





FIG. 1. Front view.

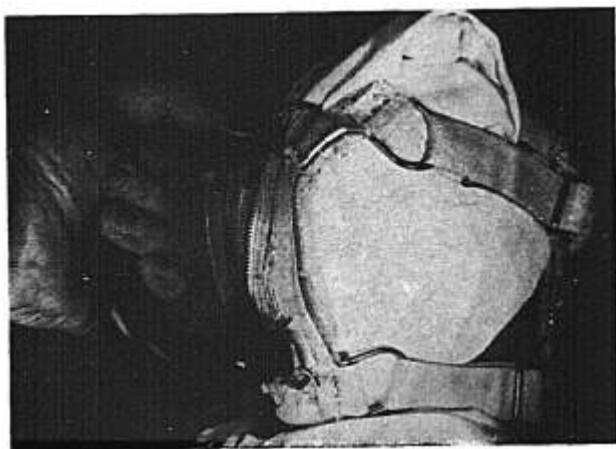


FIG. 2. Back view, showing handles.

webbing with several buckles and metal loops obtained from a harness maker. The 5 inch zipper on the back of the strap is readily obtainable. Suitcase handles as shown in figure 2, are used in its construction. Surfaces coming in contact with the face are covered with thin sponge rubber, the type used in the making of shoe inner soles. These are excellent for this purpose, since they are backed by a leatherette material which can be cut into strips and stitched to the webbing.

The strap is readily adjustable to any size by means of the buckles and can be washed and dried with ease. The handles are comfortable to hold and afford excellent control. The head can be flexed and extended quickly, as shown in figures 3 and 4, and can be turned laterally with equal facility.

After the patient is anesthetized in the recumbent position the strap is adjusted and used for the remainder of the operation until immediately before adenoidectomy is done. Then the anesthesia is discontinued and the strap removed.

I have used this strap in over 50 tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies. The surgeons have mentioned that the device in no way hindered the operation. They also stated that the head was held in a steady position.

### SUMMARY

A device is described for holding the patient's head during tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy when the operation is done with the patient in the sitting position. The device consists of a head strap constructed of cotton webbing and lined with



FIG. 3. Side view, showing flexion of head.



FIG. 4. Side view, showing extension of head.

sponge rubber. Control of the head is effected by ordinary suitcase handles, easily held by one hand. The strap is quickly and easily constructed, and allows the anesthesiologist a free hand for controlling the

anesthesia equipment and maintaining the airway.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

*To the Editor:*

I am referring to the article on "Nomenclature for Methods of Inhalation Anesthesia" by Moyers which appeared in the November 1953 issue, it is assumed, with editorial approval.

I agree emphatically with Moyers on the necessity of clearing up the confusion of nomenclature, but it seems to me that Moyers adds to the confusion rather than attempting to clarify it.

"Semi" is a Greek prefix, meaning half. The half empty glass is as full as the half full one, or the half full one is just as empty as the half empty one.

Therefore, I believe it is necessary that Moyers find other words to describe his techniques which he terms "half open" "semiopen," and "half closed" or "semi-closed."

Such terms should be defined with editorial approval once and for all. This is the only way that we instructors will know what to teach our apprentices and what to expect in the different examinations.

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