

T. J. MOORE.
TOMB OR BURIAL VAULT.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 14, 1908.

908,305.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 3.

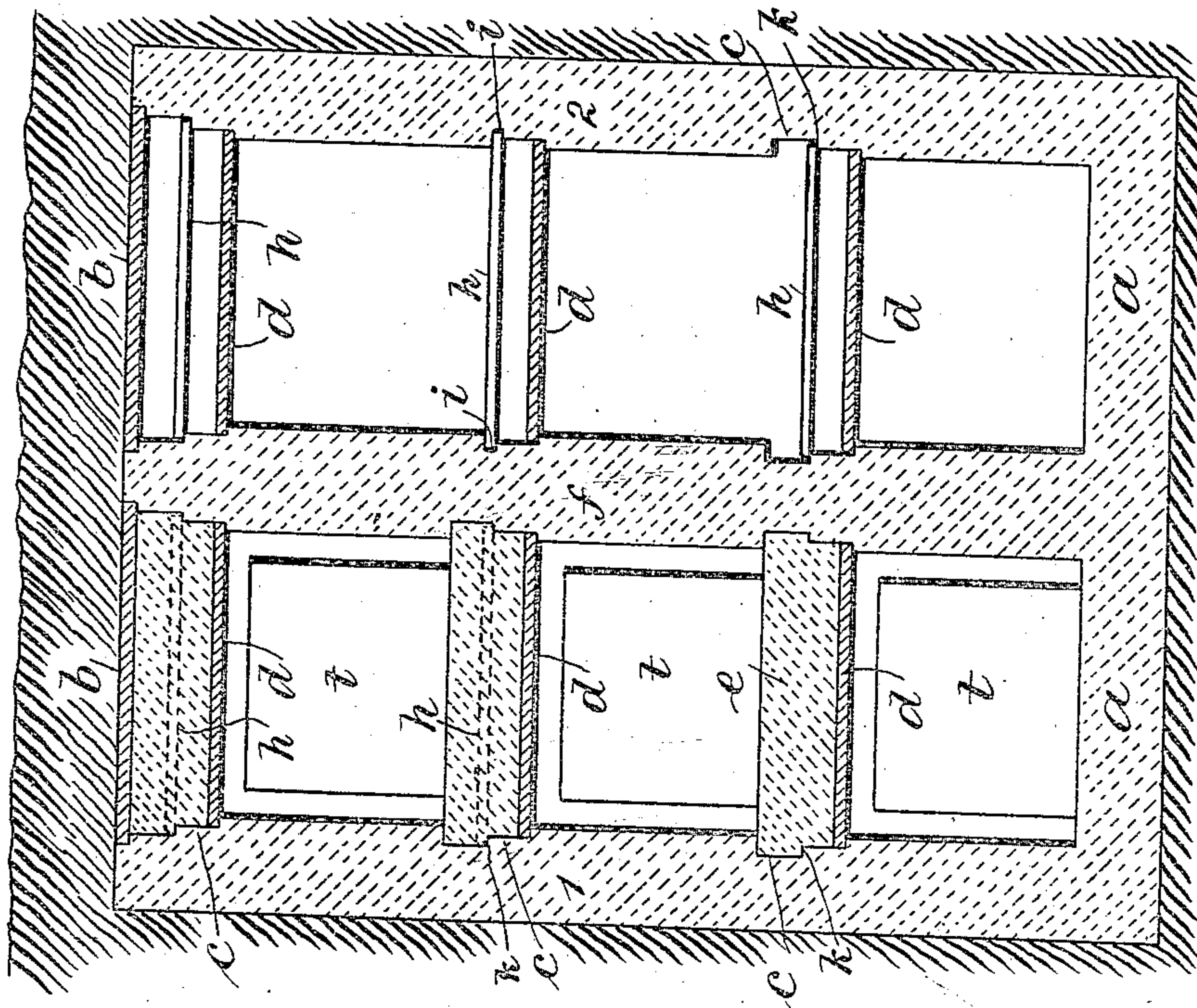
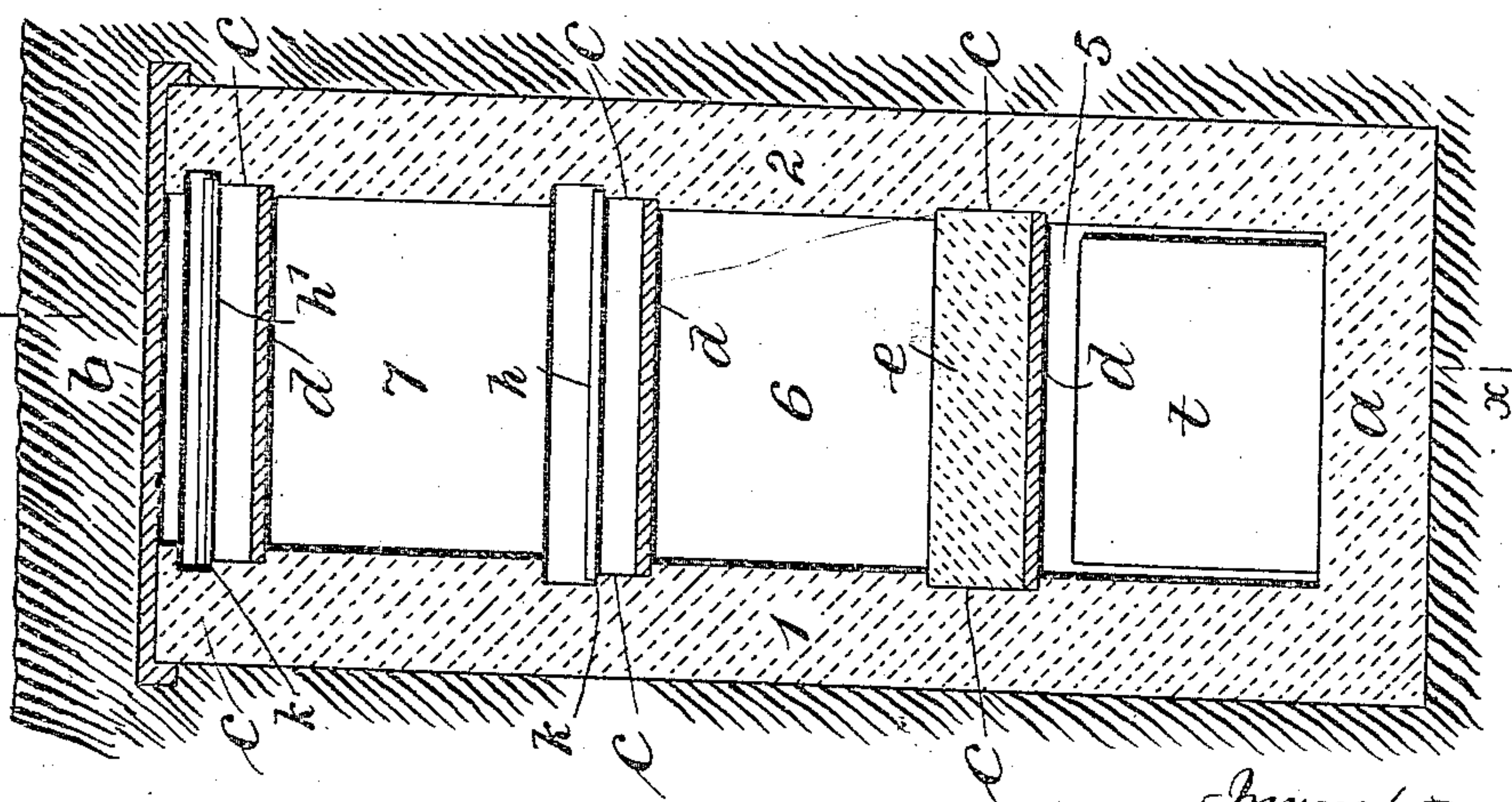


Fig. 1.



Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

Fig. 2.

