

and handle, and keeping them close together. Introduce the fingers of the right hand into the vagina and apply the blade along the palms of them as in the ordinary forceps application.

The handle of this blade being kept back out of the way by an assistant, grasp the right blade in the right hand as follows: The traction rod is carried far enough forward to bring it in front of its handle, the fingers encircling the handle, the butterfly nut of the fixation screw is run to the end of its screw, and the screw itself turned out, away from the traction rod, and allowed to project between the first and second fingers; the traction rod is kept in position by gentle pressure with the thumb on the outer side of the angle, the rectangular part of the rod projects backward between the thumb and fingers. Grasping the blade thus it is applied like the second blade of the ordinary forceps; as the lock is closed the traction rod falls easily back into position behind its handle. The fixation screw is then turned into its place and the nut screwed home, not tightly, but just enough to keep the handles as closely together as they can be brought by gentle pressure with the hands. Then take the traction block, open its catch widely and run the butterfly nut out to the end of its screw. Then slip the block on to the rods, taking care that the catch is on the side next to the notches in them. Slip it up the rods, counting with the fingers three notches below it, and close the catch into the fourth notch, which is the position for normal pelves, and screw the nut home. For flat pelves the block is fixed in the fifth, sixth or seventh notch until that notch is found in which we get the best results on traction. For "small round pelvis" the block is fixed similarly at third or second. The handle is then hooked over the bar provided for that purpose, not over the catch. Traction is made keeping the traction rods just parallel with the handles, not pushing against them nor widely separated from them. All traction must be made with the handle, neither the traction rods nor the handles of the blades being touched. As the head comes down the handles will be found to turn upwards and forwards. This indicates the direction in which traction is to be made, and each change in position must therefore be closely followed by the traction rods.

In removing the forceps the traction block and handle is first removed. The fixation screw is then undone and turned outwards. The right traction rod is then carried in front of its handle, and the right blade removed in the reverse direction of its application. The left blade is similarly removed except that its traction rod does not need to be carried forward.

Before giving specific directions as to traction I wish to refer to a question of vast importance.