C. H. Eisenbrandt,

Coffin.

No. 3,335. Patented Nov. 15, 1843.

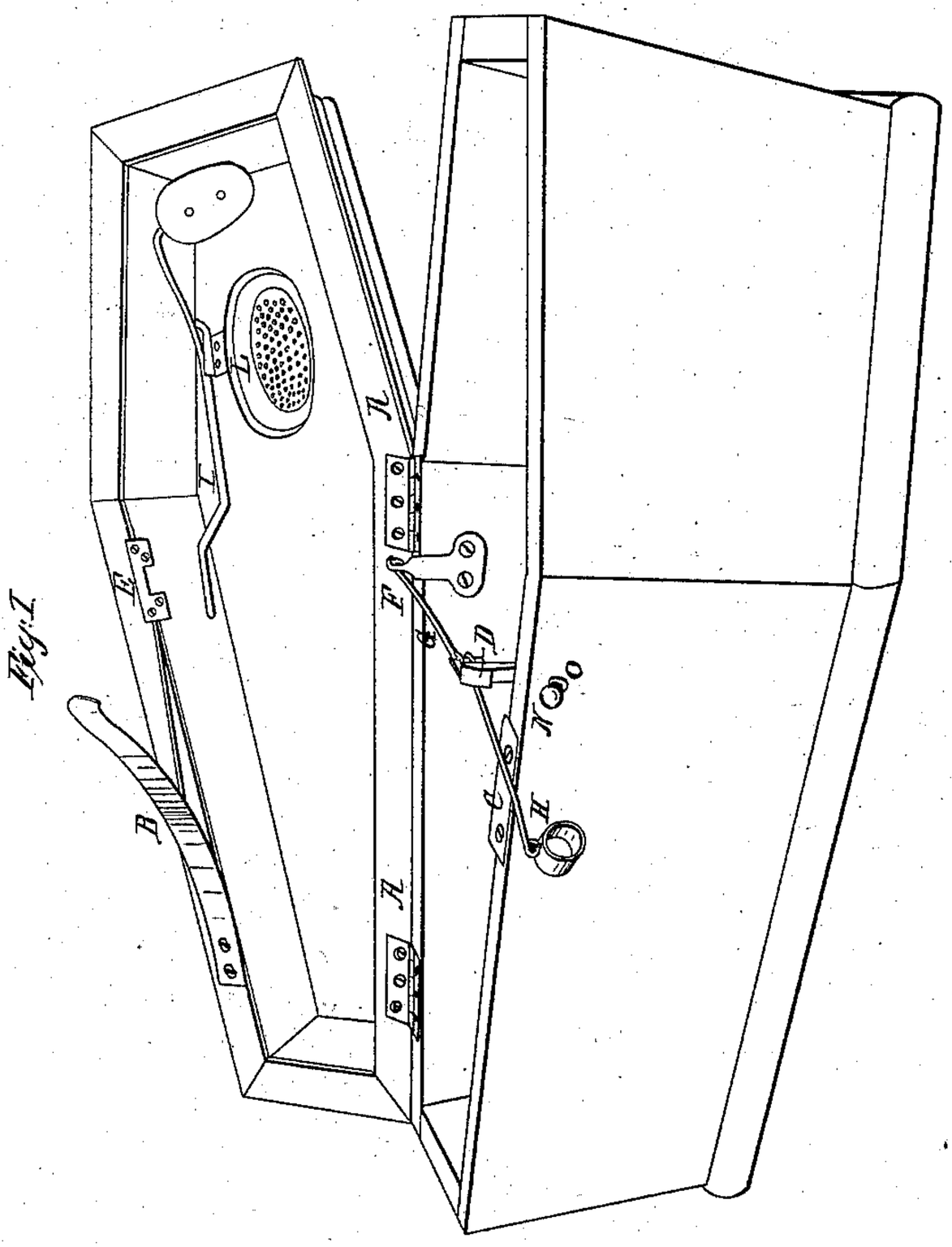


Fig. 1.

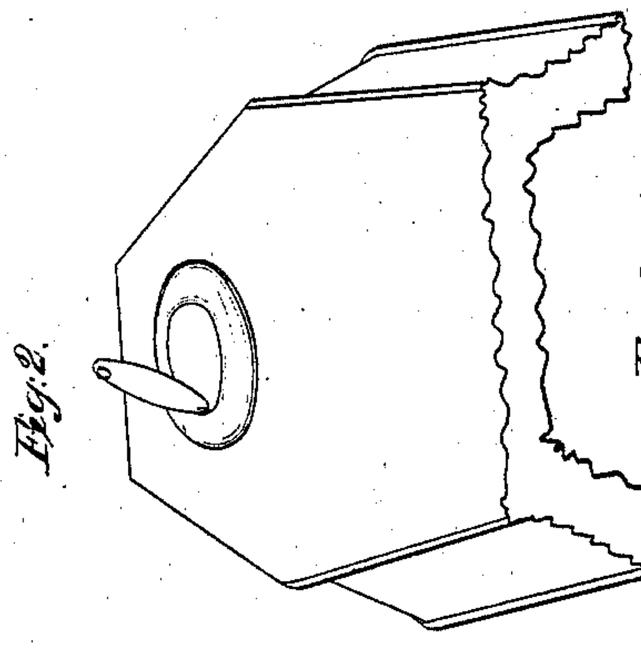


Fig. 2.

