TWO NEW SYNECHIA KNIVES*

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THE division of an anterior synechia may present considerable difficulty, especially when it is situated on the temporal side. In the first place it is often inconvenient to divide an adhesion to a curved surface with a straight blade; in the second, the nose presents an obstacle to the use of a straight-handled instrument. It is with these difficulties in view that these knives have been devised.

For the division of a synechia on the nasal side, the approach is usually from a temporal corneal incision. For this purpose the new knife has a blade in line with the handle, but the cutting part is curved to a radius just less than that of the posterior surface of the cornea. The end is blunt; both sides have sharp cutting edges.

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For a temporal synechia with a nasal approach the blade is similarly curved, but the shaft bends at a right angle to join the handle; the knife can thus be manipulated by a rotatory movement, free of the obstruction presented by the nose. Again, the end is blunt and both edges sharp.

The knives have been found extremely effective, safe, and easy in use; the technique is identical with that practised in the use of Lang's twin knives, and the thickness of the shafts is similarly proportioned. In the illustration the right-hand knife (D) is Lang's sharp twin; the next (C) is Lang's blunt twin; the next (B) is the new knife for use on nasally-situated synechia; the last (A) is that for temporal synechia.

The knives are made by Messrs. Weiss & Son of Oxford Street. I am indebted to the Department of Medical Illustration, Institute of Ophthalmology, for the photograph.