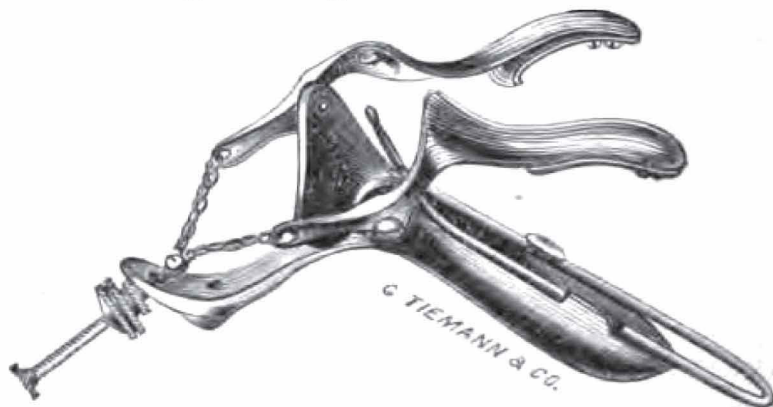


Nott's Improved Speculum.

By the kindness of Messrs. Bliss & Sharp we are enabled to present an electrotype of this instrument for which the inventor claims the following advantages:



"1. No instrument hitherto devised can be more easy to introduce.

2. It can be equally well used in the semi-prone position or on the back.

3. While elevating or depressing the perineum, its feet are so constructed as to expand the *ostium vaginae* to any desired extent.

4. It is perfectly self-retaining, without any arrangement external to the vagina.

5. In the semi-prone position it has the same advantage of atmospheric pressure as the lever speculum of Sims, and when the patient is on the back, by elevating the hips with a cushion or pillow, you have the same advantage of atmospheric pressure.

6. I use the instrument almost entirely with the patient on the back, because I can do everything I wish to do with more facility; and because the light from any window is more easily commanded. The concave surface of the speculum looking upwards, catches and throws the light fully on the anterior wall of the vagina and os uteri.

7. For all ordinary manipulations, where no cutting is required, instead of a table, any common bedstead or couch will command the light sufficiently from almost any window to give a good view. Baker Brown, in his operations for vesico-vaginal fistula, while using Sims' speculum, places the patient in the lithotomy position.

8. Like Sim's speculum, mine does not stretch the vagina *longitudinally*, and therefore allows the os uteri to be drawn down with a tenaculum near to the vulva.

9. The anterior wall of the vagina being left free, more space is afforded for operations.

10. With this speculum there are few operations that cannot be easily performed without an assistant.

I have also added, in some of the instruments, a small tenaculum, two inches long, with a little chain, any link of which may be made to catch on to a knob at the heel of the instrument. With a pair of forceps the tenaculum is fastened into the anterior lip of the uterus, and then drawn out and fixed at any point we desire.

I should remark that I have not yet tried this instrument in a case of vesico-vaginal fistula, and do not think it would answer well in any but small openings. By shortening the feet of the instrument, however, they would be out of the way, and the instrument would still be self-retaining. The feet need only be long enough to curve around the rami of the pubes, and thus not press upon or stretch the bladder; with this alteration I see no reason why it should not answer well for vesico-vaginal fistula."

Several of our friends who have tried it, think this the best speculum in use.