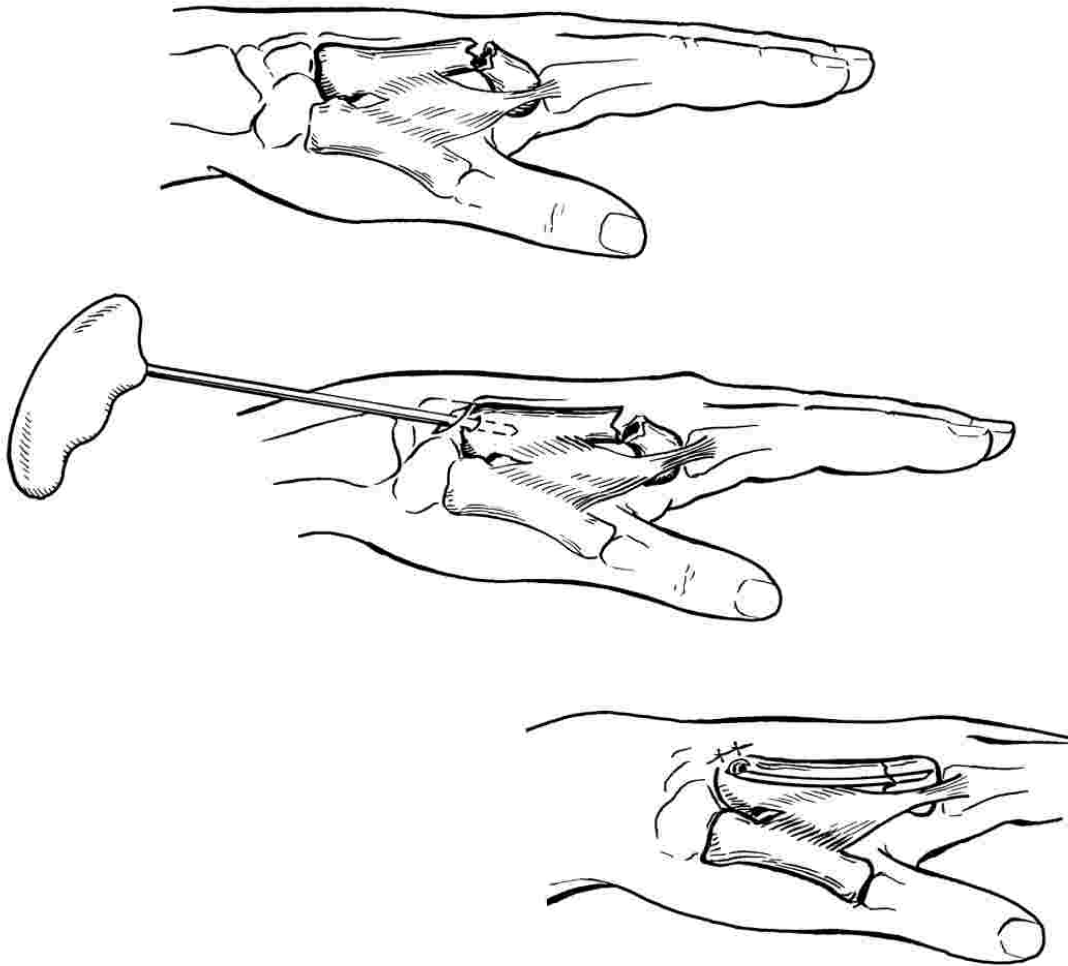


24 THE METACARPALS



In fractures of the metacarpals, the pin is best introduced from the proximal end of the bone. The pin chosen is 1/16 inch or 3/32 inch in diameter and must be meticulously chosen for length. The operation can be carried out as a closed or open procedure. The technic can be greatly simplified by giving the pin a slight curve with the bending iron prior to its insertion.

Through a small stab wound over the dorsum of the proximal end of the metacarpal, an opening

is made with the awl-reamer as close to the long axis of the bone as possible. The pin is inserted and driven down to the fracture line. The reduction is accomplished and the pin is then driven home so that the point firmly engages the distal fragment.

The second and fifth metacarpals are the ones most frequently requiring surgery. With proper pinning, the results are surprisingly good and immediate function can usually be enjoyed.