TWO NEW OPERATING TABLE HEAD SCREENS
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There are many varieties of screens which separate the patient's head from the surgical field. All seem to suffer from some drawback. Some are difficult to attach to the table, some cannot be positioned easily, while others collapse towards the anaesthetist if they are pushed by the surgeon or his assistants. We have overcome these drawbacks by developing two screens, each of which is used in different circumstances.

The screen shown in figure 1 is rigid and is particularly useful during thoracic surgery or when the operating area is near the screen. It is strong enough to support considerable weight and can serve as an extra instrument table. It can be adjusted for height and position along the table. An adjustable arm rest can be fitted to either upright to hold the upper or lower arm when the patient is in the lateral position.

When the surgeon is not working near the head of the patient the screen does not need to be so rigid since it will not be leaned on and has only to support sterile towels. The screen developed for this purpose, with the assistance of Mr. Chislett, is shown in figure 2. It consists of a light wire grid with short rods at each end which fit into the sliding clamps of the operating table. An additional length of wire grid extends from a swivel mount at the centre of the screen and can be positioned beyond the head. The screen can be adjusted along the table: its height is fixed but allows adequate access to the patient’s head.

Both screens may be obtained from Messrs. Chas. F. Thackray Ltd., of Leeds.