

MEDICAL



COLLECTORS



ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 35

July, 1999

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Dear Colleagues,

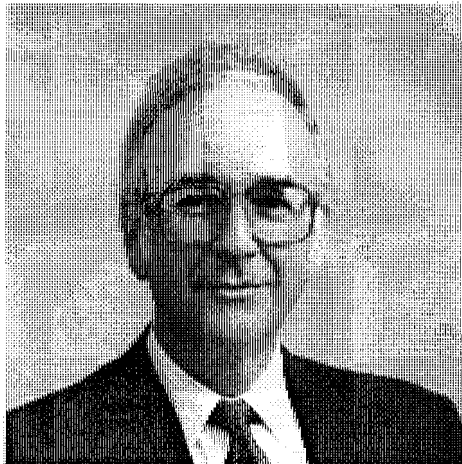
The beginning of the summer is not a great time to send out a Newsletter, but I hope you will take a few minutes from planning your vacation to think about the forthcoming meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston is truly one of the most pleasant cities in the United States, and it has great historic significance. The facilities at the Charleston Place Hotel are superb and we have a wonderful meeting planned for you. Many people have already registered and unlike previous meetings, space is somewhat limited at a couple of the planned events. Please take time to fill out the registration form and send it to us if you would like to join us in Charleston. This will be the 14th Annual Meeting of our group. Although I continue to receive a considerable amount of correspondence from members and non-members of the Association, I have not received a "Can You Identify" object for this issue and rather than put one of my own instruments in the Newsletter, I have decided to omit it. I am sure many of you out there have various items, whose identify is not clear to you. Please take a few minutes, send me a photograph and a description, and we will put it in the Newsletter both for the fun of trying to find out what it is and to enhance the contact among the members.

I had a recent series of communications via e-mail with a dealer who prefers to remain anonymous about an item which he was placing for sale. The communication concerned the description of the item and emphasized its dating.

A considerable amount of debate occurred between us and also some information was input by Jim Edmonson, and we finally arrived at a description and a dating which seemed acceptable to everybody. In doing this, several interesting articles were sent back and forth and there was much discussion. I think it will be of interest to all of the readership to see how the process of dating this object was approached, and also to read the very informative, supporting materials. I hope you all enjoy following this discussion as much as we enjoyed having it.

I also include, with the Newsletter, a patent sent to me by Alex Peck. Please if you have any old patents, let me know. There is the pharmacy contribution by Mr. Helfand, which is particularly apropos this time because one of our speakers will be Dr. Weart from the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston, who has a remarkable pharmacy exhibit. Dr. Weart will be speaking at our meeting and has also extended a cordial invitation to members of the Association to come see his collection. I have included in the Newsletter, an abstract of a brief article which discusses Dr. Weart and his collection. Other articles in the Newsletter are pretty much self explanatory.

It might also be of interest to members of the Association to know that I have decided to follow upon my recent book, "Blood Pressure Measurement: An Illustrated History" with a volume on "The Evolution of the Stethoscope." Anybody who has an interesting item to contribute in that regard would be especially appreciated.



I am particularly interested in finding material related to immediate rather than mediate auscultation.

Also, in that regard, Dr. Chris Papadopoulos has informed me that his stethoscope exhibit will be on display at the American College of Cardiology through 1999 and the beginning of 2000. His collection consists of 170 pieces and should be of great interest to anybody who is in the Washington area and can get to Heart House. The exhibit is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the American College of Cardiology and is entitled, "The Stethoscope: History and Evolution."

The MCA meeting in England was greatly enjoyed by everybody and I am sure Charleston will be an equally rewarding experience. Please register for the meeting as soon as you have a chance and above all, please send me items for use in the Newsletter or of interest and newsworthy for our membership.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer, I look forward to seeing you in Charleston.

Sincerely,

M. Donald Blafox, M.D., Ph.D.

United States Patent Office.

ALBERT LORSCH, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ASSIGNEE OF THEODORE NOEL.

Letters Patent No. 22,572, dated January 11, 1859; reissue No. 3,725, dated November 9, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPECTACLE-FRAMES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that THEODORE NOEL, of Memphis, in the State of Tennessee, heretofore invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Spectacle-Frames; and that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pair of spectacles, embodying this invention, and

Figure 2 is a cross-section, taken on the plane of the line xz , fig. 1, showing an improved manner of connecting the temples with the eye-pieces.

This invention consists in the combination, with the eye-piece or frame of a pair of spectacles or eye-glasses, of a spring, secured thereto in such manner as to cause the said eye-piece to resume its normal position, after the same has been sprung so as to allow of the insertion or withdrawal of the glass, the continuity of the eye-piece being broken, so as to allow of its expanding, when it is desired to insert or introduce a glass, whereby one or more pairs of glasses, of different powers or colors, may be used alternately in the same frame, the user of the spectacles or eye-glasses being enabled to insert and withdraw the glasses with ease and celerity.

The eye-pieces of spectacles and eye-glasses are usually united by a screw, which passes through projecting portions of the frame, and hence, when it is desired to change a glass or insert a new one, it becomes necessary to remove said screw, and, after inserting the glass, to hold the eye-piece compressed against it, until the screw can be again inserted.

In the example of the invention illustrated in the drawings, there is shown a spring, applied to the eye-piece, at such point that the bows or temples may be applied thereto, and thereby, in addition to the advantages which result from the invention, there is produced a neat and ornamental joint or connection of the temples with the eye-pieces.

The frame, it will be observed, by reference to said drawings, is of the form or shape most generally adopted.

It is always preferred to make the eye-pieces oval, and bevelled from the outside down to the groove which receives the edge of the glass.

In the example shown, the improvement has been adapted to a pair of eye-pieces, which are constructed with the usual openings, as shown at a , in fig. 1.

Respective ends of a spring, b , are secured on opposite sides of the opening, and the spring is of such construction that its tendency is always to keep the eye-pieces closed, or nearly closed, upon the glasses,

so that the same cannot expand and allow the glasses to slip out, except direct force be applied for such purpose.

The form of the spring should be such as to enable its extremities to be soldered or otherwise secured to an eye-piece, on opposite sides of the opening therein, and will permit it, when thus attached, to have the required elasticity to make the eye-pieces clasp the glasses tightly enough to confine them in place.

The springs shown in the drawing also furnish a convenient attachment of the temples or bows c by hinges d .

These springs b are represented as soldered to the eye-pieces, close to or near the openings a .

The hinges d for the temple-pieces are partly soldered to or formed upon the springs b , and partly soldered to or formed upon the temple-pieces, and fitted with pins or rivets in the usual manner, the parts of the hinges soldered to or formed upon the temple-pieces being so arranged that the extremities of the temple-pieces constitute stops, which act against the springs b , to prevent the temple-pieces opening too far.

To permit the glasses to be removed and replaced easily, the eye-pieces may have a very shallow bezel on that side on which the glasses are introduced and removed, preferably, the inner side, or side next the face, and the said bezel may be shallowest near the openings.

Fig. 2 exhibits the inside bezel, e , shallower than the outside one, i .

To insert a glass, first put one end, say the end next the nose-piece, in its place, and then hold the frame and glass between the thumbs and fingers of both hands, with the temple-pieces upward, apply gentle pressure near the opening, to draw the glass and eye-piece together, and the eye-piece yields to the glass, which slips over the bezel e into the groove g .

To remove the glass, hold the frame in the position last mentioned, and draw open the eye-piece very gently, while forcing the glass up with the tips of the fingers.

The springs may be made of any metal which is sufficiently flexible for the purpose. For instance, for steel frames, they may be of steel; for gold frames, of gold, from twelve to sixteen carats fine; and for silver frames, of a very low-carat gold.

It will be observed that a spring, applied to the eye-piece over the point where its continuity is broken, will have a tendency to keep the eye-piece in its normal condition when the glass is inserted, and will allow the said eye-piece to expand, to permit the insertion and withdrawal of the glass.

A. W. Co. used to make.

T. Noel.

Spectacle Frame.

N^o 22,572.

Patented Jan. 11, 1859.

Temple
End Piece

Revised Nov 9, 1869.
See Vol. I -
also specifications

Fig. 1.

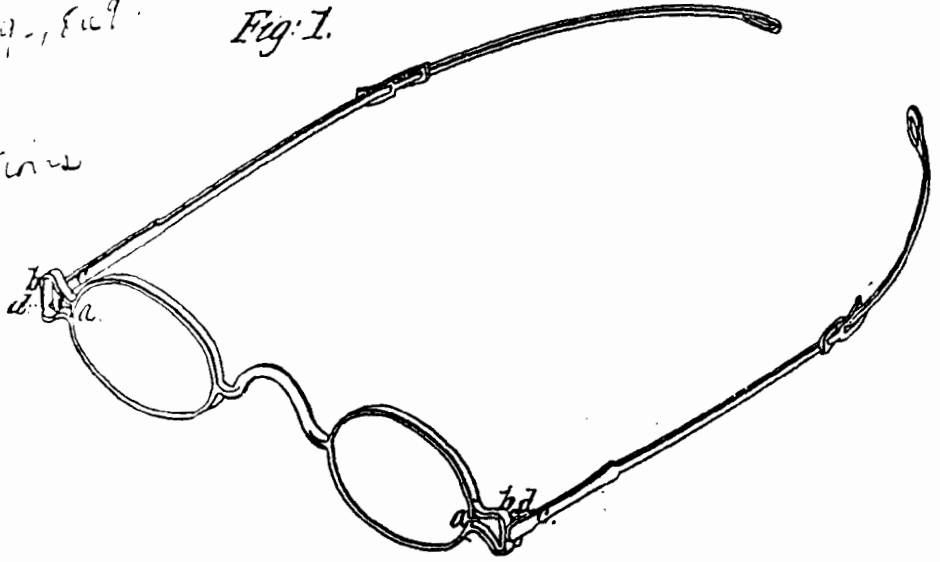


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

William B. Wigg
Patrick J. Hartley

Inventor:
Theodore Noel

T. Noel.

Spectacle Frame.

