MURDOCH. (R)

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EAR INSTRUMENTS

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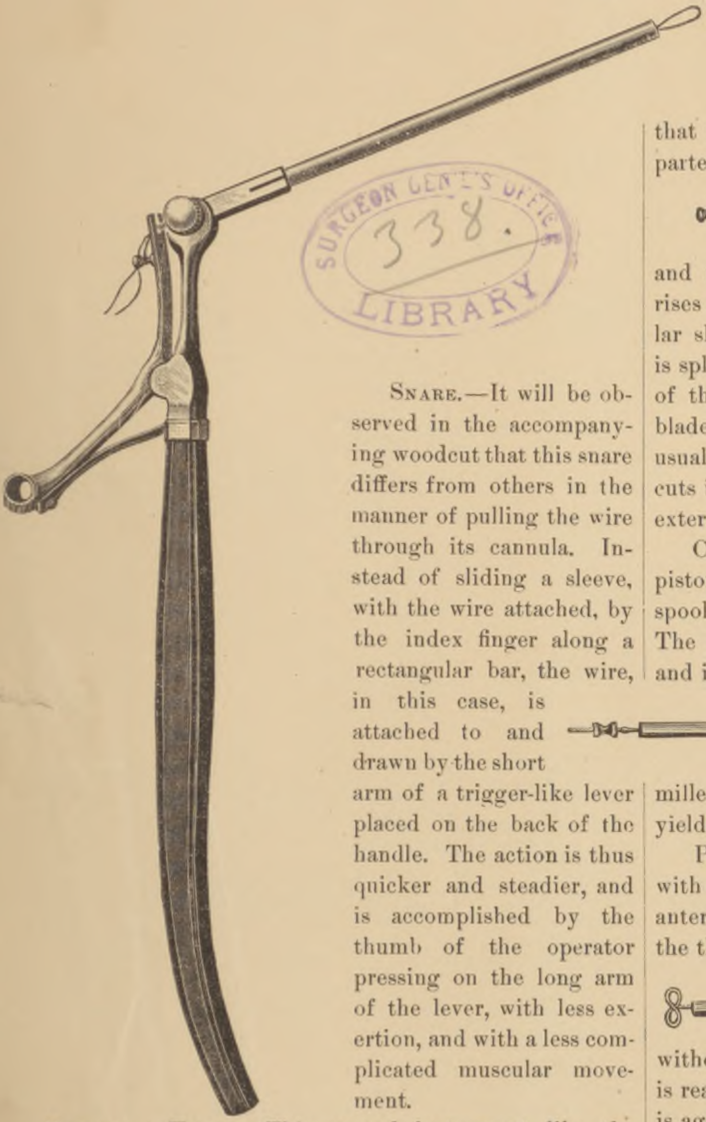
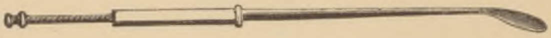


Snare.—It will be observed in the accompanying woodcut that this snare differs from others in the manner of pulling the wire through its cannula. Instead of sliding a sleeve, with the wire attached, by the index finger along a rectangular bar, the wire, in this case, is attached to and drawn by the short arm of a trigger-like lever placed on the back of the handle. The action is thus quicker and steadier, and is accomplished by the thumb of the operator pressing on the long arm of the lever, with less exertion, and with a less complicated muscular movement.

Furuncle Knife.—This second instrument, like the cannula of the snare, is passed through the sleeve portion of the handle, and, unlike it, is not fixed by the set-screw, but is allowed to have free play through it. It is then, by means of a spool-like button, attached to the forked extremity of the small end of the lever, in order to make which attachment the button has to be lifted over the fork, and therefore, to accomplish that purpose, the proximal end of the knife is made flexible by a closely wrapped spiral wire around a central thin flexible core. In order, also, that the backward motion of the lever may alone be imparted to the knife without its accompanying upward one and thus locking the knife in the sleeve, this flexible end rises with the lever, while the stiff, closely fitting rectangular shank passes directly backward. The sleeve, however, is split in front, so as to allow a slight downward movement of the blade. This, added to the acute angle at which the blade is set to the shank, does away with a part of the usual downward pressure from the hand, as the knife rapidly cuts its way through the exquisitely painful furuncles of the external auditory meatus.



Cannula Forceps.—This consists of a cannula, and a piston split into blades in front, and flexible, with a similar spool-like button for attachment to the lever in the rear. The lever operates the blades with the utmost precision, and imparts to them, as long as the thumb presses on the milled extremity of the long arm of the lever, the most unyielding grasp.

Porte-acide.—This likewise consists of a fixed cannula with a movable piston, also attached to the lever. The anterior cup-shaped extremity is made to protrude by the thumb on the lever, and, when armed with the acid, is withdrawn; then, when it is thus guarded, the desired spot is reached in the meatus, and it is protruded, after which it is again shielded and withdrawn. The convenience of such a one-handed application is the chief claim that this instrument offers for presentation to the profession.

Note.—It need hardly be remarked that other instruments in use, such as a probe, tenotome, etc., can be inserted in the sleeve of this "universal" handle, and fixed by the set-screw; or that the size and general shape of the above-described instruments, as well as those of the handle, have been freely borrowed from well-known instruments in general use. The modifications above described have been made for me by Charles Newhause, instrument-maker, No. 506 North Eutaw Street, Baltimore.