

## 26 THE SMALLER PIN — STRAIGHT



It has been shown that the large one-fourth inch pin is used primarily for fractures of the shafts of the femur, the humerus and tibia. It is nearly always pre-curved for better fixation.

The smaller pins, by contract, are nearly always straight when driven.

The three-sixteenths inch pins are used for the condyles of the femur and tibia, occasionally for the proximal humerus and can be used in lieu of the larger pins where an individual has extremely small bones.

It is best to use the largest pin that the bone will comfortably accommodate. Occasionally the medullary canal of the ulna is large enough to accept a pin three-sixteenths inch in diameter. It must be remembered that the pin of this diameter does not nearly possess the strength of the one-fourth inch pin and should not be substituted when the larger pin is indicated.

The one-eighth inch pin is used for the clavicle, neck of the humerus in children, humeral condyles, both bones of the forearm and in the ankle region.

The smaller diameter pins (1/16 inch & 3/32 inch) are used primarily for metacarpal fractures. Here is an exception — when used in the metacarpal, the pin is best curved.