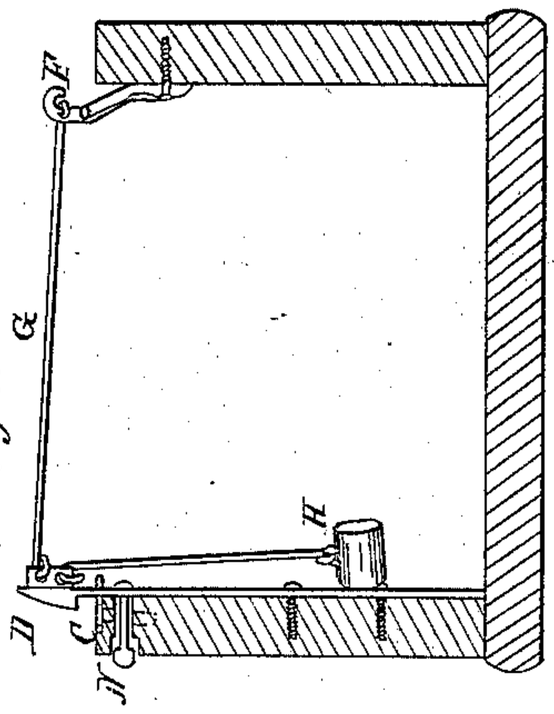


Fig. 3.

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN H. EISENBRANDT, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

COFFIN TO BE USED IN CASES OF DOUBTFUL DEATH.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 3,335, dated November 15, 1843.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHRISTIAN HENRY EISENBRANDT, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful improvement in coffins, which I term a "life-preserving coffin in doubtful cases of death," and whereas there have been instances of human beings having been buried alive the inventor of this coffin has contrived an arrangement whereby any one who may not really have departed this life may by the slightest motion of either the head or hand acting upon a system of springs and levers cause the instantaneous opening of the coffin-lid; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view; Fig. 2, a part of the lid; and Fig. 3, a transverse view of a part of the arrangement.

The lid of this coffin may be attached to it by means of hinges (A, A,) on one side; so that it opens like a chest, the wires of which are removable, to allow the lid to be taken off, till the burial of the person. On any convenient part of the side of the lid, or on the coffin, on the opposite side to the hinges, is placed a strong spring (B,) which may be either spiral, curved, or of any other suitable form, having a plate of metal (C) fastened on the part of the coffin, or lid, whereon the spring acts to raise the lid. A little below the bend of the coffin, is placed a spring catch (D,) with an appropriate plate (E,) fastened to the lid, for its reception. On the inside of the top of this catch, is a small projection, with two holes in it, for the reception of the bent ends, or hooks of the wire (G, and H,) to move freely in. On the opposite side to said catch, is placed a metal hook (F,) so contrived that a steel wire (G,) extending across the coffin, from the catch to the hook, may be easily acted on, to draw said catch inward, and allow the spring (D,) to open the lid, said wire having a bend, or hook at its end, to enable it to hold on. A second wire, or chain, is, also, attached to said catch having a ring (H,) at its other extremity, the intention of which ring is to be placed on the finger of the person, so that a very small motion of the hand would draw in the catch, and disengage the lid. On the inside of the lid, a spring lever (I,) is placed, the lower end of which extends below, and acts on, the cross wire (G,) with a forehead plate (K,) attached to its upper end, exactly over the person's forehead; this lever, with its spring near the fulcrum, is fastened to the lid at about three fifths of its length from the lower end, and is bent so as to act on the cross wire advantageously; thus, the slightest motion of either the head, or the hand, acting on the spring catch, will cause the lid to fly open.

The lid has a perforated air plate (L,) of metal, or any other suitable material, placed exactly over the mouth of the person, so as to allow of breathing, if required. Over the last named plate, and outside of the lid, is placed another plate (M,) with a hinge, so as it can be raised from the air plate, which last named plate may have the name, age, &c., engraved upon it.

A press-pin (N,) passes through the side of the coffin, and is made fast to the spring catch, so that the coffin can be opened on the outside, as well as on the inside. A guard-pin (O,) is inserted into an appropriate oblique aperture, under the head of the press-pin, to prevent the accidental opening of the coffin, while being conveyed to the vault, which when placed there, is to be carefully removed.

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

1. The combination of a spring catch within the coffin, with a rod, and ring, to be slipped onto the finger of the subject within, as herein described.

2. I also claim the forehead plate, in combination with the spring catch, and rod, or wire (G,) whether by means of the lever (I,) or other means substantially the same, whereby the catch is opened by the motion of the subject's head, as herein described.

3. And, finally, I claim the air plate in the lid of the coffin, in combination with the devices above claimed, for opening the lid from within, as described.

It is intended to place the above described coffin, with its inmate, in a vault, with a key of the vault deposited inside of its entrance, until decomposition takes place, so that should the person not really be dead, life may be preserved.

CHRISTIAN HENRY EISENBRANDT.

Witnesses:

D. H. MCDONALD,

JOHN STEWART.