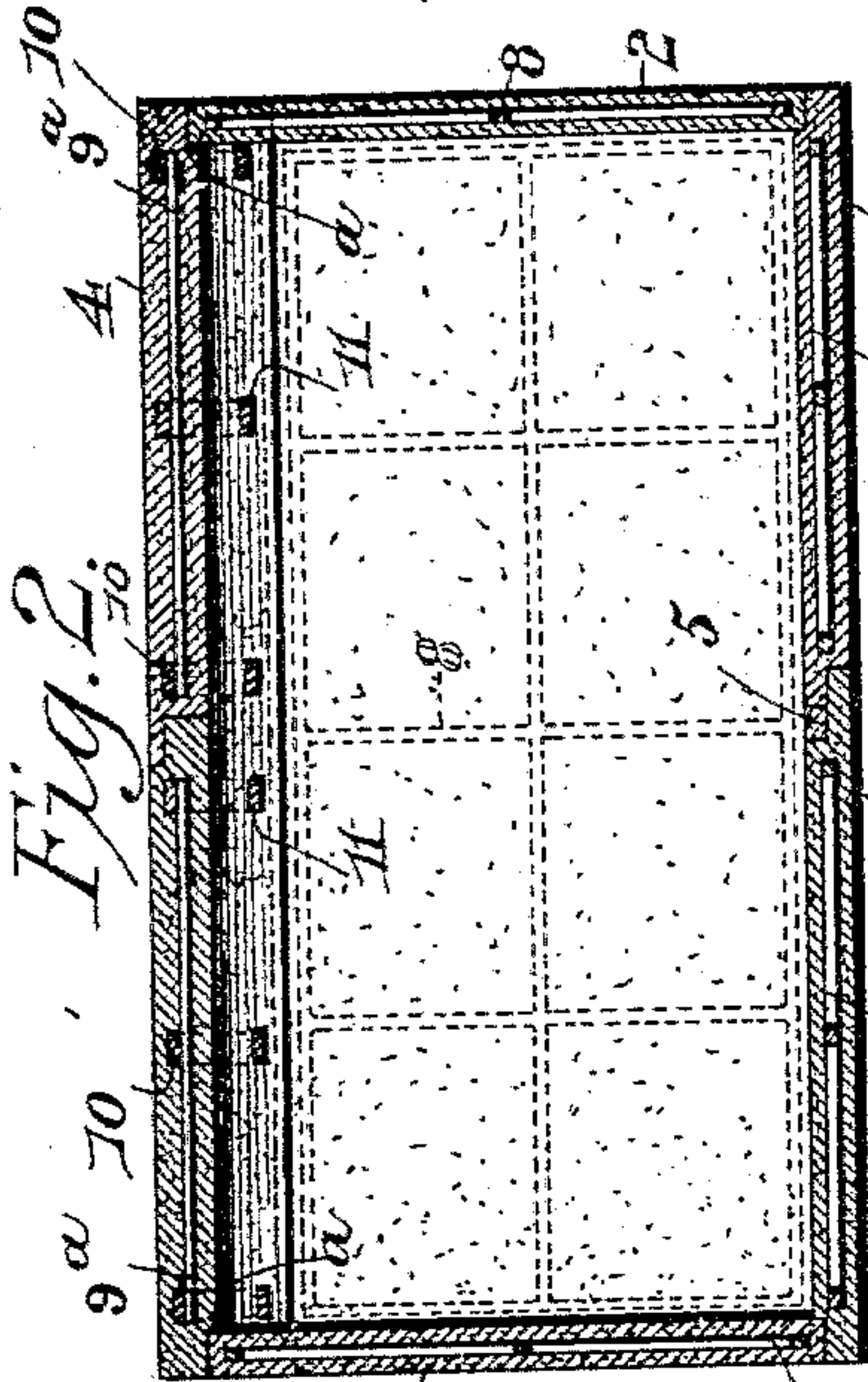


(No Model.)

B. F. VAN CAMP.
BURIAL VAULT.

No. 597,625.

Patented Jan. 18, 1898.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. VAN CAMP, OF CLAYPOOL, INDIANA.

BURIAL-VAULT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 597,625, dated January 18, 1898.

Application filed July 29, 1897. Serial No. 646,374. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. VAN CAMP, a citizen of the United States, residing at Claypool, in the county of Kosciusko and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Burial-Vault, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of burial-vaults or sarcophagi designed to replace the ordinary pine box or brick vault forming a receptacle for the casket or coffin containing the corpse. The vault may be erected above the ground, below the surface thereof, or so as to be partially buried, since it is air and water tight.

For a full understanding of the merits and advantages of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings and the following description.

The improvement is susceptible of various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and to a full disclosure of the invention an adaptation thereof is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sarcophagus or burial-vault constructed in accordance with this invention, parts being broken away, showing the relative arrangement of the parts and the detailed construction. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section thereof. Fig. 3 is a plan section. Fig. 4 is a transverse section. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the frame for the top or covering slabs.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in the several views of the drawings by the same reference-characters.

