(No Model.)

L. E. WOODARD.

COFFIN FASTENER.

No. 420,290. Patented Jan. 28, 1890.

Fig. 1.

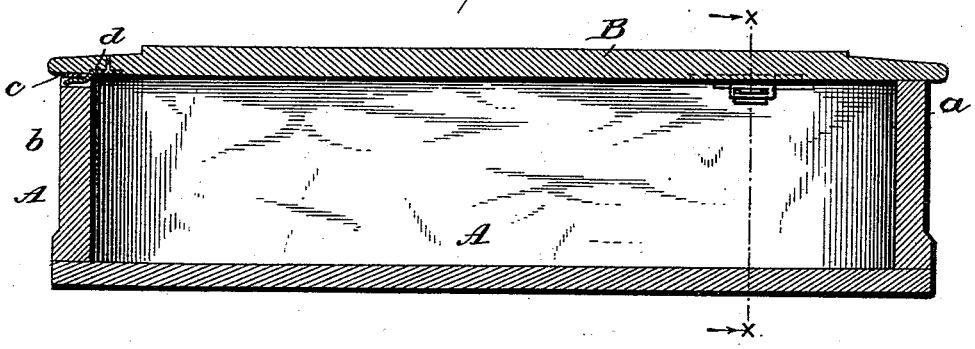


Fig. 2.

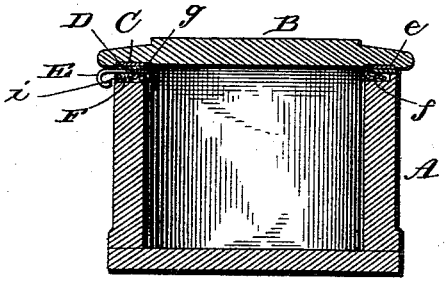


Fig. 3.

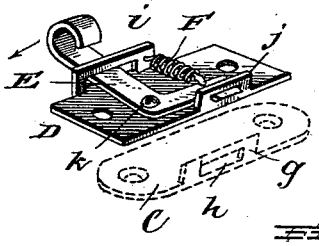


Fig. 4.

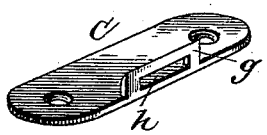
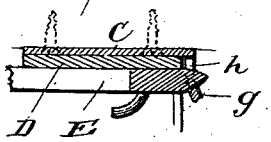


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LYMAN E. WOODARD, OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN.

COFFIN-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 420,290, dated January 28, 1890.

Application filed November 12, 1889. Serial No. 330,030. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LYMAN E. WOODARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Owosso, in the county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coffin-Lid Fasteners; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in coffin-lid fasteners, and is designed more particularly as an improvement upon the device for which I obtained a patent dated August 27, 1889, No. 410,060.

It has for its object, among others, to provide an improved fastener which can be readily operated both to open or close the coffin or casket, the fastening being so arranged that both a sidewise and endwise movement of the lid is required to remove or properly attach it.

The invention in the present case resides in the peculiar combinations and the novel construction, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and then particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section through a coffin or casket showing my improved fastenings applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the line $x\,x$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the improved fastener removed and in a reverse position, with the keeper in dotted lines in its position relative to the fastener. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the keeper detached and reversed. Fig. 5 is a detail showing a modified form of keeper.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates a coffin or casket of any of the usual forms, and provided with a lid or cover B, *a* designating the head, and *b* the foot, of the coffin or casket.

At the foot of the coffin or casket I attach a keeper *c*, set flush with the upper face thereof and notched upon its inner edge with a space beneath the same for the passage of the end of the lip *d*, attached to the under side of the end of the lid, as shown clearly in Fig. 1. Upon one side of the casket or coffin, upon the upper edge thereof, I place a like keeper *e*, designed to receive a like lip or tongue *f*, attached to the under side of the lid at the side, as shown clearly in Fig. 2. In order to place the lid upon the casket, it is necessary to first elevate one end and engage the end lip *d* beneath its keeper, then drop the lid to a horizontal position and give it a slight movement sidewise toward the keeper *e*, when the lip *f* will engage beneath the said keeper, as shown in Fig. 2. Thus it is necessary to give the lid first a movement endwise and then at right angles thereto. After it has been given its sidewise movement and as it seats itself in place upon the casket or coffin it is locked in this position by means of my improved fastener, which I will now describe. Upon the under side of the lid, opposite the keeper *e* and lip *f*, is the plate C, which serves as a keeper, being provided with suitable holes for the passage of the screws or other securing means and formed with a right-angled portion *g*, which is beveled inward toward the center of the lid and is provided with an elongated slot or opening *h*, for the passage of the latch hereinafter described.

D is a plate provided with suitable holes for the passage of the means which are employed to secure it to the upper edge of the casket or coffin, it being designed to be seated in a recess or chamber therein. This plate is also formed upon its under side with two right-angled portions *i* and *j*, one *j* being slightly inclined to form a perpendicular to correspond with the inclination of the inner wall of the coffin when designed for use upon coffins in which the inner wall is inclined, but of course when designed for coffins having vertical walls this portion will not be inclined. These portions *i* and *j* are not in the same plane, but one is out of line with the other, and both are provided with slots or openings, as shown in Fig. 3, for a purpose clearly shown in said figure.

E is an elbow-lever pivoted at its elbow, as at *k*, to the plate D, with one arm passed through the opening in the right-angled portion *i* and turned over upon itself to form a finger-hold by which it may be more easily operated. The other arm of this lever extends normally lengthwise of the plate D, and at its free end is formed with a right-angled portion beveled, as shown in Fig. 3, to form the latch and passed through the opening in the portion *j*, as shown in said Fig. 3.

F is a spring attached at one end to the portion *i* of the plate and at the other end attached to the longitudinal arm of the elbow-lever E near its free end.

The spring-catch above described acts, in conjunction with the catches at the end and side of the lid, to form a secure fastening for the lid at both the head and foot of said casket.

In Fig. 5 I have shown the portion *g* as formed upon a curve with which the end of the bolt engages to draw the lid down closer, the end of the bolt being also inclined to facilitate this operation.

What I claim as new is—

1. An improved fastening device for coffin-lids, consisting of a plate formed with right-angled portions, a lever pivotally connected with said plate and having one arm working through an opening in one of said right-angled portions, and the other end or arm of said lever shaped into a latch and working through an opening in the other portion, substantially as described and shown.

2. The combination, with a keeper, of a plate formed with right-angled portions in different planes, an elbow-lever pivoted to said plate, with one arm working through a slot in one of said portions and the other extending substantially parallel with the plate and shaped at its free end into a beveled or curved latch working through a hole in the other portion, and a spring attached at one end to the free end of the horizontal arm which extends parallel with the plate and at the other end attached to the right-angled portion through which the handle portion of the lever works, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

LYMAN E. WOODARD.

Witnesses:
E. W. WOODWARD,
GEO. G. FOWLER.