No. 613,925. Patented Nov. 8, 1898.

W. C. HEITZMANN.

CASKET HANDLE.

(Application filed July 9, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. I.

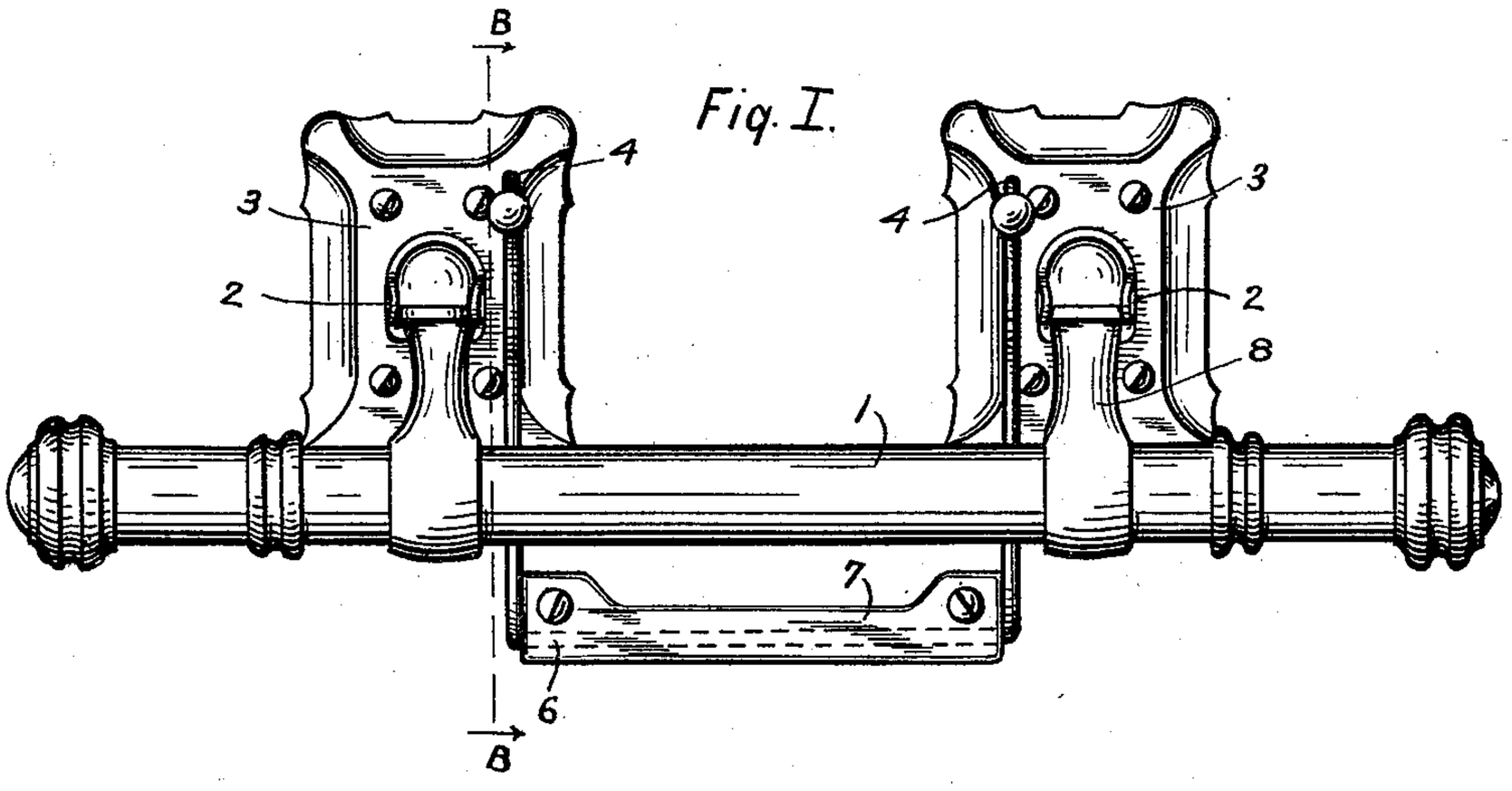


Fig. II.

