Ophthalmic micro-operating chair

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The proper performance of micro-manipulative techniques depends upon three main factors: a good view of the procedure; properly designed tools which can be held in the hand yet have accurate and efficient working ends; a relaxed position so that the operator avoids spending energy fighting against gravity.

Much thought and experience is being displayed in the introduction of microscopes and instruments for ophthalmic micro-surgery (and the acquisition of the complete outfit is very costly, so that equipment must be accumulated gradually). The surgeon's seat is out of sight and mind, unless it is uncomfortable or unsuitable, but is an essential part of the equipment, in that it enables relaxed control of all stages of the operation.

FIGURE *Ophthalmic micro-operating chair*

The present stool, which has been designed to fit in with the standard British operating table used for general and specialist surgery, enables the operator to work with the operating microscope. The simple hydraulic valve regulates the height under the weight of the surgeon to cover a wide combination of tables or microscopes. Built-in clamps accommodate the standard Keeler sterilizable arm-rests, which are individually adjustable to give a comfortable hand position. The foot rest has two features; its distance below the seat can be pre-set by the theatre technician to suit the stature of the surgeon, and the substantial tubular platform provides a support for foot switches. The whole stool is mounted on casters and finished with a padded seat and back support.

The stool has been designed to be as simple as possible to facilitate the performance of micro-surgery in operating theatres where the demand for such techniques is becoming desirable, and where the resources to provide a complete outfit are not yet available.

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