

LARYNGEAL ABRASOR.

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The armamentarium of the laryngologist has been so extensively and rapidly increased of late that it should be our purpose to curtail the production of instruments in this field rather than to increase the number.

I hope, nevertheless, that I may be justified in presenting this new laryngeal instrument, for in its practical application it answers the purpose for which it is intended better than any known instrument. It is to be used for the safe and bloodless removal of small tumors, easily detachable false membranes and foreign bodies from the larynx.

We are frequently brought in contact with little patients in the throes of suffocation, where before deciding to open the trachea, we should like to avail ourselves of some instrument which can be easily and promptly introduced into the larynx, and one adapted to the removal of false membrane and small foreign bodies wedged in the lumen of the larynx or trachea, also for the removal of neoplasms which threaten stenosis.

Not only among children do we meet with these numerous difficulties in the examination and treatment of the upper respiratory tract, especially the larynx, but there are frequently cases which present great intolerance to any attempt at laryngoscopic examination, obstructions in the fauces, tissue overgrowth at the base of the tongue, such as hypertrophy of the lingual tonsil, interfering with the raising of the epiglottis, and other similar conditions in which a clear laryngoscopic examination and necessarily also an endo-laryngeal operation by proper illumination is almost impossible. In such conditions the laryngologist may be suddenly called upon to save a patient from impending suffocation, and before deciding on an external operation, he may desire to avail himself of a proper instrument to introduce into the larynx with which he may bloodlessly remove the obstructing agent.

To meet these emergencies I have devised an apparatus of simple manipulation, which on several occasions I have found extremely useful in cases such as these above cited.

The instrument consists of a long tubular laryngeal shaft with regulation curvature, containing at its distal end an olive-shaped

bulb; the proximal end fits into a specially constructed handle. The tube which carries the olive-shaped bulb is hollow to admit of an inner rod, which by the manipulation of the lever at the handle admits of traction and extension. Attached to the distal end of this shaft are five small fan-like blades, which, when the instrument is closed, are contained within the hollow olive-shaped bulb.

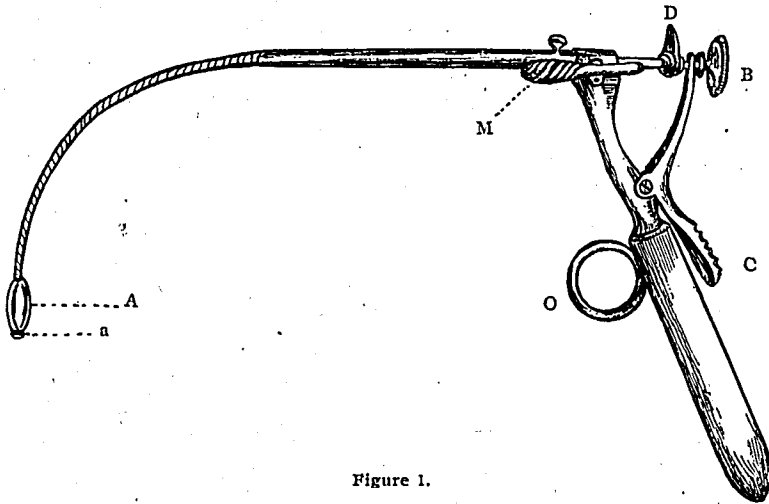


Figure 1.

The instrument must be considered in three aspects: closed, open, and ready for use. When the apparatus is closed, as in Figure 1, the olive-shaped extremity is shown composed of two parts, viz., the olive, *A*, and a small button, *a*; to the other end of the shaft is a milled screw, *B*; a lever, *C*; a check screw, *D*; a spring, *M*, and a finger-ring, *O*. In this position the instrument is introduced into the larynx.

Pressing forward the milled screw, *B* (as shown in Fig. 2), the button, *a*, is projected forward, thus liberating the series of five fan-like metallic blades contained within the hollow olive bulb. Then by pressing down the lever, *C* (as shown in Fig. 3), the terminal button, *a*, is drawn back to the olive, *A*, thus separating the metallic blades, *V*, and holding them apart as the petals of a flower.

The manipulations, as described in Figs. 2 and 3, are conducted after the instrument has been introduced into the larynx below the obstructing agent, and now by withdrawing the instrument from the

larynx with the fan-like series of blades still extended it may be readily seen that any foreign body obstructing the lumen of the glottis, if not adhering too closely to the walls, will be removed.

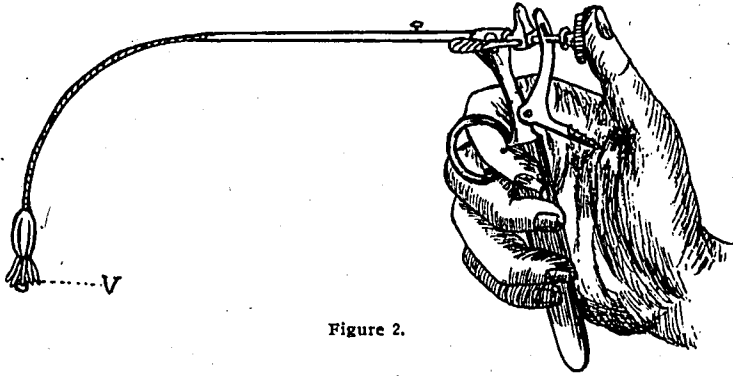


Figure 2.

For false croupous membranes and for papillomata obstructing the larynx, this instrument has proven superior to any other.

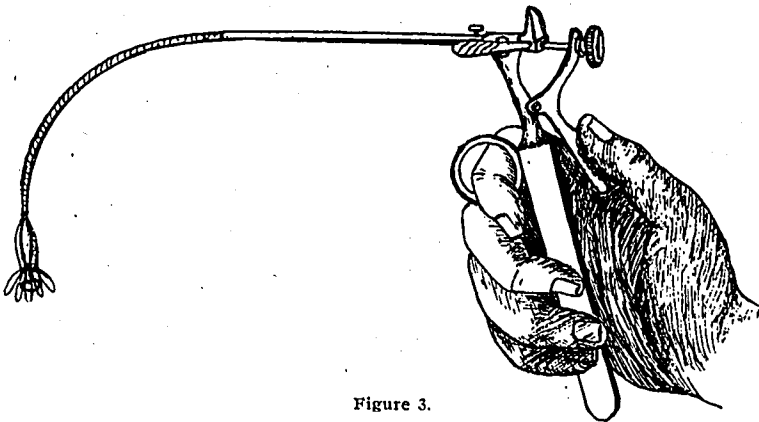


Figure 3.

Another valuable feature of the instrument is that it may be easily taken apart and can be readily sterilized.

It is made by Carfani & Salvini, 103 Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Rome.