

No. 879,335.

PATENTED FEB. 18, 1908.

A. L. SOUTHMAYD.
STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 17, 1906.

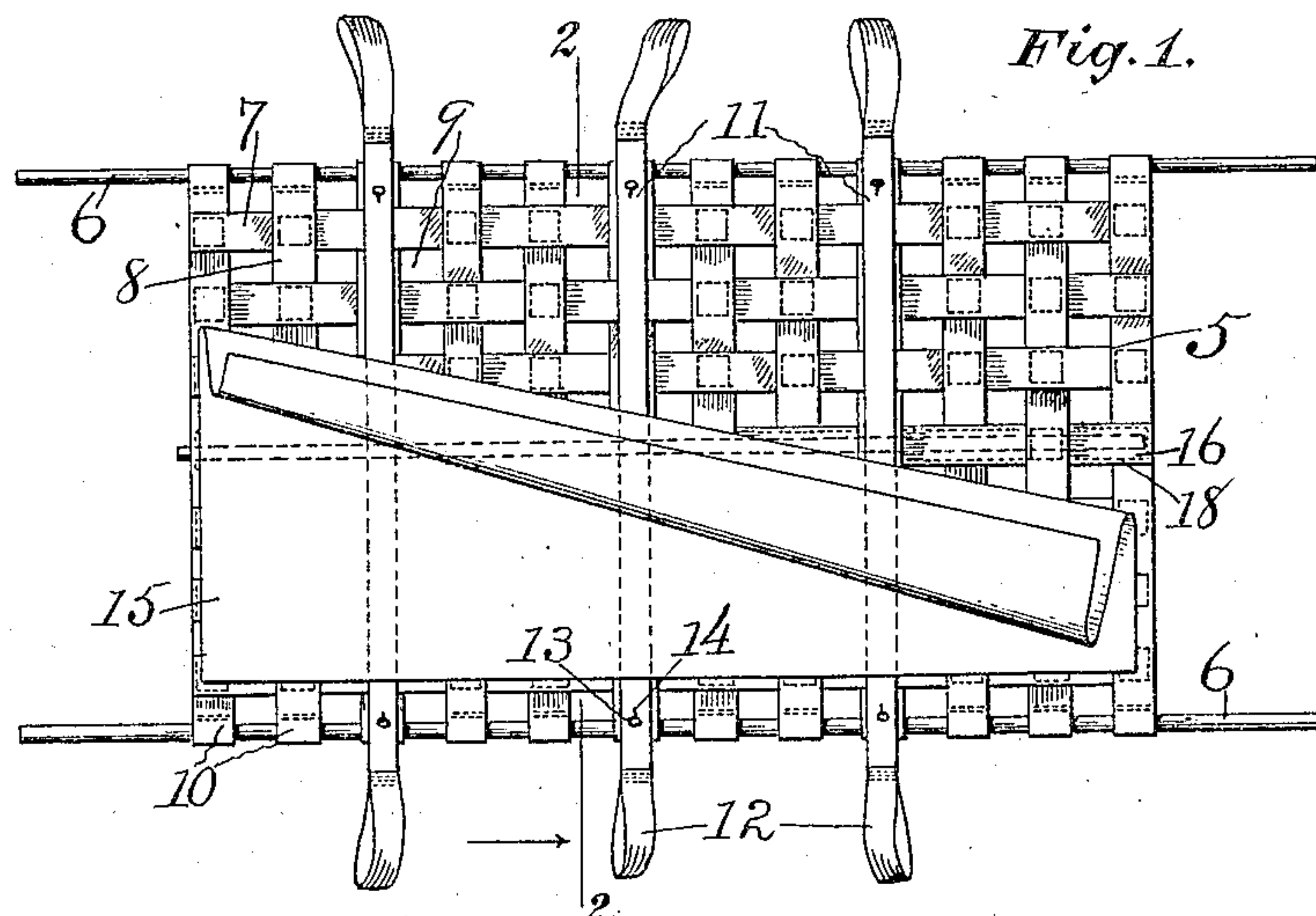


Fig. 2.

