AN INTESTINAL FISTULA TUBE

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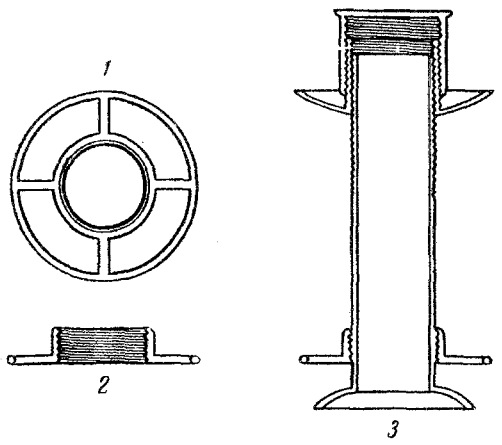
(Received February 4, 1956. Presented by V. N. Chernigovsky, Member Acad. Med. Sci. USSR)

Fistula tubes implanted into the jejunum frequently fall out, chiefly because the small diameter of the intestine necessitates the use of tubes with an internal flange of small diameter.

To prevent dislodgement of the tube after suturing it in place, we screw down an additional disc, close to the internal flange. This is in the form of a cross contained in a circle, of diameter slightly greater than that of the internal flange (see Figure). In this way, the intestinal wall is between the inner flange and the additional device.



Device preventing dislodgement of a fistula tube from the thin intestine.
1) Additional disc (seen from above); 2) section of same; 3) vertical section of fistual tube.

When the outer part of the tube is taken out to the exterior, the additional disc is in direct contact with the inner surface of the abdominal wall, which assures firm fixation of the inner flange of the tube within the lumen of the intestine. In view of the open nature of the additional disc, adhesions between the outer surface of the intestine and the parietal peritoneum form without hindrance.

So constructed, the fistula tube (see Figure) will never become dislodged.