N^o 3725.

Patented Nov. 9, 1869.

*Temple
End Piece*

Fig. 1.

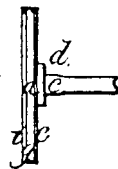
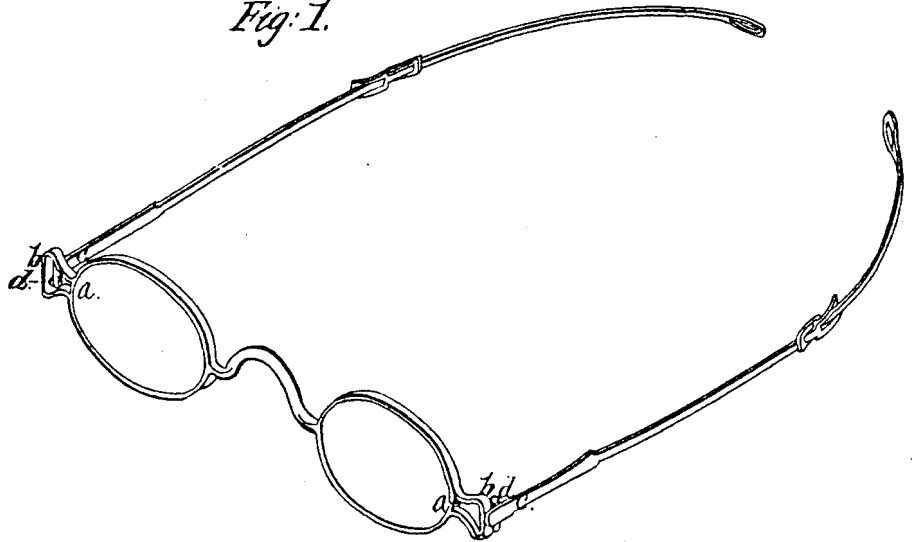
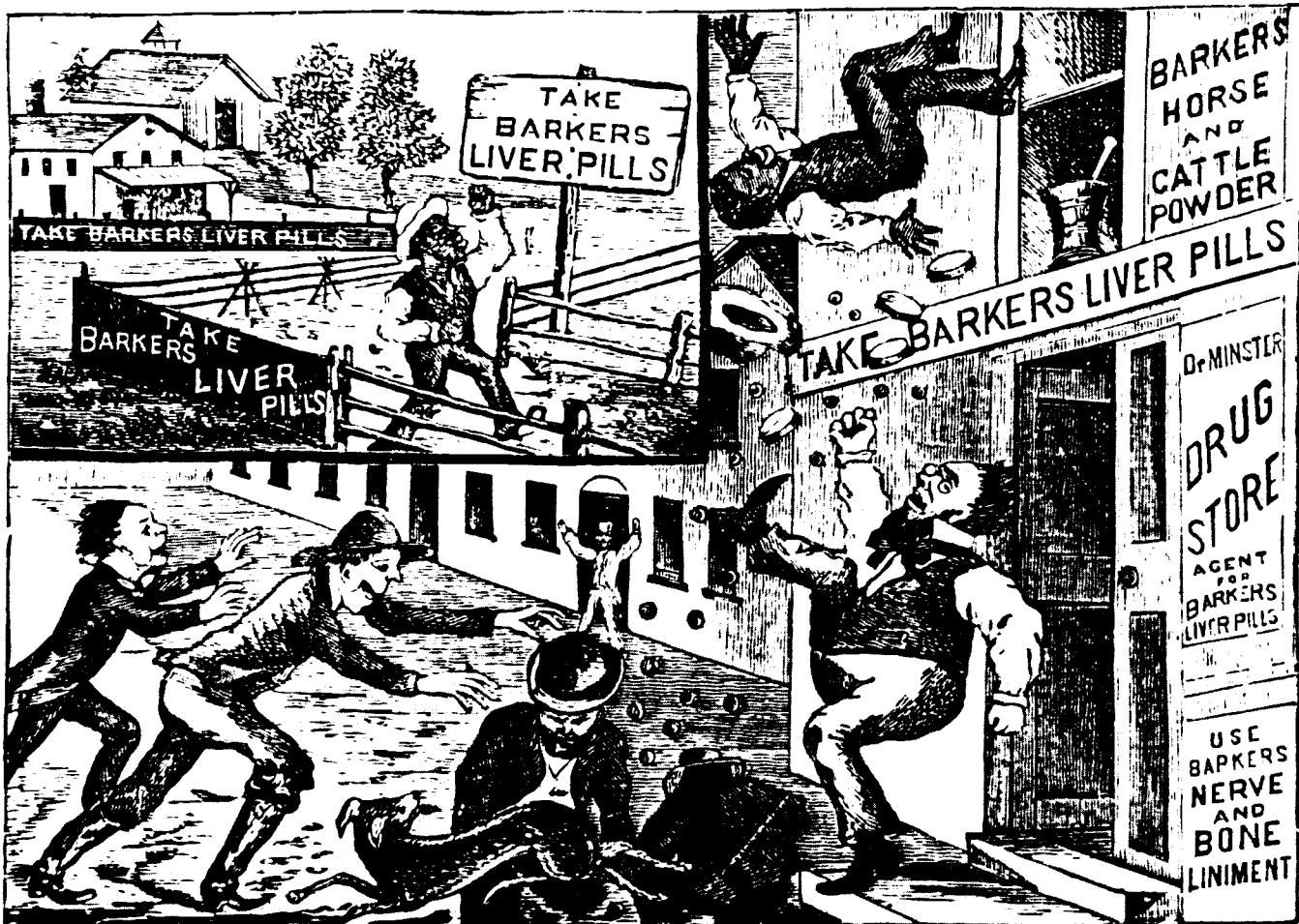


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

*William B. Higgs
Patrick J. Hartley*

*Inventor:
Theodore Noel*

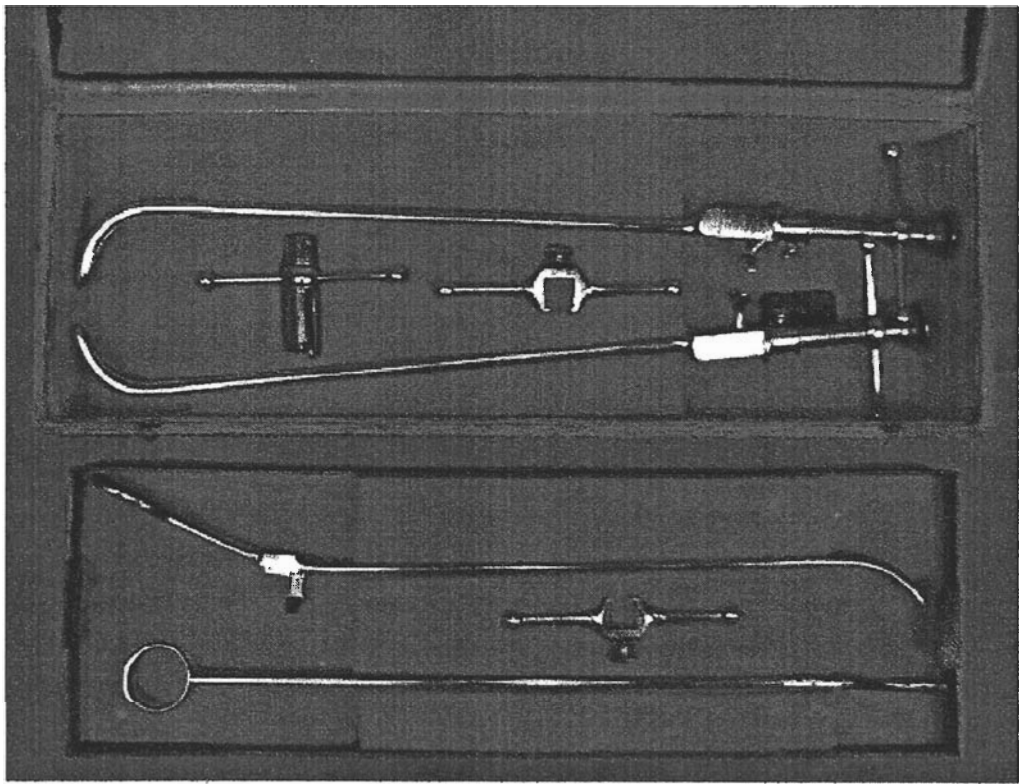


Historical Images of the Drug Market—XXXV

by William H. Helfand

THE chief feature of the Barker Moore and Mein Medicine Company almanacs, issued continuously over a more than fifty-year period from 1878 to the 1930s, was the memorable woodcut cartoons. Most were created by an artist named Williams of Vineland, New Jersey, and accompanied the standard almanac contents for each of the months of the year. All were animated, and included imaginative and often timely scenes, some even commenting on political events of the time. And all included copious signs, banners, labels and titles advertising Barker products, mainly their Horse and Cattle Powder, and Nerve and Bone Liniment. Several of Williams's cartoons included medical or pharmaceutical settings, such as the scene in

the 1883 almanac which shows the busy series of events which took place in front of the pharmacy of one Dr. Minster. The first of two scenes tells the tale of a farmer, Mose, who saw so many advertisements on boards, fences, trees and barns reading "Take Baker's Liver Pills," that he decided to become a pill manufacturer himself. The second illustration shows Dr. Minster's angry reaction to the proposed competition. The Barker firm capitalized on the continuing popularity of Williams's cartoons by periodically re-publishing them in booklets entitled "Barker's Komic Picture Souvenir," obtainable by sending two or more of the pink slips which were included with each package of Barker Moore and Mein products.



