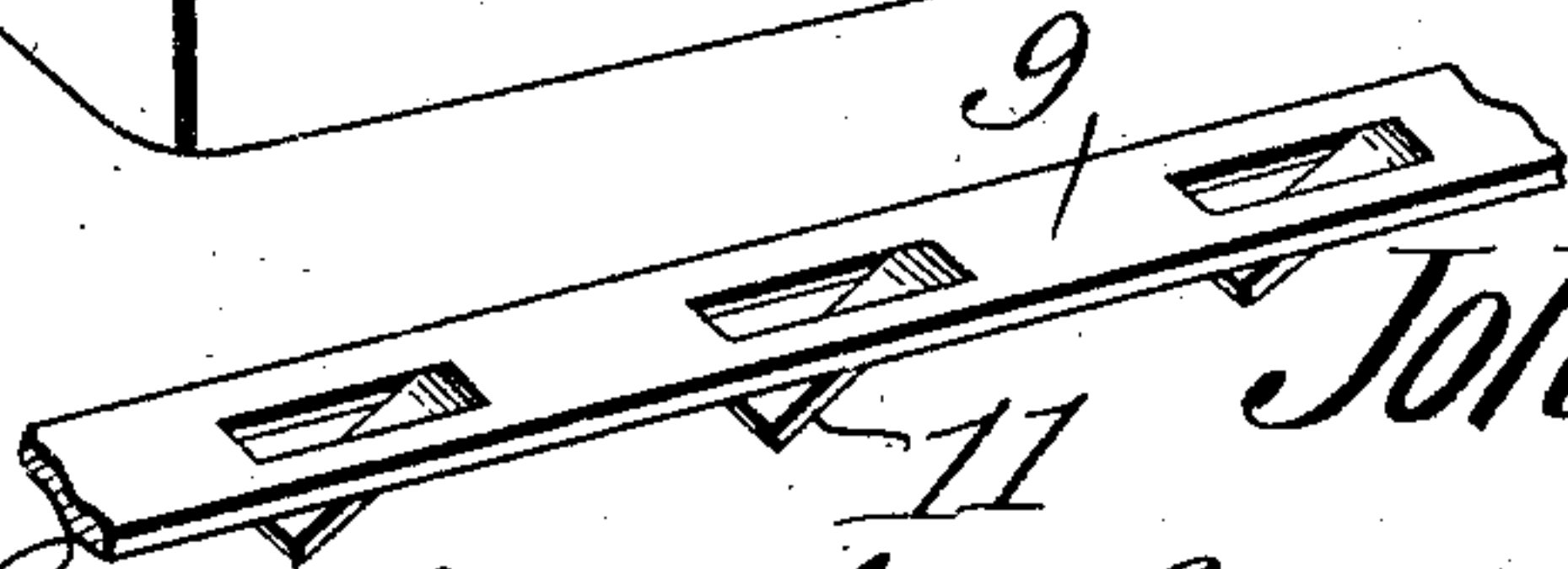


BURIAL VAULT.

Patented July 11, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.


Fig. 1.



Inventor

John F. W. Fawcett.

