A NEW COMBINED PERFORATOR AND DRILL

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Turning down a bone flap has always been a time-consuming part of any intracranial operation. The average drill outfit consists of a perforator and one or more ball burrs which are used in successive steps. For some time it has been our opinion that a single instrument could be used to carry out these maneuvers in one step with a considerable saving of time and effort. As a result, cutters of various designs were tried out and finally the one illustrated (Fig. 1) was found to be most efficient.

During the past ten months, this combined type of burr has been used by several neurological surgeons, most of whom have been enthusiastic about its advantages. The main criticism of the burr has been that it contains no guard and therefore is liable to puncture through into the cranial cavity. Any perforator is potentially dangerous in this respect and certainly there is no greater hazard with this than with any other type of perforator.

The advantages of the burr are:

1. The burr is made of high-grade tool steel which retains its sharp cutting edge much longer than the average instrument of a similar type on the market today. The efficient cutting edge may be maintained for a longer interval by sterilizing with any of the usual solutions rather than by boiling.

2. The design of this burr is such that it will not remove bone wax in the course of drilling as all spirally shaped burrs will do.

3. The time element in drilling is cut to one-third by simply lessening the number of manipulative steps. Occasionally, at the lower poles of the flap, it is necessary to ream out the craniotomy opening by a ball-type burr due to the angle necessary for passing the saw guide.

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† This burr is manufactured by John Bath & Company, Worcester, Massachusetts, and is designed to fit the average Hudson type drill. It may, however, be made to fit any type drill on individual specifications. The cost of the burr is fifteen dollars.