Weiss lithotrite, items in case

COMMUNICATIONS VIA E-MAIL

Don.

Have you come across a set like this?

A superb and exceptionally rare c. 1825 lithotomy set containing seven instruments. The two major instruments are each hand engraved: *Weiss' Screw Lithotrite*. A third lithotrite is stamped: *G [GEORGE] R[EX] / WEISS / LONDON*. The tooled-leather case also has a Weiss trade label that reads: *WEISS / Manufacturer of / Surgical Instruments / and every description of cutlery. / 62. Strand London / Razor Maker to the King*. The screw lithotrite is illustrated in *Weiss 1863*, pl. XXIV, fig. 5, and described as *Weiss's Original Lithotrite*.

Very nice. I think you are a little early. It is not in the 1831 Weiss catalogue and is mentioned in the 1880 catalogue which still shows the Strand address. For the best reference get hold of Thompson's book "Practical Lithotomy" 1843. He describes its use and states that it has been recently introduced. So it probably dates around 1840, (p 156).

Don.

As one instrument is marked with a GR and the label states "Razor maker to the King," the set can't post date George IV, i.e., 1830. Also, the 1863 Weiss catalogue calls the screw lithotrite "Weiss's Original Lithotrite," and presents an improved model. None of the other instruments in the set are found in the 1863 catalogue.

I don't have the Thompson 1843 text to which you refer. I'd appreciate a copy of the relevant pages, if possible.

Weiss was made Razor maker to the King by Wm. IV after 1830

See Attached Article

*LITHOTOMY AND LITHOTRITY; or,
AN INQUIRY INTO THE BEST MODES of
REMOVING STONE FROM THE BLADDER*

by

HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S.

Don,

Thanks for the Thompson text. He is NOT talking about the Weiss screw lithotripter that I have. The lithotripter in figure 57, the object of the comments, is not what I have. Note in paragraph three of page 156 that Thompson states that the instrument in figure 57 is "...far lighter than any of Weiss's previous instruments..."

I appear to have a set of the "previous instruments." I would say that my set was introduced in the 1820's, and that it was the standard Weiss lithotomy set into the 1830's.

I have contacted the Wellcome. I will pass on to you any comments that are made.

Another comment. The instrument in figure 57 is identified as that of Weiss and Son's. My instruments have nothing about "and Son's." According to Bennion, the "Son" appears in 1830.

Now, have I won you over to an 1820's date?

The fact remains, it is not in the 1831 catalogue. This catalogue is interesting by the way. It lists the instruments as made by John Weiss, 62 Strand. It then states and sold by J. Weiss and Son with several addresses.

Don,

Darn it, Don, if an instrument is marked **GR**, then its got to have been made before the death of Geo. IV in 1830.

Any English texts on lithotomy from the 1820's and 30's that show Weiss instruments?

What lithotripters are in the 1831 catalogue?

I'll send you a copy of the pertinent pages.

See Attached Article

***SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS
AN ACCOUNT OF INVENTIONS IN SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS
MADE BY
JOHN WEISS, 62, STRAND;***

Jim, (Edmonson)

Don Blaufox and I are having a debate on the date of the Weiss litho set.

Thompson's 1843 book on lithotomy talks about a new Weiss lithotripter and illustrates it (fig 57). This is not my instrument. Thompson also makes the comment that it replaces an older Weiss lithotripter, which may be my instrument.

Don has the 1831 catalogue. He says that it does not show my instrument. I have not seen the catalogue, so I cannot comment.

One lesser lithotripter in the set is marked **GR**, meaning that it could have been made no later than 1830 (the death of Geo. IV). The two major screw lithotripters are finely engraved **WEISS'S / Screw Lithotripter**. No other marks.

The set does have the Weiss trade label that claims *Razor maker to the King*. You note in the Weiss intro to the 1863 catalogue that this appointment was made by Wm. IV. Are you certain of this and what was the exact date?

I had initially thought that a c. 1825 date was close. Don had thought that the 1840's was more probable. It would seem that the 1830's is the most likely date.

There must be a reference somewhere for the introduction of the screw lithotripter. I've asked the Wellcome for help.

Don,

Note that the "newly invented lithotrite" in the *Weiss 1863* catalogue (pl. XXIV, fig 6) is the same lithotrite as described in Thompson as Weiss improved instrument (fig 57). My two screw lithotrites are represented in fig. 5 of *Weiss 1863*. The other instruments of the set are not to be found in the '63 catalogue.

I had called my instruments lithotripters on my last e-mail. Rather, they are called a lithotrite in the engraving on the instruments.

Jim has found this citation, but doesn't have the volume at Case Western.

J. Weiss. "Screw lithotrite: its invention by Mr. Weiss, and piracy by M. L'Estrange." *Lancet* (London) 1834-5, i, 243-45. *See Attached Article*.

We don't know whether this is fig. 5 or fig. 6 in *Weiss 1863*.

Don,

Are we in agreement over this description?

An 1830's lithotomy set containing seven instruments. The two major instruments are each hand engraved: *Weiss' Screw Lithotrite*. A third lithotrite is stamped: *G[GEORGE] R[EX] / WEISS / LONDON*. (The monarch is George IV, who died in 1830). The tooled-leather case also has a Weiss trade label that reads: *WEISS / Manufacturer of / Surgical Instruments / and every description of cutlery. / 62. Strand London / Razor Maker to the King*. The royal warrant was issued to Weiss by William IV (1830-1837). Weiss, himself, defends this lithotrite against an infringement by a rival in the *Lancet* (London), 1834-5, i, 243-45. The screw lithotrite is illustrated in *Weiss 1863*, pl. XXIV, fig. 5, and described as *Weiss's Original Lithotrite*.

Don,

In the Weiss 1863, my two screw lithotrites are represented in fig. 5 of Weiss 1863. The other instruments of the set are not to be found in the '63 catalogue.

Rather, they are called a lithotrite in the engraving on the instruments.

In the way of terminology, I learned the following about the two terms lithotripsy and lithotripsy:

Heurteloup first adopted the term lithotripsy in preference to lithotripsy. Lithotripsy means pulverisation of the stone, while lithotripsy involved destruction of the stone by repeated perforation. Strictly speaking, destruction of stone by crushing or breaking by percussion are not lithotripsy. "Lithotripsie est le genre, lithotritie est l'espece." Source: Jacob Randolph, "Account of six cases of stone in the bladder, in which operations of lithotripsy was successfully performed," *Am J Med Sci* 15(1834): 13-29.

As the set has an instrument marked **GR**, I would think that the set was put together earlier, rather than later, in the time frame of 1833-1840. The instrument would have been a carry-over stock.

Here is the article from the *Lancet* dated October 28, 1834. I believe figure 1 is your instrument. According to the text, the idea of the screw was first invented by Weiss ten years prior. This would appear to be the device which I sent you pictures of from the 1831 catalogue. He further states he prepared his improved instrument for publication in February, which must have been 1833, so it would appear that his original screw lithotrite was the one pictured in the 1831 catalogue and the one which you have is probably the improved screw lithotrite, which was invented around 1833 and would date the set you have at the earliest about 1833 if it were straight off the production line but most likely later and probably closer to 1835-1840.

Don,

See Attached Article

Many thanks for the pages from *Weiss 1831*. See Attachment.
You are correct in saying that the lithotomy instruments shown are not what I have.
I am curious to see what the *Lancet* article is about.

As the set has an instrument marked **GR**, I would think that the set was put together earlier, rather than later, in the time frame of 1833-1840. The instrument would have been a carry-over stock. Here is a picture of the instrument. I don't find it represented in any of the references at hand.

This instrument is in the 1831 catalogue. I thought I sent you the page. It is called an instrument for sawing stone, so it is neither a lithotripter nor a lithotrite, but rather in between.

The instrument marked **GR**, is not in the 1831 catalogue. It does not have a saw. I would say that it is a scoop forceps. Weiss shows a screw scoop forceps in the *Lancet* article of 1834. The scoop forceps (marked **GR**) may be an earlier version of that shown in the article.

I think what you see is what he originally called a screw lithotrite. It works by turning the handle on the screw. See his descriptive text which I sent you. The improved one is obviously much better but I think logically evolves from this.

Don,

But Weiss doesn't refer to them as screw lithotrites. Recall that the *Weiss 1863* calls my instruments *Weiss's Original Lithotrites*. They both are actually engraved *Weiss's Screw Lithotrites*.

