

A NEW VAGINAL WIRE SPECULUM.*

BY

H. J. HARTZ, M. D.,

Demonstrator of Gynecological Pathology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

(With four illustrations.)

THERE always has been a demand for a practical vaginal wire speculum. That an endeavor to meet this demand had been made is shown by several varieties of specula on the market to-day. That these specula are not more generally used is undoubtedly due to the fact that they do not serve the purpose for which they were intended. A vaginal wire speculum finds its greatest usefulness in the examinations and treatment of inflammatory conditions of the vaginal mucosa, where a complete inspection of the entire vagina is desired. In ulcerations, in polypi and newgrowths of the vagina and in the observance of the condition of the rugæ a wire speculum becomes of infinite value. Usually in inflammatory conditions a considerable amount of pain is associated which invariably interferes with a satisfactory examination of the parts. To obviate this obstacle a speculum when introduced and adjusted should give no

*Read before the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society, October 1, 1914.

discomfort, yet should expose satisfactorily the entire extent of the mucosa.

The above enumerated difficulties are entirely overcome by the speculum that I am describing. Furthermore, a full view of the cervix

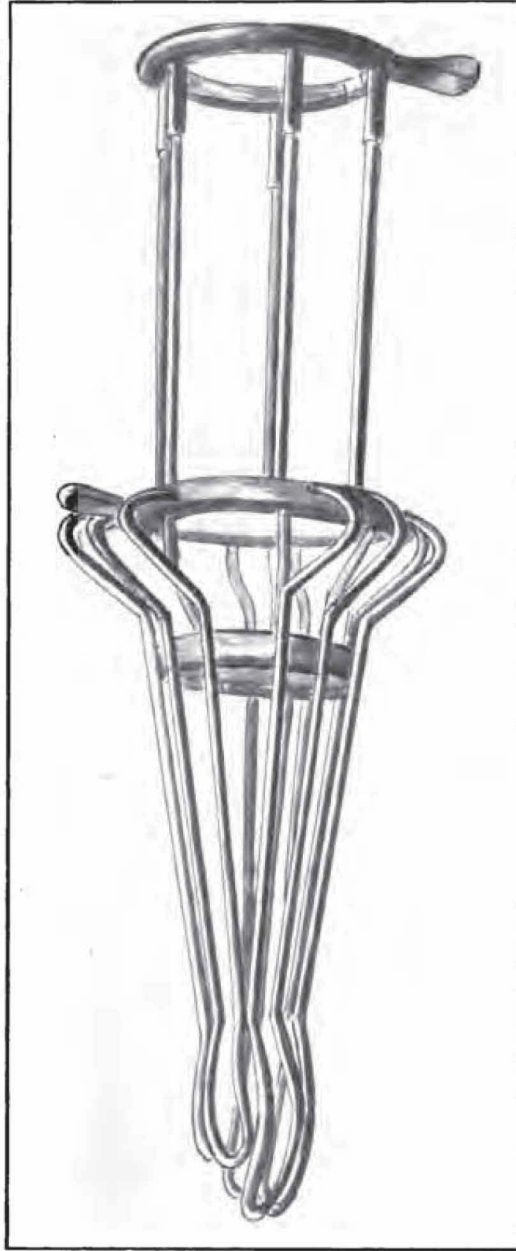


FIG. 1.—Side view of speculum, closed for introduction.

is brought into the field of vision with all its concomitant pathological states. Lacerations, erosions, ulcerations, polypi, new-growths and inflammatory states at once become apparent without undue distortion of the normal relationship of the parts.

Description of Speculum.—The speculum may be described as being composed of two parts, but joined into one. The outer portion of the speculum when at rest is of cone shape. The cone is formed by five double wire prongs, held in position at their base

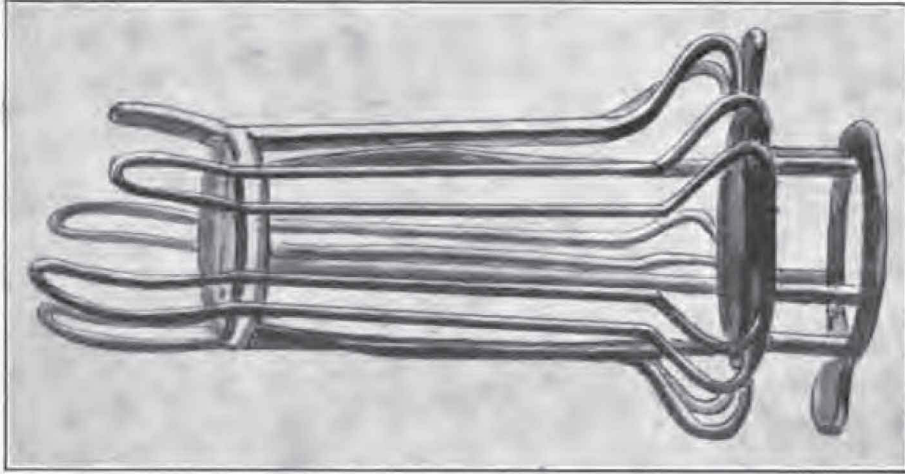


FIG. 2.—Side view of speculum open after introduction.

by a ring to which they are all attached. The attachment to the ring is such that when the prongs are at rest the end of the speculum opposite the ring converges to a blunt point. The length of the cone is 5 inches and at the base measures 2 inches.

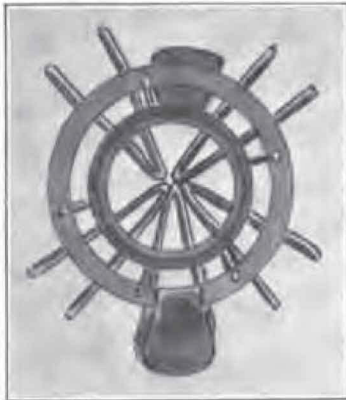


FIG. 3.—End view of speculum ready for introduction.

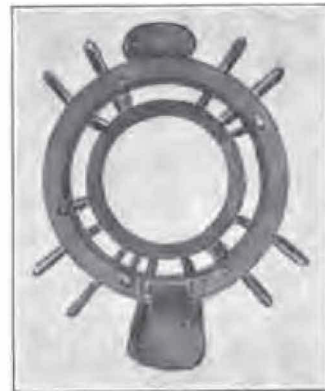


FIG. 4.—End view of speculum open after introduction.

The inner portion of the speculum whose function is to dilate the outer cone is of cylindrical shape. The cylinder is composed of five thin rods and held together by two rings. It measures 4 inches in length and 1 1/2 inches in diameter. One end of this cylinder is

held in position just inside the base of the above described cone. By gentle pressure this cylinder dilates the outer cone and converts it into a cylindric speculum. Two of the five prongs of the outer portion of the speculum are shorter than the remaining three, thus allowing the cervix to come into full view.

To recapitulate the advantages of this speculum:

1. It is simple in construction; is in one piece; no parts to get out of order; is inexpensive; is readily sterilized.
2. It can be used with the patient in the dorsal, lateral, or knee-chest positions.
3. Is readily introduced without pain and brings into full view the entire vaginal mucosa and cervix and facilitates local medication.
4. It should prove of value not alone to the specialist, but to the general practitioner as well as to the student.
5. It fulfills all the requirements of a practical vaginal wire speculum.

1226 SPRUCE STREET.