Spot-lights for eye surgery

C. R. KANAGASUNDARAM

*From the Eye Department, General Hospital,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

Although operating microscopes are readily available in ophthalmic operating theatres certain procedures are more conveniently done without them and some surgeons prefer spot-lights rather than the large shadow-free theatre lamps. Single or twin spot-lights, unlike the large theatre lamps, produce little reflection off such tissues as the cornea which could obscure details of structures behind. Spot-lights can also be placed at a more satisfactory angle than large theatre lamps.

Some models of the Zeiss (Oberkochen) operating microscopes have twin lamps in supports which hold them obliquely in a fixed position where they illuminate the field of the microscope. These lamps provide a bright and evenly lit circle of illumination and make excellent spot-lights for eye surgery for those procedures where the microscope is not

FIG. 1 *Pair of attachments with Zeiss illuminator in place in one of them*

FIG. 2 *Spot-lights in position on microscope*

required. When used in these circumstances they need to be held in supports which can be adjusted over a wide range so that the lamps can be aimed at the field of operation from various directions.

The attachment illustrated (Fig. 1) was designed for this purpose. The Zeiss illuminator is lifted out of its support on the microscope and the attachment is inserted in its place. The illuminator is then slipped into the ring in the attachment and clamped in position. The directional adjustments are made by means of a ball and socket joint in the head of the attachment.

The change-over of the illuminator from its support on the microscope to that on the attachment takes only a few seconds. Fig. 2 shows a pair of these attachments in place on a ceiling suspension microscope providing a twin spot-light system. This method leaves an uncluttered floor around the patient's head for the surgical team.

Address for reprints: C. R. Kanagasundaram, Eye Department, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE4 6BE