An 1830's lithotomy set containing seven instruments. The two major instruments are each hand engraved: *Weiss' Screw Lithotrite*. A third lithotrite is stamped: **G[EORGE] R[EX] / WEISS / LONDON**. (The monarch is George IV, who died in 1830). The tooled-leather case also has a Weiss trade label that reads: **WEISS / Manufacturer of / Surgical Instruments / and every description of cutlery. / 62. Strand London / Razor Maker to the King**. The royal warrant was issued to Weiss by William IV (1830-1837). Weiss, himself, defends this lithotrite against an infringement by a rival in the *Lancet* (London), 1834-5, i, 243-45. The screw lithotrite is illustrated in *Weiss 1863*, pl. XXIV, fig. 5, and described as *Weiss's Original Lithotrite*.

Sounds great except the GR instrument as I stated in my other reply is not exactly a lithotrite and is something which adds to the value of the set since it is more unique, and I agree that one piece is a leftover from the earlier devices.

Final Description

An 1830's lithotomy set containing seven instruments. The two major instruments are each hand engraved: *Weiss' Screw Lithotrite*. A scoop forceps is stamped: *G[EORGE] R[EX] / WEISS / LONDON*. (The monarch is George IV, who died in 1830). The tooled-leather case also has a Weiss trade label that reads: *WEISS / Manufacturer of / Surgical Instruments / and every description of cutlery. / 62. Strand London / Razor Maker to the King*. The royal warrant was issued to Weiss by William IV (1830-1837). Weiss, himself, defends this lithotrite against an infringement by a rival in the *Lancet* (London), 1834-5, i, 243-45. The screw lithotrite is illustrated in *Weiss 1863*, pl. XXIV, fig. 5, and described as *Weiss's Original Lithotrite*.

I think what you see is what he originally called a screw lithotrite. It works by turning the handle on the screw. See his descriptive text which I sent you. The improved one is obviously much better but I think logically evolves from this.

Don,

Here are some more ramblings.

I was wondering about Brodie's letter that is published at the end of the *Lancet* note of Weiss. Brodie says that Weiss first showed him a screw lithotrite "nine to ten years" ago. Note, also, that Brodie's letter is dated 1831. So, Weiss's problems with L'Estrange would appear to go back at least to 1831. And, therefore, the instrument (what I have) that Weiss shows in his defense and calls a screw lithotrite may have appeared first no later than 1831.

Weiss implies in the first paragraph of his letter that he is "again compelled...to reassert" a defense against a usurper. Is there an earlier article by Weiss in the *Lancet* regarding the "screw percussor?" Or is Weiss talking about another circumstance all together.

If the instruments in the 1831 catalogue are screw percussors or lithotrites, then why doesn't Weiss call them so (at least in the material the pages that you provided)? Weiss uses the term in the 1834 *Lancet*. Keep in mind that Brodie uses the term "screw" twice in his 1831 letter.

On page 12 of the 1831 catalogue, Weiss mentions an instrument for removing smaller calculi. Is this instrument shown elsewhere in the catalogue? If not, then the 1831 is not a complete listing of Weiss's instruments.

PRACTICAL
LITHOTOMY AND LITHOTRITY;

OR,

AN INQUIRY INTO THE BEST MODES

OF

REMOVING STONE FROM THE BLADDER.

BY

HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S.,

**OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL; CONSULTING SURGEON TO THE ST. MARTLEBONE
INFIRMARY; FELLOW OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE; HONORARY CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DE CHIRURGIE OF PARIS, &C., &C.**



LONDON:
JOHN CHURCHILL AND SONS,
NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

MDCCCLXIII.

gain to the process, since there is necessarily a correspondingly diminished chance of producing disturbance of the bladder. It was long a desideratum to produce a lithotrite

Fig. 54.

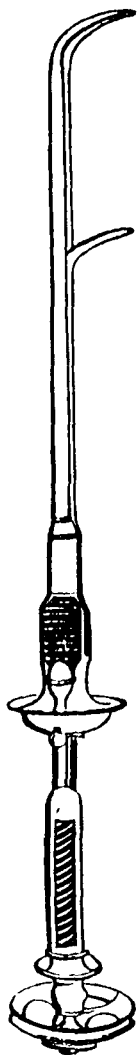


Fig. 54. Charrière's Improved Lithotrite.

in which the screw should remain as the mechanical power, and yet no unscrewing be necessary, in which, also, rapid impulse and percussion could be applied.

The common screw movement, therefore, is mainly applicable, like the rack and pinion, to powerful fenestrated instruments adapted for dealing with large and hard stones or fragments; to perform the delicate operation of finding and pulverizing the smaller fragments, a different mechanism is desirable.

The desideratum referred to has, however, been supplied by M. Charrière, the well-known surgical mechanist of Paris, in the very ingeniously devised lithotrite, commonly distinguished by his name, or by that of Civiale. It is, moreover, the instrument now most generally employed by that well-known lithotomist. (Fig. 54.)

The action provides that, after the male blade has been screwed home, it can be withdrawn instantly to any extent without unscrewing. The movement may be described as follows:—The male blade having been screwed home on a fragment, the operator makes a quarter turn of a movable disc in the handle (fig. 55), when the screw power is

Fig. 55.

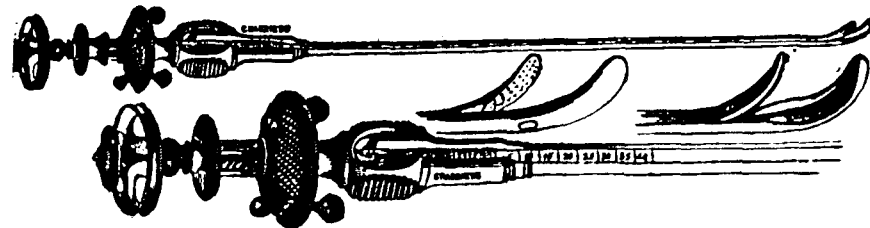


Fig. 55. The handle of Charrière's Lithotrite, showing scale, &c.

instantly detached from the sliding rod and male blade, which may now be withdrawn to the full extent, or moved backwards and forwards in any way, for the purpose of finding a fragment; when this has been seized, a reversed quarter turn of the disc is made, the screw power is attached, and the fragment is crushed by screwing home. Supposing, however, that the calculus does not readily yield to screw pressure, and there is reason to believe that percussion may be useful, the screw power is again detached without risking the grasp of the fragment, and a smart tap or two made on the end of the lithotrite communicates direct its effect through the male blade. Or, simple manual pressure may be substituted if preferred. The manner in which these objects are attained by this lithotrite is very beautiful, and constitutes a great advance on instruments of the pre-existing construction.

Very recently attempts to improve this action have been made by Coxeter and by Weiss. The former disengages the screw by means of a kind of trigger beneath the handle, which can be done by a finger of the left hand, which holds the lithotrite, and does not require the other hand as in the case of the French instrument. There is also an ingenious contrivance for retaining the stone between the jaws by means of a spring—during the moment of

changing the sliding movement into screw pressure. This instrument can be used either with or without the handle seen below, which is removable at pleasure. (See fig. 56.)

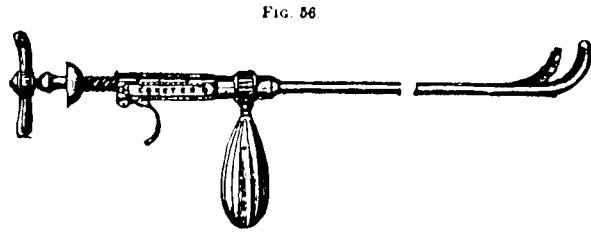


Fig. 56. Mr. Coxeter's new Lithotrite, with handle beneath, which may be removed at will.

The action of Weiss's new instrument is very simple; a change from the screw to the sliding action can be made by placing on the button (fig. 57, A.) the thumb of either hand without moving it from its hold on the instrument. The cylindrical form of the handle *a, a*, permits a very firm grasp to be made by the operator when steadiness is required; at the same time it is capable of the most delicate manipulation when held between the thumb and fingers. The movement is adapted both to fenestrated and plain blades. I have used both several times, and am perfectly satisfied with the results: it should be added that it is far lighter than any of Weiss's previous instruments, and also than the French lithotrite of corresponding size.

Other methods of applying power by the wheel, the screw, by percussion, &c., have been employed, but they have, for the most part, become obsolete, and belong now rather to the history than to the practice of Lithotritry, and therefore will not be regarded as coming within the scope of our consideration.

Lithotrites vary in size, according to the purposes for which they are required. Powerful adult lithotrites may

measure in the shaft, about 10 or 11 of the catheter scale, and about 13 or 14, as the mean of the two diameters (lateral, and from before backwards) of their blades. Lithotrites of moderate average power may be equal to 9 or 10 in the shaft, and 12 or 13 in the blades; small ones, 7 or 8 in the shaft, and 10 or 11 in the blades. For boys, 6 or 7 in the shaft, and 9 or 10 in the blades; and the smallest of all, 4 or 5 in the shaft, and about 7 or 7½ in the blades. The two last are not frequently required.

Professor Fergusson has of late considerably diminished the size of the shaft in his rack and pinion lithotrite (fig. 53). There is evident advantage in this, provided strength is not unduly sacrificed; for a slender shaft in the urethra, diminishing the friction of the canal on the instrument, permits greater mobility and freedom to the lithotrite, and favours nice perception in exploring. It would be advantageous I think to extend this principle to the construction of all modern lithotrites, many of which have the shaft unnecessarily large and heavy.

FIG. 57.

