

APPLIANCES

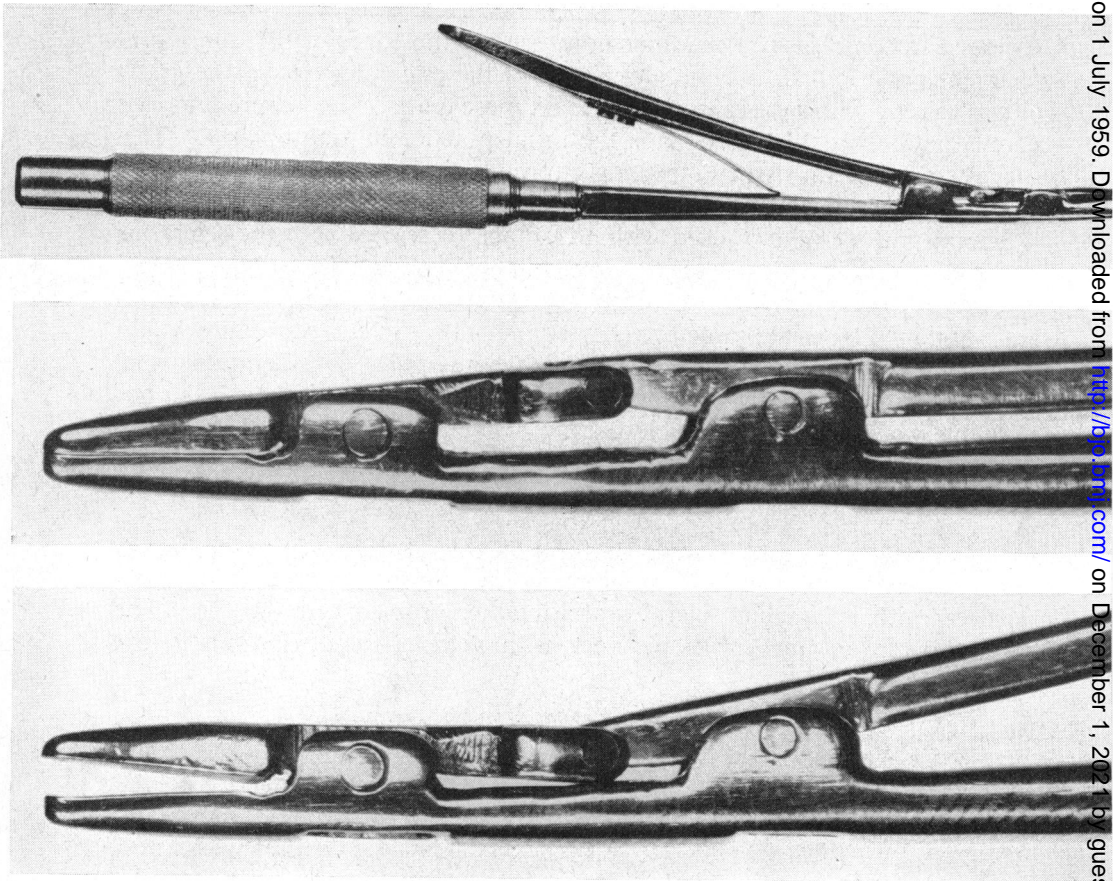
NEW NEEDLE-HOLDER FOR CORNEAL SUTURING*

BY

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THIS instrument was produced after some thought on corneal suturing, with the idea of lessening the chances of trauma to the eye which may be caused by the lower blade of the standard type of needle-holder dropping or slipping back into the open wound when the needle is released.



* Received for publication November 10, 1958.

It will be seen that the instrument has a double joint, and, because of this, only the upper jaw moves. Similarly one can make sure that the lower jaw is always adjacent to the eye whilst using the instrument, and that this is a fixed point. Releasing the needle or attempting to get hold of it will not move the lower jaw—consequently the lower jaw cannot drop into the open wound. I have used the instrument continuously now for about 18 months and find it very satisfactory. It has also been tried by the ophthalmic surgeons at St. James's Hospital, Leeds, and has met with their approval.

The photographs are, I think, self-explanatory. That showing the whole instrument is approximately seven-eighths full size.

I made this instrument myself, but I should be pleased to let anyone have working drawings which would enable any recognized instrument manufacturer to reproduce it. I personally prefer an instrument without any clip fastening, but if this is desired, a clip of Silcock's type could easily be included.