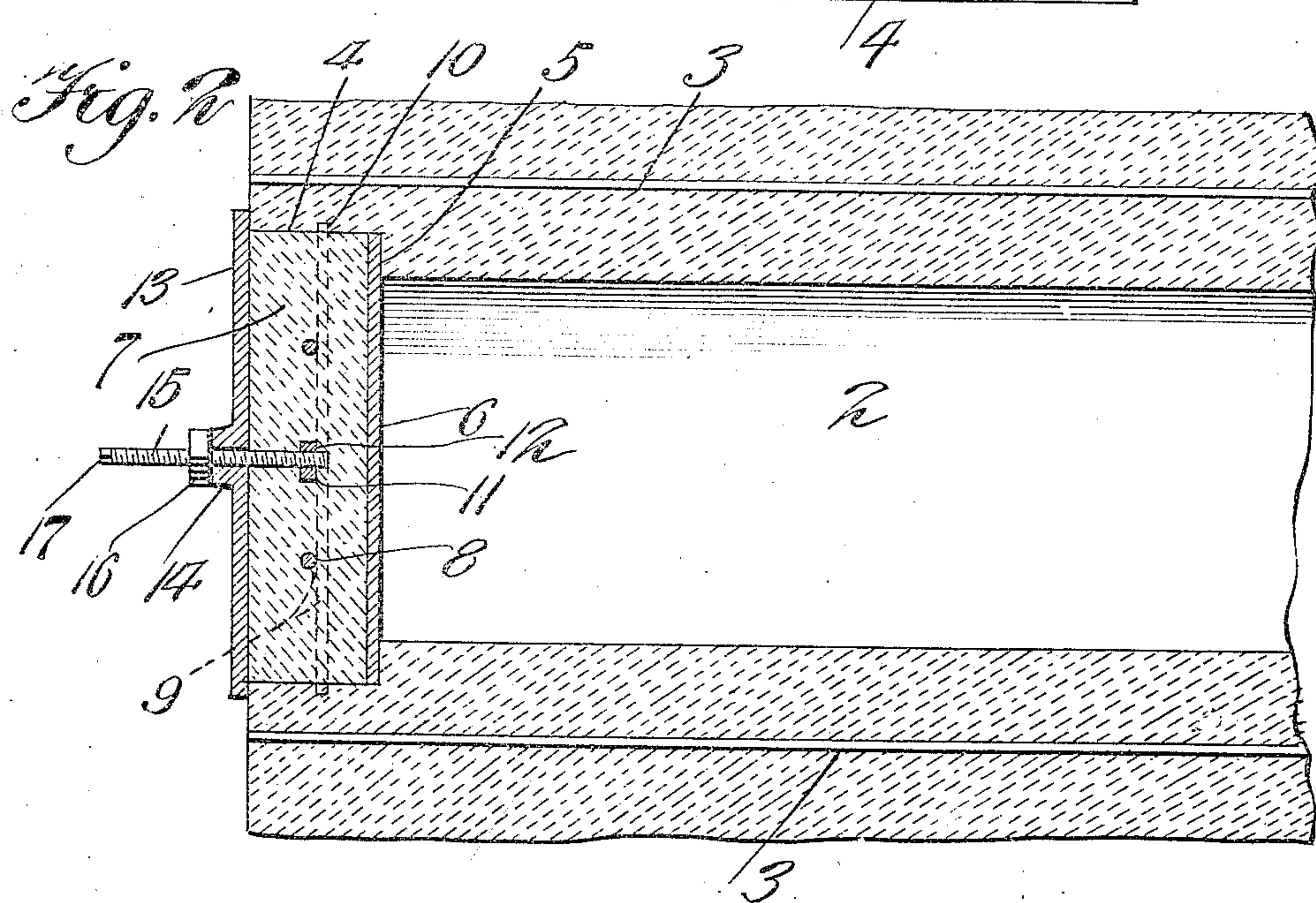


908,253.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## BURIAL-VAULT.

No. 908,253.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

Application filed June 27, 1908. Serial No. 440,610.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. HALL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Duquoin, in the county of Perry and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Burial-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to burial vaults, and particularly to vaults of that type formed of concrete or like plastic material.

The object of the invention is to provide a vault for surface or underground use in which the body portion of the vault is formed of concrete or like plastic material reinforced to secure maximum durability and strength, and in which provision is made for sealing the opening in the vault through which the casket is introduced in a simple and effective manner, so as to both hermetically seal the vault and render it as far as possible impervious to air and moisture and burglar proof, the construction being such that the vault cannot be broken into or tampered with without giving visual evidence of that fact.

The invention consists of the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a vault for surface use provided with a plurality of receiving chambers. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on a line through one of the chambers.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates the body of the vault, which may be of rectangular form, as shown, or of any other suitable form. The vault is molded or otherwise constructed of concrete or other suitable plastic material adapted to solidify to a hardened mass, and is provided with one or more longitudinal receiving chambers 2 open at the front thereof for the introduction of the casket. The body of the vault is reinforced adjacent its outer surfaces and between the several chambers thereof by longitudinally extending rods or bars 3 embedded therein in the process of manufacture, thus increasing the strength and durability of the vault structure to a material extent.