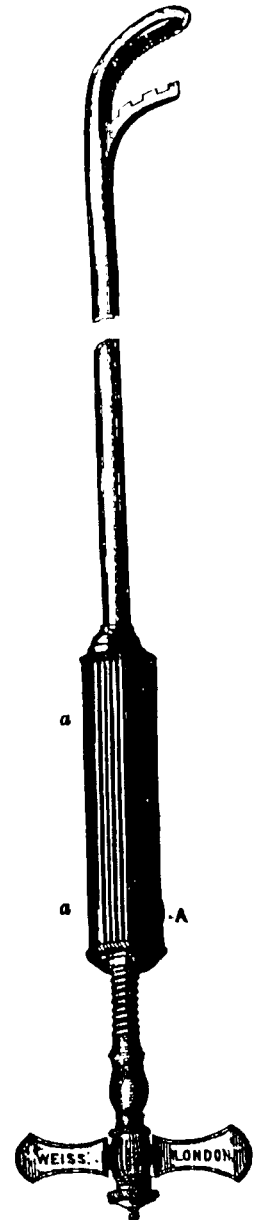


Fig. 57. Weiss and Son's new Lithotrite, described on the opposite page.

Surgical Instruments

AN ACCOUNT

OF

INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

IN

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS,

MADE BY

JOHN WEISS, 62, STRAND;

WITH

A SELECTION OF CASES

WHEREIN THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED,

AND

TESTIMONIALS OF THEIR UTILITY FROM EMINENT SURGEONS.

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PATERNOSTER ROW;**

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FANNIN AND CO., 41, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN; AND
ADAM BLACK, EDINBURGH.**

1831.

Price Fifteen Shillings.

INSTRUMENTS FOR BREAKING STONE IN THE BLADDER.

The complete success which rewarded my invention of the Instrument for extracting smaller calculi from the bladder, through the urethra, induced me to devise some method of extracting larger ones also, by breaking them in the bladder, so that the fragments could be withdrawn as readily as small calculi. In accomplishing this desirable and important object, I found, as may be supposed, great difficulty ; for the smallness of the parts through which the instrument was to pass, the susceptibility of that in which it was to act, and the nicety required in so difficult an operation, were all obstacles to the adoption of an Instrument of sufficient power to accomplish the desired object. It was necessary to have a fine and delicate Instrument, possessing activity and force in its action, in order to work with ease, expedition, and efficacy.

My first Instrument was contrived with a view to crush the stone by force ; it admitted of easy introduction into the bladder, where its blades could be opened without distending the urethra, so as to grasp the stone, upon which the operator could then close the blades with a power sufficient to break it. But some of the largest and harder sort of calculi resisted the force of the Instrument, though it was very great, taking into consideration the disadvan-

tages under which the pressure was applied, and which were increased by the necessity for the Instrument being curved. I conceived that the Instrument could be rendered more powerful if it were of a straight form, but I was deterred from making this alteration in consequence of the general opinion entertained by Professional Gentlemen at that time, that it was very doubtful whether a straight Instrument introduced into the bladder would act; supposing that it would be too much confined by the natural form of the urethra even to be used as a sound. I therefore turned my attention to another mode of reducing the stone, and set about contriving a second curved Instrument, having a small saw between the blades, which was worked by a handle; with this I proposed to cut the stone partially through, and crush it by the pressure of the blades. I had afterwards reason to be satisfied with the efficiency of this Instrument, but the great interest excited in the Profession by the success of the operations for lithotomy performed by Dr. Civiale, at Paris, induced me to look in that direction for some information by means of which to improve upon my attempt; I could not, however, obtain either a set of his instruments, or drawings of them; and all I could learn was, that they were straight: this at once decided me; I abandoned my curved Instruments, and returned to my original idea of a straight one. Having tried sheer compression and the saw, without attaining that complete success

which I anticipated, I next had recourse to the drill, and made a straight Instrument with two branches, and a very efficient drill, (fig. 2. plate X.) which Mr. Guthrie tried in an operation performed at the York Hospital. He suggested the addition of a third blade, which (as I afterwards found) renders it very similar to the French Instrument used by Dr. Civiale, one of which I subsequently obtained, and which is represented in the same plate : on examining this Instrument, I found it, in many respects, better adapted to its purpose, than that of my own contrivance, which I immediately commenced improving, avoiding the defects of the French Instrument, as well as those of my own. The most prominent objection to the use of the French Instrument, consisted in the large size of the heads of the drills, and the great inconvenience arising from the necessity for their being fitted into the Instrument before its introduction ; this caused delay and inconvenience to the operator, by rendering it more difficult to grasp the stone, as well as occasioning the instrument to be drawn out every time the drill required changing ; I therefore contrived such drills, as could be introduced through the Instrument, and which could be withdrawn and changed for others as often as the case required, without inconvenience to the operator or the patient. These drills, though of so small a size, are capable of effecting, by the increased extent of their action, what the French drills accomplish

ad libitum, and when once the stone is grasped and secured properly, it may be gradually and completely destroyed by the varied action of the drill.

My son has also contrived, at the request of Mr. Mayo, a similar instrument, but having four branches, each of which can be pushed forward or drawn back, independently of the others, in order to adapt it to the different shapes of the calculi. This idea was taken from an instrument belonging to Baron Heurteloup, which, as far as he would permit it to be examined, appears a more ingenious and complete piece of mechanism than the one last described, though, from its greater complexity, I do not think it possesses any advantages over this simple instrument.

PATENT SYRINGE.

FROM the very extensive circulation of my patent Poison and Enema Syringe, it would appear almost supererogatory to mention it; but as there may be some gentlemen who are unacquainted with it, I take leave to observe that it has been found to answer every purpose for which it is intended with the most marked success. The simplicity of its construction, its easy adaptation, and the facility with which it may be used under all circumstances, render it a most valuable instru-

PLATE VIII.

INSTRUMENTS FOR BREAKING STONE IN THE BLADDER.

Fig. 1. Represents the curved instrument with its blades closed.

Fig. 2. The same instrument with its blades open.

Fig. 3. Shews the groove in the outer blade *D*, into which the inner blade *C* fits. The one blade working into the other, affords greater strength and certainty than could be obtained were the blades made to pass each other.

In using the instrument, grasp it firmly at *B*, turning the handle *A* from right to left, until the blades are sufficiently expanded to grasp the stone; when the stone is secured, turn the handle to the right, which forces the blade *C* towards *D*, and breaks the stone.

Fig. 4. Is a straight instrument for breaking the stone in the female bladder, when it is too large to be extracted after dilatation of the urethra.

Fig. 5. The same instrument with its blades open. It consists of a pair of strong forceps *BB*, *EE*, furnished with a sliding collar *D*, attached to the screw *C*. When the forceps have grasped the stone, turn the handle *A* from left to right, which working upon the screw *C*, propels the collar along the blades, and by closing them crushes the stone; *DDD* are three collars of different dimensions which may be used according to the size of the stone.



WELLS,
Instruments
for
BREAKING STONE.

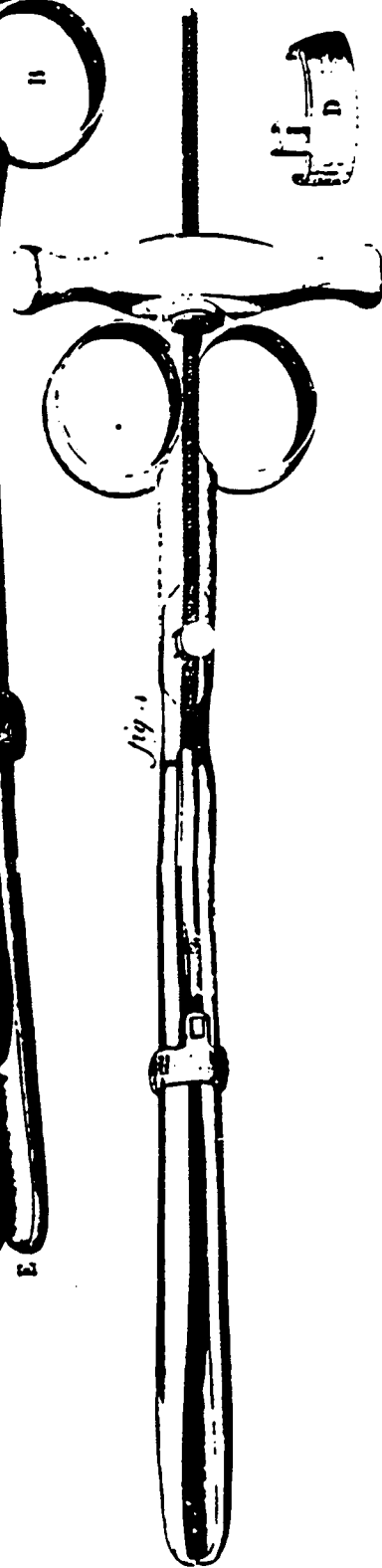
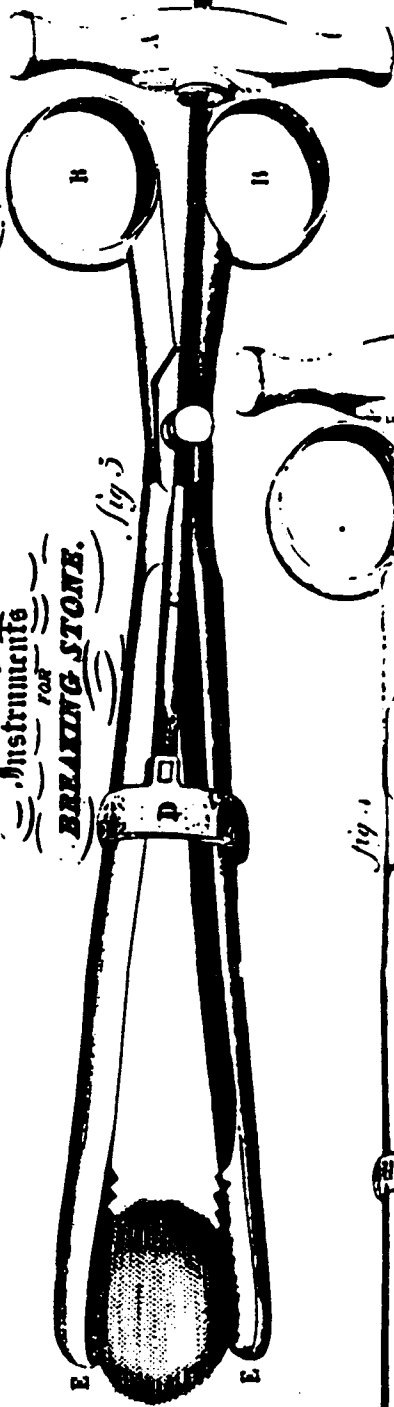


