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FORCEPS FOR GRASPING AND HOLDING BONE PLATES

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The grasping and holding forceps presented here (Fig. 1) has proved helpful as a simple and secure method of handling a bone plate for fixation of a fracture. The forceps will facilitate the non-touch technique, and has many advantages for those who do not follow this technique. The operating field is unobstructed by hands holding the plate in



FIG. 1
Forceps, with detail of tip in circle.

the wound, and there is less danger of dropping the plate when held by the forceps than when it is held in the wet gloved hand or by the hemostat.

The forceps facilitates the handling of the bone plate and its application to the bone at the fracture site. The plate is held in place by an assistant, who is enabled to keep well out of the operator's field until the plate has been secured by one of several bone clamps, prior to insertion of the screws. When the plate is held firmly against the bone by the clamp, the forceps can be easily disengaged and removed by unlocking the ratchet.

Marring or scratching of the bone plate is reduced to a minimum, due to the design and construction of the instrument. It is recommended that the plate be grasped and held at the two end screw holes

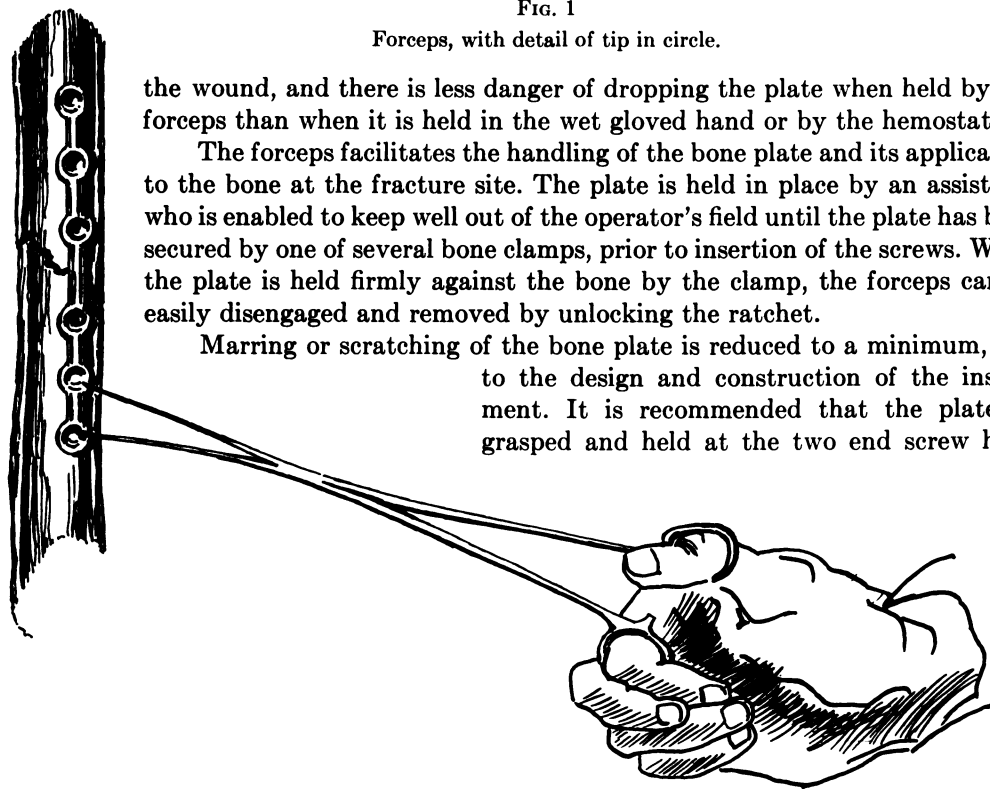


FIG. 2
Application of plate to bone surface with forceps, prior to clamping.

(Fig. 2), since the operator thereby has greater freedom in clamping the plate to the bone.

The forceps has been used by members of the surgical staff at the Beekman-Downtown Hospital, who have found it to be of considerable practical value.