

### CHAPTER III.

#### THE FILET.—THE SERICEPS.

**M**AURICEAU was the first to entertain the idea of extracting the foetal head by means of inoffensive instruments. Amand, in 1714, devised a hood destined to remove from the uterus the decapitated

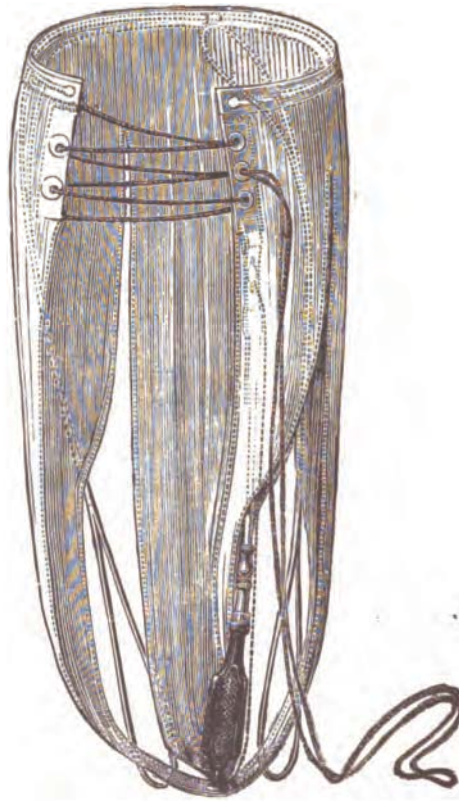


FIG. 110.—FOULLET'S SERICEPS.

head. About one hundred years ago, Mead, in England, thought of using a cloth loop to be placed between the chin and the thorax, and Playfair mentions, only to condemn, the filet of Earldly Wilson. Precisely the same instrument was used in Japan, in 1812, by one of the Kangawas.

In 1875, Poulet invented an instrument which he calls the *sericeps*, and a new mechanical tractor to be adapted to the sericeps to increase the force of the tractions. The following is the description of the sericeps:

“It is composed of: 1. A piece of cloth  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. 2. Four ribbons inserted along the inferior border of this cloth, and united together in pairs to make two loops. (Fig. 110.) The transverse band is placed around the foetal head, and the borders are laced together. When

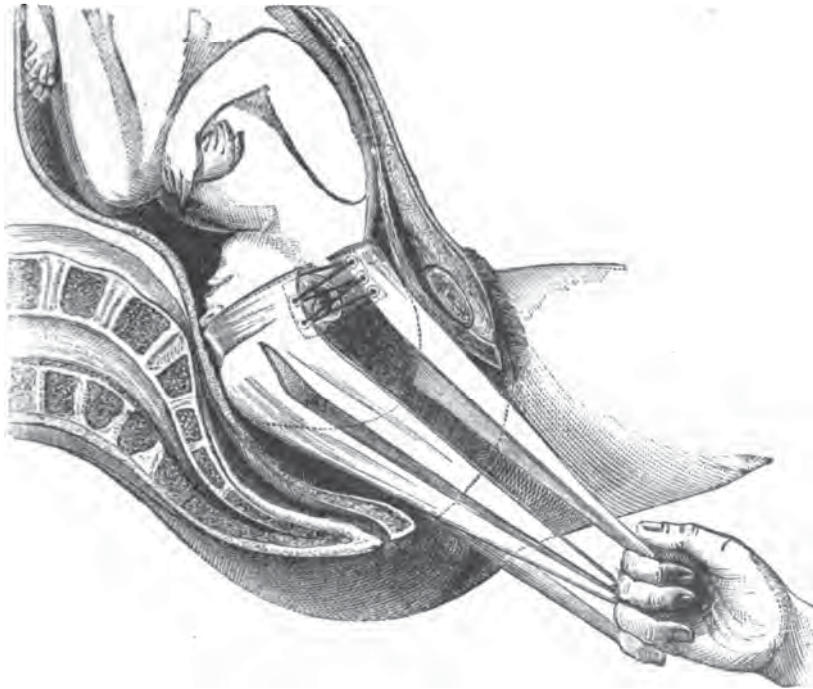


FIG. 111.—EXTRACTION OF THE HEAD BY MEANS OF THE SERICEPS.

the ovoid of the head has been well grasped, and we pull on the loops, the head is obliged to descend. The transverse band and the ribbons are doubly lined, making fingers in which are slipped the metallic rods which place the apparatus over the head. When the head has been grasped the metallic rods are withdrawn, and the apparatus is ready for traction. (Fig. 111.)

“In case greater traction is needed than can be applied through the loops, the tractor is to be adjusted.” (Fig. 112).

