

No. 772,747.

PATENTED OCT. 18, 1904.

J. D. RIPSON.
BURIAL CASKET.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1904.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

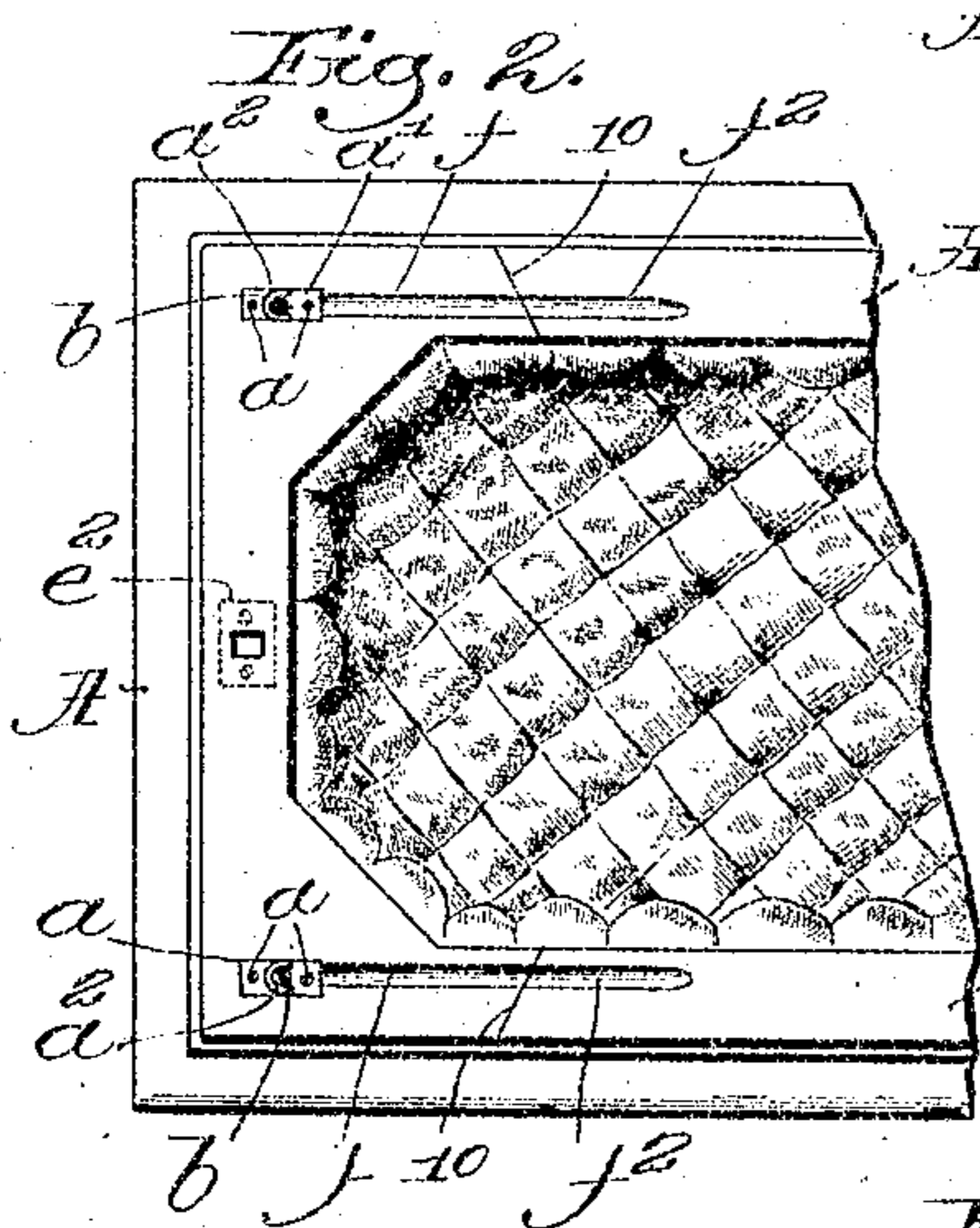
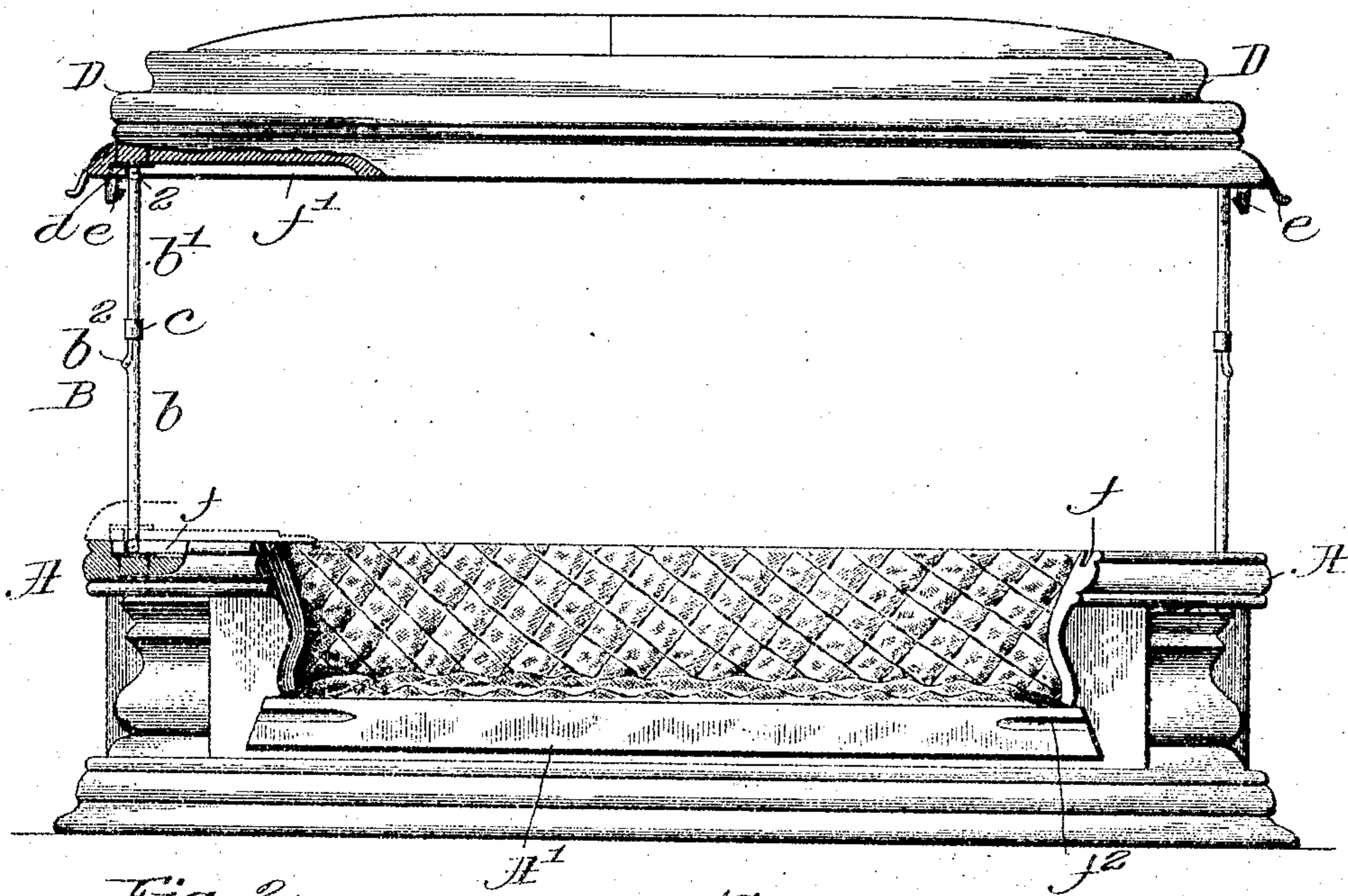


