A new instrument for use in retinal detachment surgery

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The No. 40 silicone encircling band is widely used and there are many ways of securing its ends—the clove-hitch ligature, the tantalum clip, and a silicone tube sheath.*

The last needs a special instrument for its application and a suitable type of forceps is described here. The tube has an internal diameter of 0.03 in. and an external diameter of 0.06 in., and thus a spreading forceps with extra fine points is required.

A simple substitute for the costly cross-action forceps can be made from a fine mosquito forceps by filing the points to one-third their normal thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in. along their length (Fig. 1).

FIG. 1 *Fine forceps with points filed very thin*

FIG. 2 *Feeding the band through the sheath while it is held open by the finely pointed forceps*

With the tube fitted over the tips and the points spread, the band can be fed through the sheath (Fig. 2); sharpening the ends of the band makes this manoeuvre easier. The final position is shown in Fig. 3 (opposite).

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FIG. 3 *The ends of the encircling band held together by the sheath*