The burial-vault or coffin-receptacle is constructed of slabs formed of concrete, such as cement and mortar or other plastic composition generally employed in the formation of structures of this character, and consists of similar side slabs 1, end slabs 2, bottom slabs 3, and top or covering slabs 4. The top or covering slabs are arched between their longitudinal edges, and their opposing or meeting ends are halved, so as to preclude the formation of a straight joint between them. The lower side of the slabs 4 is rabbeted at

its edges to receive the top edges of the side slabs 1, thereby fixing the position of the covering-slabs and holding them in place until the cement or mortar employed for bonding the slabs sets. The rabbeting is effected by providing an inner shoulder *a* a short distance from the edges, so as to overlap the inner side of the top edges of the side slabs, whereby the latter are prevented from moving inward when subjected to external lateral pressure.

The bottom slabs 3 have their inner ends halved in a manner similar to the top slabs, with the difference that a space 5 is formed between the meeting portions, into which the cement or mortar is filled about flush with the top side of the slabs, so as to secure a water and air tight joint. This space is formed by halving the meeting ends of the slabs and having the top overlapping portion terminating short of the shoulder formed by the lower overlapping portion. A rabbet is provided at the outer edge of the bottom slabs to receive the lower edge of the side and end slabs, whereby they are prevented from moving inward when subjected to pressure from without from any cause tending to press the body-slabs inward.

The side slabs 1 have rabbets at their ends to receive the ends of the slabs 2, so as to sustain the latter against inward movement when subjected to outer pressure. A groove 6 is formed in the rabbeted ends of the side slabs, and a corresponding groove 7 is formed in the ends of the slabs 2, and these grooves 6 and 7 coincide and register when the body-slabs are placed in position and are intended to receive the cement or substance employed to secure a bond-joint between the meeting parts of the slabs 1 and 2, said cement or bonding material being poured into the grooves after the slabs have been set up.

The slabs are molded and the body-slabs are strengthened and stiffened by embedding therein a metal frame 8, composed of intersecting or crossing rods or bars, which latter are welded at the points of crossing, so as to bring all the bars in the same plane and enable the frame to be of a minimum thickness. This bracing-frame 8, being embedded in the body of the slab, is concealed from view and gives strength and rigidity to the slabs and

enables the latter to be made comparatively thin and light without fear of detriment or injury to the slabs during transportation or handling when the vault or coffin-receptacle is in the course of construction.

It will be understood that the slabs will vary in size according to the particular purpose and size of coffin to be placed in the vault when completed, and the upper edges of the end slabs will curve so as to correspond to the spring or curvature of the top slabs. When setting up the vault or receptacle, the bottom slabs are first placed in position and the space 5 between the opposing or meeting ends of the said bottom slabs is flushed with cement or mortar, so as to make a tight joint. A layer of cement or mortar is placed upon the rabbeted edge of the bottom and the body-slabs are placed in position thereon. The cement or bonding substance or material is poured into the registering grooves 6 and 7 at the corners of the vault, thereby filling said grooves and the spaces and interstices leading therefrom, whereby a water and air tight joint is secured. A layer of cement or mortar is now placed upon the top edge of the body-slabs and the top or covering slabs are placed in position, and after the cement or bonding material sets the receptacle or vault is practically air and water tight and is as solid as if molded in one piece and composed of material that will absorb the moisture and will not sweat.

The metal frame for each of the top or covering slabs is shown most clearly in Fig. 5 and comprises a rectangular frame formed of longitudinal bars 9 and transverse bars 11 and an arched frame composed of arched bars 10 and a connecting longitudinal bar 9^a. The longitudinal bars 9 are placed upon the ends of the truss-bars 11 and are secured thereto by riveting or in any suitable manner. The terminals of the arched bars 10 butt against the inner edges of the longitudinal bars 9 and are riveted to the end portions of the bars 11 and are prevented from spreading by said rivets and by the bars 9. The terminals of the bars 10 being in the same plane as the bars 9 occupy less space than would be required if they overlapped the said bars 9. If the ends of the parts 10 and 11 were secured to the bars 9 upon opposite sides thereof, three thicknesses would result, cor-

responding to the parts 9, 10, and 11, but by disposing the parts as illustrated only two thicknesses result, as will be readily understood. The middle portion of the truss-bars is not embedded, as clearly indicated in Fig. 4, thereby enabling the top to be as thin as the side or bottom slabs.

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

1. In a sarcophagus, a slab of arched form, a rectangular frame composed of longitudinal bars and transverse bars overlapping the longitudinal bars at their ends and rigidly secured thereto, and having the longitudinal bars embedded in the edge portions of the slab, and an arched frame comprising transverse arched bars having their terminals rigidly secured to the end portions of the aforesaid transverse bars and abutting against the inner edges of the longitudinal bars, and a bar connecting the arched bars and parallel with the side bars, the arched frame being wholly embedded in the slab, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A sarcophagus, comprising slabs of cement or like plastic material, a metal frame composed of crossing rods welded at the points of crossing, embedded in the body slabs, the top slabs being of arched form and having a metal frame applied thereto and composed of longitudinal and transverse arched bars connected together and embedded in the top slabs, and truss-bars connecting the side bars and having their middle portions exposed, the terminals of the arched bars abutting against the inner sides of the outer longitudinal bars, the bottom slabs having a space between the overlapping parts of their meeting ends to receive a bonding material, and having corresponding grooves in the edges of the end slabs and in the inner faces of the side slabs to receive cement, the body-slabs being rabbeted to sustain them against external lateral pressure, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN F. VAN CAMP.

Witnesses:

B. F. CLEMANS,
JOHN MIDDLETON.