TWO NEW SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS*†

BY

R. H. TOWNSEND

Cape Town, Union of South Africa

MODIFIED SINCLAIR'S CORNEAL SCISSORS

In this modification the blunt-ended, notch-edged blades of Sinclair's scissors are made up on the flat, without angulation, and are activated by spring action (Fig. 1). These scissors are particularly designed for enlarging limbal incisions in cataract surgery—especially for use in the keratome and scissors technique. They are very easy to manipulate when enlarging the wound to right or left. The flat blunt-ended blade can be made to creep easily between iris and cornea for enlarging the limbal incision without implicating the iris. The notch-edge suggested by Sinclair appears to cut tough cornea readily without its tending to slip away between the blades. Even in cases in which the anterior chamber is lost during a von Graefe section and an unintentional and unwanted iridectomy seems inevitable, it has been possible to remove the von Graefe knife to complete the section satisfactorily with these scissors.

FIG. 1.—Townsend's modified Sinclair's corneal scissors.

MODIFIED FOSTER'S SCISSOR NEEDLE-HOLDER

The only difference between this instrument and Foster's scissor needle-holder is the application of the spring action principle instead of the looped finger holders of unequal length (Fig. 2). I find this instrument useful in squint operations, in dacryocystorhinostomy when tying knots in inaccessible places, or any plastic procedure involving the application of several sutures and tying and cutting the knots. The needle-holder appears to grip sutures more firmly than many well-known suture forceps and it is very convenient to be able to cut the suture without assistance and without changing instruments. Practice and some care are required, however, to avoid cutting sutures unwittingly with this instrument.

FIG. 2.—Townsend's modified Foster's scissor needle-holder.

* Received for publication February 3, 1958.

† These instruments are manufactured by Messrs. C. F. Thackray Ltd., Park Street, Leeds, England.