

No. 771,606.

PATENTED OCT. 4, 1904.

T. J. BROWN.
COFFIN PROTECTOR.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 11, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

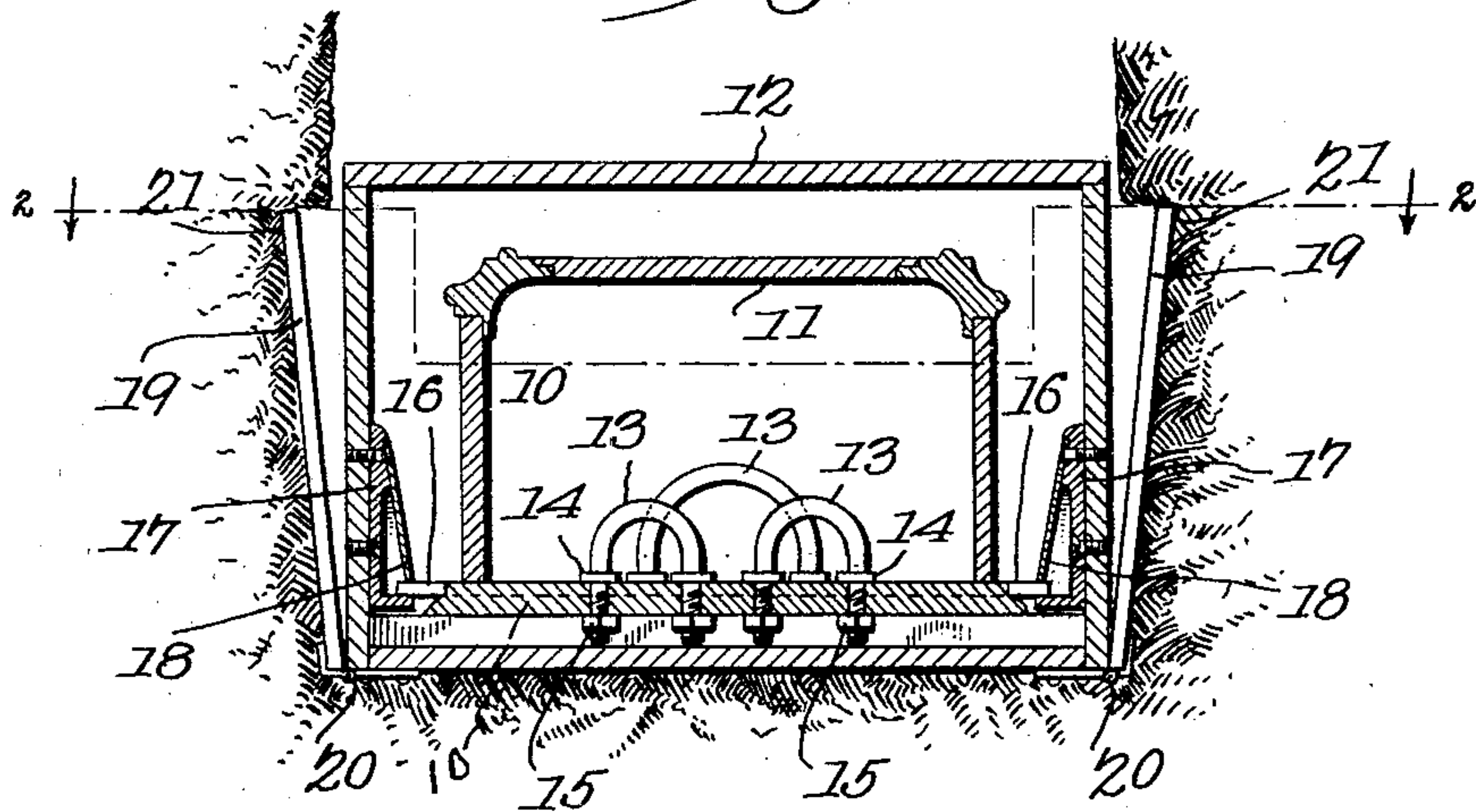


Fig. 2.

