

APPLIANCES

LID RETRACTOR FOR CATARACT EXTRACTIONS*

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THIS type of lid retractor is suggested for intra-capsular work, as it has been found to provide better access to and less pressure on the eyeball, than the usual specula, superior rectus, or lid sutures.

The upper lid retractor is made from a wire paper-clip and No. 3 silk. The shape of the paper-clip can easily be slightly altered to suit the individual patient, at the time of operation. A single lid suture is used to retract the lower lid. Spencer Wells's or Joll's haemostats, clipped on to the loose ends of the silk, provide sufficient weight to hold the lids open if facial nerve and retrobulbar injections have been given. I insert a superior rectus suture,

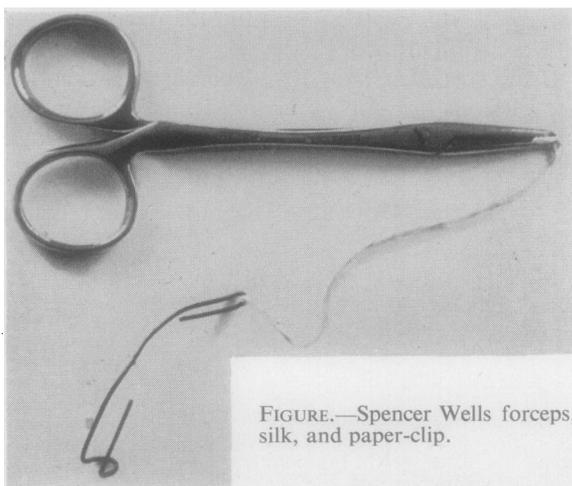
although it is seldom needed if a little procaine has been injected into the superior rectus.

I do not like giving the whole retrobulbar injection from above as it seems to give more pain and in some cases has a greater tendency to produce retrobulbar swelling than when given from below.

It is obvious that this method of lid retraction is unsuitable for the occasional patient who has to be operated upon in a sitting position.

The idea of using paper-clips for this purpose arose during the recent war, when the availability of large numbers of sterilized lid retractors saved much time in the examination of eye casualties.

I am indebted to Dr. J. R. Hamerton for the accompanying photograph.



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