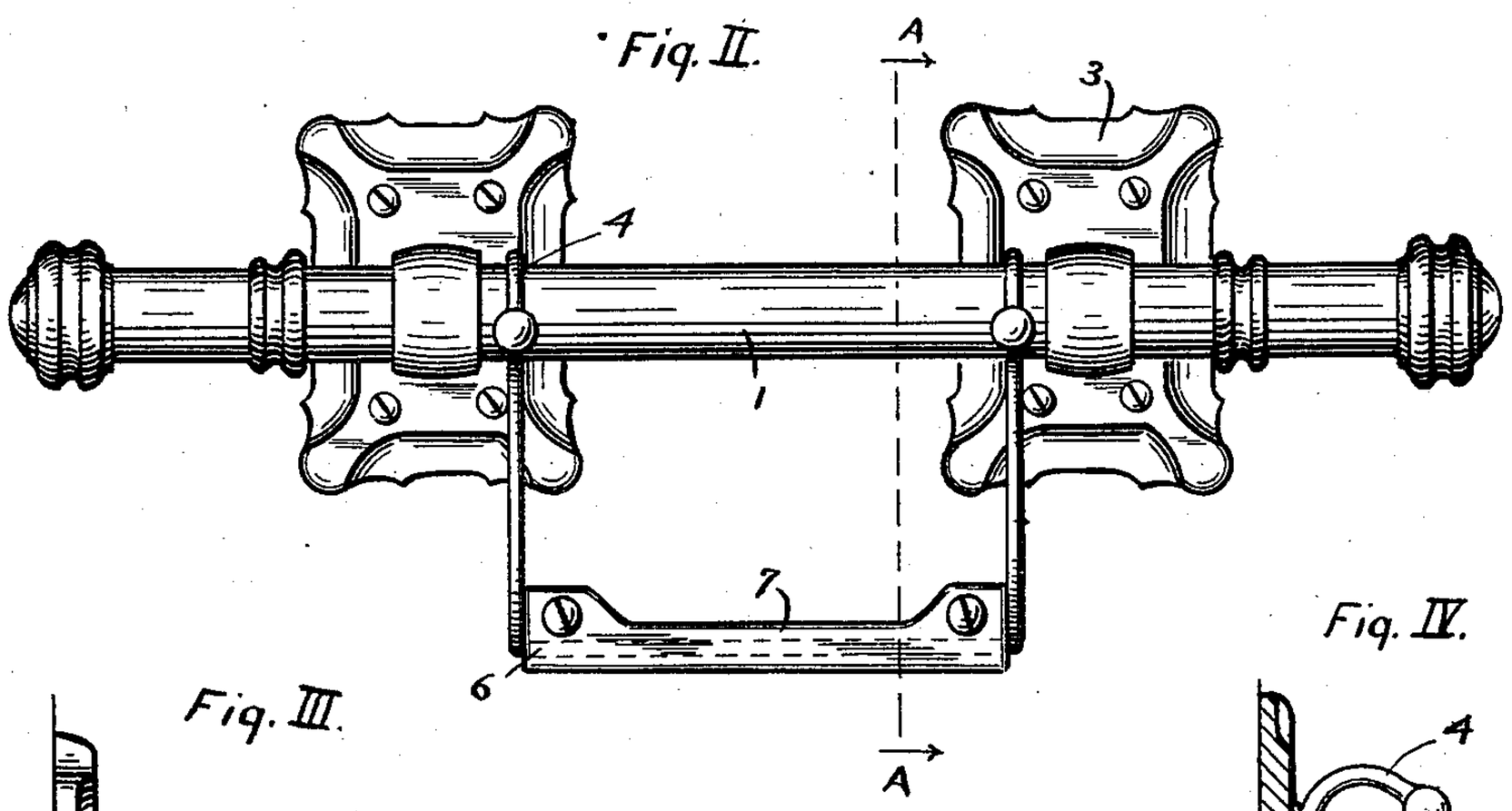
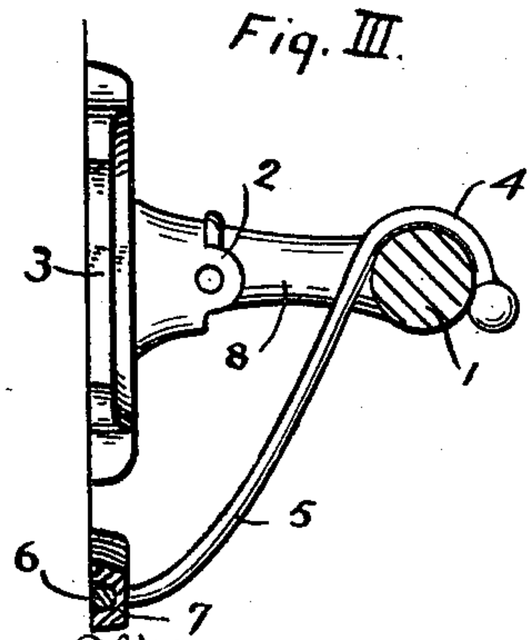
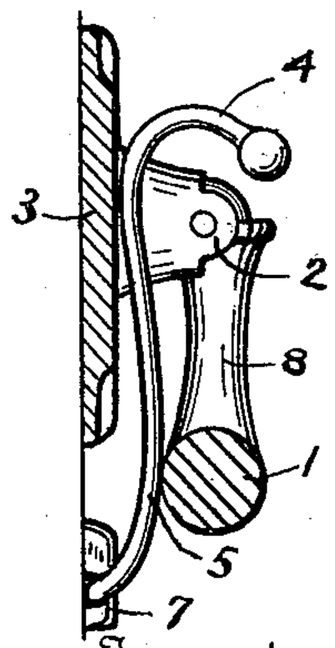


