debt of gratitude to Beryl Weston Smith, whose assistance in voluntarily recording the figures, designing the graphs, and giving helpful criticism and advice in setting out the paper contributed to the success of the project.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, J. A. D. (1967). *Lancet*, 2, 679.
 Hasler, J. C., et al. (1968). *British Medical Journal*, 3, 734.
 Marsh, G. N. (1967). *British Medical Journal*, 1, 489.
 Marsh, G. N. (1969). *British Medical Journal*, 4, 42.

- Pinsent, R. J. F. H. (1968). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 15, 402.
 Royal College of General Practitioners (1968a). *The Practice Nurse*, London, Royal College of General Practitioners.
 Royal College of General Practitioners (1968b). *General Practice in South West England*, London, Royal College of General Practitioners.
 Smith, J. W., and Mottram, E. M. (1967). *British Medical Journal*, 4, 672.
 Smith, J. W., and O'Donovan, J. B. (1970). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*. In press.
 Williams, D. L. (1967). *British Medical Journal*, 4, 803.

NEW APPLIANCES

Fine Continuous-feed Aneurysm Needle

Mr. BRIAN L. DOWLING, surgical tutor, Nuffield Department of Surgery, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, writes: The instrument described here is based on the continuous-feed aneurysm needle of Tibbs (1952). In order to facilitate the ligation of small vessels the instrument is constructed in the form of a traditional aneurysm needle (Fig. 1). The "needle" component of the device is at right-angles to its main axis and permits easy use in a deep wound. The needle is hollow (Fig. 2), allowing free flow of the suture material without "bow-stringing."

This material can be compressed by the thumb of the right hand against the grip at the top of the shaft, allowing ligation by the one-hand technique using the left hand. The spool is contained within the handle (Fig. 3) and is large enough to hold suture material for even a long operation. The material used has generally been 00 silk, but loading could be done with any suitable material.

The instrument has been in use for 18 months and has proved invaluable. It has been particularly useful in the ligation of small mesenteric vessels in the preparation of ileostomies, Roux loops, and interposed jejunal loops. It has also proved of value in biliary and gastric surgery, and has been used with success in ligating the small vessels encountered during partial thyroidectomy. A continuous-feed aneurysm needle of this type avoids the problems of using artery forceps on small delicate vessels and provides a rapid method of repeating ligation.

The prototype instrument was made by Mr. Don Hopkins in the workshops of the Nuffield Department of Surgery. Arrangements are being made for its manufacture by Messrs. Charles Thackray of Leeds.

REFERENCE

- Tibbs, D. J. (1952). *British Medical Journal*, 2, 1201.

FIG. 1.—Complete aneurysm needle threaded for use. FIG. 2.—Tip of the instrument, showing the silk passing through the hollow curved needle and eye. FIG. 3.—Handle, unscrewed, showing the spool on its guide.