By means of the sericeps Poulet has succeeded in ten cases, but we

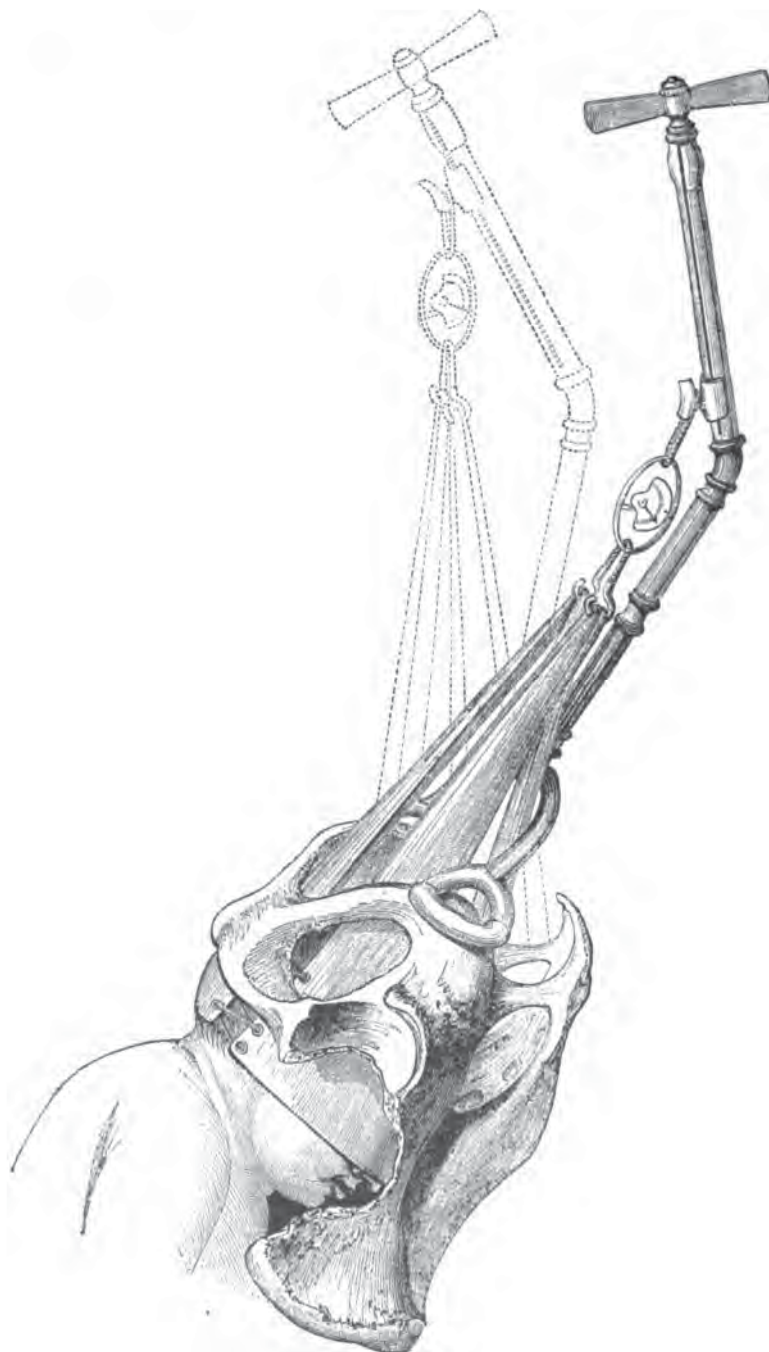


FIG. 112.—FOULLET'S TRACTOR APPLIED TO THE CERVIX.

doubt its utility in the obstetric armamentarium, and we believe it is destined to be relegated to the obscurity of the retroceps of Hamon, the leniceps of Mattei, the filets of Mead, Kangawa, Wilmot and others, and the air extractor, that monstrosity devised by Simpson.

Poulet has lately devised another sericeps, and he has given us the description and the illustrations. The new instrument is a modification

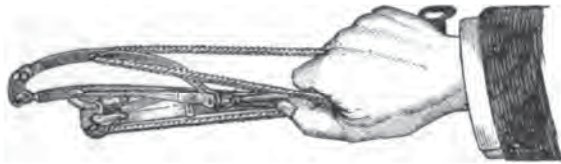


FIG. 113.—NEW SERICEPS.

of the old, which was very difficult to insert, especially between the head and the promontory, and the head and the pubes. The new instrument aims at facilitating this. It is composed of two flexible steel blades, unequal in length, the one to be applied to the left, and the other to the right of the pelvis. The longer blade consists of two narrow flexible steel blades,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, united superiorly by a steel plate, which is movable. They are curved on the flat, about like the cephalic curve. At their inferior extremity, the one is attached to a steel tube 7 inches long, the other to an inner steel rod. A screw on this rod fixes the two blades. (Fig. 113.)