Fig. III.



Witnesses
R. D. Hawkins.
Kate Dunlap.

Fig. IV.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. HEITZMANN, OF UNION CITY, INDIANA.

CASKET-HANDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 613,925, dated November 8, 1898.

Application filed July 9, 1898. Serial No. 685,548. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. HEITZMANN, of Union City, county of Randolph, and State of Indiana, have invented a certain new and useful Lifting-Handle Brace or Support; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals refer to like parts.

This invention relates to the combination, with casket-handles and handles for a similar purpose, of means for rëenforcing the handle when subjected to a strain.

Casket-handles are usually hinged so that the handle hangs downward when not in use and its arms extend outward at a right angle from the casket when it is in use.

My invention consists in pivoting and mounting a hook to the casket below the handle, so that the hook will extend up between the handle and the casket, with the hook at the upper end extending outward, whereby when the handle is elevated it will automatically engage the hook. In such case if the hook is of the proper length it will take a part of the strain from the handles and in this way transfer a part of the load or strain from the bracket or joint supporting the handles to the pivotal connection of the hook below, and with this arrangement when the handle is lowered into its position while not in use it will automatically push the hook backward against the casket out of the way. Therefore the hook performs its function without any attention from the person using the handle.

In Figure I, I show a side elevation of my invention with the parts in position while not in use. Fig. II is the same with the parts in position while in use. Fig. III is a cross-section of the same, showing the position of the parts while in use. Fig. IV is a cross-section showing the position of the parts while not in use.

Turning now to details of construction, 1 is a handle having the arms 8 extending at right angles therefrom, which at their ends are hinged at 2 to the brackets 3, that are secured to the casket. The hinge is the knuckle-joint hinge of common use for this purpose, which prevents the arms 8 from being moved upward beyond a horizontal position. When said arms are so moved, the handle 1 is out far enough from the casket to enable the hand to readily grasp and hold it.

The parts above described are old, and I do not care to limit myself to any particular design or construction thereof.

My invention consists in combining with what I have described the hooks 4, pivoted below the handle to the casket in any suitable way. What I show here I consider is the best means of pivoting said hooks. They are formed of very strong wirelike metal and I form both of one continuous piece, so that the lower ends of the hooks are connected by a portion 6, integral therewith. This rod of metal out of which the hooks 4 are made is bent to the form desired, preferably having the swell or bend 5, so that the handle when lowered will force the hook quite back against the casket. The horizontal portion 6 is held in a groove in the plate 7, which is secured to the casket. Said horizontal portion 6 therefore lies in said groove between said plate and the casket. Any other method of pivoting these hooks may be adopted, and, if desired, only one hook used; but I consider it preferable to form and pivot and arrange the same as here shown. It is likewise preferable to so arrange the hooks as to bring them between the arms 8, yet as close to said arms as possible. Said hooks should be so loosely pivoted that their upper ends will fall over from the casket by gravity. The hooks are so arranged, also, that they will extend downward from the casket and automatically engage the hinge when the latter is elevated.

The position of the parts when not in use is shown in Fig. IV. There the handles hold the hooks out of the way back against the casket. When the handle is elevated from the position shown in Fig. IV to that shown in Fig. III, the hooks fall forward to engage the handle. When the handle is depressed, it can force the hooks back against the casket.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a hinged casket-handle, of a hook pivoted below the handle extending up between the handle and the casket with its hooked end outward, whereby it will engage the handle when elevated

and will be held against the casket by the handle when lowered.

2. The combination with a hinged casket-handle substantially as shown, of the hooks 4 formed as shown, and the plate 7 with a groove in which said hooks are pivoted.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of the witnesses herein named.

WILLIAM C. HEITZMANN.

Witnesses:
M. LEE CLAWSON,
CRATE D. BOWEN.