Two Cases of Removal of a Foreign Body in the Anterior Chamber with the Needle-Forceps

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In this journal (Ophthalmologica 135: 297 [1958]) a newly developed instrument has been described for the removal of foreign bodies from the anterior chamber.

The instrument, called needle-forceps (Fig. 1), can be introduced through a narrow opening and is capable of refilling the anterior chamber before one proceeds to extraction (Fig. 2). This refilling creates an optically ideal situation for visualisation of the

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Fig. 1. The needle forceps.

Fig. 2. The forceps manoeuvring within the filled anterior chamber (Drawing by Dr. E. D. Eggink).

foreign body and provides sufficient room for the forceps to manoeuvre. Though indications for this instrument are rare two cases seemed very suited for this method of foreign body removal. Case I. A knife-shaped foreign body, sticking perpendicularly in the iris. It was feared that this foreign body would pierce the iris and anterior capsule of the lens, when aqueous would be lost, reducing the height of the anterior chamber.

Through a small incision the forceps was introduced and any loss of aqueous was immediately replaced, by reinjecting physiological salt.

Pressure on the knurled keys opens the forceps. The shaft of the device should be held like a pencil. The canula at the rear end serves for refilling the anterior chamber.

Fig. 3 Fig. 4

Fig. 3. Before the extraction.

Fig. 4. A few minutes after the extraction. Standing anterior chamber and no visible incision in cornea or conjunctiva.

Note that almost no change in the eye has occurred, except that the foreign body has been removed. The needle forceps is a very effective, safe and gentle way of removing anterior chamber foreign bodies. A minimal incision is all that is needed. The operation is a matter of seconds.

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Case II: Hairs in the anterior chamber (figs

5 and 6). The two photographs show the eye before and directly after the extraction. The same description as in case I applies to this extraction.