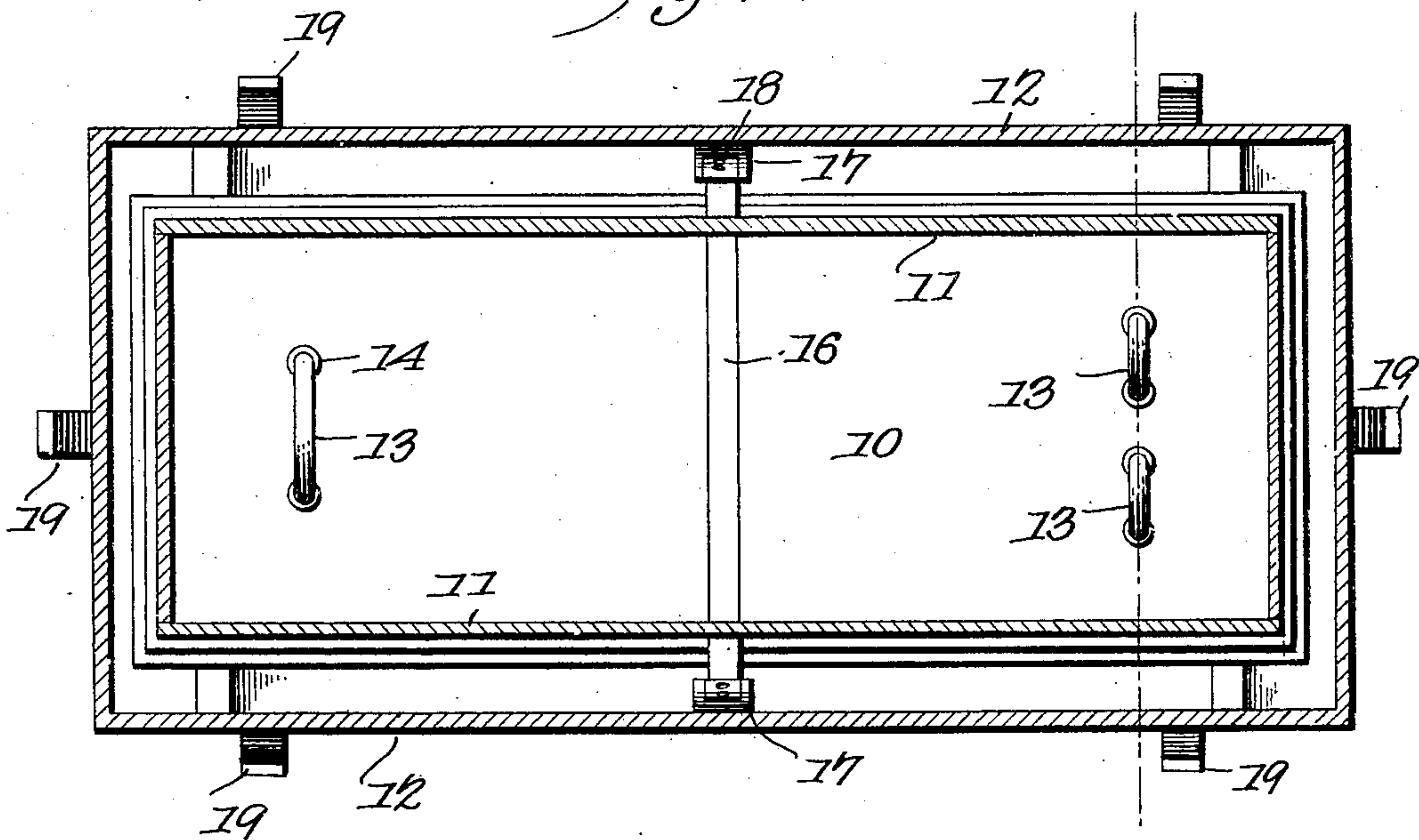