Witnesses


 R. H. Knight Fig. 6. ವಿಷಯ
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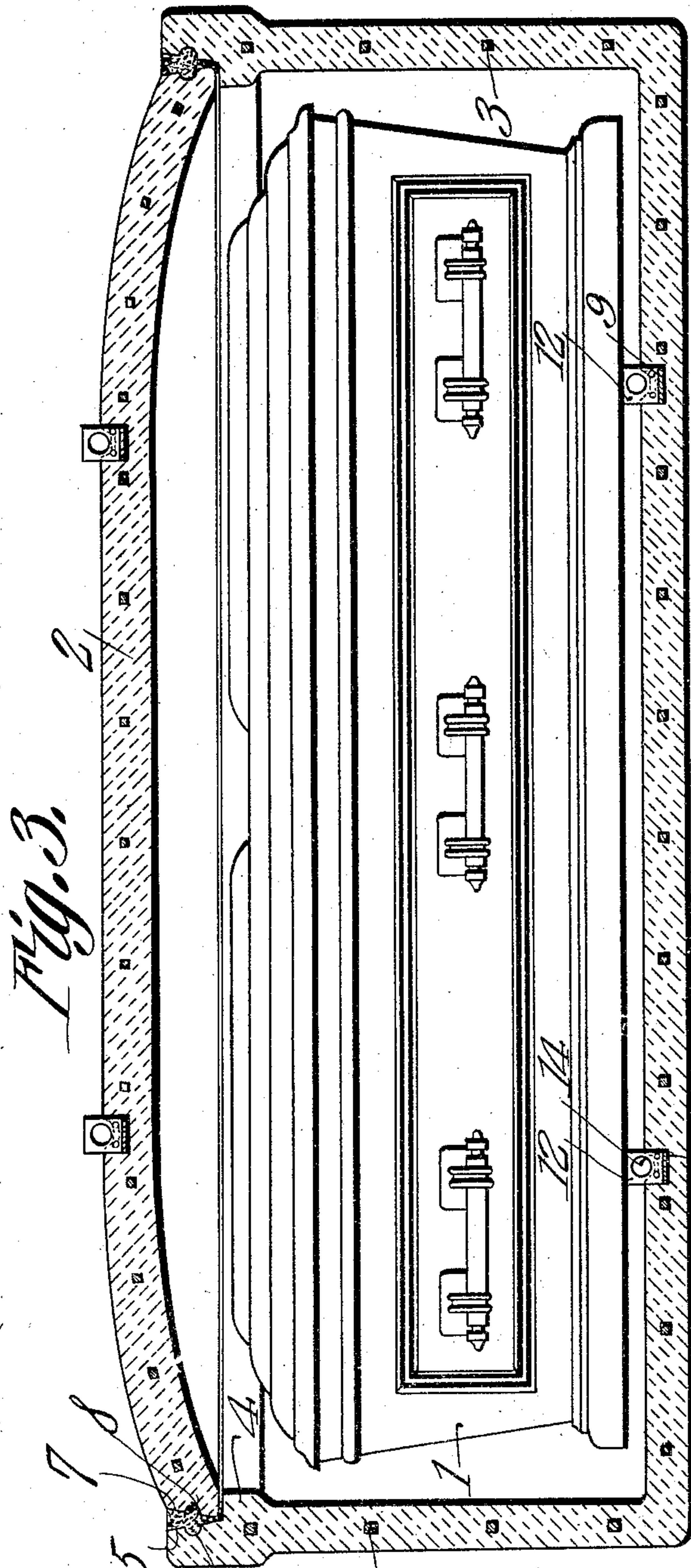
BURIAL VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 21, 1909.

997,547.

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2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



