AN AUTOMATIC SELF-RETAINING LAMINECTOMY RETRACOR

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I N PERFORMING a laminectomy it has been our experience that the existing self-retaining retractors do not meet the prerequisites for ease of retraction for bilateral or unilateral laminectomies. With these facts in mind a ratchet type of retractor has been designed.

Heretofore, in extremely obese people or in areas in the back where the muscles are quite thick, we have found that the blades of the existing laminectomy retractors were too short. To allow flexibility so that deep muscles could be retracted as well as shallow muscles, the blades of this retractor are removable. A blade of any length can be inserted instantly.

Undue force is necessary to separate the blades of the existing retractors by either the surgeon or his assistants. By using the ratchet device we have been able to eliminate this so that retraction may be obtained with the greatest of ease.

The prongs of the blades of the existing retractors are so designed that they will not hold in situ. In order to prevent this retractor from slipping out of the wound, curves have been placed at the tip of the prongs of the retractor blades.

In unilateral procedures, such as utilized for disc operations, rapid retraction can be obtained by using the muscles on one side and a spinous process on the opposite side as anchor points. The simplicity of construction makes operation quite easy and sterilization satisfactory.

In addition, this retractor principle can be used for other surgical procedures by merely designing other types of blades.

In Fig. 1 A and B, the retractor is shown as having power arms 1 and 2. The power arm 1 is formed integral with a ratchet bar. 3. This bar extends at right angles to the power arm 1 and its outer face is formed with ratchet teeth. 4. A fitting, 5, is formed integral with the arm 2 and has a passageway there through to receive the ratchet bar 3. Operating handles, 6 and 7, are mounted upon the members 3 and 5 respectively. A setting lever, 8, is pivoted upon the bar 2 and carries a dog, 9, which may engage the ratchet teeth, 4. A suitable lock device is mounted within the member 5 to hold the ratchet bar 3 and member 5 in temporarily locked relation while a release lever, 10, is provided to render the lock ineffective. Adjustably mounted upon the bars 1 and 2 are retractor blades 11 and 12. It will be evident that these blades may be interchanged for particular purposes.
This retractor* is so designed as to give wide exposure with a minimum effort and maintain this exposure throughout the entire operative procedure.

* This retractor is now available and may be purchased from the Woods Professional Supplies- 8442 Otis Street, Southgate, California. Patent applied for.