EXTRACTOR FOR KÜNTSCHER NAILS

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Anyone who has encountered the troublesome complication of jamming of a Kuntscher nail during insertion will welcome an alternative to the present type of extractor which sometimes fails because of the lack of an effective point of counter-pressure.

The instrument illustrated here works on a screw principle like the extractor for Smith-Petersen nails, and is assembled by inserting the threaded bar and hook (a) through the tube (c) and engaging the hook with the slot in the nail. The irregularly shaped sleeve (b) is then rotated until the instrument is suitably aligned, after which the nail can be extracted with ease by rotating the capstan (d) in a clockwise direction. An additional sleeve with a greater transverse inclination is available for use with very oblique fractures.

The apparatus has been evolved by our Orthopaedic Theatre Superintendent, Mr R. J. Brigden, and is now manufactured by Messrs Zimmer Orthopaedic Ltd., of Bridgend, Glamorgan. It can be used for removal of the nail after union of the fracture has occurred, but by this time the nail is usually loose in the medullary cavity and extraction with the standard apparatus does not often present great difficulty.