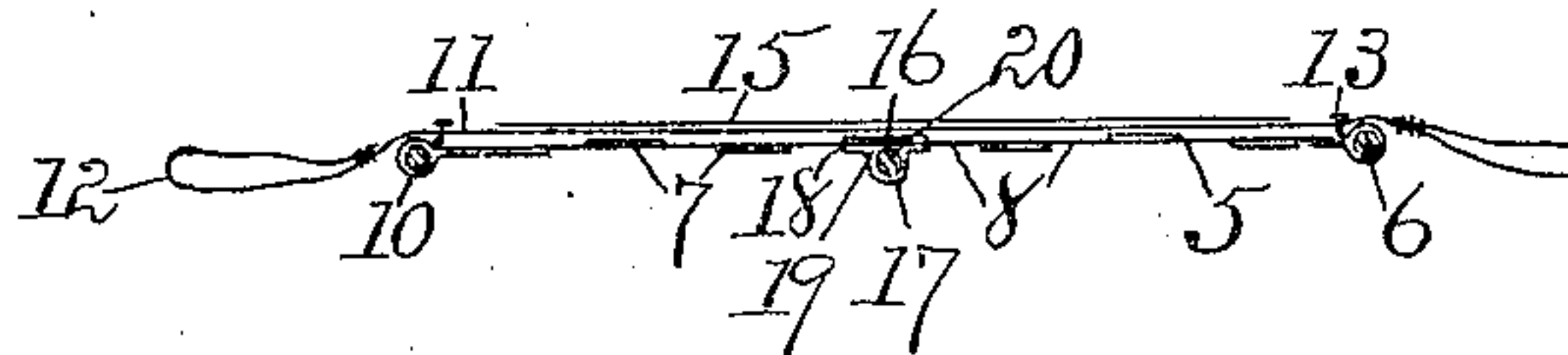


Fig. 3.

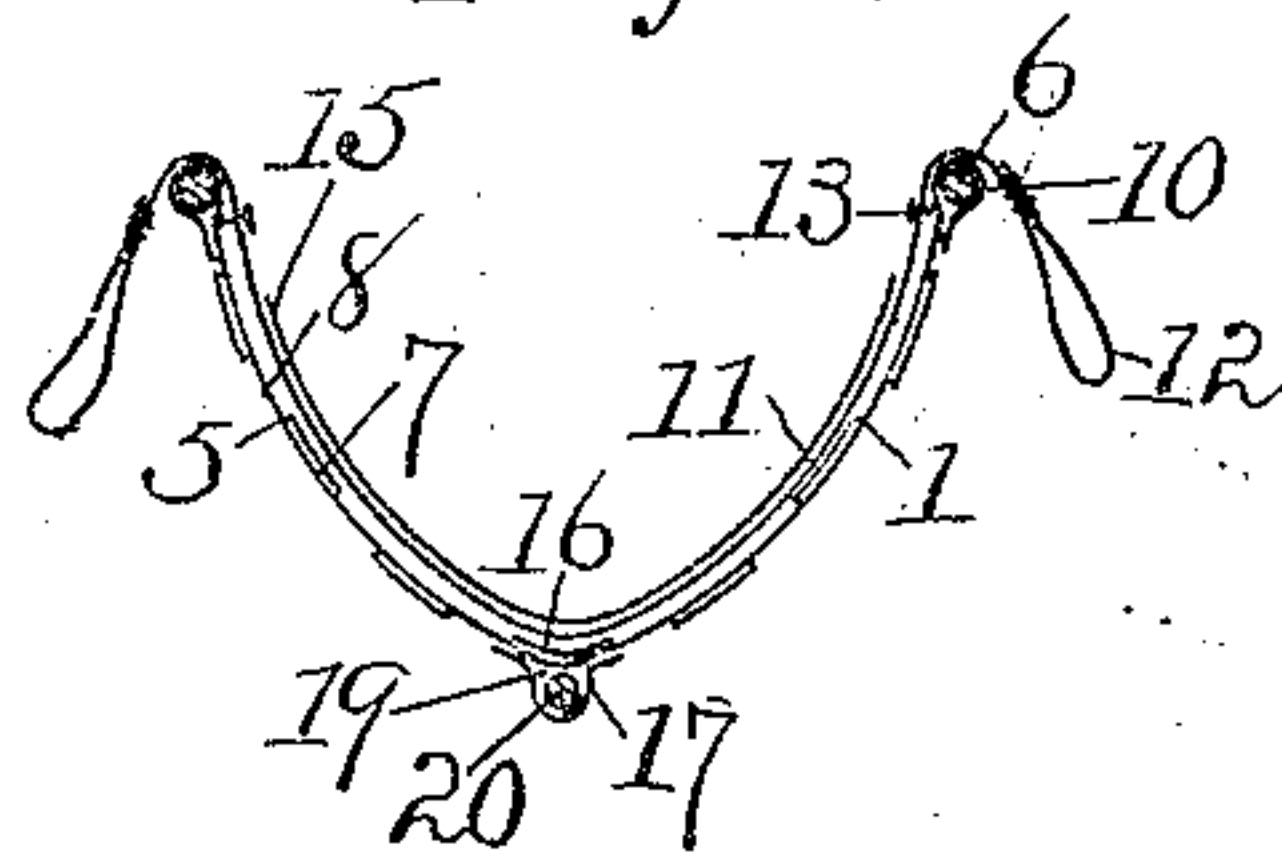
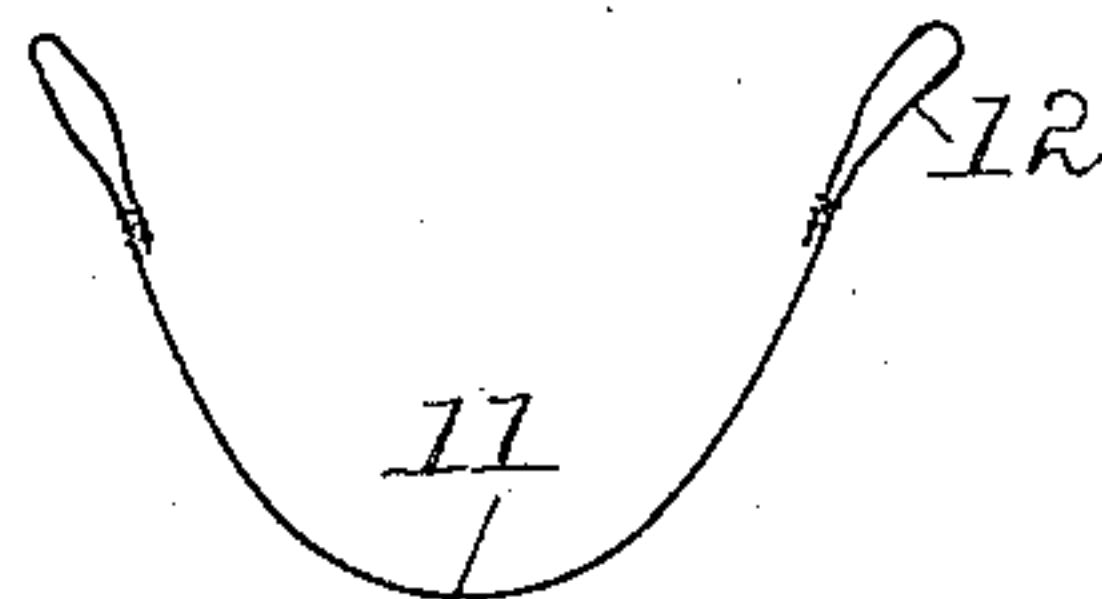