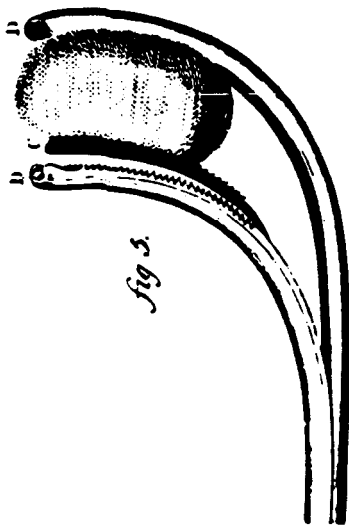
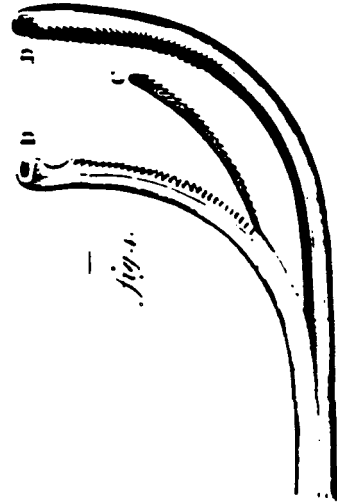
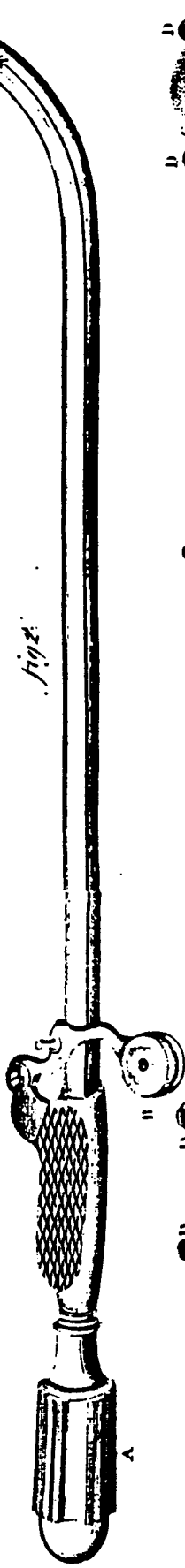
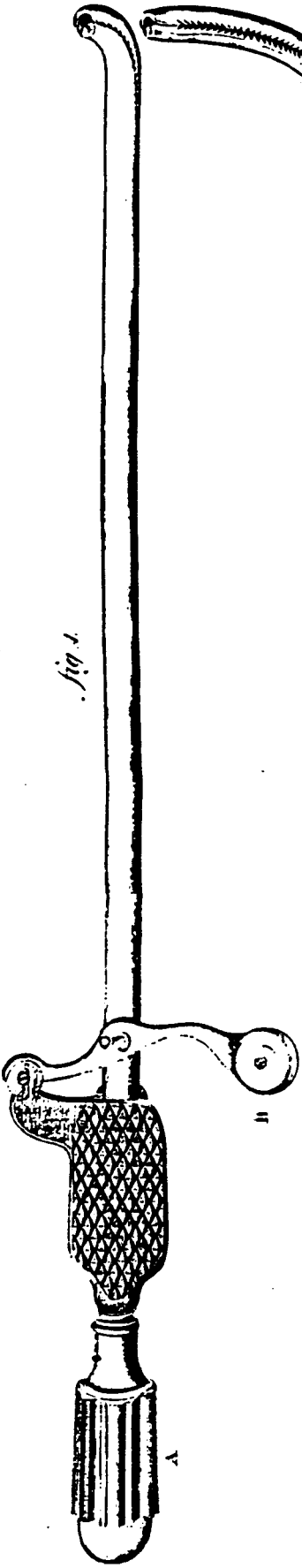
PLATE IX.

INSTRUMENT FOR SAWING STONE IN THE BLADDER.

Figs. 1, 2. Are two views of the instrument with its blades closed. *A*, the handle, which being turned from right to left, opens the blades *DD*, as in fig. 3. *B*, a lever, which on being drawn towards the handle releases the saw *C*, and allows it to spring forward as in fig. 4.

When the instrument is introduced, turn the handle *A* from right to left, until the blades are sufficiently expanded to grasp the stone; when the stone is secured, work the lever backward and forwards, and the saw will act upon the stone as in fig. 5. Continue this action until the saw has made a deep cut in the stone; then turn the handle *A* forcibly from left to right, by which the blades will be closed upon the stone so as to break it; the pieces may then be taken out with the stone Extractor.

Note. It is important before using the instrument, to ascertain that the saw is secured in the inner blade, which is effected by pressing forward the lever *B*; should this precaution be neglected, the saw will spring out before the blades are opened sufficiently wide to grasp the stone.



To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am again compelled to avail myself of the space which, with your accustomed liberality, you throw open as neutral ground, to all who have a wrong to complain of, or a claim to establish, in order to reassert my right to the credit of an invention which another has not only availed himself of, without acknowledgment, but actually claims as his own.

I have to complain of the conduct of Mr. L'Estrange, a dentist, of Dublin, member of the Royal College of Surgeons in that city, who in the most unhandsome and unfair manner has attempted to take away from me all credit to the invention of the screw percussor, by giving it a new name and making an alteration in it, which alteration I can prove, by letters from gentlemen who have used it, renders it not only inefficient but dangerous.

He has had the effrontery to go to the

different surgeons in London and Dublin, stating that his was an entirely new instrument, and by such representations he has obtained numerous testimonies to his ingenuity in constructing an instrument which is not of his invention. He has made the same representations to the East India Company, and has thus procured a large order for these instruments; while I, who first invented it, and who have been making improvements upon it for these last ten years past, am not only deprived of the credit of the invention, but of the profits arising therefrom, which is the only recompense I have to look to for the perseverance, labour, and expense, which I have devoted to bring it to perfection.

The only novel feature in Mr. L'Estrange's alteration of my instrument is the introduction of a stilette for clearing out the detritus, the employment of which is highly deprecated by those gentlemen who have used it, as it greatly increases the bulk of the instrument; so much so, indeed, that in a trial of it which took place at the *Westminster Hospital* on the 30th of August, it was found to be too large for the orifice of the urethra. The stilette is likewise exceedingly dangerous, as on striking sharply against a portion of the stone it is likely to start from the groove and wound the bladder. Unfortunately for Mr. L'Estrange's instrument, the stilette is absolutely requisite, as it is so constructed that it would not close sufficiently without its employment. With respect to the other part of Mr. L'Estrange's invention, the screw, that was the principal feature in my instrument when I first invented it ten years ago; and even the separation of the screw from the instrument, if it were productive of any advantage, which it is not, is not original, for in February last, when I was preparing my improved instrument for publication, Mr. Guthrie sent me a drawing made by Capt. Cater, on the same plan as that of which Mr. L'Estrange claims the credit; but when the Captain saw my instrument, he in the most handsome manner withdrew his claim.

The separation of the screw from the instrument, however, so far from being an improvement, is a disadvantage, as it requires the assistance of another person to adjust it, and when affixed to the instrument renders it more clumsy and unmanageable. In fact the claims of Mr. L'Estrange to the invention, or even improvement of this instrument, are totally unfounded, and his conduct in attempting to impose on the profession by representing his as a new instrument, is such that it is not safe for me to characterize it, and

in a member of a College of Surgeons is astonishing.

In proof of the priority of my claim to the invention of this instrument, I annex the following letter from Sir B. C. Brodie I have likewise received other letters from very eminent surgeons, which may be inspected by any gentlemen desirous of seeing them.

I appeal to the profession at large to do me justice in this matter, and I am sure that to its enlightened members I shall not appeal in vain. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN WEISS.

62, Strand, Oct. 28, 1834.

To Mr. John Weiss, 62, Strand.

SIR,—As nearly as I can recollect it must be between nine and ten years since you first showed me an instrument which you had made for the purpose of crushing calculi in the cavity of the bladder by means of a screw. Since then you have from time to time shown me various other instruments intended for the same operation; but they have been all founded on the same principle, and, in fact, have been only modifications and improvements of your original invention.

