OPERATION-TABLE HEAD-PILLOW

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In general surgery, the position of the part to be operated upon is of great importance and can decide the success or otherwise of an operation.

In eye surgery, the position of the head determines the position of the eyes, and a head-pillow has been designed to fulfill the following requirements:

- (1) To provide some stability for the head when the patient is in the supine position.
- (2) To support the cervical spine curvature.
- (3) To give the surgeon lateral support for his arms.
- (4) To provide a firm, flat, lateral table on either side of the head for instruments, with an elevated border to prevent them falling on to the floor.
- (5) To provide a space for the head and shoulders which will fit most patients, including children.

The Figure shows such a pillow made of laminated latex covered by anti-static rubber, which has proved comfortable to the patient in use (especially important with local anaesthesia).

A sterile towel is placed over the pillow, and the patient's head rests in the hollow. The towel therefore acts as a supporting diaphragm, and this permits a large variation in head sizes to fit the pillow. It has a depth of three inches, and this is sufficient to allow easy access to the pre-auricular region for seventh nerve anaesthesia.

Mr. R. Wilson and Mr. C. Smith, technicians to the hospital, ably assisted in the making of the original plaster mould.

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† The instrument was made by Messrs. C. W. Dixey & Son, of 19, Wigmore Street, London, W.1.