

MAINTAINING EXTENSION OF THE HAND DURING AND AFTER EMBALMING

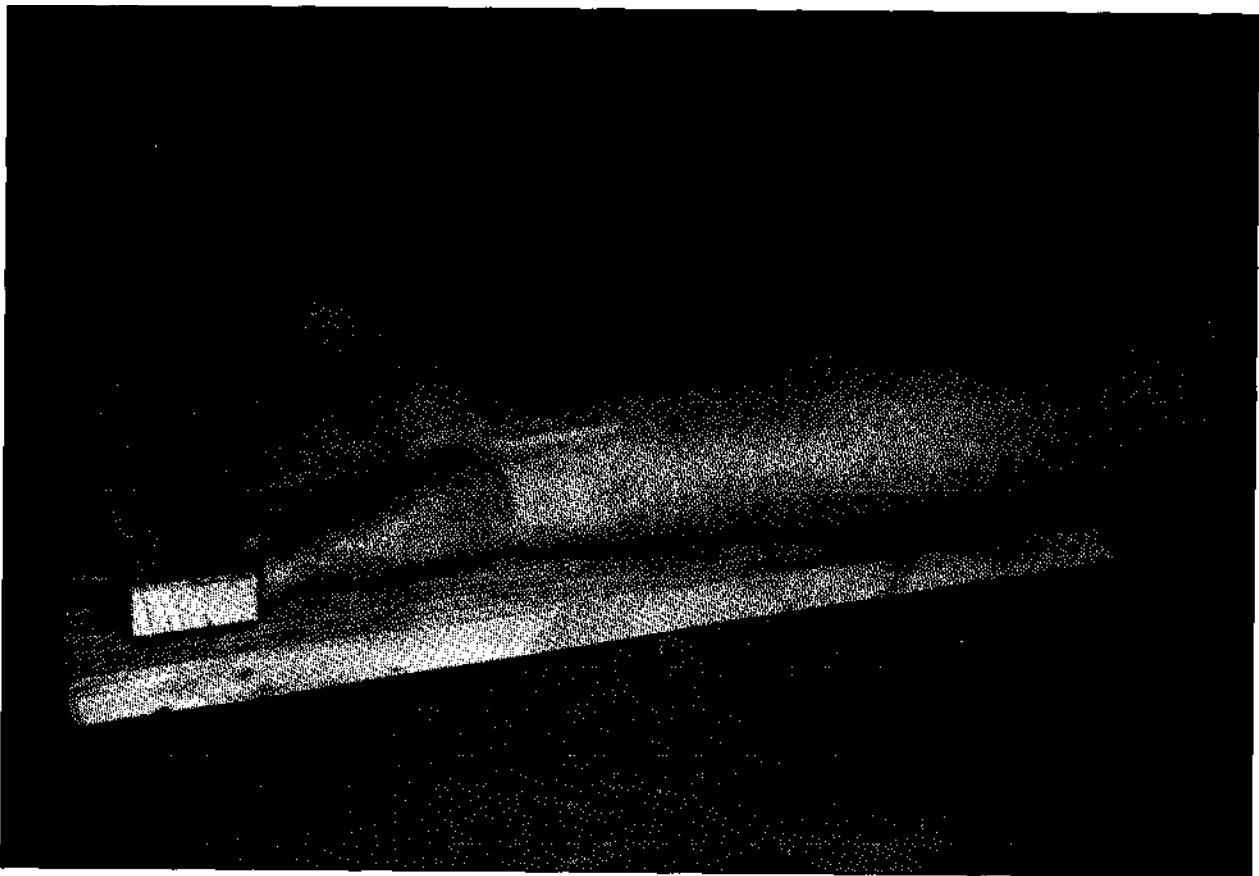
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Dissection of the human hand is complicated when the hand is closed. It is a common phenomenon that the hand closes when death sets in. Even if it could be opened before the cadaver is embalmed, it does not remain in that position during embalming. This is the result of the contraction of the stronger flexor muscles due to the pressure of the embalming fluid.

To counteract this problem, we have designed a basic apparatus using wood, which maintains an open position of the hand during the embalming

process. The fingertips are placed beneath the crossbar where the weight of the forearm of the cadaver keeps the apparatus in position. The embalming process can now proceed and the apparatus may be removed when this process has been completed.

The tendency of the flexors of the forearm to close the hand is no longer exhibited when the embalming process is completed. The hand remains open and it is quite convenient for dissection of the palm and fingers.



The weight of the forearm keeps the apparatus in place. The crossbar keeps the fingers straight until embalming process has been completed.