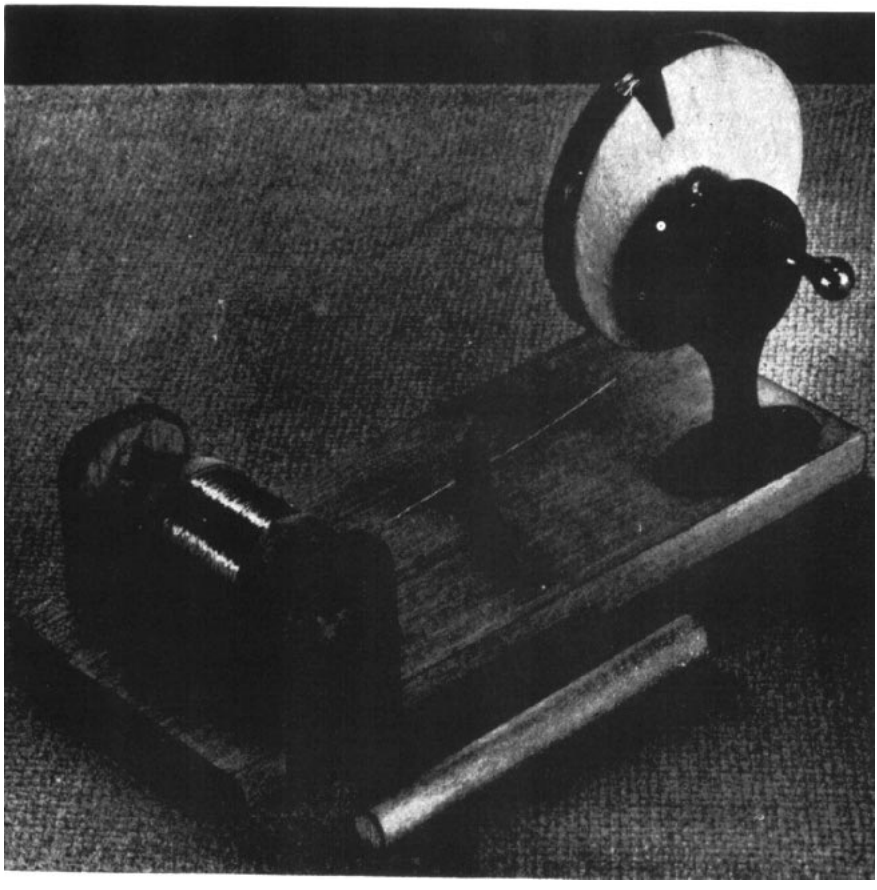
A Device for Cutting Wire Ligatures

IRWIN F. STEUER, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Cleveland, Ohio

WITH more and more orthodontists availing themselves of the opportunity of pursuing the technique of the edgewise mechanism there has come about the necessity of the proper length of stainless steel ligature wire to be used with the ligature twisting pliers. Many devices have been made to cut this wire to the desired lengths and I humbly offer my contribution as follows:

A shive of wood 4¾ inches in diameter by ¾ inches thick is grooved on its narrow surface to accommodate many thicknesses of ligature wire. This groove is 5/16 inch deep by ⅜ inch wide. A small triangle of wood is cut out of this shieve to permit the placing of scissors to cut the wire that is to be wound on this spool. A wire brad or nail is placed in this space in order to secure the wire for winding purposes.



The wheel is cemented on a geared 16 mm. film rewind. This mechanism is then mounted on a wood base 5 inches by 14 inches. At the other end of the base 2 standards are placed having holes 5/8 and 3/8 inches in diameter containing wooden spindles. The different size spindles are for variations in the size of the spools.

Place in the center of this standard a small pillar of wood with a fine hole 1/16 inch and a wire brad. The hole will guide the wire on to the grooved round wheel. The brad on top the pillar has been placed there for the purpose of attaching the wire just prior to being cut.

In a few minutes, sufficient wire can be wound around the wheel to amply supply the operator for some time. This entire mechanism with the exception of the rewind can be made by the operator out of wood. The enclosed photograph and sketch is self-explanatory.

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