

BABCOCK TISSUE HOLDING FORCEPS

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These forceps are on nearly every surgical set, the **combination of precision, delicacy, and the ability to visualize** the tissue being grasped make them of universal appeal to many surgical specialties.



Invented by **Professor William Wayne Babcock** (1872-1963) who was considered as a leading figure of American surgery during early 20th century. A New Yorker, he studied at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore becoming a Doctor of Medicine in 1893 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He then continued his studies in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, receiving a second doctorate at the Medico-Chirurgical College in Philadelphia in 1900.

He was a resident at the St. Mark's Hospital, Salt Lake City, at the Philadelphia Polyclinic, and the College for Graduates in Medicine. He was house surgeon at the Kensington Hospital for Women, as well as demonstrator and assistant professor of pathology and bacteriology at the Medico-Chirurgical College in Philadelphia. He took over the chair of surgery and clinical surgery at Temple College, Philadelphia, in 1903.

"We shall not scorn what was done yesterday because we have something better today any more than our interest in the past will cause us to continue the practice of the past."

Textbook of Surgery, Preface



Babcock introduced many innovative surgical techniques such as Babcock operation for the treatment of varicose veins, the Babcock-Bacon operation for the treatment of cancer of the rectum and sigmoid colon preserving anal sphincters, the "soup bone" cranioplasty technique, and the nerve disassociation technique for the relief of certain forms of paralysis or parasthesia due to injury or inflammation. He invented many surgical instruments such as Babcock forceps, which is widely used in everyday surgical practice, the Babcock probe, and also sump drain and lamp chimney sump drain, which also bear his name. In 1947, he received the Master Surgeon Award from the International College of Physicians and Surgeons and in 1954 the American Medical Association presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal.