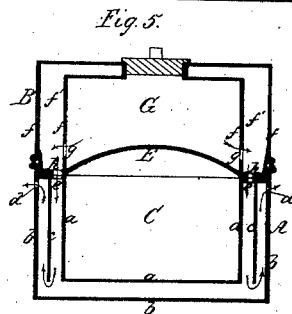
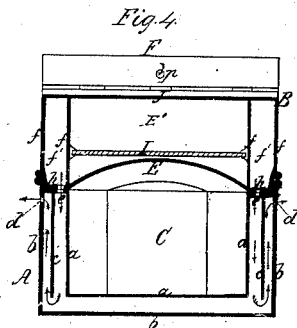
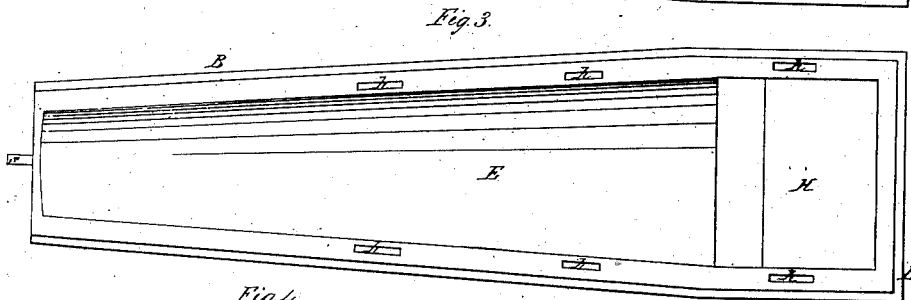
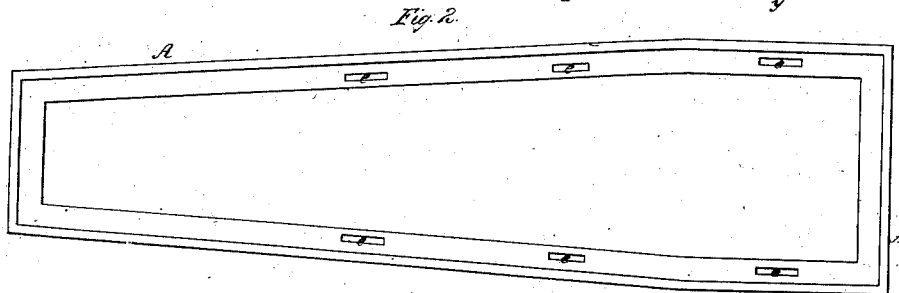
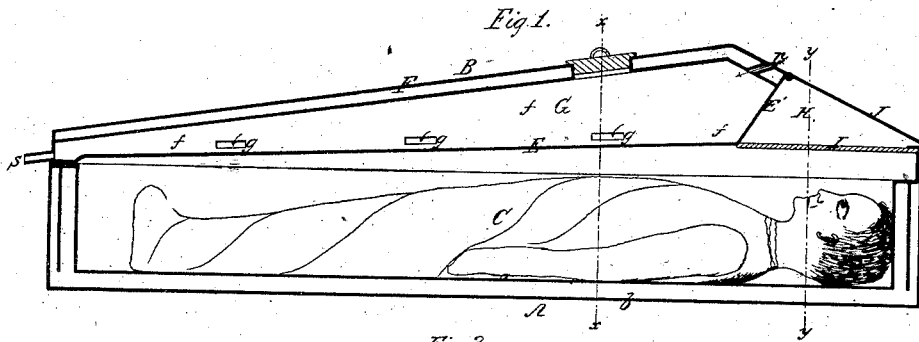


I. Searing.

Corpse Cooler.

No 45,349.

Patented Dec. 6, 1864.



Witnesses,
A. S. Knapp
C. Schaefer

Inventor,
I. Searing
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ICHABOD SEARING, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORPSE-PRESERVING CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 45,349, dated December 6, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ICHABOD SEARING, of Morristown, Morris county, State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Corpse-Preserver; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section through the center of my improved preserving-case. Fig. 2 is a top view of the lower section of the case. Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the upper section of the case. Fig. 4 is a transverse section through Fig. 1, taken in the vertical plane indicated by red line *y y*. Fig. 5 is a vertical transverse section taken at the point indicated by red line *x x*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to arrest the decomposition of a corpse for several days after death by inclosing the body within a double or many walled case or chamber, between the walls of which cooled currents of air are caused to circulate, as will be hereinafter described.