Fig. 4.



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STRETCHER.

No. 879,335.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 18, 1908.

Application filed September 17, 1906. Serial No. 334,883.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A LINCOLN SOUTHMAYD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Stretcher, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the class of devices employed by undertakers or in the medical service for conveying bodies or sick or wounded persons, and the object of my invention is to provide a device of this class which may be easily and readily placed underneath a sick or wounded person with minimum pain or inconvenience, and also one in which such person may be removed therefrom with equal readiness and with a minimum amount of pain or inconvenience to such person; and a further object of the invention is to provide a device in which a sick or wounded person may be easily carried with minimum pain or inconvenience; and a further object of the invention is to provide a device that may be readily placed in position to remove a body from the water; and a further object of the invention is to provide a device in the use of which decomposed bodies may be handled and disposed of with minimum inconvenience to the persons handling the body.

A form of device in the use of which these objects may be attained is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a stretcher embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a view in section through the same on the line 2---2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a like view but showing the supporting rods raised. Fig. 4 is an edge view of one of the removable supporting straps or carriers.

The device illustrated herein is composed to a large extent of fabric and single lines have been employed in the drawings to represent the thickness of such fabric, the construction of the apparatus allowing the use of such lines without confusion.

In the accompanying drawings the numeral 5 denotes what may be termed the bed and 6 rigid carrying supports or supporting rods. The bed is peculiarly constructed to provide flexibility in different directions. It is composed of lengthwise extending strips 7 and crosswise extending strips 8, the lengthwise strips and crosswise strips being arranged with proper spaces between them and forming openings 9 extending completely through the bed. The crosswise and length-

wise strips may be arranged and secured together in any desired manner, in the form shown each strip passing alternately over and under each of the crossing strips. At the place of crossing the strips are preferably stitched together, as shown. While these strips are composed of canvas or webbing the manner of constructing the bed provides a fabric which will yield more or less in different directions thus shaping itself to the form of a body that may be placed thereon and the body of a sick or wounded person is therefore allowed to assume a comparatively easy and natural form.

The crosswise extending strips are provided with loops 10 through which the rigid supports 6 are passed, these loops being of a size to allow the rods to be readily inserted or removed by a lengthwise movement.

