normal, expanded position. The loading is then effected by the surgeon.

During surgery, the surgeon opens the box **39** and removes therefrom the lens assembly by gripping it at the handle portion **28** of the manipulator. If the haptics are in their expanded position, he will pull the string to load them, with the end of the string then engaging the catch **37**. After the lens has been inserted into the eye through, for example, a small corneoscleral incision and, when applicable, through the pupil, and the lens body has been positioned by the surgeon by way of the manipulator still attached to the lens body, for example, behind the pupil in the posterior chamber, the surgeon then disengages the looped end of the string and slowly releases the haptics into their expanded position until they are lodged against the eye tissue, permanently to fixate the lens implant. As stated, the surgeon may again "pull in" the haptics if relocation is desired. The string is then cut and removed. This results in a condition essentially as shown in FIG. **9** except that the haptics now bear against the eye tissue and adapt themselves to the surrounding configuration thereby to fix the lens construction. After the lens construction has been securely positioned within the eye, the surgeon cuts the strip or band **34**, resulting in slight outward movement of the springy prong members so that the angular tip portions of the prongs slip out from their meshing engagement with the indentations **22, 23** in the lens body, as shown in FIG. **10**. If a spacer member is provided instead, as mentioned above, the latter is pushed out, whereupon the tips will disengage from the grooves.

FIG. **12** shows an embodiment similar to FIG. **8** wherein, however, a lens construction is used with two angularly spaced haptics, only one of which is subject to the loading manipulation. It will be noted that the free haptic **40** extends away from the lens body while the other haptic **41** is pulled by a string through the eyelet **42** and the hole **44**, the loop end of the string being held in the catch member **45** on the manipulator. In using this embodiment, the eye surgeon will insert the lens construction with the free haptic first to find a suitable seat within the eye for the haptic, whereafter, the eye surgeon may release the second haptic by means of the manipulation with the string in a suitable manner and as explained above, to seat the lens construction as desired.

It will be appreciated that the manipulator could be detachably attached to the lens body in different ways and/or could have different shapes and forms and constructions without affecting the general spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An intraocular lens comprising:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and being comprised of:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion permanently and directly secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from said periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery; and

(b) means for maintaining said flexible haptics, prior and during said insertion, in a compressed or loaded position substantially within the space defined by the periphery of said lens body and close to one of the surfaces of said lens body, said periphery, except for said haptics, being devoid of any projections extending away from said periphery whereby, when said haptics are in said loaded position, the overall size of said lens assembly is reduced and insertion of said lens assembly into the eye facilitated, said maintaining means comprising a string, each of said haptics having an eyelet member between said free and connected end portions, said string being looped through the eyelet member of each of the haptics and being capable of being pulled so that the free end portions of all of said haptics are drawn into said space defined by the periphery of said lens body, catch means provided on said lens body for detachably holding said string in its pulled condition, said lens body having at least one hole adjacent its periphery, said string extending through said hole.

2. An intraocular lens as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said plurality of flexible haptics comprises three arcuate haptics, equiangularly spaced around the periphery of said lens body.

3. A prepackaged intraocular lens assembly comprising:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning, and having:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) three flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion directly secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from the periphery of the lens body and being equiangularly spaced around said periphery; each of said three haptics being provided with an eyelet member; and

(b) a string looped through said eyelet members, said string being capable of being pulled so that each of the free end portions of said haptics is drawn into the space defined by the periphery of said lens body and close to one of the surfaces of said lens body, and catch means on said lens body for detachably holding said string in its pulled condition, said periphery, except for said haptics, being devoid of any projections extending away from said periphery.

4. A prepackaged intraocular lens assembly as claimed in claim **3**, further comprising a casing containing said assembly in sterile condition with the haptics extending away from the lens body.

5. A prepackaged intraocular lens assembly as claimed in claim **3**, further comprising a casing containing said assembly in sterile condition with the string in pulled condition.

6. A prepackaged intraocular lens assembly comprising in combination:

(a) a lens adapted for intraocular insertion and positioning and having:

(i) a lens body, and

(ii) a plurality of flexible haptics, each of said haptics having a free end portion and a connected end portion directly secured to the lens body adjacent its periphery, the free end portions of said haptics normally extending away from the periphery of the lens body and being angularly spaced around said periphery, said periphery, except for said haptics, being devoid of any projections extending away from said periphery.