Fig. 1a.



Fig. 3.

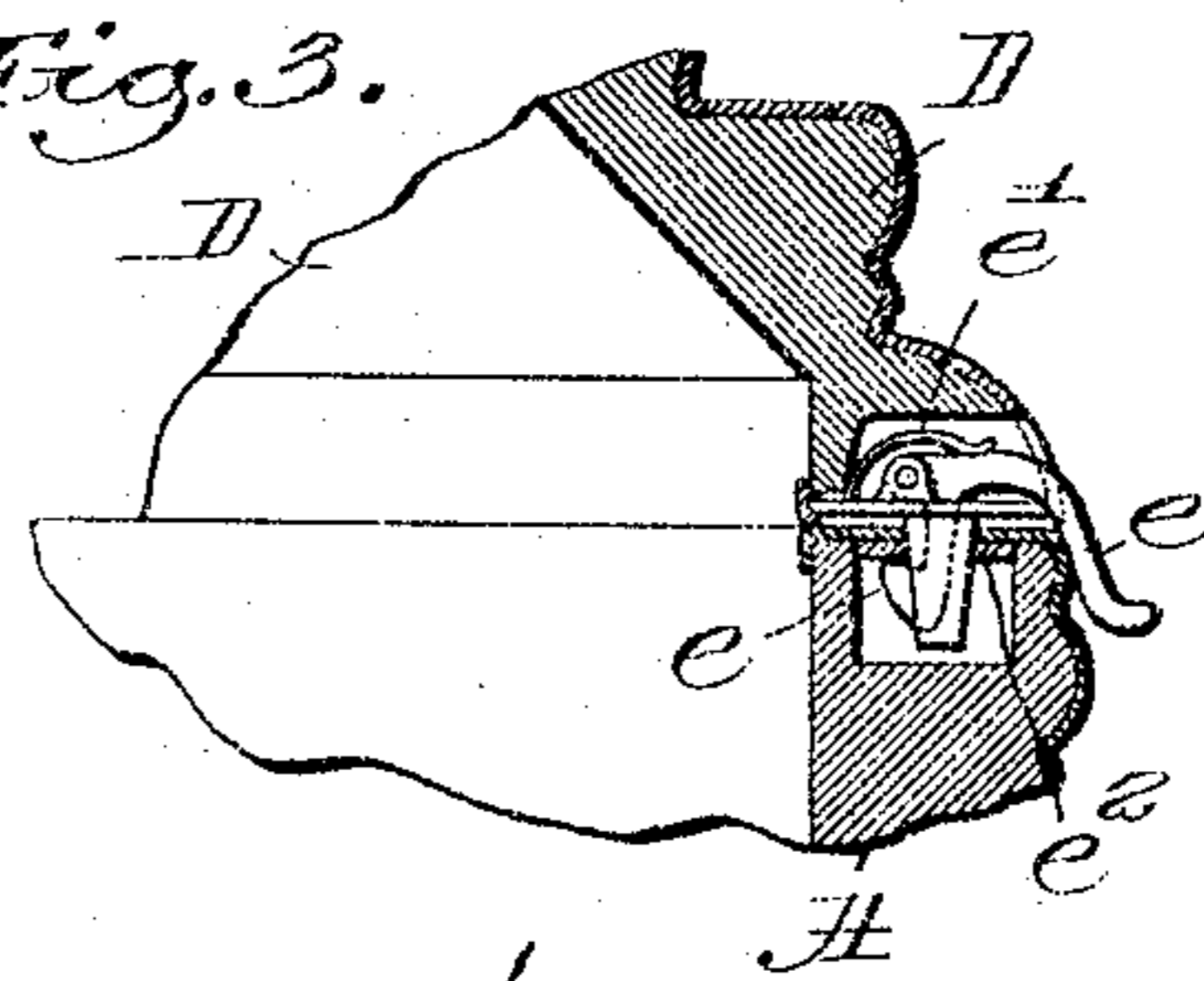


Fig. 4.

