A RIPPLE MATTRESS FOR THE OPERATING TABLE

BY

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In an attempt to prevent venous stasis in the dependent parts, a “ripple” mattress has been adapted for use on the operating table during long operations. The “ripple” mattress, which has had a proved success in the prevention and treatment of bed sores, consists of two sets of interdigitating tubes which are inflated and deflated alternately. The pressure-bearing areas of the patient are thus being changed continuously, and in addition to minimizing venous stasis, the mattress may also prevent the generation of bed sores during operation.
The mattress is made of antistatic rubber and can be tailored to fit any operating table. It can be used in the Trendelenburg position, with the knees flexed. The motor is very quiet.

The mattress is sent to the ward on top of the trolley canvas, and the patient lies directly on it. Ideally the patient should continue on such a mattress in bed until able to move freely.

The mattress has been in use for nearly all major cases in one operating theatre for about a year, and none of these patients developed venous thrombosis in the legs. This is not regarded as of significance, however, since it is appreciated that the value of this sort of measure cannot be proved except in a very large series of cases over a number of years. The method is at present suggested as possibly being of value during operations lasting more than a short time.

Since submitting this paper for publication the writer has been informed that a similar mattress is already available in the United States.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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V LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY

We have received information that the V Latin American Congress is to be held in conjunction with the VIII Mexican Congress of Anaesthesiology at the University City in Mexico, D.F., during November 1960. The Organizing Secretary invites those interested from this country who would like to attend this Congress to submit their papers to him at the following address:

DR. ENRIQUE HULSZ S., Apartado Postal 13649, Admon 45, Mexico 1, D.F.