Witnesses

R. A. Bishop

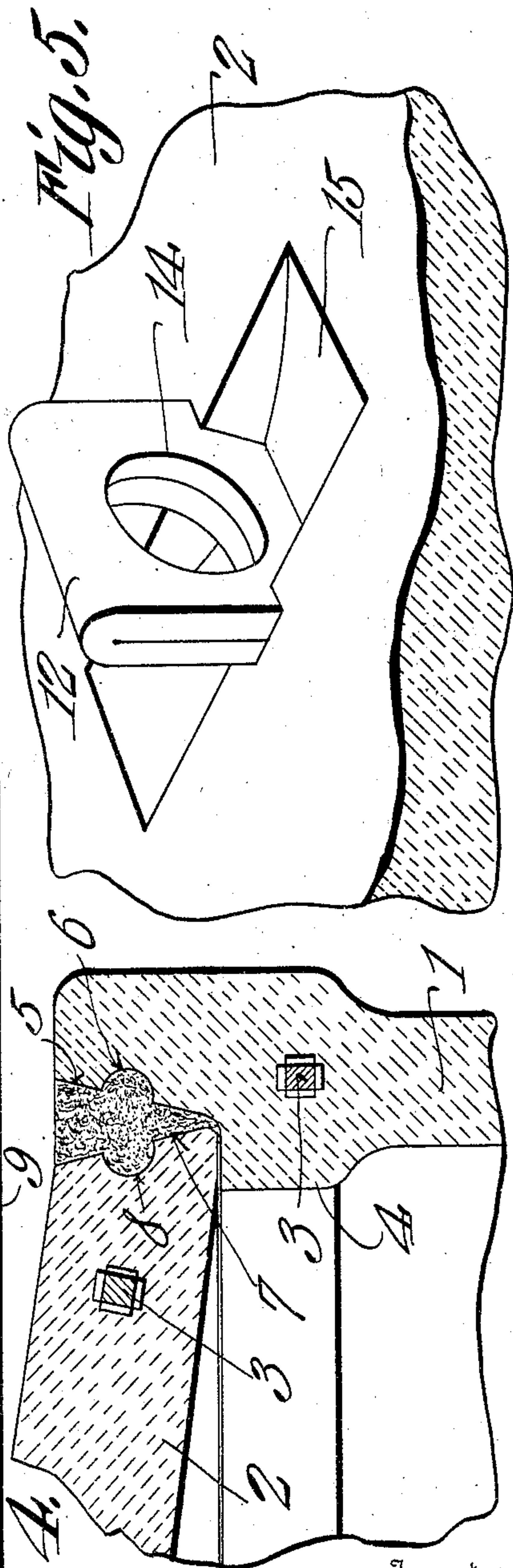
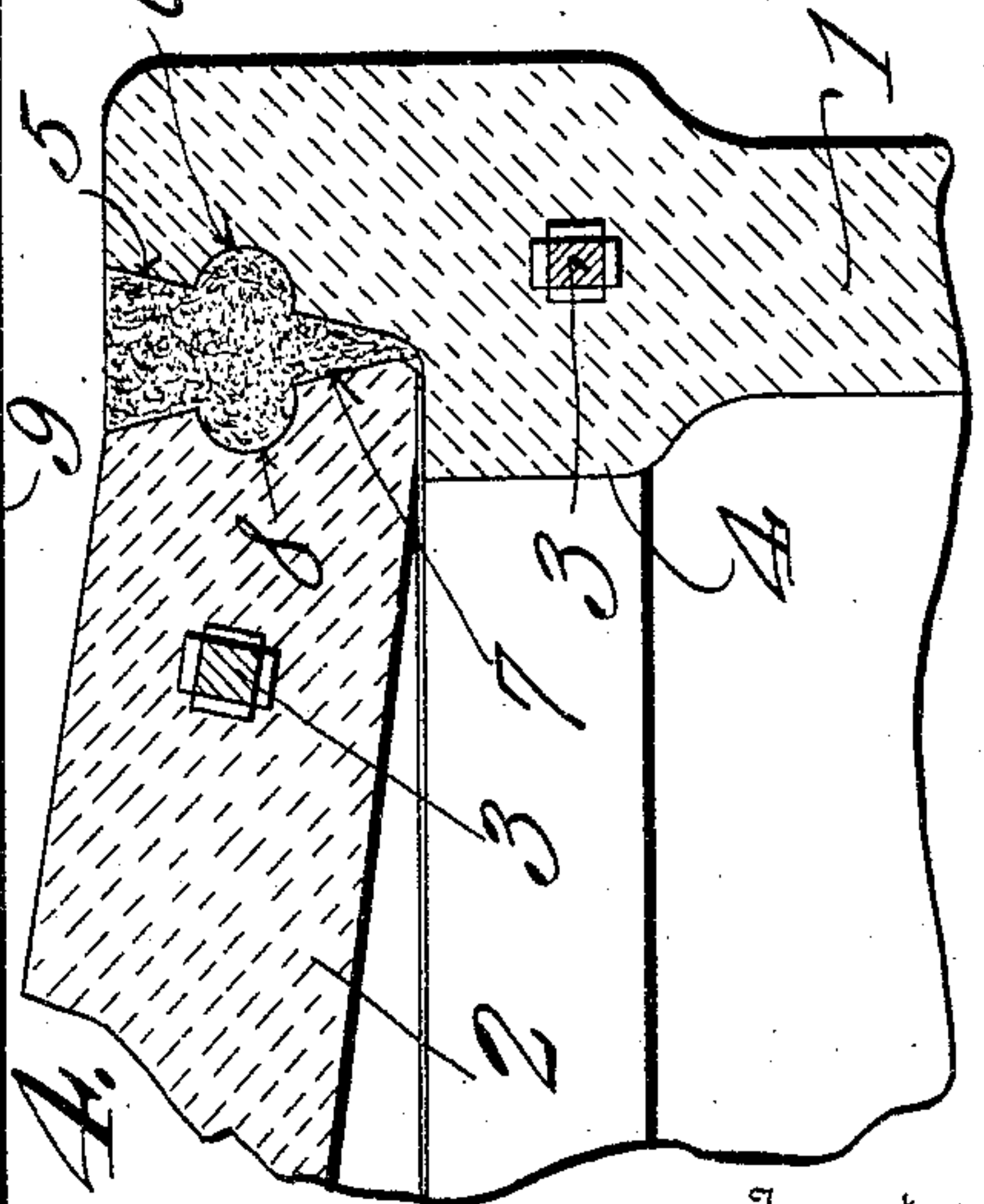


Fig. 4.



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JOHN F. W. FAWCETT, OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

BURIAL-VAULT.

997,547.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 11, 1911.

Application filed July 21, 1909. Serial No. 508,701.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. W. FAWCETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Norfolk, in the county of Norfolk and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Burial-Vault, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in burial vaults, and the object of the invention is to provide a vault which will be free from joints which would admit the entrance of water or of roots and which will be durable and proof against tampering with the grave. This object and such other incidental object, as will hereinafter appear are attained in the device set forth in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, the novel features of the same being pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a transverse section of a burial vault embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the vault. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the same, showing a casket therein. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail section of a portion of the vault and its cover, showing the joint between the same. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the eye provided to facilitate the lowering of the vault into the grave, and Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of a portion of one of the reinforcing bars.

