

No. 609,358.

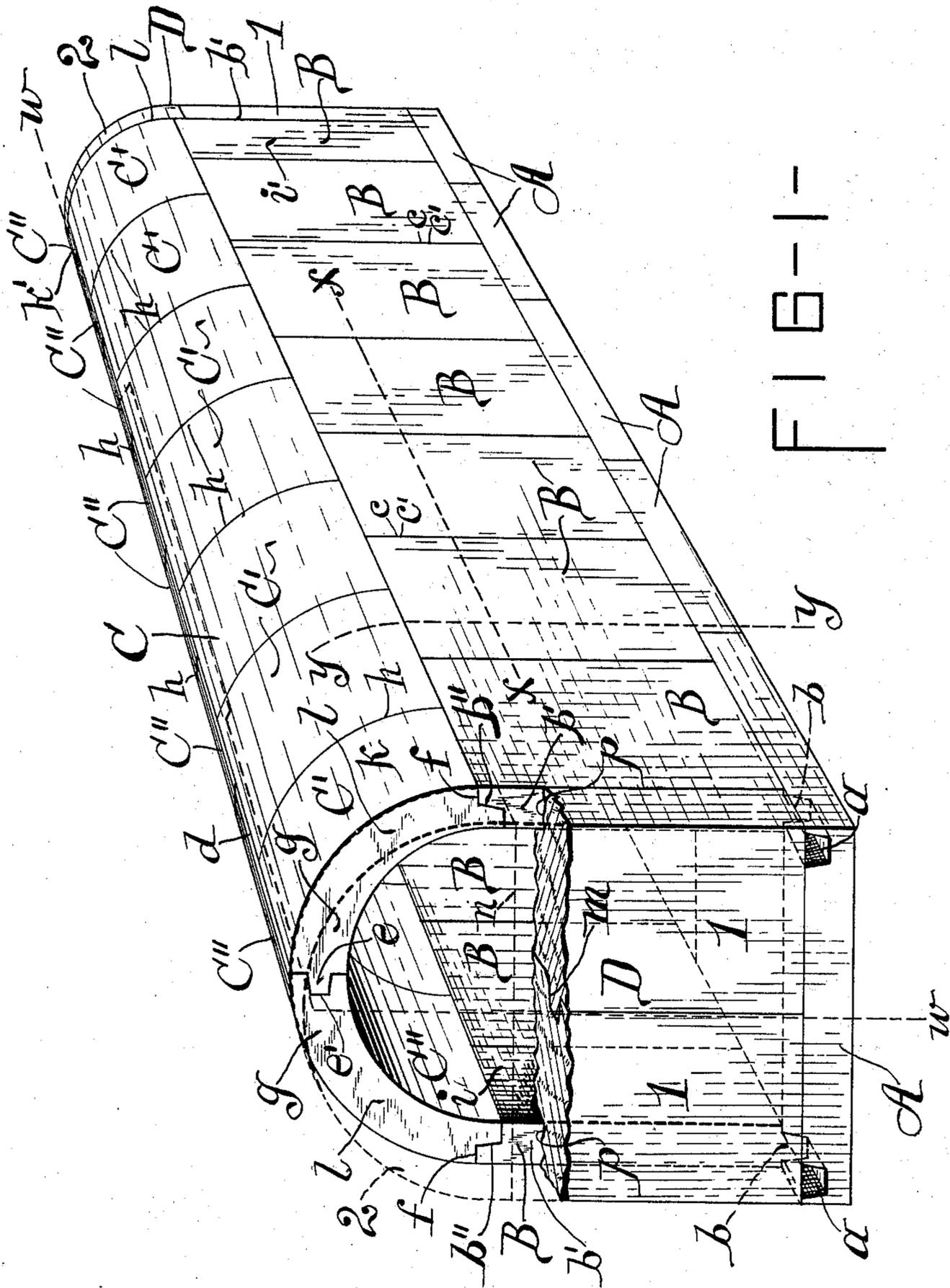
Patented Aug. 16, 1898.

B. F. LOCKWOOD.
PORTABLE GRAVE VAULT.

(Application filed May 7, 1897.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.