Each receiving chamber 2 is of proper length and size to receive any suitable type of casket designed to be employed. At the front or open end of each chamber the vault is provided with a recess 4 of greater cross-

sectional dimensions than the chamber and which, like the chambers, may be square, circular or of any other suitable form, said recess terminating at its inner end in a right angular shoulder 5. After the casket has been inserted in the chamber, the latter is closed and sealed by the use of a cover or sealing plate 6 corresponding in form to the chamber 4 and adapted to rest against the shoulder 5. This plate may be formed of steel or other hardened metal, and is designed to be retained in position by a body of sealing material 7 and inserted to fill and close the recess 4, and which preferably consists of the same material as the body of the vault.

In order to provide for the firm binding of the sealing material 7 in position, as well as to prevent ready access to the cover plate 6 after the chamber has been sealed by any one disposed to tamper with the vault, two sets or series of guard rods or bars 8 and 9 are employed and extend at right angles to each other across the recess, the rods of one set extending horizontally and the rods of the other set vertically, and said rods being arranged to cross each other, as shown. In the present instance, each set comprises a pair of rods, and these rods are inserted at their ends in suitable receiving sockets 10 in the walls of the recess. After the cover plate is inserted, the bars or rods, which are formed of spring metal, are applied by bending them and springing them into position so that their ends will enter the sockets and hold the rods secure. When the body of cement 7 constituting the sealing medium is applied to fill the recess 4, the rods or bars will be firmly and securely anchored or embedded therein, and will thus be firmly and securely held from movement, and at the same time the plate 6 will be firmly and securely bound against the shoulder 5, thus sealing the vault chamber 2 in an air and water tight manner.

In order to provide for the convenient application of the sealing medium 7, a third vertical bracing bar 11 is preferably employed and disposed between the two bars 9, and this intermediate bar is formed with an expanded portion provided with a threaded perforation 12. After the cement 7 has been inserted in position, it is compacted and forced tightly into the recess 4 so as to fill all crevices by the use of a follower plate 13 having a centrally apertured boss 14 for the pas-



sage of an operating screw 15. The inner end of the screw is adapted to be inserted into the threaded opening 12 of the bar 11 prior to the application of the cement, to temporarily fix said bar thereto, and then the cement is inserted and the follower applied to the screw, on which it loosely fits. A nut 16 engages the threads of the screw and is adapted to be turned up thereon to engage the boss 14 and to force the follower plate toward the recess 4, whereby the sealing medium 7 will be compressed into the recess until its outer surface is flush with the face of the vault, whereupon the nut and follower are removed. The screw has an outer angular end 19 by which it is adapted to be gripped by a wrench or other tool to enable said screw to be turned out of the opening 12, and from the body of sealing material after the latter has been compacted by the follower, and the opening left by the removal of this screw may then be filled by additional cement or in any other suitable manner.

In Fig. 1 I have shown a four-chambered surface vault in which two of the chambers are represented as being filled and sealed, and the others are prepared for sealing, and by the construction described it will be seen that when each chamber is sealed as stated it will be hermetically closed and rendered impervious to air or moisture, and the arrangement of the reinforcing rods in connection with the body of sealing material will render the vault strong and durable, as far as possible, in a construction of this type, burglar proof, it being apparent that the vault cannot be broken into or tampered with without giving visual evidence of that fact.

It will of course be understood that the surface vault constructed in the manner specified may be provided with but a single chamber for individual use, or with any desired number of chambers. The same construction may be applied to a vault having one or more chambers and adapted for underground use or to be inclosed in an ordinary grave, it being preferable, however, in a vault designed for underground use to have the recesses or entrances to the chambers disposed in the top and extending horizontally the full length of the chambers. The sealing means, however, will be of the same type and applied in the same manner.

It is to be understood that the underground vault may be molded before it is placed in the grave, or molded within the grave, and that the receiving opening may be in the top, at one side, or at either end. In all of the intended forms of the invention, however, the recess or shoulder is to be formed around the opening. After the casket has been inserted, the cover or sealing plate is placed in the receiving recess against the shoulder and is secured in position by the insertion of a sealing material in the recess, which sealing material upon solidifying will both fasten the plate in position and close the recess, thus sealing the latter hermetically against the entrance of air or moisture.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

1. A concrete vault provided with a receiving chamber and having a recess of greater dimensions than the said chamber at the entrance end thereof, and also provided with a shoulder at the inner end of the recess, the walls of the recess being formed with sockets, a cover plate resting against said shoulder, guard bars extending at an angle to each other across the chamber in front of the cover plate and seated at their ends in said sockets in the walls of the recess, and a body of plastic sealing material inserted in said recess and covering and confining said plate and bars.

2. A concrete vault provided with a receiving chamber and having a recess at the entrance end thereof, said recess being of greater cross-sectional dimensions than the chamber and having a shoulder at its inner end, a cover plate resting against said shoulder, guard bars extending across and secured in the walls of the recess, one of said bars being provided with means for temporarily holding an element of a compression apparatus, and a plastic body of sealing material inserted in said recess and confining said guard bars, said material adapted to be compacted in the recess by the said compressing apparatus.

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

WILLIAM B. HALL.

Witnesses:

LIZZIE HALL,  
GUSSIE HALL.