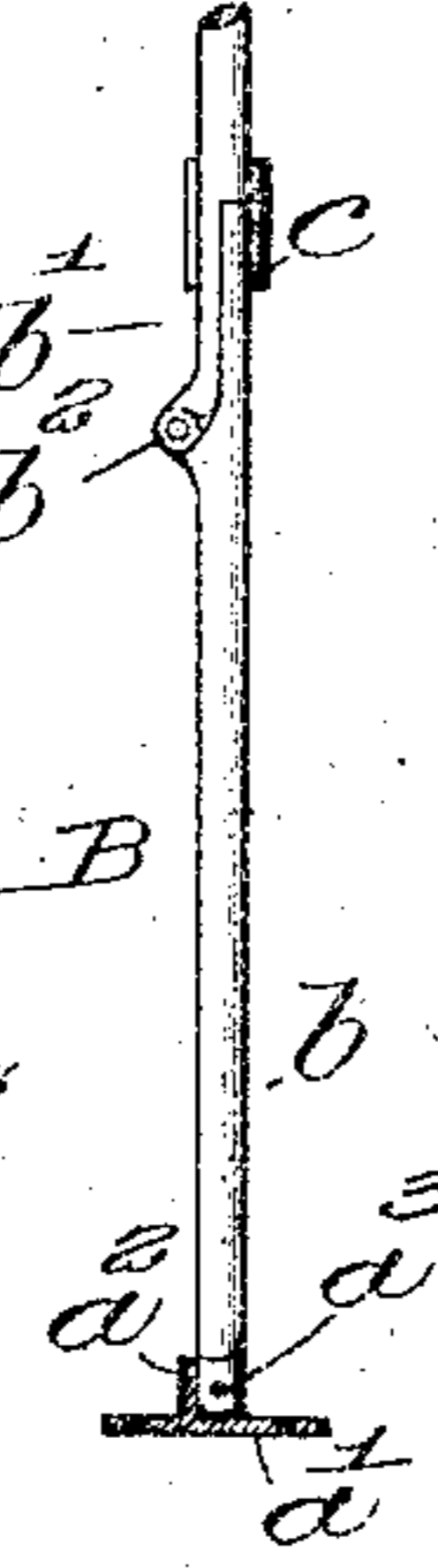
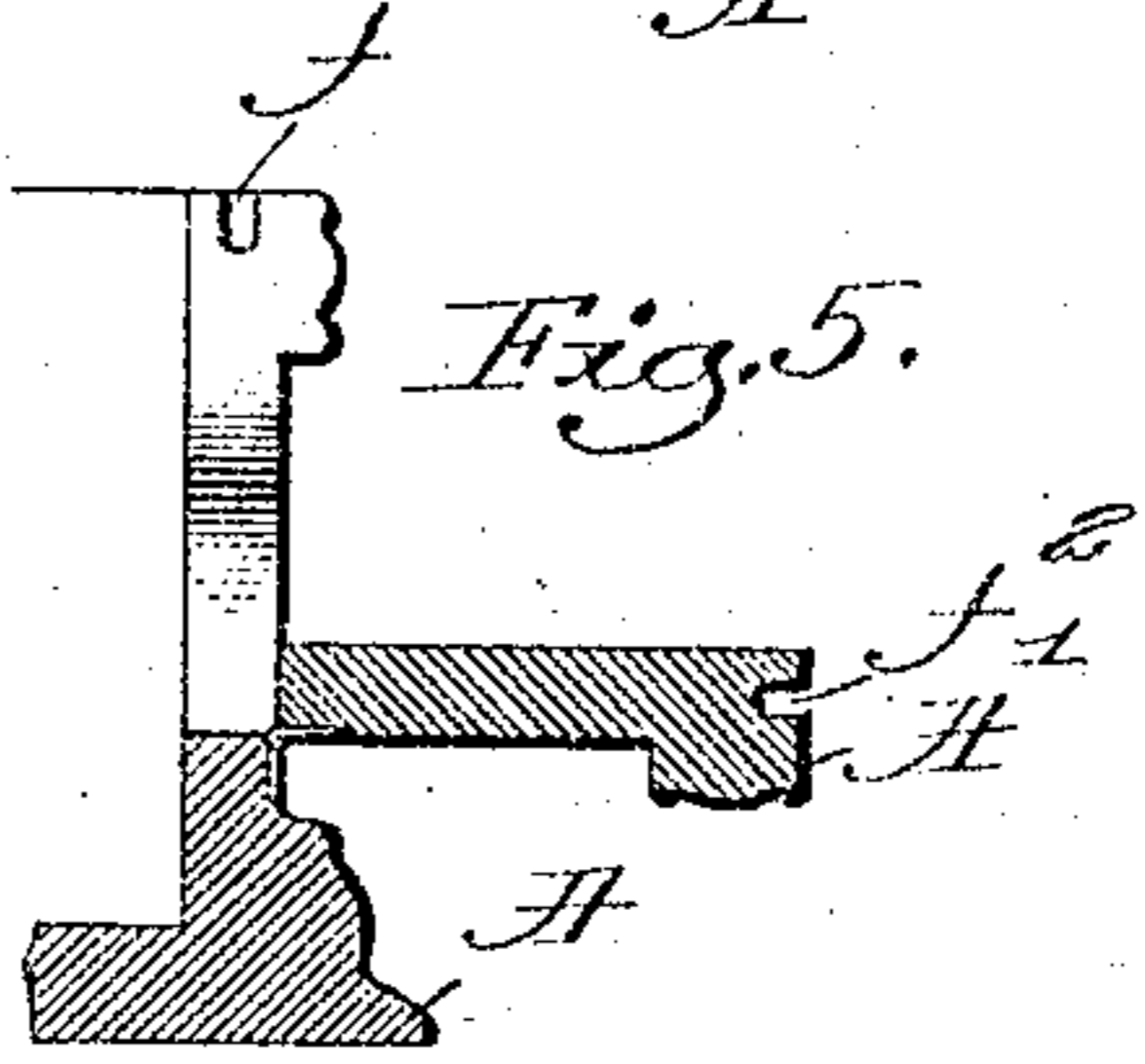


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN D. RIPSON, OF PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS.

