

Correspondence

SIR,

Since the introduction of a technique of anaesthesia for adenotonsillectomy(1) involving oral intubation and the use of a slotted tongue-plate with the Boyle-Davis gag, many thousands of sets have been produced by the manufacturers, Downs Surgical Limited of Mitcham, Surrey.

I have observed that the width of the slot of more recently produced tongue-plates has been at variance with that of the prototypes which I have in my possession. The chief cause for concern is the 3 in. tongue-plate, the under surface of which should safely accommodate a 4 mm tube but which in some more modern versions allows a 5.5 mm tube to slip through with resulting danger of airway obstruction.

Downs Surgical Limited have widely circulated a notice giving the following correct dimensions against which all existing tongue-plates should be checked to ensure that the width of the slot does not exceed the measurements indicated:

<i>Catalogue No.</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Slot</i>	<i>Tolerance</i>
A. 0E070-01-F	2½ in. Length Blade	1.75 mm	(±0.050 mm)
B. 0E070-02-H	3 in. Length Blade	2.5 mm	(±0.050 mm)
C. 0E070-03-K	3½ in. Length Blade	5.5 mm	(±0.050 mm)
D. 0E070-04-M	4 in. Length Blade	7.0 mm	(±0.050 mm)
E. 0E070-05-P	4½ in. Length Blade	7.75 mm	(±0.050 mm)

The manufacturers have now assured me that if any tongue-plates in current use are considered to be a potential danger to patients they feel in honour bound to replace them free of charge.

REFERENCE

(1) DOUGHTY, A. (1957) A modification of the Tongue-Plate of the Boyle-Davis gag. *Lancet*, 1, 1074.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. Doughty
Consultant Anaesthetist