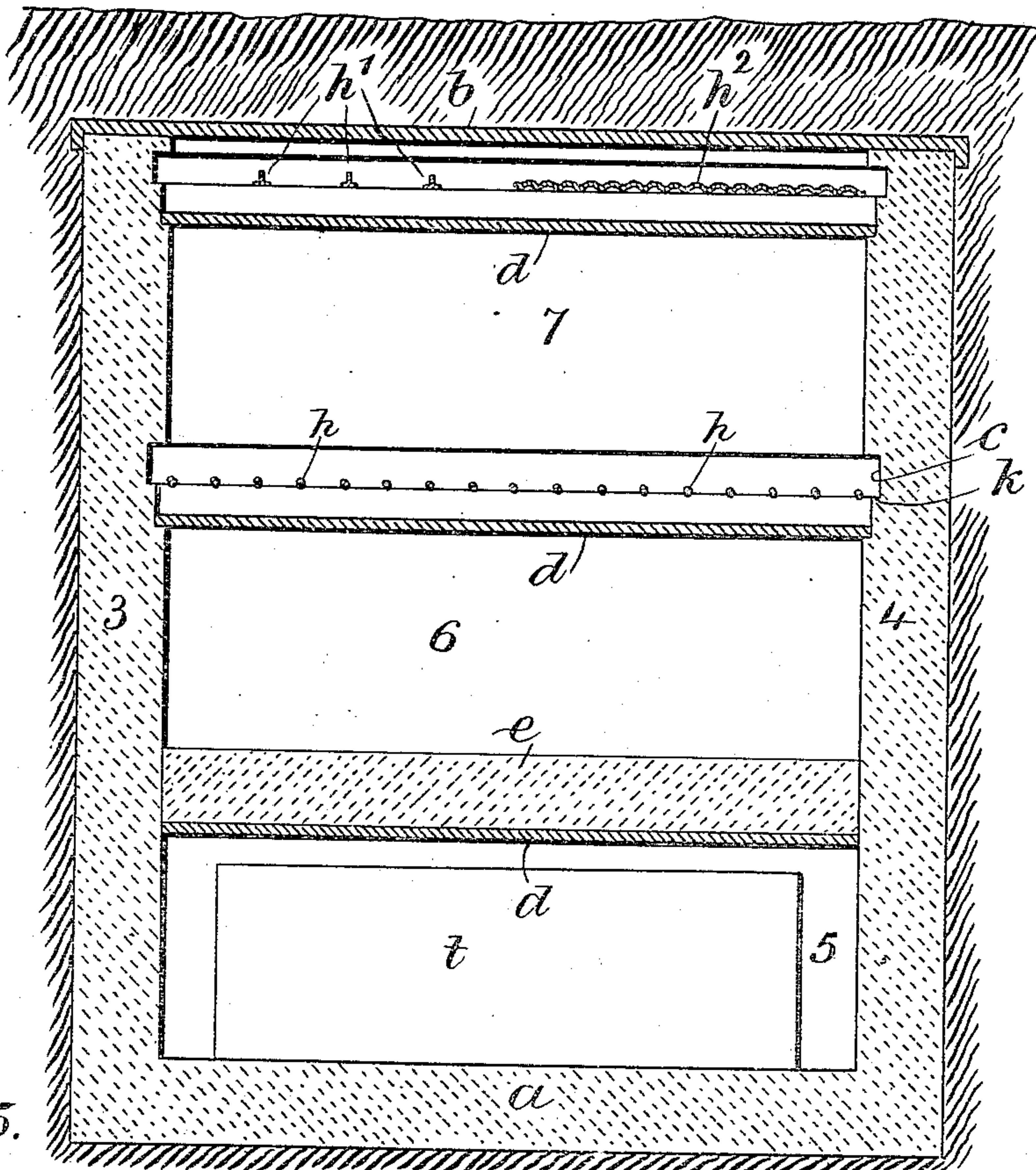


Fig. 5.

