A MODIFIED TUOHY NEEDLE

BY

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When introducing a catheter into the epidural space, difficulty is sometimes encountered if the catheter tends to bend in the needle hub. This often occurs if resistance to the onward movement of the catheter is met. Kinking can result with consequent weakening of the catheter, and even more difficulty in advancing into the epidural space.

To overcome this, a Tuohy needle has been specially modified. In this the shank of the needle has been prolonged backwards so that it protrudes through the hub, as in a Reilly intrarterial needle. When threading the catheter through it, bending cannot occur provided only 2–3 mm are advanced with each push. The action is more direct and, in addition, withdrawal of the needle from the patient is greatly facilitated.

These needles can be obtained from Arch. Young & Son, Ltd., Forrest Road, Edinburgh, 3.