



FIG. 25.—Showing the use of Bunnell "ice tong" in conjunction with the Thomas traction leg splint, to secure skeletal traction. At times, because of difficulty in replacing the fragments especially with fractures of the lower third of the femur, skeletal traction is desired until the healing is sufficiently advanced to make the more routine treatment possible. If such skeletal traction is needed the "ice tong" are preferable to other methods, and if used the points should be inserted just above the widest part of the femoral condyles, as far forward as possible, avoiding the knee joint. This method of treatment is not compatible with transportation, and should be reserved for special cases. Subsequently if transportation becomes necessary before union has taken place the usual methods of treatment should be employed.