

Improvements relating to the preservation or mummification of corpses / [José De Nueda].

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A.D. 1887, 20th SEPTEMBER. N° 12,769.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

**Improvements relating to the Preservation or Mummification
of Corpses.**

I, JOSÉ DE NUEDA, of Madrid, Spain do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

One of the most important questions from the point of view of public health, and
5 one which has occupied public attention for a number of years in all countries, is without contradiction the burial of corpses.

As actually performed the burial of the dead in cemeteries situated near or in towns has fatal consequences which have been often proved, under the influences of the changes of temperature, of wet, of acids contained in the ground and of the gases
10 which are given off from the corpses, the zinc, and the rotting wood of the coffins, at the same time the decomposition of the corpses causes an effluvium to come from the ground that constitutes a permanent danger to the health of the living.

For a long time a remedy has been sought for this state of things. The best solution would be evidently the preservation of corpses, as practised in ancient times
15 by the Egyptians, who by the process to which they submitted their dead, prevented all unhealthy exhalations.

Embalming would give the same results, but as it is executed at the present day it is too long and too expensive a method, to be practically employed in the generality of cases.

20 Another ancient method of performing obsequies, that consisted in burning the dead has been suggested, but cremation has numerous adversaries, in medical men who contend that this method renders the investigation of cases of poisoning impossible, and also in the feelings of a great number of people, who are unable to see without repugnance so fundamental a change in the usual mode of conducting funerals.

[Price 8d.]

De Nueda's Improvements relating to the Preservation or Mummification of Corpses.

The process that forms the subject of the present application, has for its object the avoiding of the disastrous consequences to public health caused by the actual method of burial as now performed, and at the same time replaces with advantage the two systems above described.

The present invention comprises the rapid preservation and mummification of 5
corpses by means of a relative vacuum in an appropriate metal coffin.

By placing a corpse in a space closed hermetically and extracting the gas and the moisture that it contains, all causes of decomposition are removed; the corpse becomes mummified rapidly and the coffin remains intact instead of being destroyed in a short 10
time like the coffins now used.

The form of coffin to which I give preference for putting my process in practice is a metal coffin, of galvanized sheet iron; this will resist decomposition; but to further add to its durability it is covered on the exterior with several coats of paint or of varnish.

The lid of the coffin is closed in a perfectly hermetical manner, either by means of 15
soldering or by cement of some suitable description; it is fitted on the surface with a number of panes of glass, which permit the interior of the coffin to be seen. The sides of the coffin are coated on the interior with a thick layer of tar and the corpse rests upon a bed of charcoal destined principally, owing to the chemical reactions 20
that are produced between this charcoal and the gases that are disengaged from the corpse to constitute round the corpse a constant source of carbonic acid.

At some suitable part of the coffin is placed an automatic valve with or without a stop cock, to this valve is attached a pipe communicating with an air pump.

The extraction of the gases and of the moisture can be performed either in one or several operations and these gases can be conducted to a hearth and there 25
consumed.

The accompanying drawings show a type of coffin that I propose to call an "Egyptian Coffin" figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

But I reserve the right to use any appropriate shape and material for coffins in 30
carrying out my invention.

The coffins must be however so constructed as to resist the pressure of the atmosphere; for this purpose amongst the different forms I employ coffins of a tubular shape, which offer a greater resistance, thus allowing their thickness to be reduced and consequently their price. These coffins may be made of galvanized sheet-iron as 35
already described, of sandstone or of any other suitable material, with or without ornaments. A door with an air tight joint, provided at one of the extremities of the tube, permits the introduction of the corpse.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 represents the exterior lid of the coffin.

Figure 2 represents the coffin furnished with lid complete, upon which are shown 40
the panes of glass and the automatic valve.

Figures 3 and 4 are separate views of the lid and of the coffin.

Figure 5 represents a type of tubular coffin, it is mounted in a metal stand or support that partly conceals by its ornaments the round form of the coffin. A door 45
provided at the extremity of this support permits the introduction of the corpse.

I will conclude by saying that my process can be equally well applied to burial in common. For this purpose I employ large hermetically closed rooms or chambers 50
either formed of metal or otherwise; in these rooms or chambers the corpses are placed, immediately, the rooms or chambers being in communication with a suitable air pump.

To avoid the entrance of air, the aforesaid rooms or chambers can be provided with anti chambers in which the operation of mummification can be effected, before the corpses are collected in the common room or chamber.

Lastly my process can also be employed to preserve anatomical subjects, such as 55
corpses intended subsequently to be submitted to legal proceedings, as well as to those intended to be exposed to public view for purposes of identification.

De Nueda's Improvements relating to the Preservation or Mummification of Corpses.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

5 The above described process of preservation and mummification of corpses by means of a relative vacuum in an hermetically closed coffin having at the bottom a layer of charcoal and provided with panes of glass and with an automatic valve (with or without a safety cock) by which the extraction of the gases is effected.

Dated this 20th day of September 1887.

10

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By DARLING AND SON.

1887.



The Board of Agriculture, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act...

...and in order to ascertain the nature of the soil...

The above described pieces of ground are situated in the parish of...

Dated this 20th day of September 1887.

WALTER BAKER & CO.
15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.
Agents for the Kingdom.

LONDON: Printed for the Author, at No. 15, Abchurch Lane.



FIG 1



FIG 2

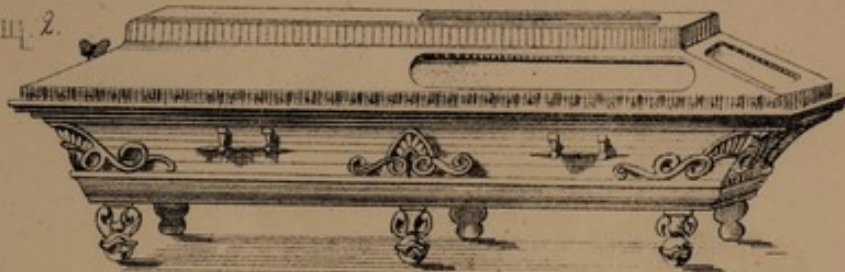


FIG 3

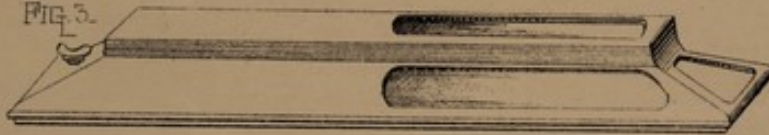
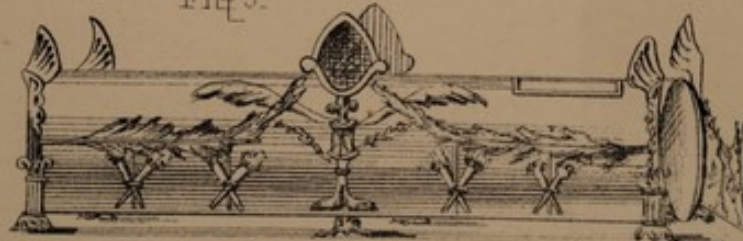


FIG 4



FIG 5



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