WITNESSES:

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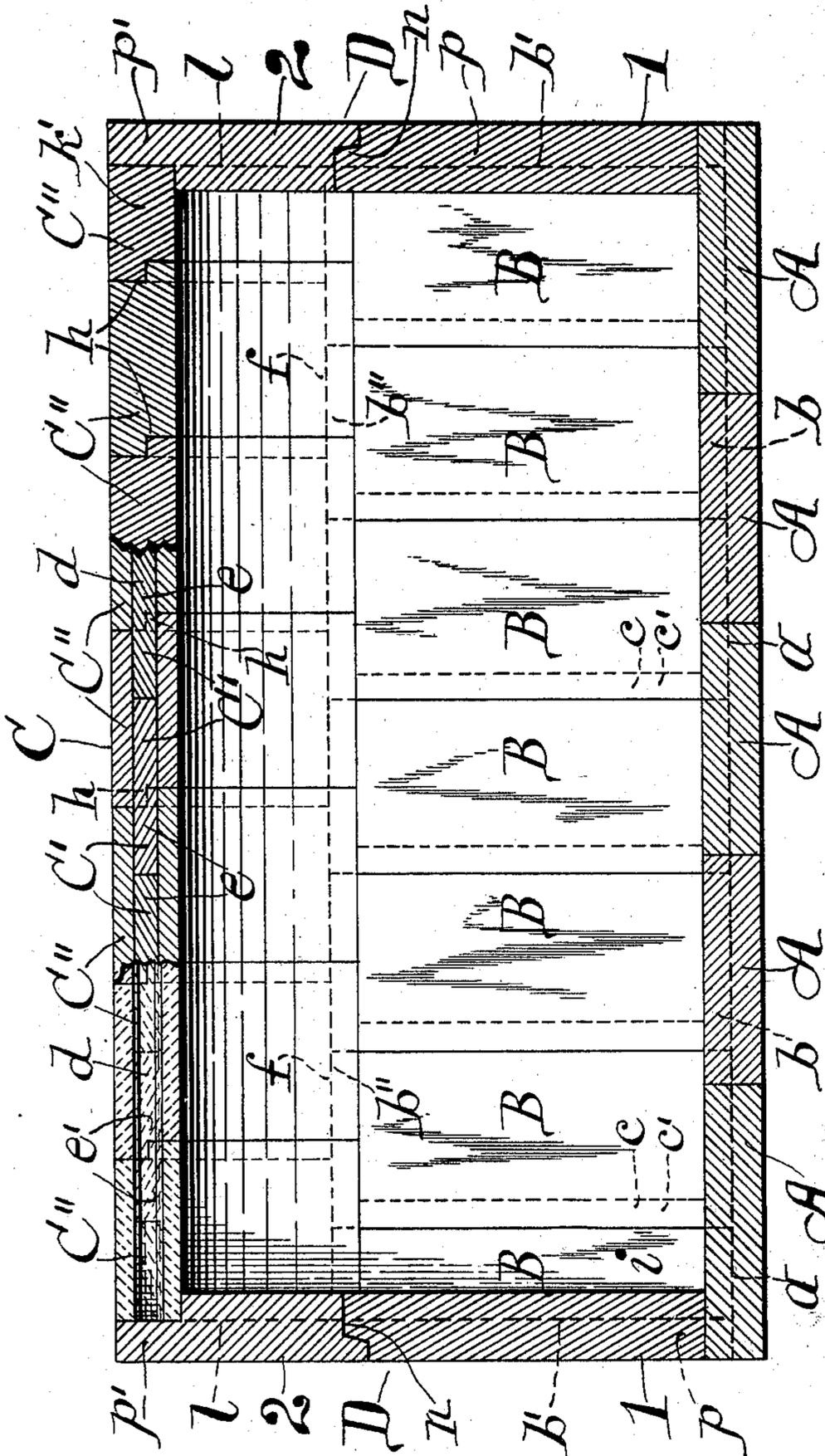


FIG-2-

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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