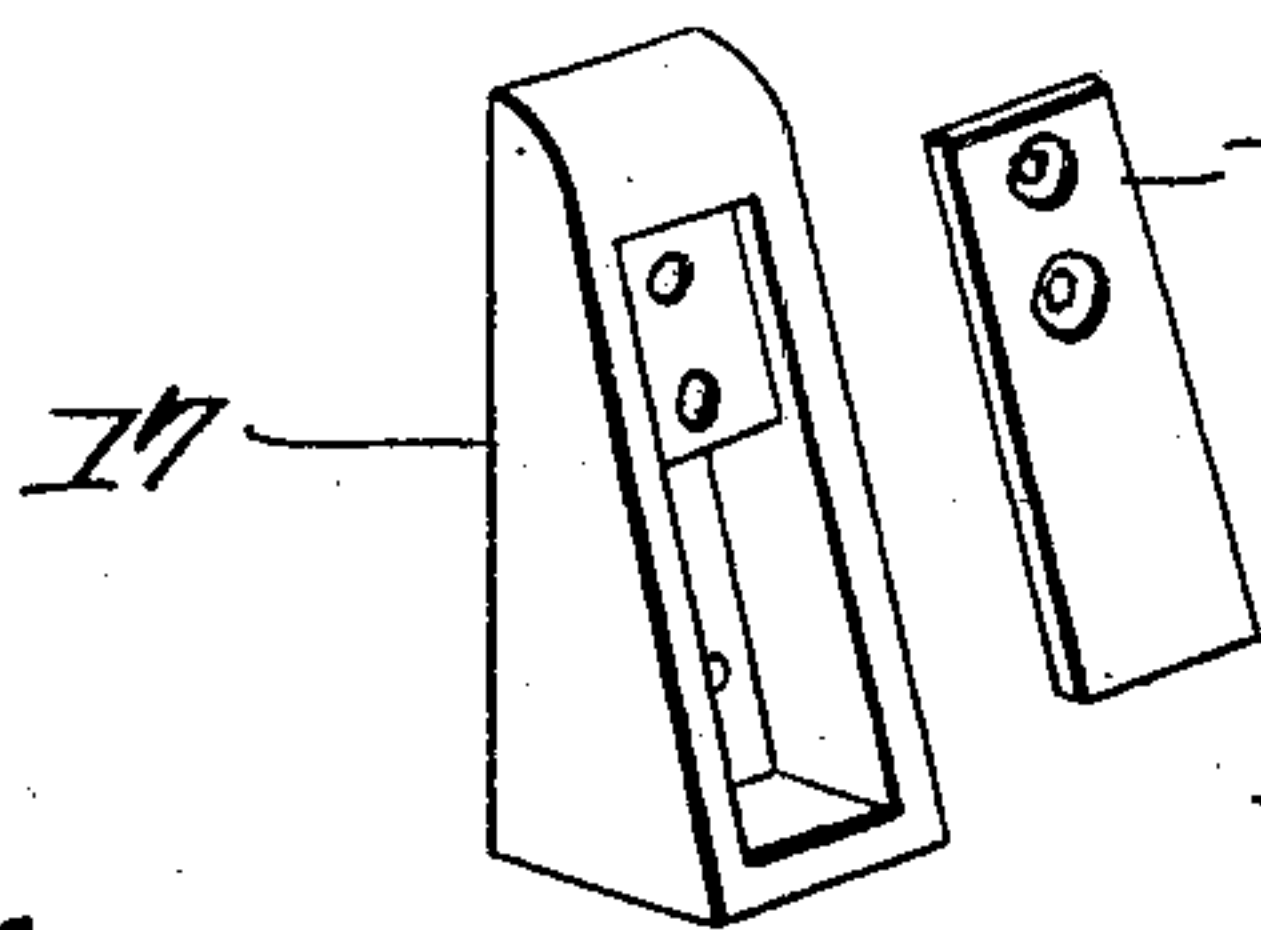