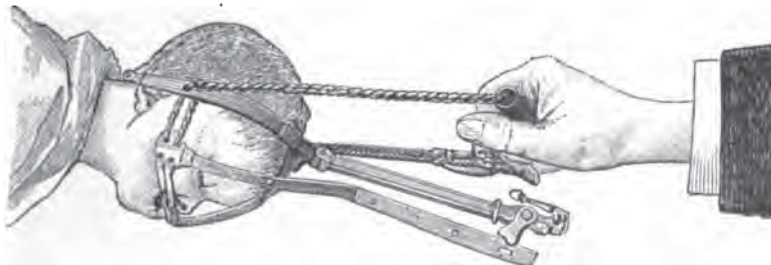


FIG. 114.—NEW SERICEPS, APPLIED AND ACTING.

The short blade is like the other, only it is but  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and the extremity of the two blades which compose it are united by a silk loop  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Applied over the face, this loop will not act on the neck.

The completed instrument in position is shown in Fig. 114.

The instrument requires more time for application than the forceps, but this is not difficult at the superior strait. Its advantages are:

1. It exercises no compression transversely in the pelvis; on the contrary, it slightly reduces the head in the longest diameter.
2. It pulls on the entire occiput, and does not engage the head till it is flexed; and further it does not in the least interfere with rotation.
3. The entire transverse portion of the pelvis is left free to the head, and it may, therefore, as in version, slide along the *linea innominata*, and



FIG. 115.—*Aa*, Superior extremity and opening of the conducting rod. *b*, Metallic conducting wire, seen in front and in profile. *C*, Inferior extremity of the handle of the conducting rod, and inferior orifice. *Ba*, Conducting rod. *c*, Handle of the wire. *b*, Steel blade. *d*, Screw slide for limiting the amount of wire to be carried over the groin. *e*, Silk filet.

may engage in the contracted part of the pelvis in a diameter approaching the bi-temporal.

The Japanese were not content with devising filets for the extraction of the foetal head, but also endeavored to facilitate delivery, in case of shoulder presentation, by passing a filet over the pelvic extremity. Latterly, Webecker-Sternfeld has re-advocated this measure in case of breech presentations. Rejecting blunt hooks as dangerous, he follows

the example set by Hecker and Grégory, and uses the filet introduced by means of the instruments represented in Figs. 115, 116, 117.



FIG. 116.—APPLICATION OF THE FILET-CARRIER.

Of his 30 observations, the following are the results.

|           |   |              |       |                  |                |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
|           |   |              |       | Children living. | Children dead. |
| 30 labors | { | Primiparæ 21 | : : : | 17               | 4              |
|           |   | Multiparæ 9  | : : : | 7                | 2              |

Of the 21 children born of primiparæ, 8 were asphyxiated, and 7 of

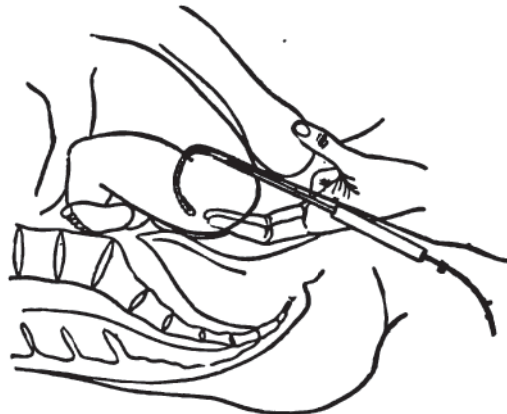


FIG. 117.—THE FINGERS SEEKING THE METALLIC WIRE.—(The mechanism of the instrument is like Belloc's Sound.)

these lived. Of the 9 born of multiparæ, 2 were asphyxiated but survived, and one other lived for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours, and at autopsy showed evidence of visceral syphilis.

The 6 deaths were due to the following causes:

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Primiparæ | { | 1. Asphyxia. Extravasation in the brain.        |
|           |   | 2. Syphilis.                                    |
|           |   | 3. Difficult labor.                             |
|           |   | 4. " " "  |
| Multiparæ | { | 1. Interference with intra-uterine circulation. |
|           |   | 2. Compression of the cord.                     |

The lesions produced by the filet were:

|   |           |          |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Traces of deep compression of soft parts, | .         | 4 times. |
| Superficial excoriations,                 | . . . . . | 2 "      |
| Non-essential traces of compression,      | . . . . . | 24 "     |

In one case the humerus was fractured in disengaging the arms; twice the femur, once in the endeavor to bring down a foot, once during extraction with the filet.

As for the mothers, the introduction of the filet did no damage. The perineum was lacerated eight times in the primiparæ, through rapid extraction of the head. The puerperium was invariably normal.