

TECHNICAL MEMORANDA.

(Under this heading will be published from time to time notes on points of practical interest in regard to methods of treatment, operative and therapeutic, and on the general management of Obstetrical and Gynæcological cases in hospital and private practice.)

A Combined Anæsthetists' Screen and Instrument Shelf for Use in Abdominal Gynæcological Operations.

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In gynæcological operations where the Trendelenberg position is employed, much inconvenience is often caused to both operator and anæsthetist by sterilized towels and instruments slipping down on to the patient's face, with the result that the asepsis is not so thorough and the administration of the anæsthetic is considerably interfered with.

In order to obviate this difficulty, I have devised the screen shown in the accompanying illustrations, and have found it to answer exceedingly well in practice.

The device consists of a metal platform fixed to the operating table by two vertical supports. The platform is composed of two sections which are hinged together, but capable of being firmly fixed by means of a thumb-screw at each side, one section being attached to the vertical supports by movable joints and so enabling the platform to be raised or lowered as required or lifted back over the patient's head when not in use.

The lower part of each support is bent at a right angle and runs through a metal block attached to the table by means of a pin and provided with a screw on its outer side to fix the support in any desired position.

The screen may therefore be moved backwards or forwards according to the size of the patient or quickly lifted from the table in case of emergency.

When in use, the screen is pushed forwards until the vertical supports are brought against the patient's shoulders, and one section of the platform then lowered till in contact with her chest, the other being adjusted and fixed in a horizontal position to form a shelf over

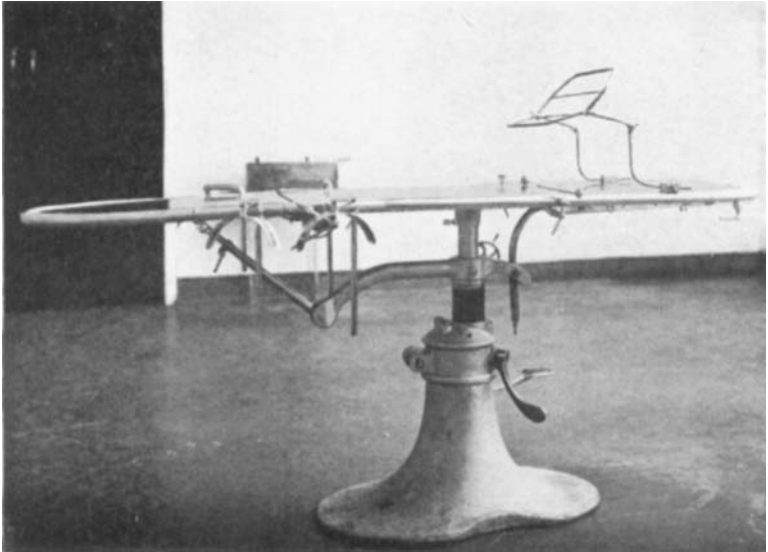


Fig. 1.

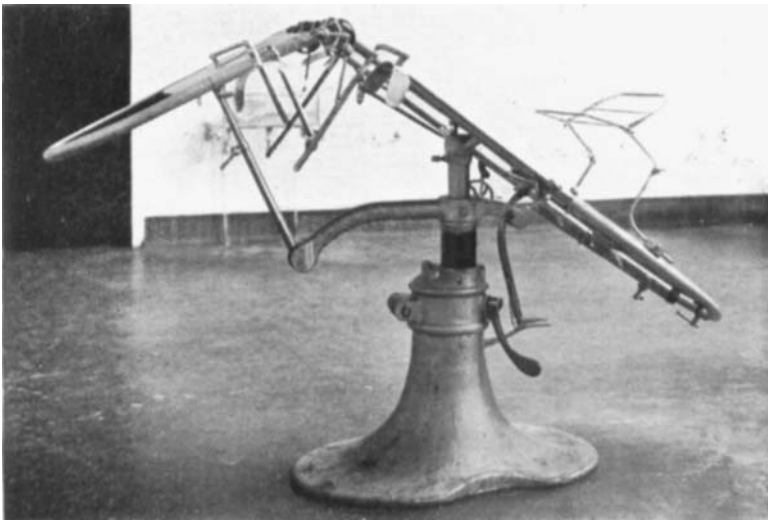


Fig. 2.

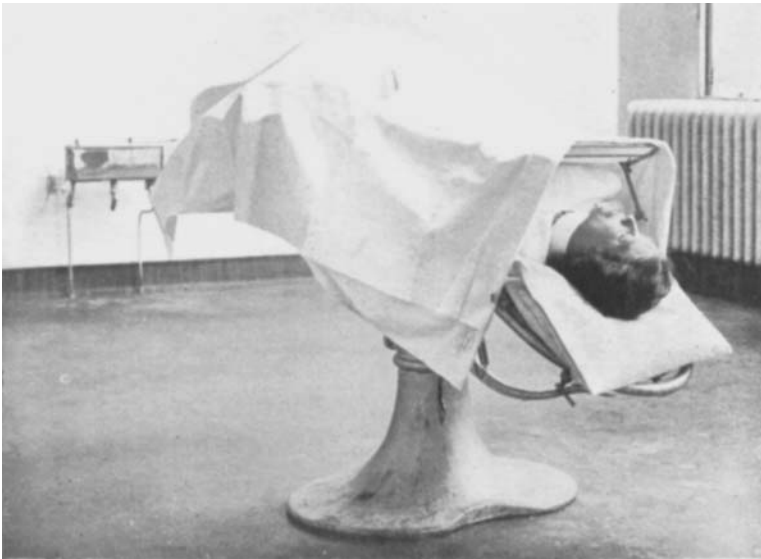


Fig. 3.

the patient's head. When the sterile towels are spread over the screen, there is no fear of contamination from contact with the anæsthetist's hands or the patient's face.

In addition, the surgeon has a platform on which to place his instruments without fear of them falling off and in no way encroaches upon the anæsthetist, who is completely shut off from the operation area and has ample room in which to carry on his work.

Figs. 1 and 2 show the screen in position, the table being in the horizontal and Trendelenberg positions respectively.

Fig. 3 gives a very good idea of its appearance when the sterile cloths are arranged over the patient.

It will be noted that they form a hood-like arrangement, providing above, a horizontal platform for the surgeon's instruments, and below a separate compartment where the anæsthetist is able to work with complete freedom.

In the illustrations, the screen¹ is seen attached to a Guyot-Greville table, but with very little modification it may be fitted to any pattern.

1. Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, of London, are the manufacturers.