Flexible supports 11, composed of canvas, webbing, leather or other suitable material are provided at each end thereof with loops 12. These flexible supports are removably secured to the bed and any suitable number may be employed. In the form of structure shown three of the supports are located crosswise of the bed at intervals along its length. They may be removably secured in place as by means of buttons 13 on the bed passing through button-holes 14 in the flexible supports. These flexible supports are so located on the bed that they will underlie a body placed thereon near the extremities and also at a point or points therebetween. Where three strips are employed they are so located as to underlie the body at or near the shoulders, underneath the center of the body and at or near the feet.

A covering 15 of canvas, oil-cloth, or other flexible material may be placed above the flexible supports.

From the above description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings it will be seen that a wounded or sick person may be readily placed upon the stretcher or removed therefrom, the flexible supports being suitably placed underneath the body, preferably with the covering 15 thereon. The rigid supports 6, which have been removed from the bed, are inserted through the loops 12 when the person may be raised and placed on the bed of the stretcher, or the bed of the stretcher placed underneath the person. The rigid supports being then inserted through the loops 10 the stretcher may be employed in the usual manner, the rigid

supports being employed for carrying the person, and the arrangement of the cross strips and lengthwise strips causes the bed to shape itself to the form of the person thereon.

- 5 When it is desired to remove the person the rigid supports 6 are inserted through the loops 12 and two attendants, one grasping each of the rigid supports, may readily place the person on a bed or like device when the
10 flexible supports are readily removed and without undue inconvenience to the person.

In order to adapt the device for undertakers' use, and especially for the removal of bodies from the water the central lengthwise
15 extending strip 16 is provided with a reinforcing strip 17, stitched preferably lengthwise as at 18 and forming a pocket 19 for the reception of a weight 20. This weight is preferably in the form of a rod or bar of
20 metal, preferably of lead.

For undertakers' use the flexible supports 11 may be dispensed with. In many instances a body when taken in charge by an undertaker is in the water and it will be seen
25 that the bed may be readily moved under the body, the weight 20 causing the central portion of the stretcher to sink so that the whole may be readily moved and located under the body. If the body shall be badly decomposed the bed may be placed in the box and
30 the rigid supports 6 removed, and the bed allowed to remain in the box.

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

- 35 1. A bed composed of lengthwise and crosswise extending strips, loops formed at the ends of the crosswise strips, and rigid supports extending through and removably located within said loops.
40 2. A bed composed of lengthwise and crosswise extending strips secured together at the points of crossing, loops formed in the ends of the crosswise strips, and rigid supports located within said loops.
45 3. In a stretcher, a bed, rigid carrying supports arranged for removable attachment to the edges of said bed, and flexible supports removably attached to the upper surface of said bed.
50 4. In a stretcher, a bed, rigid supports arranged for attachment to the edges of said bed, and flexible supports removably attached to the upper surface of said bed and arranged to receive said rigid supports.
55 5. A bed composed of a plural number of crosswise and a plural number of lengthwise extending strips, each strip crossing a plural

number of strips extending in the opposite direction, loops formed at the ends of the crosswise strips, a rigid support arranged to
60 be passed through said loops, and flexible supports removably attached to said bed.

6. A bed composed of lengthwise and crosswise extending pieces secured together at the points of crossing, loops formed in the
65 outer ends of crosswise pieces, rigid supports arranged to extend through said loops, and removable supports removably attached to the upper surface of said bed.

7. A bed, rigid carrying supports arranged
70 for removable attachment to the edges of said bed, flexible supports removably secured to the upper surface of said bed, and loops formed in the ends of said flexible supports.
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8. In a stretcher, a bed composed of lengthwise and crosswise extending strips suitably secured together, loops formed in the outer ends of crosswise strips for the
80 reception of rigid supports, the rigid supports, flexible supports removably attached to the upper surface of said bed, and loops formed in the ends of said flexible supports.

9. In a stretcher, a bed, rigid supports arranged for attachment to said bed, a
85 weight constituting part of the device, and means for securing said weight to the bed along practically its longitudinal center.

10. A bed composed of flexible material and having a pocket extending lengthwise
90 thereof, rigid supports arranged for attachment to the bed, and a weight constituting part of the device arranged to be located in said pocket to depress the bed at its longitudinal center and at an end thereof.
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11. A bed composed of strips of material arranged crosswise each of the other and suitably secured together, said bed having
100 a pocket formed between the side edges, a weight adapted to be inserted in said pocket, and rigid supports arranged for attachment to the sides of the bed.

12. A bed composed of lengthwise and crosswise strips suitably united at the points of crossing and with a pocket extending
105 longitudinally of the central lengthwise extending piece, loops formed at the ends of crosswise pieces, rigid supports adapted to pass into said loops, and a weight to be located in said pocket.

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Witnesses:

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