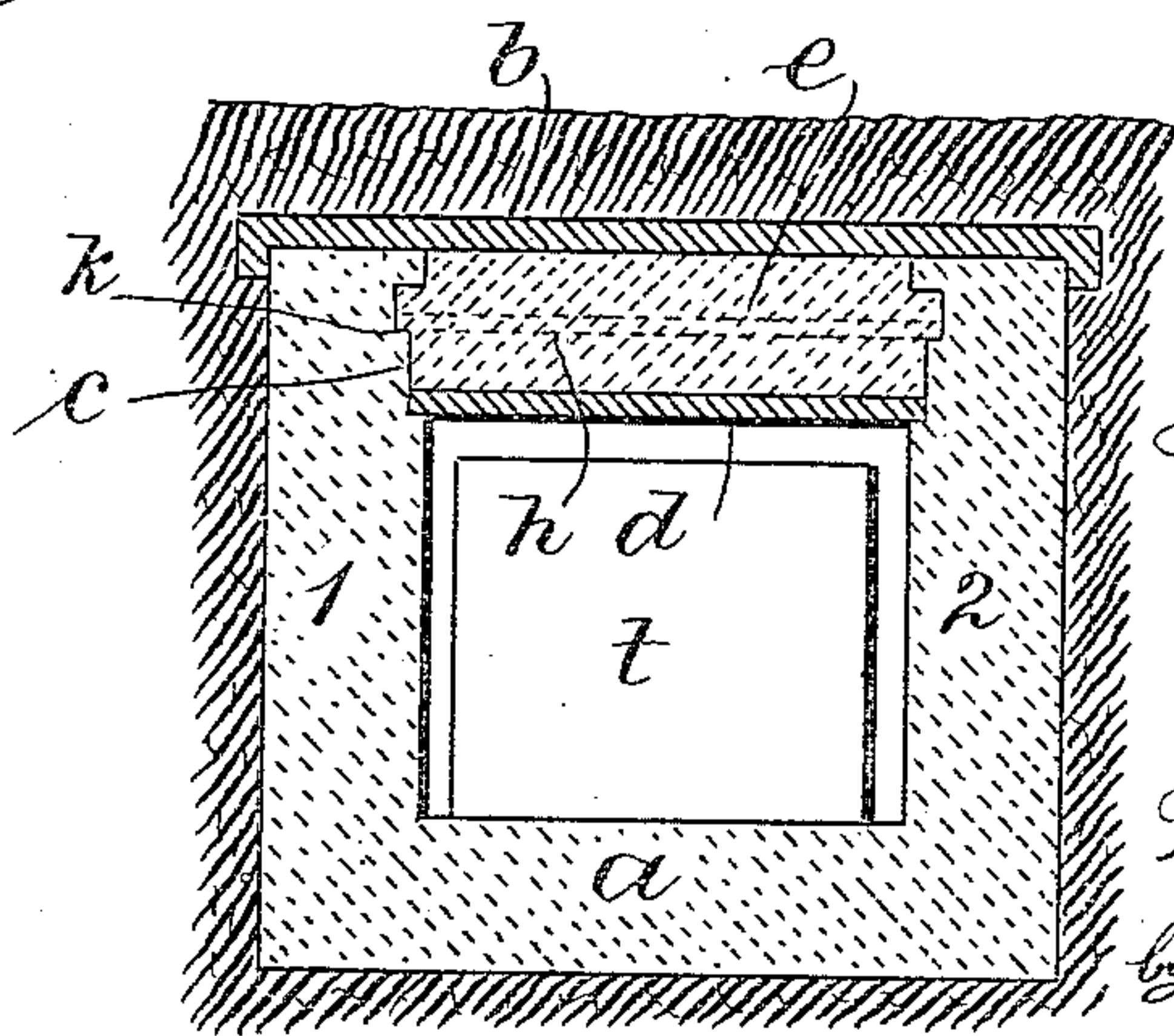