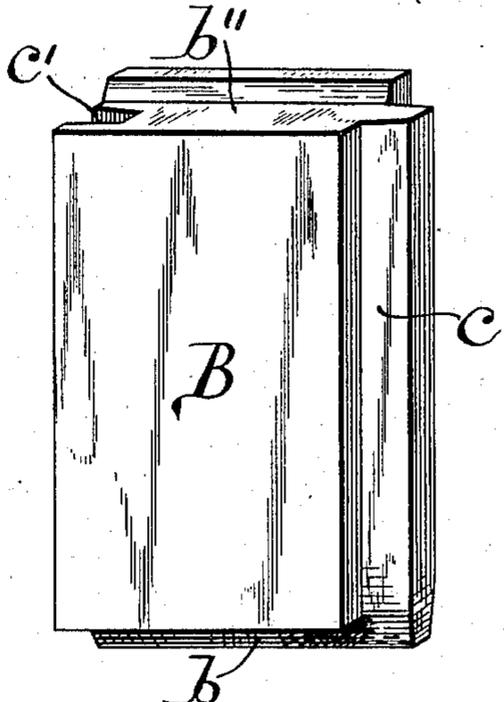
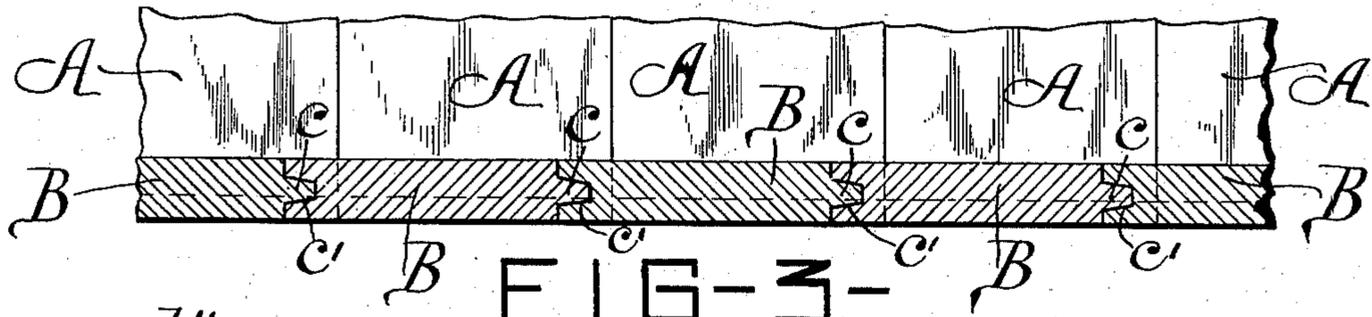


