

Sept. 14, 1943.

B. F. GLASSER

2,329,264

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Filed June 26, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

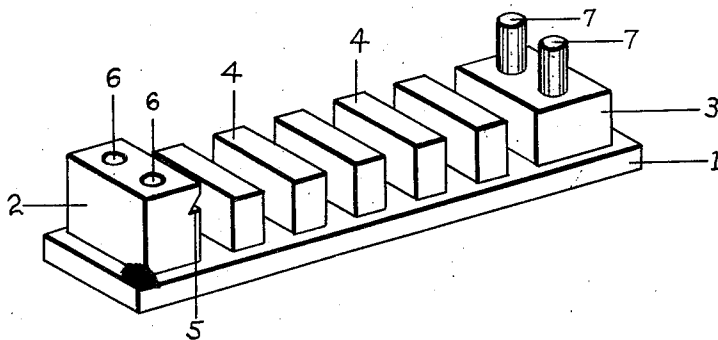


FIGURE I

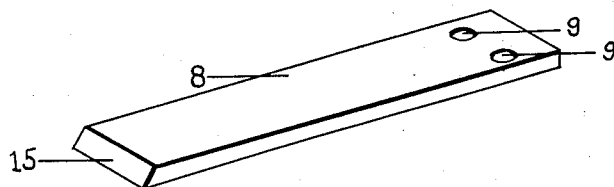


FIGURE II

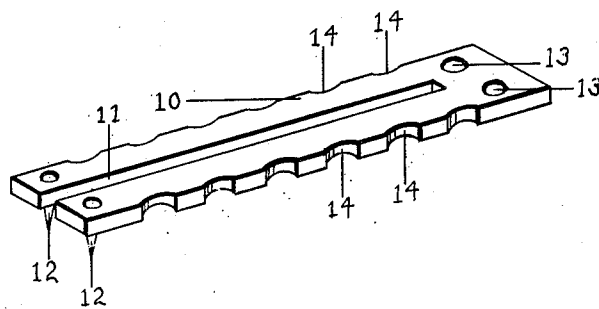


FIGURE III

INVENTOR.
Benjamin F. Glasser
BY *Norman N. Popper*
Attorney

Sept. 14, 1943.

B. F. GLASSER

2,329,264

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Filed June 26, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

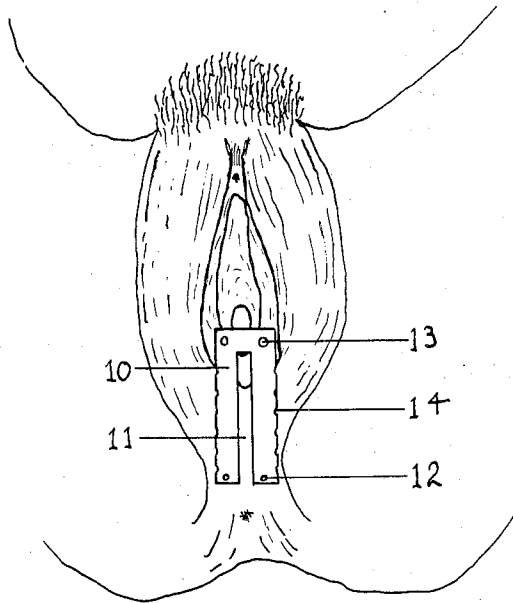


FIGURE V

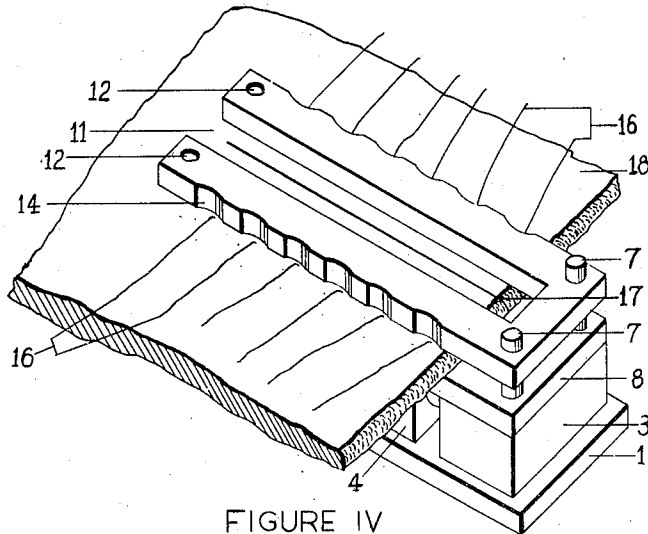


FIGURE IV

BENJAMIN F. GLASSER
INVENTOR.

BY *Norman N. Popper*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,329,264

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Benjamin F. Glasser, Highland Park, N. J.

Application June 26, 1942, Serial No. 448,519

6 Claims. (Cl. 128—334)

My invention relates generally to surgical instruments, and specifically to episiotomes or instruments aiding in the performance of an episiotomy.

Heretofore, the performance of an episiotomy has frequently been complicated by the difficulty of making a perfect anatomical repair, i. e., by difficulty in arranging perfect coincidence of the skin, fascia, muscle, and mucous membrane when the sutures are applied. There has often been a long period of time necessary to carefully and correctly apply sutures. The application of sulfonamide powders has interfered with the proper suturing.