Another object of my invention is to combine with an air-tight double or many walled case a window by which the face of the inclosed corpse can be seen at pleasure, as will be hereinafter described.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

The most common mode adopted for temporarily preserving a dead body from decomposition has been to place the body in an air-tight box and to surround it with ice applied directly to the body. An improvement on this plan of packing a body in ice was made by which the effects of the ice were partially obtained without a direct application of it to the person, and consisted in an arched-bottom ice-box placed directly over the upper portion of the body when lying upon a cooling-board. A less objectionable plan than this consisted of a box or body chamber having for its cover or top an ice-receptacle, from which the cold air descended upon the body, and thus kept it cool. It will be seen that a perfect refrigeration of the body is not obtained by any of these plans, as the principles of circulation and

desiccation are not carried out, the result being that the body is more or less exposed to the two principal causes of decomposition—air and moisture.

My improved portable corpse-preserving case is composed chiefly of two parts, A and B, which may be constructed in the form of an ordinary wooden or metallic coffin. These parts—the body A and the top or cover B—should be provided with means by which they can be readily put together and hermetically sealed. This may be done in a variety of ways, such, for instance, as the introduction of india-rubber packing, cloth, &c., between the edges or joints, and wedge-fastenings, clamps, &c., for drawing and holding the two parts together. The body of the preserver is constructed with treble-wall sides and double-wall bottom. The inner walls, *a a a*, form the sides and bottom of the body-chamber C, the outer walls, *b b b*, form the sides and bottom of the air-circulating chambers, and the vertical walls *c c* are used to conduct the cold air downward to the bottom of the air-chamber, and thence upward and out through the side holes, *d d*. (Shown in Figs. 4 and 5.) If desirable, the intermediate divisions, *c c*, may be carried under the bottom of the body-chamber C, and a central opening left through *c c*, along the middle of the bottom chamber, so that the air will be caused to pass downward and toward the middle of this bottom air-chamber before it enters its exit-passage. The upper part of the side chambers is closed with the exception of the perforations *e e e*, through which the cold air enters the spaces between the walls of the box A, as indicated by the course of the arrows in Figs. 4 and 5. The upper part or cover, B, of the box A is constructed with double-wall sides *f f*, inclosing a space, *f'*, and, if desirable, a double-walled top may be made. The double-wall sides of this top extend from end to end of the same, and these sides, together with the arched bottom E and inclined top wall, F, and the end or head-plate, E', inclose a chamber, G, which is supplied with ice through the opening in its top. (Shown in Figs. 1 and 5.) The inner walls, *f f*, are perforated at *g g g*, Figs. 1 and 5, through which perforations the cold air escapes from the ice-chamber G into the side chambers, *f' f'*; thence descends through the perforations *h h* into the side chambers of

the box A. The ice-box G extends from the "foot" of the preserver to within several inches of the head or opposite end thereof, where it is closed by the plate or board E', above mentioned. This leaves an opening, H, through the cover, which is tightly closed by a glass window, I, and, if desirable, the latter may be covered by means of the hinged door J. (Shown in Fig. 1.)

From this description it will be seen that when the two parts A and B of the preserver are properly secured together and ice put into the chamber G the cold air will escape from this chamber into *f'*; thence pass down and circulate between the walls of the lower portion of the box A, and finally escape at the side openings at or near the top of this box into the open air. The air is admitted into the ice-chamber G through an opening, *p*, (shown in Figs. 1 and 4,) and the water from this ice chamber escapes through the pipe *s*. The air which enters the chamber G passes over the ice therein and is consequently rapidly cooled and deprived of its moisture to a large extent before it enters the chambers inclosed by the double walls. The body-chamber C, or that portion of the case in which the corpse is tightly confined, is entirely surrounded by a double-wall air-circulating chamber, and the intermediate plates or walls

which are between the side walls of the box A are intended as a means for causing the cold air to pass down to the bottom of the box before it can escape therefrom, and subjecting the sides and bottom of the chamber C to the cooling effects of the air issuing from the ice-chamber.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. While not claiming, broadly, the use of an ice-box constructed and arranged so as to form a refrigerating-top for the body-chamber C, I do claim the combination of such box, top, or cover with the body-chamber C, when the whole are so constructed that the air entering the ice-box will be conducted down the sides of the body-chamber and allowed to escape through the outer wall thereof, substantially as described.

2. Providing the double-wall chamber C, or the spaces between the walls thereof, with divisions *c c*, and communications with the ice-chamber and also with the external air, substantially as herein described.

ICHABOD SEARING.

Witnesses:

OSWALD I. BURNETT,
ISAAC BIRD.