C. HOFF.

Corpse-Cooler.

No. 160,910. Patented March 16, 1875.

Fig. 1

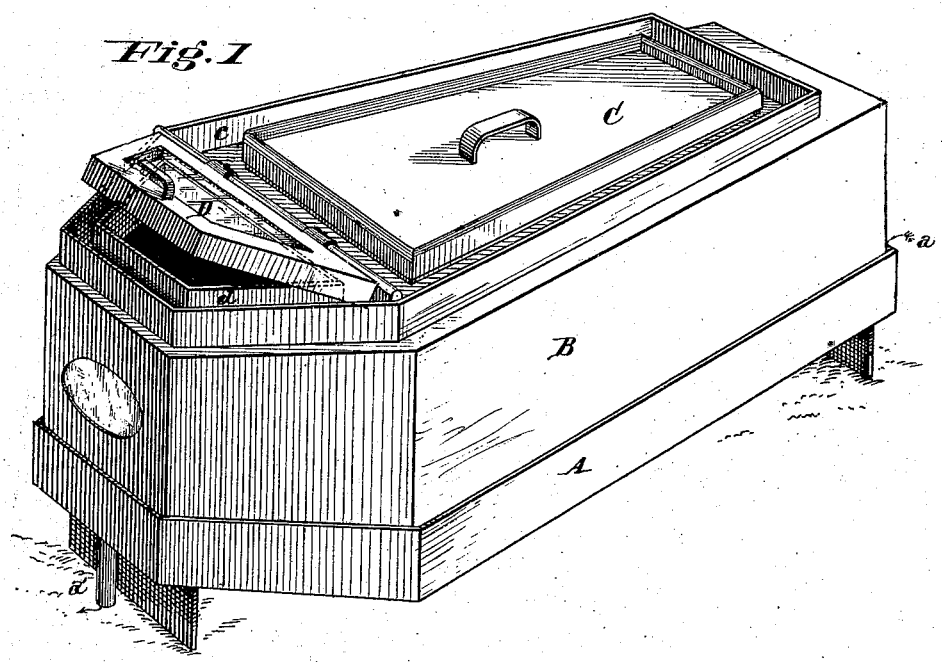
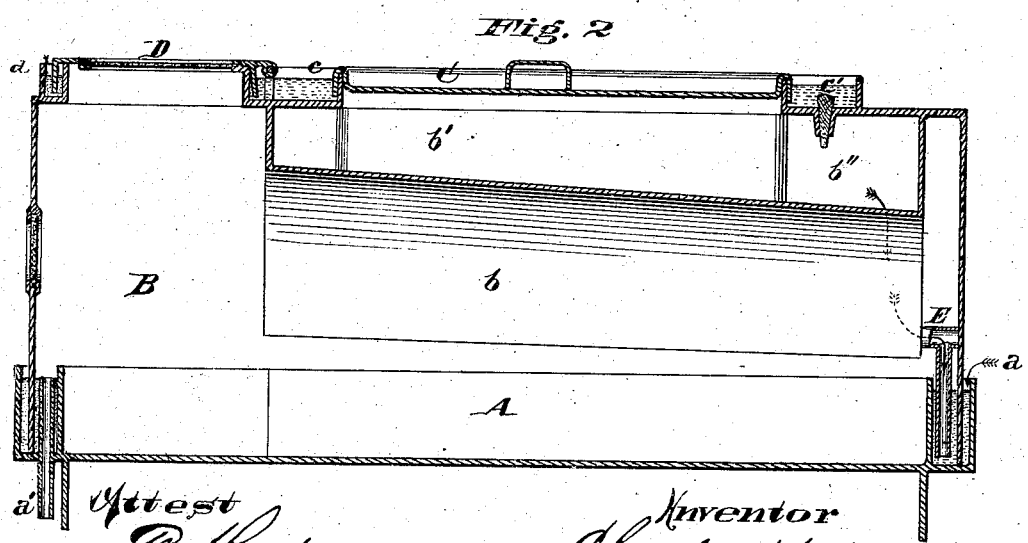


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES HOFF, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-COOLERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **160,910**, dated March 16, 1875; application filed July 17, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES HOFF, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corpse-Preservers, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates in one condition of its use to the class of corpse-preservers which act to keep the corpse in a state of preservation for a limited period by means of the cooling properties of ice; and my invention consists, in the first part, in fitting the several adjustable parts of said preserver with water-joints, for the purpose of rendering them air-tight, to prevent the inclosed and exterior air from commingling; and my invention consists, in the second place, of draining the water which forms in the ice-chamber, and causing it to fill, and keep full, the lower joint of the preserver, while a pipe leading from said joint prevents it from overflowing. Owing to the water-joints, the preserver is necessarily made of metal, and to decrease the conducting power of said metal the walls are made double with layers of charcoal between. But leaving my invention out of the class of corpse-preservers which use ice, it is capable, by reason of its atmospheric impenetrability, of preserving the corpse for an extended length of time by means simply of water, or even without anything except in the joints, the ice merely being used to preserve the natural color of the corpse.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a corpse-preserver embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the same.

A is the bed of the preserver, upon which the corpse lies, and has a trough, *a*, capable of holding water, which, in connection with the rim of the case that fits into it, forms a joint impervious to air, and also has an escape-pipe, *a'*, leading therefrom for the drainage of water to prevent the joint from overflowing on account of water constantly flowing into it from the ice-chamber. B is the case, which is much deeper than the bed A, and rests over and around the corpse, and in the water-joint *a*, and has a semi-cylindrical diaphragm, *b*, running the greater part of its length, which divides the inclosed space into two compartments, one of which acts as a bottom for nearly surrounding the other, in which the corpse rests. The upper one is intended to be filled with ice or water for the purpose of lowering the temperature in the space in which the corpse rests. This outer space *b'* of the case B is provided with a lid, C, for the introduction of cooling materials into it, and is also fitted with a water-joint, *c*, to render it air-tight. The space inside the diaphragm *b* at one end extends up beyond it, and has a lid, D, over it situated on a level with the lid C, and having a glass-panel for facility in viewing the corpse, while it also has a water-joint, *d*. *c'* is a vent for draining the water from the joint *c* when desirable, and also from the joint *d*. E is a supply-pipe for the joint *a* leading from the chamber *b''* over the diaphragm *b*, while, as before mentioned, *a'* is the escape-pipe leading therefrom. To render the walls, which, in this instance, are of metal, more non-conductive as regards heat and cold, I construct the side walls of the case B double at *b'* with charcoal lining. On account of the perfectly air-tight condition of the preserver when in proper use, the cooling substances may be dispensed with altogether, and the body preserved a reasonable length of time without them. As the corpse is often viewed at night a glass-panel is placed at the head of the preserver to admit the rays of a lamp upon the face.

I claim—

1. In combination with bed A and case B, the liquid-trough *a*, constructed substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. The bed A, case B, and liquid-trough *a*, in combination with ice-chamber *b'*, and pipes E and *a'*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony of which invention, I hereunto set my hand.

CHARLES HOFF.

Witnesses:

EDGAR J. GROSS,

J. L. WARTMANN.