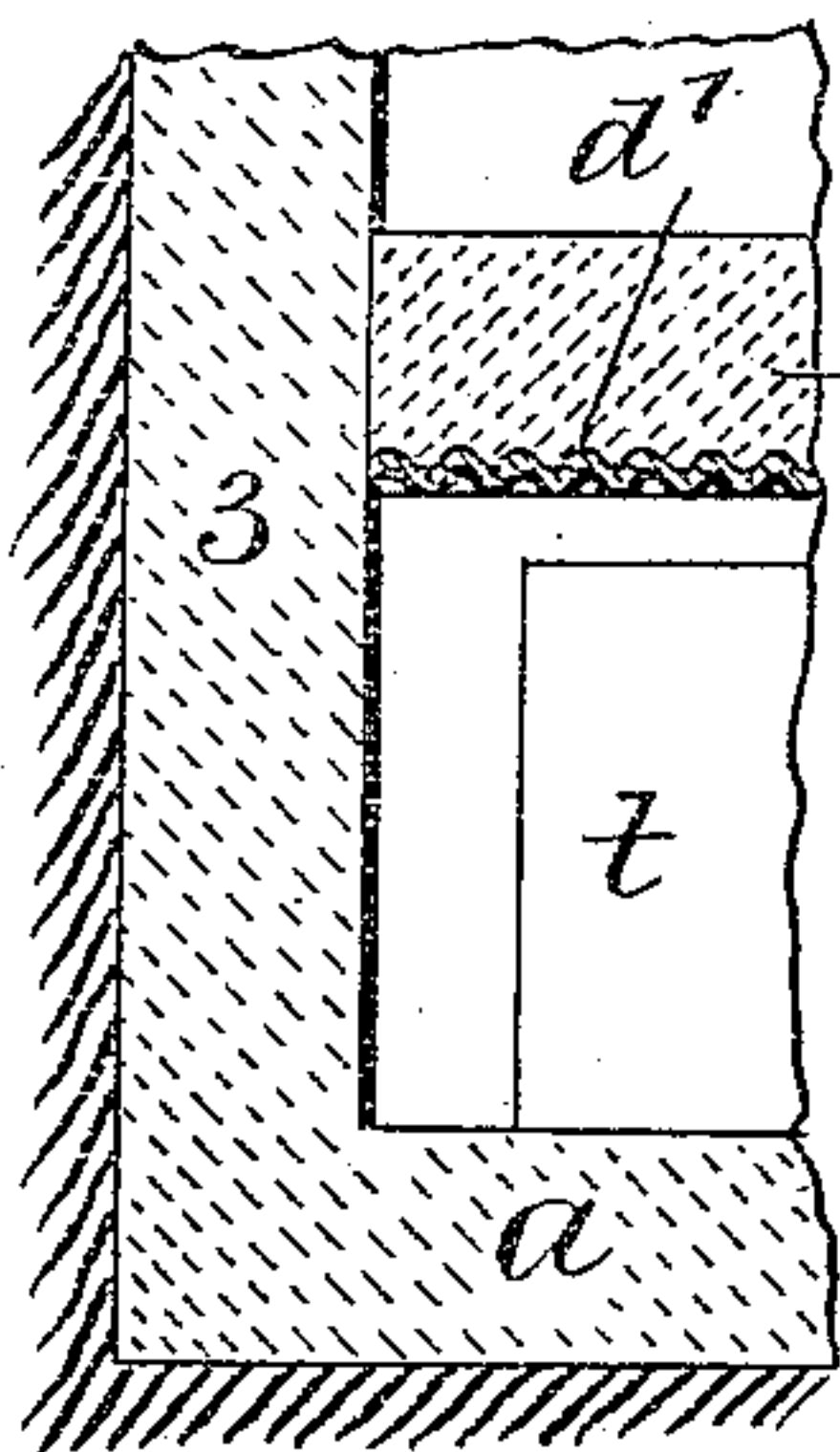


