

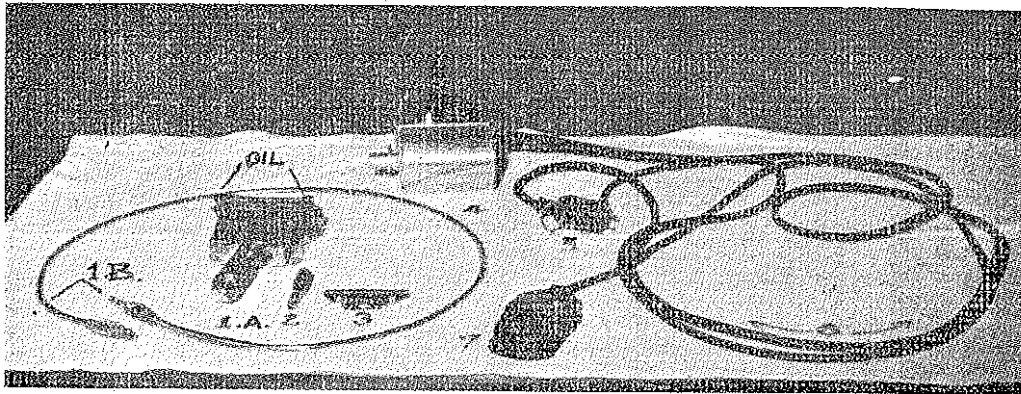
MEN NURSES CORNER

Electric Dermatome

By

James Hickson, R.N.

ELECTRIC DERMATOME



Photograph By J. Hickson

The electric dermatome is a time and labour saving device. It is easy to manipulate and gives an efficient performance in skin grafting procedures.

Description of parts :

1. (a) Dermatome
(b) Cable which connects the Dermatome and Motor No. 4
2. Winch
3. Dermatome Blade
4. Motor
5. Plug which connects the main sockets of power
6. Rubber insulated wire which connects to foot switch plug to motor
7. Safety foot switch

Mode of Sterilization :

Gently remove grease and oil from all dermatome blades with Ether and immerse them in an antiseptic solution e.g., Tr. Zephiran Chloride for 30 minutes. Wrap the dermatome,

winch and cable together in a cloth, place in a tray and put them in the autoclave ; sterilize it for 15 minutes at 250°F. It may also be boiled for five minutes.

Mode of Operation :

Hold the dermatome handle with left hand, pick up the winch and unscrew the three screws and insert the blade in between the three screws and tighten them firmly. Connect one end of the cable by the screw at the bottom of the handle of the dermatome ; the other end of the cable is connected in a similar way to the motor. Put one drop of sterile mineral oil, using a pippette, on screw knobs which adjust the thickness of the skin. The markings over the knobs start from 0 to 20. The adjustment of both the knobs should be done simultaneously and anti-clockwise. Usually it is adjusted on mark 15. Rub sterile mineral oil over the area from which the graft is to be taken. The operator holds the handle of the dermatome with right hand and presses the foot-switch with either

[Contd. on page 393]