FIG-4-

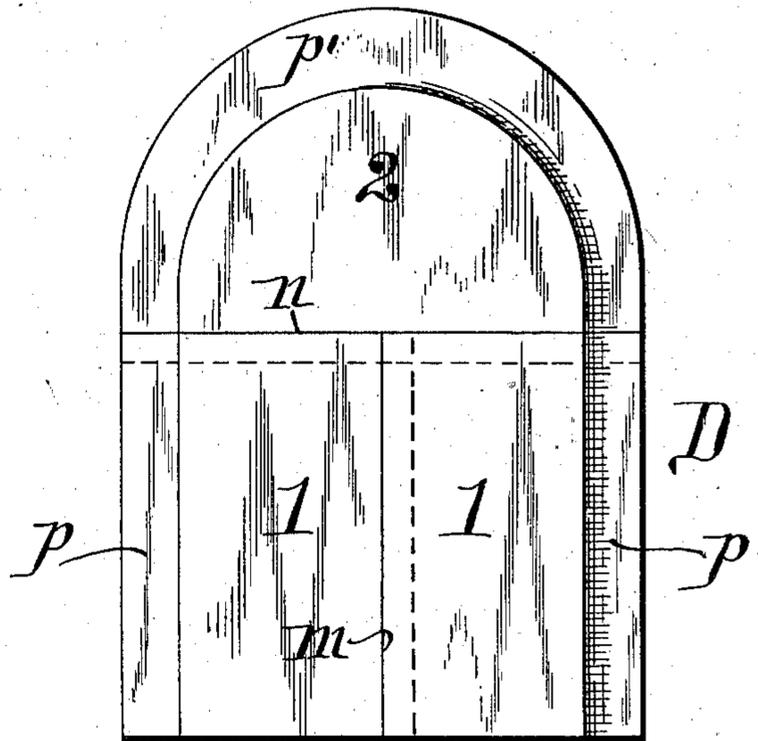


FIG-5-

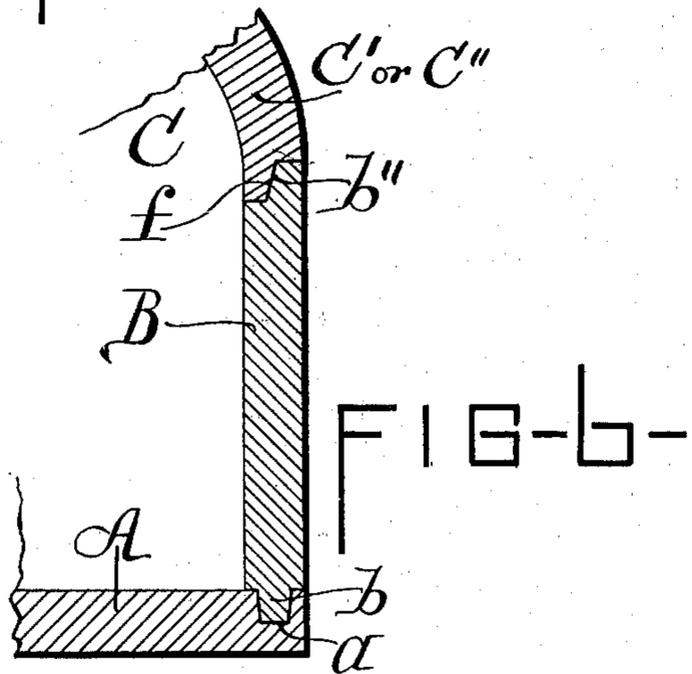


FIG-6-

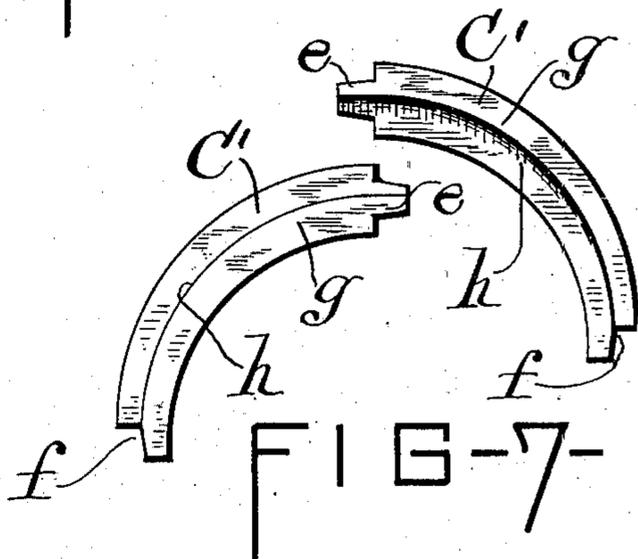


FIG-7-

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PORTABLE GRAVE-VAULT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 609,358, dated August 16, 1898.

Application filed May 7, 1897. Serial No. 635,609. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. LOCKWOOD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lyons, in the county of Wayne and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Grave-Vaults; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention has reference to grave or burial vaults constructed in sections and formed of cement, earthenware, or suitable plastic material molded to shape and adaptable in greater or less degree to transportation.

The object of my invention is the production of a portable grave-vault comprising in its construction such a plurality of parts or sections of comparatively small size, respectively, and coadaptable to a harmonious complete structure as will insure a vault readily transportable in its "knockdown" or segregated condition to destination requisite; furthermore, the attainment of a portable burial-vault peculiarly adaptable by reason of its novel construction and arrangement of parts and interchangeability for underground service, and, moreover, of exceeding permanence, durability, and strength, and readily erected in position and comparatively inexpensive as regards manufacture.

My invention consists in the novel features of construction, coadaptation of parts, and their combination, as hereinafter described, and specifically enumerated in the annexed clauses of claim, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved portable grave-vault as erected for the inclosing of a casket or coffin, one of the ends being shown partially broken away for clearer illustration of contiguous parts; Fig. 2, a longitudinal vertical section taken centrally the erected vault structure along dotted line *w w*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail horizontal cross-section of a portion of one of the sides of my vault, taken along longitudinal dotted line *x x*, Fig. 1, and exemplifying the join-

ing together of the side slabs or plates; Fig. 4, an isometric view of one of said side slabs as segregated from the rest and bringing out its detail formation to advantage; Fig. 5, an inner face view of one of the pair of like-constructed ends or end walls closing, respectively, either extremity of the main vault-body, herein shown as displaced therefrom. Fig. 6 is a detail transverse vertical section taken along abbreviated dotted line *y y*, Fig. 1, and showing manner of connection of a side slab with an arch-piece and a floor-slab; and Fig. 7, a detail of a couple of arch-segments segregated, showing shoulders and offsets of their side edges for joining of segments of same side of arch-sections.