A burial vault embodying my invention is preferably constructed of concrete or cementitious material and comprises a body portion 1 and a cover 2 formed in a suitable mold, of plastic material in which are embedded a plurality of metallic reinforcing bars 3 which may be of any desired formation, but are preferably solid metal bars provided with ribs or spurs on their sides so as to be firmly anchored in the walls of the vault and the body of the lid, as will be readily understood on reference to the drawings. In order to attain the greatest possible strength, the reinforcing bars are disposed longitudinally in the walls of the vault so as to extend entirely around the same and are also disposed transversely in the bottom of the vault. A plurality of the bars also are embedded in the cover and disposed transversely therein, as shown in Fig. 3.

The body of the vault is formed in a suitable mold so as to consist of a single integral

structure, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and the cover is likewise formed in a suitable mold so as to also be a single integral structure, as illustrated. The body of the vault is provided on its inner side near its top edge with an inwardly projecting ledge or shelf 4, upon which the cover is placed and supported, and the face of the vault opposite the edge of the cover is so shaped as to present an inclined surface 5 with a longitudinal groove 6 therein, the edge of the cover being likewise provided with an inclined surface 7 and a longitudinal groove 8 in said surface. This construction provides a V-shaped chamber having grooves in its walls into which cement may be poured so as to firmly secure the cover and the body of the vault together, the result being that the cover and the body become one continuous structure so that there will be no joint to permit the entrance of roots of trees to cause a separation of the parts and cracking and destruction of the vault. Furthermore, by the provision of the interior shelf or projection 4 and the V-shaped formation of the channel between the body and the cover I am enabled to provide a thick wall beyond the seat for the cover so that the liability of the body of the vault being cracked or broken along the upper edge before the cover is secured in position is reduced to a minimum.

In the bottom of the body of the vault and also in the cover I embed transverse bars 9, the ends of which are turned upward, as indicated at 10, to reinforce the corners of the body and also to secure anchorage in the plastic body, the intermediate portions of the said bar being provided with teeth or barbs 11 for the same purpose. The said transverse bars are provided with upturned portions 12 which are riveted together, as indicated at 13, and these upturned portions are provided with perforations or openings 14 to receive hooks or similar devices to facilitate the lowering of the vault into the grave and the lowering of the cover into position on the body of the vault. In the upper surface of the bottom of the vault, I form recesses 15 to accommodate the ends of the suspending devices which are utilized to lower the vault in position and similar recesses or seats 16 are formed in the top of the cover around the upturned portions of the transverse bars in the same the said recesses serving as guides

to facilitate the engagement of the lowering ropes in the eyes.

From the foregoing description, it will readily be seen that I have provided a burial vault which will have a perfectly smooth outer surface, free of any angles or projections which are liable to be knocked off to the injury of the vault, the vault being entirely free of joints which are liable to admit water or permit the entrance of roots to cause a cracking of the vault and separation of the parts. It will be noted that the eyes for the attachment of the lowering devices are provided on the inside of the vault so that the said lowering device will not occupy a position between the vault and the wall of the grave, and thereby interfere with the rapid and easy lowering of the vault into its proper position, and also that the said eyes project above the floor of the vault so as to form supports for the casket when the same is lowered thereinto whereby the straps employed for the lowering of the casing may be readily withdrawn without catching in the casket. The cover may be lowered into position by means of suitable chains or similar devices engaging the projecting eyes in the transverse reinforcing bars therein, as will be readily understood. It will be observed further that the inner face of the burial vault body at the upper edge of the same is obliquely disposed and that the edge of the cover is likewise ob-

liquely disposed so that a V-shaped opening is presented between the two parts when the cover is in position upon the body. This peculiar formation of the opening will permit a cementitious filling to pass readily to the bottom of the opening or chamber instead of merely clogging up the upper end of the said chamber as is the case in the constructions heretofore employed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A burial vault comprising a plastic body provided in its upper face with recesses having concave bottoms, and reinforcing bars embedded in the plastic body and having portions doubled upon themselves and projecting above the upper face of the body transversely through the recesses therein at the centers of the said recesses, the said upwardly projecting doubled portions of the reinforcing bars being secured together below the recesses and provided with perforations in their exposed portions between the walls of the recesses, the axes of the perforations extending longitudinally of the recesses.

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

JOHN F. W. FAWCETT.

Witnesses:

E. HUME TALBERT,
G. MILSTEAD.