APPLIANCES

INSTRUMENT INSPECTION CLAMP*

BY

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IN ophthalmic surgery the condition of needle points and of the cutting edges of knives profoundly influences the success of operative procedures. For keratoplasty this is especially true, since a perfect trephine cut is essential for an accurate edge to edge suture line, and the needle must be so sharp as to pass smoothly through normal and sclerosed corneal tissue with the minimum pressure. For cataract surgery it is a truism that a good section is half the operation.

FIGURE.—The instrument clamp is fixed to the head-piece of a Fincham slit-lamp and is holding a Graefe knife. A camera is fitted to one eye piece. The inset photograph is the view obtained of the point and edge of the knife: both are perfect.

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In this Unit the edge of every trephine, graft knife, and corneal needle is always carefully scrutinized as a routine under the slit lamp by the theatre sister before operation (after Arruga).

A simple clamp has been devised to hold the instrument firmly in the slit-lamp beam. One end of the clamp grips the head-piece of any type of slit lamp, whilst tapered spring jaws at the other end hold the instrument firmly. The spring jaws are mounted on a ball and socket joint which allows the instrument under inspection to be turned in any desired direction. The kid drum test is not used and there is no risk of fine edge damage.

After the instrument has passed slit-lamp examination it is dry-sterilized in an oven in the usual way. This clamp* has been in constant use for 2 years and fulfils the purpose for which it was designed.

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* Made by Messrs. Allen and Hanbury Ltd., London.