

T. GRAHAM.
DISINFECTING COFFIN.

No. 47,414.

Patented Apr. 25, 1865

Fig. 1.

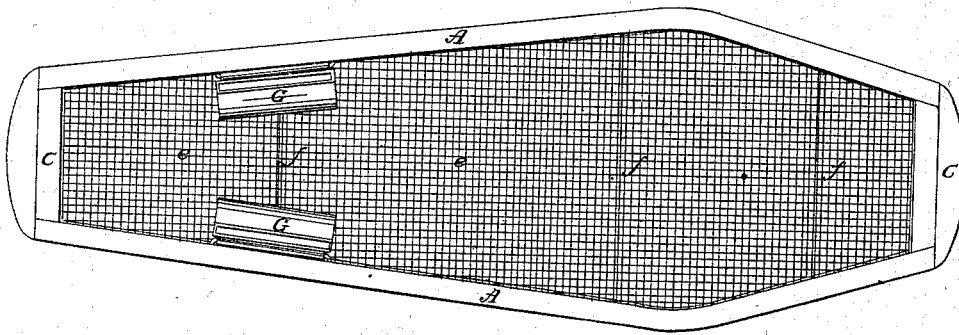
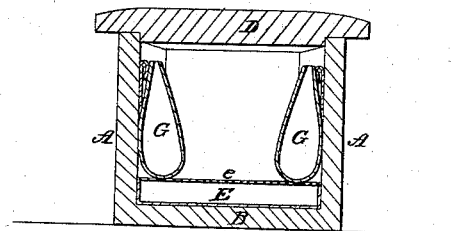


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

H. Albert Steel
W. R. Delaney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS GRAHAM, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,414, dated April 25, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS GRAHAM, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Coffins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists in certain vessels containing alcohol or other equivalent fluid and arranged in a coffin, so as to be detachable therefrom.

On reference to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan view of a coffin with the cover removed in order to illustrate my improvements, and Fig. 2 a transverse section of the coffin.

A A are the sides, B the bottom, C C the opposite ends, and D the cover of the coffin, which may be of the usual shape and material, but somewhat deeper than an ordinary coffin.

The cover may be secured by screws, as usual, and a tight joint may be formed between the body of the coffin and the cover by a gum elastic packing or a suitable cement.

A shallow dish, E, of a shape conforming to that of the coffin, is placed within and rests on the bottom of the same, and on the edge of this dish rests a sheet of wire gauze or netting *e*, or a perforated plate may rest on the edge of the dish, whichever may be deemed most appropriate. The corpse is placed on this sheet of gauze or perforated plate *e*, and, in order that the latter may not be disturbed by the weight of the corpse, ribs *f* are secured

to the dish, across the same, at suitable intervals.

G G are two vessels so secured to the opposite sides and to the interior of the coffin as to be readily detached therefrom, the vessels being open to the top and being situated at a part of the coffin where they will not interfere with the corpse.

Prior to depositing the corpse on the gauze or perforated plate *e*, alcohol or other volatile fluid is poured into the dish E, so that there may be a depth of an inch or thereabout of the fluid. The vessels G G are also filled or partially filled with similar fluid, after which the corpse is deposited in the coffin.

After the coffin has been closed the air within becomes charged with the vapor of the alcohol and, enveloping the corpse, preserves the latter from decay.

By the use of my invention the usual ice-box may be dispensed with. If deemed desirable, the fluid may be scented with any essential oils or drugs.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The vessels G, containing alcohol or other equivalent fluid, and arranged in a coffin so as to be detachable therefrom, as set forth, for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOS. GRAHAM.

Witnesses:

CHARLES E. FOSTER,
JOHN WHITE.