A NEW URETHRAL CLAMP

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It is frequently found desirable to retain medicated fluids or jellies in the anterior urethra of the male over a prolonged interval. As it is rather tiresome for either the patient or the medical attendant to employ digital compression to the meatus urinarius for the required length of time, I have devised a simple urethral clamp which answers admirably the purpose for which it is designed. As it is believed to possess some advantages over similar instruments previously recommended, a description is given herewith.

The idea of using a clamp for this purpose is not a new one. Any number have been on the market for years and have been extensively used by urologists. The main objection to those heretofore recommended, with probably one exception, is that they are so constructed as to require clamping the penis behind the corona glandis in order to prevent the instrument's slipping. This sort of instrument fails to permit medicaments to be retained in the first inch of the anterior urethra, including the fossa navicularis—a portion of

the canal too important to ignore.

The exception mentioned is the Cunningham clamp. I am indebted to Dr. Nelken for having first demonstrated this clamp to me. The objections found to this instrument are that the spring of the instrument is not sufficiently strong to compress the meatus properly so as to retain the urethral medicament; it is awkward of application, there being no arrangement whereby the blades can be pried apart, and even after being properly applied it frequently slips off.

It is believed that these faults have been corrected in the new

Urethral clamp.

clamp, the illustration of which leaves little to describe. Constructed of a single piece of finest quality steel wire 2 mm. thick, of figure-of-eight shape and with a strong grasp, it measures 8 cm. long by 3.5 cm. wide. Finger grips are conveniently placed, one on each side of the lower part of the clamp frame. The blades proper for compressing the meatus are each 2 cm. by 1 cm.; on their inner surfaces they have serrations which prevent slipping, once the clamp is properly applied. The inner surface of one of these blades with serrations is shown, greatly enlarged, in the inset on the left of the illustration, so as to bring out its exact construction. The latter feature adds no little value to the merit of the instrument. The clamp can be easily sterilized, lasts indefinitely, and will stay where it is placed. Although the clamp has a very firm spring, the blades are so constructed that no pain is experienced in its application.

For the purpose of obtaining a prolonged action from solutions or jellies of the silver salts in the anterior urethra, as well as for producing local anesthesia by means of solutions of novocain, etc., I have found this clamp a distinct aid.

Apart from the uses to which the physician may put the clamp, it has been found practical to have patients with anterior urethritis use the clamp themselves, for a patient can be persuaded to introduce medicaments into the urethra, apply the clamp, and retain the injection for fifteen minutes without effort. Few will hold the urethra closed for this

length of time if the fingers are required. From an esthetic standpoint the clamp should be considered superior to the collodion "sealing-in" method of treating urethritis, because the clamp is safe, while a cotton-collodion dressing, even when applied by those most skilled, has a tendency to loosen at most inopportune times with results too obvious to require delineation.

The clamp was made by I. L. Lyons & Co., New Orleans. Macheca Building.

APPARATUS FOR WRITING WITH THE KNEE

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This apparatus is designed to permit persons of either sex who have lost their hands or the use of them to write legibly

Fig. 1.—Apparatus for writing with the knee.

with their knees after a little practice. A piece of sole leather 15 inches long and 6 inches wide at one end and 4 at the other has a semicircular piece cut out on each side, 5 inches from the narrow end. This piece of leather is bent where the scallops come to fit over the bent knee, and the whole piece is bent from side to side. By two clips, such as are used in holding a pencil to the pocket, a pencil is fastened to the leather so as to project forward 4 inches in front of the knee.

Fig. 2.—Method of using knee-writing apparatus.

This apparatus is held firmly to the knee by three strong brass springs attached by rivets. These are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and are made of strips 12, 13 and 14 inches long, respectively. To hold the paper in the proper position a small rack like a music rack is made of wood with a hook to adjust and hold it to a small, firm stand 2 feet high.

In writing, the heel is raised, and the foot, resting on the ball, gives the knee quite a wide range of motion. A stylographic fountain pen can be used as well as a pencil.

The device can be made cheaply. The model cost \$1.50, and the springs could be replaced with straps costing 10 cents apiece, thus reducing the cost to \$1.10. This device should be much more convenient than holding a pencil between the teeth or toes, as was formerly done by some. The stand can be made of an apple box, and a shelf put in it to hold the apparatus.

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