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(Accepted for publication February 17, 1978.)

Collapse of an Operating Room Table

To the Editor:—Beware of Kifa® tables! The enclosed photograph shows a Kifa® operating room table that collapsed following open-heart surgery on a 97-pound woman. The collapse occurred just as the patient was about to be transferred to the intensive care unit stretcher. Fortunately, four people were holding the patient at the time of the collapse and they were able to ease the fall. She was then transferred to the intensive care unit, where her recovery was uneventful.

On later inspection the table top was found to be placed on the pedestal in the reverse position. Since many operating room personnel are unfamiliar with this table, it seems to us that the use of placarding or colored arrows to designate proper alignment of the pedestal and top are mandatory. One shudders to think of the consequences had this accident occurred during cardiopulmonary bypass.

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(Accepted for publication February 27, 1978.)

Fig. 1. Collapsed table.