My portable grave-vault is constructed as follows: A are floor-slabs of rectangular shape disposed flatwise, located lineally and abutting edge to edge, creating a continuous flooring of requisite length, and adjacent their outer edges there are parallel grooves *a a*, which necessarily create at each side of the floor grooves extending from one extremity to the opposite. B indicates parallel series of side slabs of requisite number, which rectangular-shaped blocks, abutting at their vertical edges, are, as relates to the series forming the sides of my vault structure, so placed in position upon the floor-slabs A as to entail their outer faces being practically flush with the side edges of the floor, the sides respectively terminating at the vault ends sufficiently away from either end edge of the floor as to leave room for the ends closing the vault to rest upon the floor. The bottom edges of the side slabs are provided with shouldered tongues *b*, fitting within the grooves *a* of the floor-pieces, while the two rows of side slabs are respectively united at their perpendicular edges by means of tongues *c* engaging with grooves or mortises *c'*, as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

The end slabs of the respective side walls are at their outward perpendicular edge entirely devoid of any tongue or groove, thereby presenting thereat smooth-faced edges, as indicated at *b'*.

The top edges of the side slabs B are respectively rabbeted, as at *b''*, creating in conjunction a shoulder and offset running in the direction of the vault's length.

The top or roof C of my improved vault is arch-shaped and, as relates to it in entirety, is bisected longitudinally, as indicated at *d*, said top comprising a plurality of molded sections C' and C'' of segmental shape and of requisite width and thickness, the upward centrally-protruding edges of the segment-sections C' being provided with a tongue *e* the width of the sections, fitting into a groove *e'*, located in the contiguous upward and centrally-located edges of the segments C'' of the sections entering into the formation of the roof C, and whereby a thorough and strong binding of the roof-sections is insured.

The lower edges of the respective segments entering into the formation of the arch-like roof or top are so rabbeted, as at *f*, as to entail their interlocking with and being shouldered upon the coinciding rabbeted edges *b''* of the several side slabs B and a firm and rigid support of the roof upon the side walls secured.

Each segment C' and C'' entering into the construction of the bisected top C gradually thickens toward its centrally-abutting extremity, as at *g*, whereby through said increased thickness at top central portion of the arch-like roof more strength and efficiency of resistance to any pressure upon the top is assured.

The ends or curvilinear edges of the arch-sections C' C'' are, as relates to the segments of either side of the arch, constructed with lap-joints *h*, so as to firmly and sustainingly engage one with the other, as indicated in Fig. 2 and also in the segregated detail Fig. 7.

In my construction of a vault I preferably start the formation of one of the side walls of my structure by erecting first at one extremity of the flooring a side slab B of narrower width (not thickness) than the companion slabs of said side wall, as denoted at *i*, while as regards the opposite side wall I preferably have the farther end thereof finished with a side slab B of somewhat less width than the companion slabs, as denoted by the letter *i'*, and with reference to the segment-shaped slabs entering into the formation of the top or roof of my vault I start the series of one bisectively-divided portion of the said roof with a segment C' somewhat narrower than the other sections, as indicated at K, while as relates to the other side division of the roof I permit the farther end to terminate with a correspondingly-narrowed segment, as designated by letter K'.

By reason of my utilization of stated narrower sections and the breaking of joints as relates both to the parts of the side walls and the vault-roof my structure is readily adjustable as to length (for adaptation to caskets of varying lengths) with the greatest ease by simply adding or dispensing with certain slab-sections of the roof and sides, as is clearly apparent.

The outer end edges of the segment-like sections terminating the vault-roof at either

extremity have smooth faces, as at *l*, and are when properly disposed at said points flush with the smooth faces of the outward edges of the underneath side slabs.

The ends of my structure are respectively closed by end coverings D D, comprising, essentially, a couple of rectangular-like slabs or panels 1 1, seated by their smooth bottom edges upon an end slab of the floor A in the space left therefor and extending across the otherwise open end of the vault, the said sections 1 1 being at their vertical centrally-meeting edges interlocked by means of a tongue-and-groove connection *m*, said slabs by their smooth portions abutting the smooth edges of the contiguous end slabs B B.

The combined joined slabs 1 1 arise from the floor and upwardly terminate on like horizontal plane at or about in line with the top edge of the side slabs B B.

Resting upon the top edge of the joined slabs 1 1 aforesaid there is a semidisk-shaped slab 2 of a width extending from side to side of the vault end and of such arch-like contour along its uprising edges as to entail its extending flush with the contiguous arch-sections C' C'', against whose smooth edges its smooth inner face abuts along its boundary.