I have not the smallest doubt but the credit of having first contrived an instrument for crushing calculi in the bladder by means of a screw belongs to yourself, and although some ingenious persons have followed you in the path which you opened, I do not believe that there are any instruments now made which are so well adapted to this operation as those invented by yourself. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. C. BRODIE.

14, Saville row, Oct. 7, 1831.

Description of the Plate.

Fig. 1 represents the instrument with the blades open to receive the stone.

Fig. 2, the method of holding the instrument while seizing the stone; the moveable blade being pushed forward upon the stone by the thumb.

Fig. 3 represents the instrument as crushing the stone, the cross piece near the blades being held in the left hand, while the fly at the end propels the upper blade and crushes the stone.

The Screw Scoop Forceps.—This instrument has a flat handle similar to that of a sound, for the greater facility in its management. The blades are made hollow for the purpose of collecting and returning the fragments, and are sufficiently strong to break those fragments which are too large to be extracted.

The Catheter Forceps.—The blades of this instrument are made hollow, similar to the screw scoop forceps, to collect the detritus and small fragments, and allow of their passing off with the fluid; thus combining the purposes of the scoop and catheter.

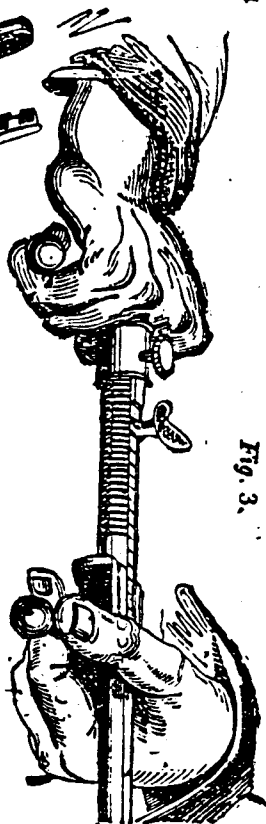


Fig. 3.

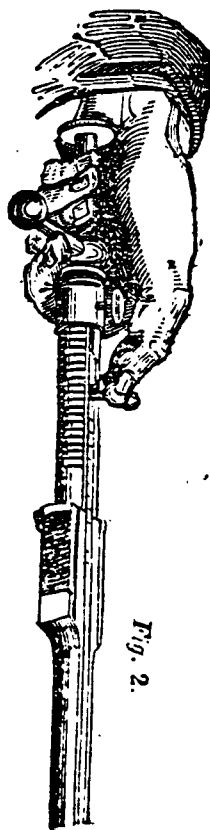


Fig. 2.

Weiss's Screw Instrument for Crushing Stone in the Bladder.

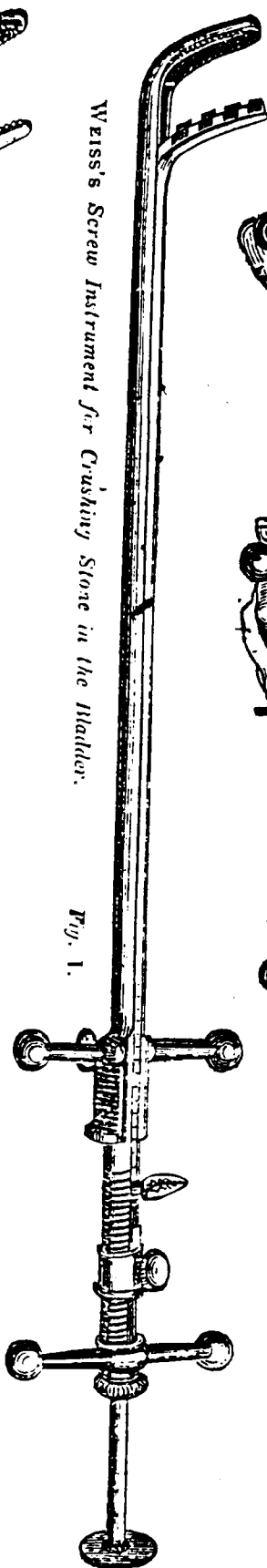
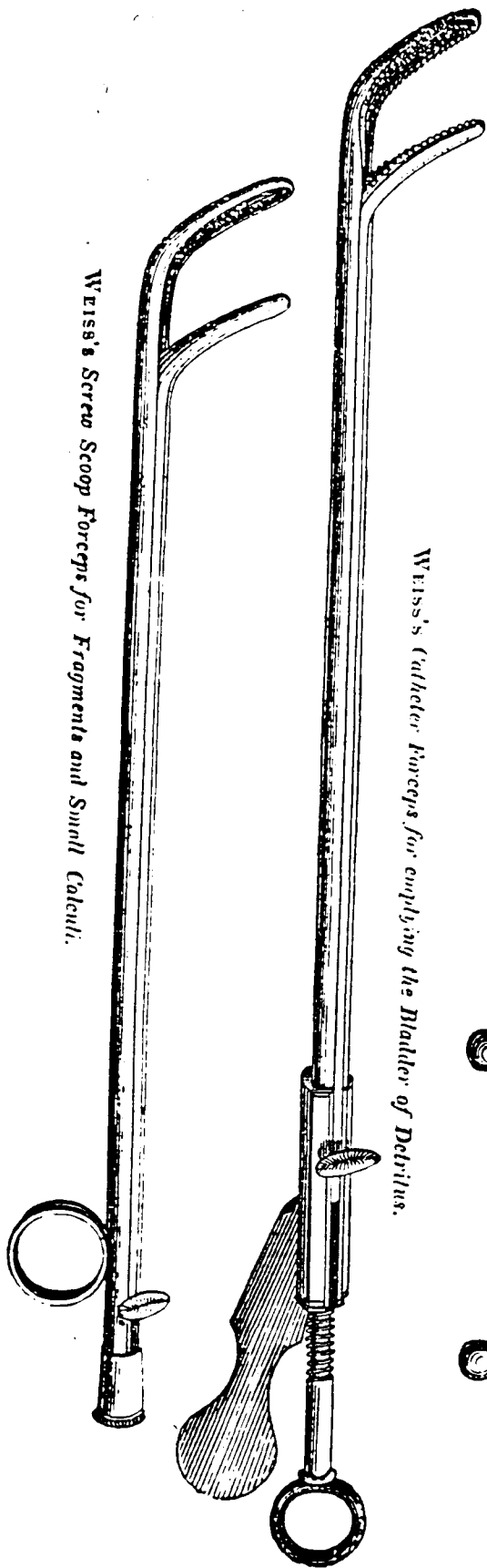
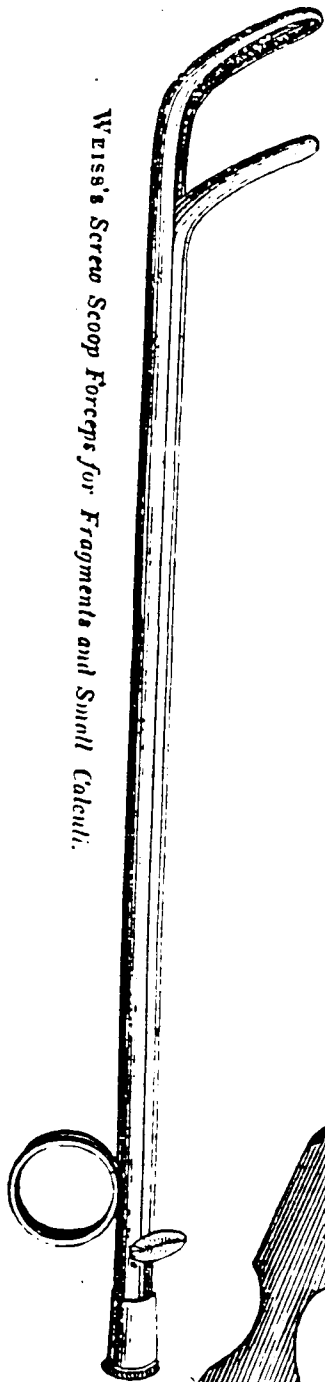


Fig. 1.

Weiss's Catheter Forceps for emptying the Bladder of Debris.



Weiss's Screw Scoop Forceps for Fragments and Small Calculi.



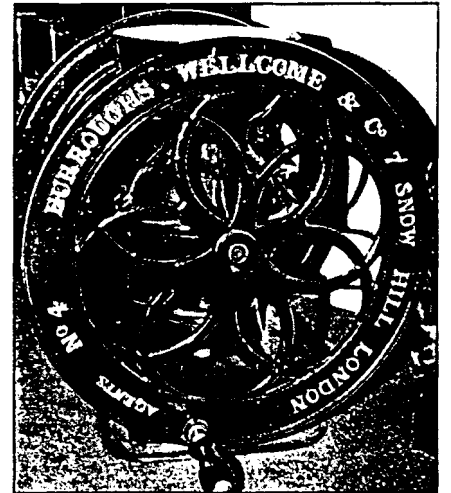
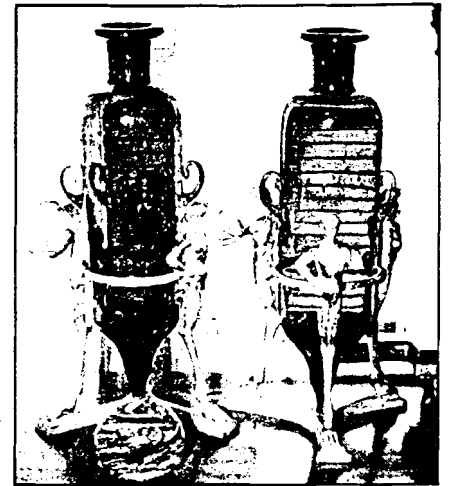


On the cover, Wayne Weart sits behind a medicine counter that was once in an apothecary shop; around him are many of the drug jars and show globes that he has collected over the years. Above are the pill tile of The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, the wooden searce, the metal pill cutter, the identical "poison bottles" made of pigeon blood glass and the Burroughs Wellcome drug mill.

