An Automatic Sighing Device

JACK M. KAMEN, M.D.*

The value of sighing for the prevention and treatment of atelectasis has been of recent interest. A device, herewith described, was designed to sigh automatically for patients during controlled or assisted respiration.

This device (fig. 1) consists of an electromagnet and its controls. The electromagnet fits the Bird respirator. In use, the instrument permits adjustment of the following parameters:

1. Sighing interval from 1 per minute to 1 per 30 minutes (control 1)
2. The duration of the sighing period from 1 per second to 1 per 30 seconds (control 2)
3. The depth of the sigh up to 50 cm. of water pressure (control 3).

* Director, Inhalation Therapy Department, Saint Mary Mercy Hospital, Gary, Indiana.

The above adjustments are accomplished essentially by controlling the current which activates the electromagnet. When activated, the electromagnet retards the return of the shaft on the Bird respirator to the "off" position until enough force is built up in the shaft to overcome the electromagnet. The greater the current flowing through the electromagnet, the more it retards the shaft and the deeper the sigh.

A schematic diagram of the electrical system appears in figure 2.

This sighing device has been used effectively during prolonged surgery, (using non-explosive agents), and in the Inhalation Therapy Department. It has been used continuously for up to six weeks and has func-

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Fig. 1. Automatic sighing device.
tioned well. The most useful applications for this instrument will probably be in the IPPB treatment of postoperative patients and in those patients whose respirations are being controlled, whether during anesthesia or on the wards.

Fig. 2. Schematic of sighing device.

REFERENCES


How to Make Your Laryngoscope Light Work

PAUL J. SCHNEIDER, M.D.,* and BRUCE M. ANDERSON, M.D.*

With a pressurized six ounce can of "tuner cleaner," from your television repairman, you can keep the contacts on your direct laryngoscope cleaned and lubricated and working virtually every time.

Spray the cleaner on the contact points where the blade attaches to the handle, rub lightly with your finger, and respray; spray the light socket, and the threads on the bulb, screw the bulb in and out two or three times, respray with the cleaner, and screw the bulb in snugly.

While the lubricant in the cleaner seems very oily, it is readily removed with either simple wiping or with any ordinary solvent.

You might find this trick useful.

* Samuel Merritt Hospital, Oakland, California.