Fig. 4

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. MOORE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TOMB OR BURIAL-VAULT.

No. 908,305.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

Application filed February 14, 1908. Serial No. 415,861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. MOORE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond Hill, in the borough of Queens, city and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Tombs or Burial-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to burial vaults below ground, and the invention consists in the construction of a tomb adapted to contain a single vault or a series of vaults for the reception of a body or bodies, said vault or series of vaults being so constructed that each shall be hermetically sealed and rendered burglar proof.

Various plans have heretofore been devised for the disposition of the dead bodies of human beings, and that generally adopted of burying the bodies in the earth, is open to many objections, such as the rifling of the grave by "body-snatchers" and the conveyance of fluids and gases produced by the decomposition of bodies which permeate the soil, and which, especially around places largely populated, endangers the health of the living.

The object of my invention is to provide a grave for the dead which shall be secure against all efforts at rifling, and in which all the injurious effect upon the health of the living by burial in the earth shall be prevented.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of my improved burial vault. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same at the line x, x , of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section of a double vault. Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section of a vault adapted to receive but one body. Fig. 5 is a vertical longitudinal section of a portion of a vault showing a form of my invention.

In carrying out my invention, I make an excavation in the earth of the desired depth and dimensions, and upon the bottom I lay a foundation a of concrete or like material about one foot thick. I then build up inclosing side walls, 1, 2, 3, 4, of the same material and of like thickness, and provide a ledger stone b which may rest upon the top of the walls to cover the entire structure as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 or the upper part of the walls may be rabbeted to receive the ledger stone, as shown in Fig. 3. At about equal distances apart, I channel or form

wide horizontal grooves c in the inner faces of the side walls, which grooves may extend entirely around the structure or may be made in two opposite walls only if desired. These channels or grooves I prefer to make one foot wide and about two inches deep.

I provide horizontal inclosing partitions d which are placed in the respective grooves c and rest upon the bottom thereof, thus dividing the tomb into a series of vaults 5, 6, 7. These partitions d may be slabs of concrete or slate, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, or may be of corrugated metal, as shown at d' in Fig. 5, or they may be of any suitable material.

When the first burial is made in the lower vault 5, the ledger stone b and all the partitions d are removed and the body placed in the vault. One of the partitions d is then placed in the groove at the top of the lower vault 5 and upon this partition is laid concrete or like material e of a depth sufficient to entirely fill up the groove and the space between the bottom and top thereof. It will thus be seen that the top of this body of concrete e forms a bottom for the vault 6 and at the same time, the lower vault 5 is hermetically sealed and rendered secure against rifling. After the first burial has been made as aforesaid, the other partitions d and the ledger stone b are placed back into position where they remain until another burial is to be made, when the same operation is performed with the next lower vault, and so on until all the vaults are occupied and the spaces between them filled with the concrete or like material; thus hermetically sealing each vault and rendering the entire tomb secure against "body-snatchers" or rifling.

As a means of strengthening or reinforcing the concrete between the vaults, I provide metal cross rods or bars h , the ends of which may rest in recesses i , made for such purpose within the grooves c in the side walls as shown in Fig. 3, or the upper halves of the grooves c may be cut deeper than the lower halves to form ledges k upon which the ends of the cross rods or bars h may rest, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. In place of the rods or bars h , or in connection therewith, I may employ angle irons h' or corrugated metal strips h'' , as shown in Fig. 2. It will be readily understood that any number of vaults may be made in this manner in one tomb, or the tomb may be made large enough to have a central vertical dividing partition or wall f ,

as shown in Fig. 3, thus doubling its capacity. My invention is also applicable to a single grave as shown in Fig. 4, which figure represents the grave after a burial has been made and the vault sealed according to my invention, and it will also be seen that the vaults may receive urns or boxes containing the ashes of cremated bodies.

In Figs. 1, 2 and 5, I have shown the bottom vault 5 as containing a casket box *t*, and the said vault sealed according to my invention, and Fig. 3 represents all the vaults on one side of the vertical partition or wall *f* as containing casket boxes *t* and the vaults sealed according to my invention, while all the vaults on the other side of the partition or vertical wall *f* are shown in said Fig. 3, as empty, but with the partitions *d*, cross bars *h* and ledger stone *b* in position. It is preferable that the side walls 1, 2, 3, 4, of the tomb do not extend quite up to the top of the excavation, but that they be kept well below the level of the plot, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, in order to admit of growing sod, plants etc., but if desired, a sarcophagus may be built over the underground structure or it may serve as an underground vault to a chapel or mausoleum, where people desire to adhere to the custom of earth burial.