Wayne Weart: Collector of Pharmacy Antiques and Artifacts

by Sheila Roberson

C. Wayne Weart (71) calls it his museum, even though it only occupies one room of his James Island, South Carolina, home. But the museum contains some of the rarest pieces of pharmacy memorabilia that can be found anywhere, and Weart, its curator, is one of only a few major collectors in the country. "I get first right of refusal from several dealers of pharmacy antiques," said Weart, who values his collection at more than \$300,000.



Hardy's Genuine Salve

150th Anniversary DR. SAMUEL HARDY.

By Virginia Colby

Hardy's Genuine Salve celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year, having been made in Cornish N.H. since 1836.

Samuel Hardy was born in Cornish in 1804 and from the beginning a frail and sickly child. During his youth and early manhood he learned the chairmaker's trade, that occupation requiring less physical stamina than farming. When he was about twenty-one years of age he moved to western New York where he remained about ten years. Two years after he married an estimable, but delicate lady, whose feeble health succumbed a few years later to the peculiar diseases that affect so large a number of American women, and at the age of thirty-two he found himself completely broken down in health, unable to work, with a sick wife and small children, and a cash capital of two dollars and forty cents. His condition was deperate, but he was a devoted Christian, and buoyed up by the conviction that if he did his best his Heavenly Father would provide for him, he turned his attention to the one enterprise in which it seemed possible for him to earn an honest living. This was the manufacture of Hardy's Salve, which has since attained popularity, holding its own through more than forty years of sharp competition.

The composition of this salve was the result of a long series of experiments made by Dr. Hardy when he was not able to work. At first the sale was small, but it was sufficient to keep the wolf from the door of the sick family, and was therefore satisfactory. His success with the salve, which established its own reputation wherever it was introduced, induced the proprietor to extend his researches and experiments with the curative properties of various herbs and roots, and, subsequently offer the public several remedies, which were all tested on his own family. While in New York he had become acquainted with an old Indian doctor of the Cayuga tribe who was credited with performing marvelous cures, and from him obtained a receipt by which he compounded a medicine from roots and herbs, which, with almost miraculous suddenness, brought his wife back to health.

His final line of products consisted of: Hardy's Bitters, Hardy's Electuary, Hardy's Pain Destroyer, Hardy's Worm Powder, and Hardy's Anodyne. One of the best sellers was "Woman's Friend, or Nature's Grand Assistant" which guards against and cures falling of the womb, wasting profusion, leucorrhoea, or Whites, bearing down, hysterical trouble, heart, spinal, paralytic, hectic and pulmonary diseases, scrofula, cancerous and tumorous affections, and all diseases having their origin in the one leading and fatal cause - derangement of female constitutional law."

Dr. Hardy began selling these products in 1836 and continued until his retirement in 1869 when he turned the business over to his sons, Philomon C. and Charles Torrey, who had purchased their father's interest. This partnership continued until the death of Charles in 1885, at which time P.C. carried on alone.

The Hardy brothers used to travel throughout New England by horse and wagon selling the



In the early 1880's business was very poor and they were anxiously soliciting testimonials to be published in an advertising circular. Dr. Hardy's son, Follansbe Carroll, worked as a traveling salesman, living in Worcester, Mass. He was so successful with the Hardy products that he added other medicines and goods.

By the time Philemon C. Hardy sold the business to George Hunt of Cornish in about 1886 or 1887, all products had been dropped except the salve. Hunt's wife, Kate Thrasher Hunt, operated it until her two sons, Harry and Kenneth took it over. During the time the Hunt brothers owned the salve company Lena Read sold them beef tallow, which she "tried out" on the kitchen stove. Her husband, Palmer Read, delivered the

tallow and when he returned with the money he asked his wife if the money smelled as bad as the fat. Son Albert Read says they always keep a stick on hand. The salve company remained in the Hunt family until about the mid 1950's when they sold it to Milton Sklar of Claremont. However, Sklar, although he lived in Claremont, contracted with Kenneth Hunt to continue to manufacture the salve. In 1965 Robert LaClair of Cornish Flat purchased the Hardy Salve Company and continues to operate it.

LaClair continues to make the salve in the old original way. The resin, tallow and beeswax are heated in a big kettle until melted, then the "essential oils" are added. When the mixture is cooled to the proper temperature it is poured into 612 molds which have been lined with paper wrappers, which also contain the instructions for use. When it is cold the sticks are removed from the molds and packaged.

New molds were made in 1933 in the pattern shop of the old Sullivan Machine Company in Claremont.



Hardy Salve Company, Inc.

Mfg. Hardy's Genuine Salve

P.O. Box 217 Cornish, N.H. 03746

made since
— 1836 —
in Cornish, N.H.

9-18-98

To: M. Donald Blancher
from: Bob Weaver
Sub. Sale of the Hardy Salve Co. Inc.

Dear Mr Blancher,

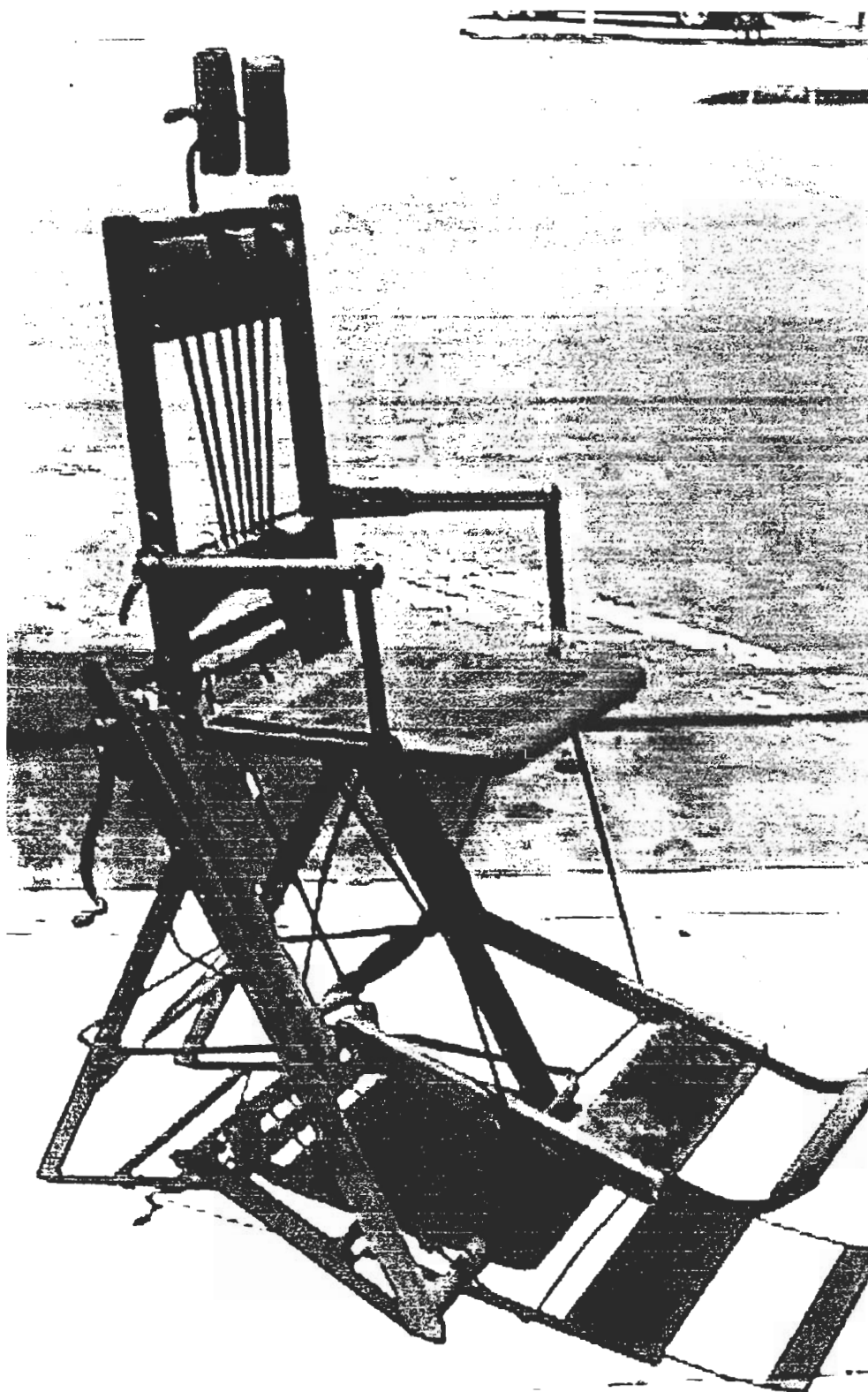
I was wondering if you could help
my wife and I find a buyer for
our business.

I've enclosed a copy of an article
from one of the local newspapers.

Thanking you in advance.

Bob Weaver
(603) 542 9281

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