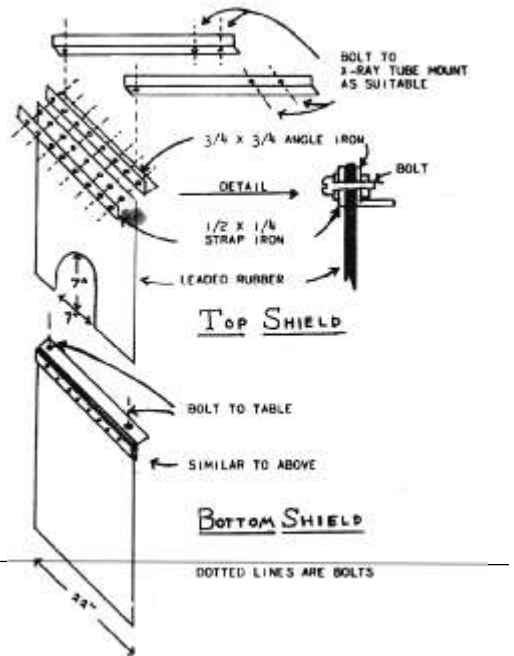


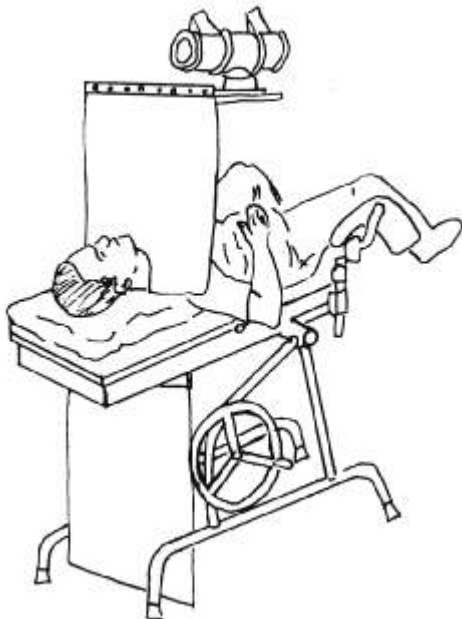
**Radiation Protection**

Dr. Wallace M. Shaw of Mid-Island Hospital, Bethpage, New York, concerned with possible radiation exposure of anesthesiologists, reports a simple shield for use during cystoscopic procedures. Exposures made during such operations release primary roentgen rays from the tube and scattering secondary rays when these strike the patient and the table. Both these rays may reach the anesthesiologist, particularly if he remains seated.

Most persons can leave the room during roentgenographic studies but the anesthesiologist often must remain with the patient to maintain an airway or control respiration. In the belief that radiation exposure should be avoided whenever possible, the following shield as illustrated, was devised and has been in use for five years. A curtain of leaded rubber equivalent to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of lead shielding is suspended from the overhead roentgenographic tube mounting by a bracket. Leaded rubber can be purchased as such or the lower part of



Details of construction of the shields.



View of the protective shields in place.

a discarded protective leaded rubber apron can be used. In any event, it is hung to fall about the shoulders of the patient. A notch is cut for the neck. When the tube is swung aside, the curtain is carried with it or the curtain can be lifted and draped over the mounting bracket. A similar curtain is hung from the bottom of the cystoscopy table about 14 inches from the head end so as to just touch the floor. Construction details are shown, although dimensions will vary with the size of the table. It is important to provide secure attachments for the upper edge of the curtains because they are heavy.

Those physicians subject to frequent low-level radiation dosage have a shorter life expectancy than other physicians and the general population. It is, therefore, imperative that radiation exposure be minimized. This shield is a step in that direction.