By the use of my episiotome, the skin, fascia, muscle, and mucous membrane are pre-aligned before the cut is made because the sutures are applied before the cut. Perfect re-alignment is achieved. When the operation is over, the tissues are pre-aligned. No time is wasted. The sulfonamide powders of choice may be applied without interfering with perfect reclosure. Perfect reclosure is possible, even by one who has not had frequent practice in this particular type of surgery. These objects and advantages, as well as many other objects and advantages, are achieved by the use of my invention.

Referring now to the drawing,

Figure I is a view in perspective of the body member of the episiotome.

Figure II is a view in perspective of the base plate member of the episiotome.

Figure III is a view in perspective of the guide plate member of the episiotome.

Figure IV is a view of the episiotome assembled in an operative position.

Figure V is a view of the guide plate in operative position.

The invention is comprised of a body member 1 having a retaining block 2 and a positioning block 3 at opposite ends thereof. Intermediate of the retaining block 2 and the positioning block 3, there is located a plurality of separators 4. The retaining block 2 is of a height slightly greater than the separators 4 and is provided with a retaining groove 5 in the side facing the positioning block 3. This groove 5 is at a height approximately that of the separators 4. The retaining block 2 is also provided with two holes 6, 6 passing entirely through the block 2. The positioning block 3, is provided with two pins 7, 7. As the positioning block 3 is of the exact height of the separators 4, the pins 7, 7 are substantially higher than the separators, as illustrated in Figure I.

The base-plate 8 illustrated in Figure II is provided with a beveled edge 15 intended to fit into the retaining groove 5. The opposite end of the base-plate 8 is provided with two holes 9, 9, designed to fit the pins 7, 7. The holes 9, 9 are somewhat larger in circumference than the pins 7, 7.

The guide plate 10, illustrated in Figure III is provided with a center guide channel 11. The guide plate 10 is also provided with two sharp pins 12 and at the opposite end, two holes 13, 13. A series of notches 14, 14, etc., are located on the outside of the guide plate 10 at points corresponding with the openings between the separators 4. The various elements of the episiotome are preferably of metal although other materials, such as plastics, may possibly be used.

The use of the episiotome is as follows. The beveled edge 15 of the base-plate 8, is engaged with the retaining groove 5, and the holes 9, 9 are engaged with the pins 7, 7. Since the holes 9, 9 are somewhat larger in circumference than the pins 7, 7, this may be effected because of the longitudinal movement of the base plate 8 thereby permitted. The plate 8 and the body member 1 as thus conjoined are inserted into the vaginal vault. The pins 12, 12 are now inserted into the perineum 18 at the desired level and the plate 8 and body member 1 are manipulated to cause the pins 12, 12 to enter the holes 6, 6. When this has been effected, the holes 13, 13 are engaged with the pins 7, 7, and the entire instrument pressed tightly together.

Sutures of appropriate length are now inserted in the perineum by a curved needle and passed through the space between the separators 4, 4, etc. The ends of sutures are left free but may be, for convenience, passed through a small ring attached to the linen of the patient and held together by a small clamp so as to be out of the way. The notches 14 act as guides for the insertion of the needle. Since the needle passes through the skin, fascia, muscle, and mucous membrane when entering, and the same layers when leaving, but in reverse, there is perfect anatomical alignment of the four layers because no incision has yet been made. The episiotomy is now performed by using a scalpel or scissors to make a cut 17 on the part of the perineum appearing in the channel 11. The instrument is now disengaged from the perineum leaving the sutures, and delivery is effected. The sulfonamide powders of choice may now be used. The sutures may then be tied, the layers falling automatically into perfect alignment.

I intend the drawing and specification as merely illustrative of my invention as many changes in the precise form thereof may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having at one end a grooved retaining block, with a hole extending therethrough, at the other end a positioning block with a pin extending therefrom, and a plurality of separators intermediate of the retaining and positioning blocks; a retaining plate positioned on the body member engaged with the groove of the retaining block and the pin of the positioning block; a guide plate having a plurality of notches along each of its marginal edges, a central longitudinal channel, a sharp pin adjacent to the opening of the channel, a hole adjacent to the end of the channel, the said guide plate being adapted to be positioned on the body member over the retaining block with the pin thereof engaged with the hole of the retaining block and the hole engaged with the pin of the positioning block.

2. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having a plurality of separators; a retaining-plate positioned over the separators whereby the openings between them are closed; a guide-plate having a central channel positioned over the retaining-plate, and having notches thereon whereby the location of openings between the separators are indicated.

3. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having a plurality of separators; a re-

taining plate disengageably associated therewith whereby the openings between the separators are closed; a guide-plate disengageably associated with the body member over the retaining plate, and having a channel and notches, along the side edge, said notches being positioned to indicate the location of the spaces between the separators.

4. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having a plurality of separators; a closure plate associated therewith over the separators; a channeled plate associated with the body member over the plate, with indicating means thereon to show the location of the spaces between the separators.

5. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having a plurality of transverse channels formed thereon; a retaining member positioned over the transverse channels whereby their open sides are closed; a guide member having a central channel positioned over the retaining member, and having indicating means thereon in correspondence with the channels of the body member.

6. A surgical instrument comprising a body member having a plurality of transverse channels formed thereon; a retaining member positioned over the transverse channels whereby their open sides are closed; a guide member having a central channel positioned over the retaining member, and having indicating means thereon in correspondence with the channels of the body member; pin receiving holes in the body member; and sharp pointed pins on the guide member.

BENJAMIN F. GLASSER.