New Instruments and Suggestions

A USEFUL HYSTERECTOMY CLAMP

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The clamp illustrated here was designed for the special purpose of preventing the possibility of slipping of an inaccessible pedicle, which is likely to retract beyond the reach of the operator. It offers distinct advantages in dealing with such a pedicle in the course of vaginal or abdominal hysterectomy, or nephrectomy.

The clamp combines several of the distinctive features of other clamps in common use. It has the durable "box" lock, the curve of the Péan, the tip of the Kocher, and in addition to the usual transverse teeth, there is a single longitudinal ridge, fitting into a corresponding groove in the opposite blade. The combination of these features affords almost perfect security against slipping, even though the

Hysterectomy clamp showing construction of clamping surfaces of blades.

pedicle is quite thick and under considerable tension. The cuts show clearly the details of both blades as well as other points in construction, so that no further description seems necessary.

Audubon Building.

A NEW TONSIL KNIFE

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This knife was worked out by Dr. D. F. Reeder of Ancon Hospital, Canal Zone, and myself, during our term of service with the United States government in the eye, ear, nose and throat department of that institution. The desire for such an instrument came about at the time that might well be termed the evolution in tonsil surgery, namely, the substitution of tonsillectomy for tonsillotomy. We were more than 2,000 miles from medical centers, and had read of Dr. Ballenger's sharp dissection method with scalpels and various other methods of complete enucleation. A Ballenger's knife was procured, but was not entirely satisfactory in that we felt the need of a concave cutting edge more than a convex; hence the double edged knife as shown in the accompanying illustration. With this instrument it is possible to remove completely by sharp dissection every type of tonsil that we encounter. It is especially serviceable in delivering from its

bed a completely submerged tonsil by dissecting back the mucous membrane and pillars overlying the tonsil, thereby preserving every vestige of mucous membrane, which is so valuable in covering the fossa and reducing the amount of scar tissue. The knife is especially valuable when used in conjunction with the snare. I very rarely, if ever, do a tonsillectomy by dissection alone. After the mucous membrane and pillars have been separated and the upper lobe of the tonsil freed from its fossa, the snare wire is thrown around the pedicle, and the enucleation completed. It is also possible with this knife to do all the separation necessary without the use of any other knives or blunt dissectors. The end of the handle is constructed

The Reeder-Dutrow tonsil knife.

in such a way that it may be used when the stripping back of the mucous membrane and pillars is desired or any blunt separation is required. If in any case the operator desires not to use the convex edge of the knife, and if he strikes the patient's lip or palate, cutting them, he may dull this edge or grind it down to avoid this unpleasant feature, using only the concave edge for his operative procedure.

The laryngologists of today are about equally divided as to sharp versus blunt dissection. This knife belongs decidedly to that class of men favoring sharp dissection. With it one is enabled to cut the tissues without mauling and tearing them, as is the case with blunt dissection. Sharp dissection places the operation of tonsillectomy strictly within the class of distinctly surgical operations with clean-cut dissection, thereby preserving the integrity of the parts and a consequent shorter period of convalescence. In removing the left tonsil I prefer to stand on the patient's right, and change position to the other side in removing the right tonsil.

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STAINING DISH FOR COVER GLASS PREPARATIONS

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This simple device is easily made by fixing an ordinary glass ligature spool to the center of a Petri dish. The ordinary cover glass forceps, the jaws of which are usually covered with a film of old dry stain, frequently spoil results by precipitation, leaving a granular residue at one corner of the cover glass, the excess running down the arm. Dishes, while doing away with this and other disadvantages, require a large amount of stain.

In making this dish, a few chips of sealing wax are placed in the center of the Petri dish, and it is held over an alcohol flame until the glass is heated and the wax melts. A liga-

Staining dish for cover glass preparations.

ture spool, the end of which is about 1 cm. in diameter, previously heated to prevent breaking, is pressed into the molten wax, which is allowed to harden. If a few drops of water are placed on the top of the spool, a cover glass is held firmly from slipping or tipping when the stain is dropped on. Dilution and washing can be done, the excess flowing into the dish. To minimize the action of the alcohol or ether on the wax, a small amount of water is placed in the dish to dilute it as it overflows.

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