

human patient, the outer surface of said casing being cylindrical and having sleeved thereon an endotracheal tube, a light source connected to said tubular bundle, and an eyepiece connected to said central bundle, said instrument providing means for observation of an unobstructed path through which the instrument and tube may be moved into position within the trachea.

2. A surgical instrument comprising an elongated tubular non-flexible rigid casing of substantially uniform outside diameter having at its distal end a non-flexible portion which is curved to extend at an angle thereto, said rigid casing having removably sleeved thereon an endotracheal tube, a central fiberoptic viewing bundle extending within said casing from the curved distal end to the proximal end thereof, an eyepiece at the proximal end of said casing to permit observation of the image of the illuminated area at the distal end which is transmitted through said fiber-optic bundle, thereby enabling the observer to direct the curved distal end to bypass the epiglottis and vocal cords and penetrate the trachea whereupon the en-

dotracheal tube can be slid off the casing and moved further into the trachea, while the casing is withdrawn from the implanted tube.

3. A surgical instrument according to claim 2 wherein there is a layer of surgical lubricant between the tube and the casing to facilitate withdrawal of the instrument after the tube is implanted.

4. A surgical instrument according to claim 2 in combination with means for illuminating the area adjacent the distal end of said casing.

5. A surgical instrument according to claim 4 in which said illuminating means is provided by a separate illuminating instrument.

6. A surgical instrument according to claim 4 in which said illuminating means comprises a tubular fiberoptic bundle surrounding said central fiberoptic bundle and a light source connected to the proximal end of said tubular bundle.

\* \* \* \* \*

20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55  
60  
65  
70  
75