The upper semidisk-like slab 2 is by its lower horizontal edge connected with the top edge of the combined slabs 1 1 by means of a rabbet or other satisfactory joint *n*, the abutting edges of the parts being so configured as to insure requisite joining.

The inner sides of the sections 1 1, contiguous to their outer vertical edges and that of the semidisk-like section 2, recede from the main portion of the inner faces of the parts and entailing flange-like or lapping boundary edges *p p p'*, respectively, which abut the termination of a vault end, while necessarily insuring the main portions of said sections projecting slightly into the interior of the vault end and snugly fitting interiorly the boundary of the side slabs and arch portion of the vault structure and a perfect closure of the chamber of the vault at its respective extremities assured.

The fact of having grooves *aa* continuous from end to end of the several floor-slabs A is obviously of value in the increasing or diminishing of the length of the flooring for adaptation in the increase or shortening of the vault structure, as receptive grooves are insured for the tongue portions of any requisite number of slabs appertaining to the side walls.

Clearly, if so desired, the exposed portions of said grooves *aa* residing at either extremity of my vault, following the erection of the end pieces or closers D, may be filled in with cement, although not by any means essential to, as devoid of a filling no orifice opens at those spots into the vault interior.

While my receptacle is primarily designed as a vault or a lining for an ordinary underground grave, it may evidently, if so desired,

be utilized as a vault or tomb located above the surface of the earth, although I consider my structure the more especially advantageous for underground service.

5 Obviously where artificial stone is the material employed for the various sections proper molds are utilized for the formation of same in a plastic state and which, subsequently hardening, create solid slabs or pieces
10 of the characteristics desired.

Evidently the floor-slabs are disposed at the bottom of the grave, and the sides and end pieces being erected loose dirt is filled in between same and the contiguous vertical sides
15 of the grave, and, the coffin or casket being deposited in place, the roof-sections are disposed in position and dirt covered over same.

Suitable cement may be used at the joints and elsewhere of the receptacle for rendering same air and water tight or, contrariwise, dispensed with.

The slabs entering into the formation of my vault being all of comparatively small size are readily transportable and easily erected
25 in their proper places wherever erection of vault is to be had.

As is apparent, the slabs may be conveniently crated for shipment to any desired point, ready for immediate utilization for a
30 vault following arrival at destination.

By my invention not only a readily-portable vault is attained, but one which may expeditiously be erected and possessing exceeding strength and durability, and a very important feature comparatively inexpensive as
35 compared with varied forms of grave vaults or linings now more or less used.

Obviously, if so wished, my novel longitudinally-bisected roof or top, comprising moderate-sized segments united as hereinbefore specified, may be mounted (in like manner) upon the side walls of a vault structure constructed of courses of brick laid in customary manner and the floor and closing
40 ends of brickwork, or otherwise, as wished, without a departure from the spirit and scope of my invention.

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

1. A portable grave-vault composed of top arched segmental slabs, said slabs connected at their longitudinal center by a tongue-and-groove joint and at their sides by a lapping joint and each slab provided at its lower bottom edge with a projecting tongue and abutting shoulder, in combination with side slabs, said side slabs provided on one edge with a vertical groove, on the opposite edge with a tongue, on its upper end with a tongue on
55 one edge thereof to engage the shoulder of the top slab, and at its bottom with a central tongue, bottom slabs each provided near its opposite side edges with a vertical groove to engage with the said lower central tongue of
60 the side slabs, and sectional end pieces to close the vault, said end pieces connected by a tongue-and-groove joint, and provided with an interiorly-projecting side and top flange to engage the top and side parts of the vault
65 to additionally support the same, substantially as described.

2. In a portable grave-vault, the side slabs B provided on one side edge with a vertical groove and on the opposite edge with a tongue,
75 its upper end provided with a tongue at one edge and its lower end with a central tongue, in combination with top and bottom slabs provided with suitable means to engage with said side slabs, substantially as described. 80

3. In a structure of the class described, parallel side walls composed of a series of upright slabs, an end slab of both walls being of a narrower width than its companions, in combination with a longitudinally-bisected
85 roof upheld by the side walls, one of the two series of segment-shaped slabs forming the roof starting with a section narrower than the others of said series, and the other series of segments terminating in a section narrower
90 than the preceding sections and at that end of the structure remote from the narrower segment of the first-named series, as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
95 in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN F. LOCKWOOD. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

M. CHARLES TAYLOR,
LUTHER S. LAKE.