

are any oozing points, these are secured. The Spencer-Wells' forceps gripping the edges of the incision in the sheath are now retracted, and the opening in the sheath thus becomes diamond-shaped (Fig. 21).

Suture of the Sheath and Closure of the Wound.

This incision, originally longitudinal in direction, is sewn up transversely, so that the sheath is completely closed and covers over both the stumps of the veins and the vas (Fig. 22). A

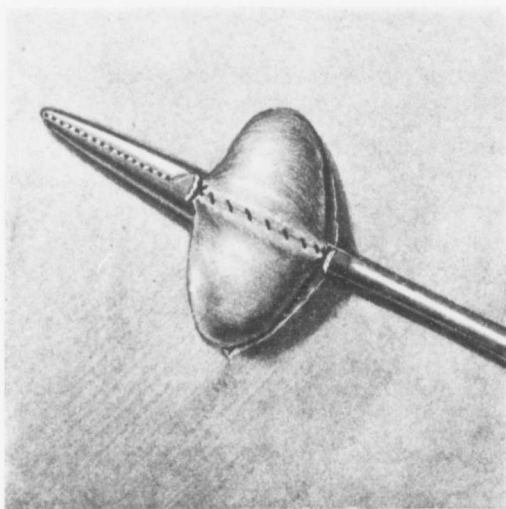


FIG. 22.

continuous suture of fine catgut is most suitable for this purpose, and, in order to avoid any lateral projections, the side angles produced by traction on the forceps may be transfixed at the commencement and termination of the suture and the small redundant portion cut away.

It will be observed that, the longer the original incision the greater will be the shortening of the sheath and elevation of the testicle when the incision is closed. It is therefore desirable to estimate beforehand, from the position of the testicle, the amount of shortening which will be necessary. An incision in