MOBILE EQUIPMENT FOR REGIONAL ANESTHESIA

In order to have a complete and mobile assembly for the administration of spinal anesthesia and nerve blocks, we have constructed the unit shown in figure 1. It has proved to be a great saver of time and personnel. The device can be assembled in a few hours and at small cost.

Essentially, the unit consists of a firm base in the form of an isosceles triangle, mounted on casters, and supporting a table and a stool.

The following specifications are satisfactory to us, but obviously are open to revision. The base is made of two pieces of ¾ inch plywood bolted together to make a single unit 1½ inches thick; we found that anything thinner gave a less stable product. The sides of the triangle are 36 inches and its base is 30 inches. The casters are 4 inches in diameter and made of iron without a rubber tread. The loud rumbling sound which these casters make when the equipment is being wheeled over a tiled operating room floor is somewhat annoying; since the casters are fastened to the painted plywood base by ¼ inch stove bolts, however, our annoyance is more than compensated for by the feeling of security (from static sparks) which this set-up provides. If casters with a rubber tread are used, the base should be grounded by a dangling chain connected to it by a suitable resistance, as on the Heidbrink machines.

The heights of the table and the stool above the base are fixed at 32 inches and 22 inches, respectively; this is satisfactory for men about 5 feet 8 inches tall. The table and stool are supported by iron pipes, the inside diameter of which is 1 inch, threaded at each end to receive a “floor flange.” The flanges were bolted into position by ¼ inch iron stove bolts; the flange for the table should be as near the apex of the triangle as possible. The flange for the stool should be 3 inches inside the middle of the base. The stool is made of two pieces of ¾ inch plywood, similar to the base, and cut to a circle about 10 inches in diameter; the bolts of the upper floor flange are sufficient to hold
these two pieces of plywood together, and the heads of these bolts should be countersunk. The table is a 16 inch square of 3/4 inch plywood with a back and sloping sides, as shown.

In use, the table holds the various ampules in their tinted-alcohol jars, the "paint" (that is, "Merthiolate" or Tr. Iodine), a jar with grasping forceps in a suitable solution, and the spinal or nerve block tray containing the requisite sterile syringes, needles, powdered gloves, and towels. If the anesthesiologist prefers to work standing up, he will find the stool convenient while he prepares the solutions.

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