BURIAL-CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 772,747, dated October 18, 1904.

Application filed May 31, 1904. Serial No. 210,605. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN D. RIPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pepperell, county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Caskets, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a casket having a permanently-connected top that may be sustained over the body of the casket as a canopy, as when a body is laid therein to be viewed, and which may be lowered onto the body and be locked in closed position.

Figure 1, in side elevation, represents a casket provided with a canopy-top, the top being raised and with the side of the body of the casket opened. Fig. 1^a is a detail to be referred to. Fig. 2 is a top view of the end of the body, the side being closed. Fig. 3 is a section to show one form of catch to retain the lid in its closed position, and Fig. 4 is a detail showing one of the canopy-supports detached. Fig. 5 is a detail showing the side piece hinged to the body of the casket.

The body A of the casket is shown as having its sides A' hinged at their lower ends, (see Fig. 5,) so that said sides may be turned outwardly, as represented in Fig. 1, as when a person occupies the casket. The ends of the sides A' and the portions of the head and foot ends of the body where said parts abut are beveled, as at 10. The top of the body at its four corners has applied thereto by screws a blocks or plates a' of metal, having rising therefrom semicircular lugs a², opposite portions of which have holes to receive (see Fig. 4) studs a³, that sustain the lower ends of the longer members b of the canopy-supports B, said supports having a second member b' pivoted thereto at b² at a point below the upper end of the member b. The upper end of the member b and the part of the member b' in contact with the same are so shaped as to receive over them a split sleeve c, slidable vertically on said support above the pivot b². The upper end of the member b' (see Fig. 1) is pivoted at 2 to a

plate d, like the plate a', and secured to the under side of the canopy-top D. When the top is raised, as it may be by lifting the same by hand, the sleeve c is slipped over the overlapping parts of the members b and b', as in Figs. 1 and 4, and the top is maintained in its elevated position, and the portions a² of the like plates a and d, acting against the outer sides of the respective members b and b', prevent endwise movement of the top. The upper edge of the body and the under side of the top, near the points where the members b and b' are pivotally connected therewith, have, respectively, lateral grooves f f', and this upper edge of the hinged or removable side has a groove f². After close of usual services the sleeves c are lifted and the two-part top-supports b b' are each turned inwardly where joined together, as it will be noticed that the pivots b² at opposite ends of the body occupy positions at different sides of the longitudinal axes of the members b, and consequently provision is thus made that the supports b b' may be bent and collapsed only by moving inwardly, and the top may be then lowered. As the under side of the top meets the top edge of the body the members b and b' enter, respectively, the grooves f f' and are concealed from view, letting the top contact firmly with the upper edge of the body.

It will be understood that the sides A' are turned upwardly and the body of the casket is closed before the canopy-top is lowered, and the members b by entering the grooves f² in the upper edge of the side walls of the body lock the latter in their closed positions.

At opposite ends of the casket I provide top locking means, (shown best in Fig. 3,) comprising a pivoted lever-catch e, controlled by a spring e' and adapted to engage the under side of a slotted plate e², sustained by the upper edge of the body. The casket shown is represented as having a cloth covering and as lined with usual silk smocking.

Prior to my invention I am not aware that a casket has ever had jointed to its body a top that could be raised and held automatically in its elevated position, and I desire, therefore, to claim this subject broadly.

The split sleeve c (shown detached in Fig. 100

1^a) is formed of spring metal and when slipped over the member *b'* hugs the same and exerts sufficient friction as to remain in any position on the member *b'* in which it may be left
5 when moved by hand.

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

1. A casket comprising a body, a canopy-top, and jointed inwardly-foldable members connecting said body and top at their four corners.
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2. A casket comprising a body, a canopy-top, and foldable supports for connecting said body and top, said body and top being grooved to receive said supports when the top is lowered onto the body.
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3. A casket comprising a body, a canopy-top, and foldable supports for connecting said body and top, said body and said top having opposed grooves to receive said supports
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when the top is lowered onto the body, and means for locking the top to the ends of the body.

4. A casket comprising a body having a side adapted to be turned outwardly and downwardly, a canopy-top, and foldable supports connecting the body and top at their corners, said supports when folded coacting with the movable side to retain the same closed.
25 30

5. A casket comprising a body, a canopy-top, jointed members permanently attached to said body and top and split sleeves slidable on one of said members as and for the purpose described.
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In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN D. RIPSON.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. GREGORY,
ABBIE L. PORTER.