AN ADJUSTABLE MOBILE CASSETTE HOLDER FOR ORTHOPAEDIC OPERATIONS

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The dangerous risk of exposure to x-rays during operations on fractures has long been recognised. It is astounding that so few fracture clinics are properly equipped to protect the operation room staff from radiation. Surgeons and nurses do not wear a heavy lead apron underneath their operation gowns, and their rubber-gloved hands are not protected if the film cassette, covered by a sterile towel, is held in position by hand when the film is taken.

Inspired by Pyper's (1957) description of a modified cassette holder for both antero-posterior and lateral films at hip nailing operations, we found that some similar device might be useful for many other orthopaedic operations. We constructed a simple apparatus which allows the cassette to be held in any position, without the assistance of the surgeon or his "sterile" team (Fig. 1). It was made in the hospital's own workshop at a very low cost.

We have now used it for several months and it has proved useful for many purposes, especially for operations in which the electronic amplifier for screening is not suitable, for

FIG. 1
The adjustable cassette holder.

FIG. 2
Lateral radiography of the hip.
example: 1) for lateral pictures at hip nailing operations, the cassette is pressed with its edge against the patient's flank (Fig. 2); 2) in fractures of the lower leg when reduction is performed with the Böhler traction apparatus, the cassette can easily be pushed underneath the leg for antero-posterior pictures (Fig. 3), or held on the side of the leg for lateral projections, or in any oblique position required (Fig. 4); 3) for lateral pictures in fractures of the skull, the cassette is placed so that it supports the head of the unconscious patient during exposure.

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REFERENCE