An instrument to diagnosticate hydrocele / by Frederic Griffith.

[Reprinted from JOURNAL OF CUTANEOUS AND GENITO-URINARY DISEASES, Sept., 1902.]

9.

AN INSTRUMENT TO DIAGNOSTICATE HYDROCELE.*

BY FREDERIC GRIFFITH, M. D.,
New York,
Surgeon, Bellevue Dispensary; Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

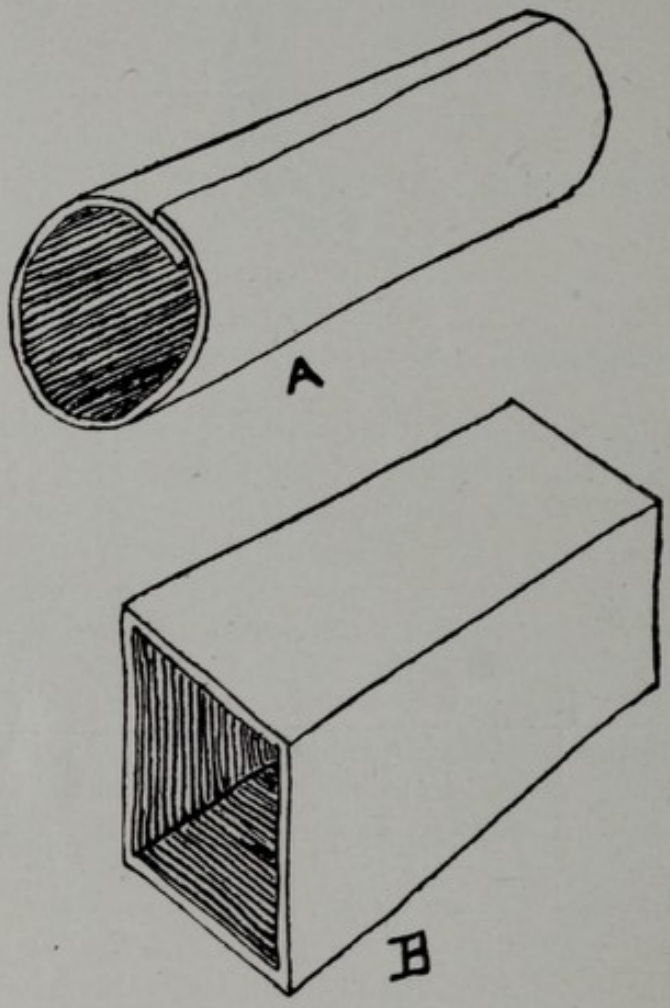
THE surest method of diagnosticating hydrocele is that by transmitted light, translucency being pathognomonic of this condition save for the few instances where the fluid becomes too darkly stained by blood pigment or when the tunic is greatly thickened.

To simplify this valuable procedure, which many clinicians neglect to employ, apparently owing to the difficulties involved, namely, that of securing a dark room, the author has devised what may be termed a hydrocele opera-glass.

The implement may be made of sheet cardboard or as improvised in the first instance in which I employed it by reconstruction of an adhesive plaster roll box, six inches long by three inches square at the ends, covered with black labeled paper (B). By slitting one edge with a sharp knife after removing the ends I was enabled to reverse the sides, forming a black interior and by the application of a few straps of plaster the box was held tight along the divided edge. This gave me an open-ended dark chamber which, when a lighted candle or taper was held in position with the scrotal tumor between it and the box end, with my eye at the other, I was able to clearly outline the scrotum contents. A later form (A) and one which I think will be more satisfactory for use is that of an open-ended hollow cylinder of pasteboard. Cut to a size of 6 inches by 8 inches from moderately heavy board, this when rolled and margin left for pasting makes a roll of handy size, 2 inches in diameter by 6 inches long. Before rolling the inner side must be blackened; this may be done by pasting a sheet of black paper or better, as it is more readily obtained, black muslin lining may be used, cut to size, or a coat of stove-blacking applied directly will give a dull finish black.

* Presented at the Genito-Urinary Section of the New York Academy of Medicine, April 16, 1902.

By having one of these instruments neatly made up on hand, at little cost, or improvised for the occasion, the surgeon will be grati-



fied by the results of its use when making a study of a case of suspected hydrocele.

805 Madison Avenue.