PREPARATION OF EGG MEMBRANE FOR KERATOPLASTY*

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MANY surgeons must be using egg membrane for covering corneal grafts since Paufigue demonstrated this method. Those who have tried cutting egg membrane will realize what a tedious and tricky little operation it is, and the writer has had made a simple instrument† which renders preparation of the egg membrane extraordinarily easy.

The instrument is a tube of stainless metal, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long and 8.5 mm. in diameter; one end has a simple cutting edge, but there is no piston or other attachment.

For making the egg membrane, the writer has been using an egg as fresh as possible which is boiled for at least three-quarters of an hour to ensure sterility. The egg is allowed to cool and the shell gently tapped until fine cracks appear in it, then on gentle manipulation the shell is peeled off the egg, the trephine described above is applied to the membrane, and one or two light rotary movements define a neat circular piece. With fine forceps the piece of membrane is gently peeled off the hardened egg, and put straight into pure alcohol in a glass-stoppered bottle. After a week in this liquid full sterility is assured.

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† By Messrs. Down Bros., Meyer and Phelps.