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS JOHNSON BROWN, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

COFFIN-PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 771,606, dated October 4, 1904.

Application filed November 11, 1903. Serial No. 180,719. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS JOHNSON BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Coffin-Protector, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for preventing the surreptitious removal of bodies from graves, and has for its object to simplify and improve the construction of devices employed for this purpose and to increase their safety and security without increase of expense or complication of parts.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction, as hereinafter shown and described, and specified in the claims.

In the drawings illustrative of the invention, in which corresponding parts are denoted by like designating characters, Figure 1 is a transverse section of a grave with the coffin and coffin-box therein, showing the improvements applied. Fig. 2 is a plan view in longitudinal section on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents one of the trip attachments of the coffin-box in perspective and disconnected.

The improved device may be applied to any of the various styles and forms of coffins or caskets and their boxes as ordinarily manufactured, and for the purpose of illustration a coffin and its box of the usual form are shown, 10 representing the bottom, 11 the side walls and cover of the coffin, and 12 the inclosing rough box.

The improved safety and protecting devices comprise means for securing the corpse to the coffin, means for locking the coffin within the grave-box, and means for locking the grave-box within the grave, so that any attempt to remove the corpse from the coffin or the coffin from the grave-box or the grave-box from the grave will be frustrated.

The means employed for securing the corpse within the coffin consists of a plurality of substantially U-shaped metal members 13, adapted to inclose the ankles or limbs and the neck, breast, or other parts of the corpse, and each provided with threaded ends adapted to project through the bottom 10 of the coffin, with

lateral shoulders 14 bearing against the inner face of the coffin-bottom and nuts 15 engaging the threaded ends of the U-shaped members on the exterior of the coffin. By this means the corpse is held within the coffin and can be removed only by unscrewing the nuts 15, and as these are beneath the coffin they can be reached only by removing the coffin from the grave-box.

The means employed for securing the coffin in the grave-box consists in one or more rods or bars 16, disposed within the coffin at or near the bottom 10 and with its ends extending through and projecting beyond the sides of the coffin.

Attached to the interior of the grave-box are small casings 17, preferably of metal, having inclined spring-tongues 18, beneath free ends of which the projecting ends of the bar 16 catch as the coffin is placed within the grave-box. When the coffin is lowered into the grave-box, the projecting ends of the bar or bars 16 will automatically displace the yieldable free ends of the spring-latches 18 and pass beneath them, the members 18 springing back to their normal position and effectually preventing the release of the bar, and the coffin is held thereby. Any desired number of the rods or bars 16 and the catches 18 may be employed; but generally one rod and two of the spring-catches, one for each end of the rod, will be sufficient.

The means employed for preventing the surreptitious removal of the grave-box, with the coffin and corpse contained therein, from the grave consists of a plurality of stop-bars 19, hinged by their lower ends, as at 20, to the lower outer portion of the grave-box and extending vertically and free to swing outwardly and adapted to project into cavities formed for them in the walls 21 of the grave. As the grave-box is lowered into the grave the stop-bars will freely pass over the interior surfaces of the grave-walls and when they reach the cavities will fall outwardly into them, as will be obvious, and thereby effectually prevent any upward movement of the box, and consequently effectually prevent its removal so long as the bars are intact. By

these simple attachments the corpse is securely held in the coffin, the coffin securely held in the grave-box, and the grave-box securely held in the grave.

- 5 The members 13 will preferably be concealed by the garments of the corpse, so that their presence will not be perceptible, and can be of hardened steel to prevent them being severed by persons attempting to surreptitiously remove the corpse. The members 10 13 will also serve as supports to hold the corpse against displacement while the coffin is being moved. The members 13 may be arranged over any desired portions of the body 15 and any number employed, the parts forming the attachments being of any desired size or form and constructed of any suitable metal or other material.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is—

1. An attachment for coffins comprising a substantially U-shaped member adapted to span a portion of the corpse and having threaded ends for projection through the bottom of 25 the coffin and provided with shoulders for bearing against the interior of the coffin, and nuts engaging said threaded ends on the exterior of the coffin.

2. The combination with a coffin-box, of 30 stop-arms attached to swing from its lower portion for engaging cavities in the side walls of the grave.

3. A coffin having a corpse-holding device, and means accessible at the under side only of 35 the bottom of the coffin to fasten the holder thereto.

4. A coffin having a corpse-holding device which is provided with a screw-threaded part piercing the bottom of the coffin and a nut 40 fitted to the lower end of said portion and ac-

cessible from the under side only of the bottom of the coffin.

5. A device of the character described comprising in combination a coffin-box having spring-catches upon the interior thereof, and 45 a coffin having external projections disposed to engage the catches on being lowered into the box and have the catches snap over the projections to interlock the coffin with the box.

6. The combination of a coffin-box having 50 external means for locking the box against removal from a grave, and also provided with internal means for locking the coffin within the box, and a coffin having means for engagement with the coffin-locking means within the 55 box.

7. The combination of a coffin-box having external arms hinged at their lower ends to the box with their upper free ends adapted for engagement with cavities in the side walls 60 of a grave, and also provided with coffin-locking means within the box, and a coffin having means for engagement with the coffin-locking means within the box.

8. The combination of a coffin-box having 65 external arms hinged at their lower ends to the box with their upper free ends adapted for engagement with cavities in the side walls of a grave, and coffin-locking means embodying spring-catches carried by the inner side 70 walls of the box and a coffin having means for engagement with the spring-catches within the box.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in 75 the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS JOHNSON BROWN.

Witnesses:

WALTER HAMILTON,
GEORGE LINN.