While I prefer to make use of concrete, I do not limit myself to that material, as I may employ cement, brick, artificial stone, or other suitable material.

I claim as my invention:

1. An underground burial vault having a bottom and side and end walls of concrete or similar material with a horizontal groove in the inner faces of said walls at a distance from the bottom of the vault sufficient to leave a space beneath suitable for the reception of a coffin, a horizontal partition resting within the groove, said groove being of a depth to allow for the insertion of a partition after the side and end walls have been constructed, and a concrete material body supported upon said partition and filling the entire groove to a level with its top thereby extending into the cavity in the walls and whereby when the concrete material is hardened, the solid concrete body is locked within the groove and the grave beneath rendered both moisture and burglar proof.

2. A tomb formed underground having a bottom and side and end walls of concrete or similar material, and spaced apart horizontal grooves in the inner faces of the said walls, horizontal partitions supported in said grooves and dividing the tomb into a series of burial vaults, said grooves being of a depth to allow for the insertion of the partitions after the side and end walls have been constructed, and a body of concrete or similar material laid upon the respective partitions and filling the entire grooves to a level with their tops, thereby extending into the cavi-

ties in the walls and whereby when the concrete material is hardened, the solid concrete body is locked within the inner walls of the tomb and the graves separately rendered both moisture and burglar proof.

3. A tomb formed underground having a bottom and side and end walls of concrete or similar material, and spaced apart horizontal grooves in the inner faces of the said walls, horizontal partitions supported in said grooves and dividing the tomb into a series of burial vaults, said grooves being of a depth to allow for the insertion of the partitions after the side and end walls have been constructed, a body of concrete or similar material laid upon the respective partitions, and cross-bars within the body of concrete or similar material for reinforcing such material, said body of concrete or similar material filling the entire grooves to a level with their tops, thereby extending into the cavities in the walls and whereby when the concrete material is hardened, the solid concrete body containing said cross bars, is locked within the inner walls of the tomb and the graves separately rendered both moisture and burglar proof.

4. A tomb formed underground having a bottom and side and end walls of concrete or similar material and a central vertical partition or wall of the same material, said side walls and said vertical partition or wall having spaced apart horizontal grooves in their inner faces, horizontal partitions supported in said grooves and dividing the tomb at each side of the vertical partition or wall into a series of burial vaults, said grooves being of a depth to allow for the insertion of the horizontal partitions after the side and end walls and central vertical partition or wall have been constructed, and a body of concrete or similar material laid upon the respective horizontal partitions and filling the entire grooves to a level with their tops, thereby extending into the cavities in the side walls and central partition or wall and whereby when the concrete material is hardened, the solid concrete body is locked within the inner walls and central partition or wall of the tomb and the graves separately rendered both moisture and burglar proof.

5. A tomb formed underground having a bottom and side and end walls of concrete or similar material and a central vertical partition or wall of the same material, said side walls and vertical partition or wall having spaced apart horizontal grooves in their inner faces, horizontal partitions supported in said grooves and dividing the tomb at each side of the central partition or wall into a series of burial vaults, said grooves being of a depth to allow for the insertion of the horizontal partitions after the side and end walls and central vertical partition or wall have

been constructed, a body of concrete or similar material laid upon the respective horizontal partitions, cross-bars within the body of concrete or similar material for reinforcing
5 such material, said body of concrete or similar material filling the entire grooves to a level with their tops, thereby extending into the cavities in the walls and central partition, and whereby when the concrete material is
10 hardened, the solid concrete body containing

said cross-bars is locked within the inner walls and central partition of the tomb and the graves separately rendered both moisture and burglar proof.

Signed by me this 21st day of December, 1907.

THOMAS J. MOORE.

Witnesses:

GEO. T. PINCKNEY,
BERTHA M. ALLEN.