Improvement of the Operation Microscope

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Discussion.

Flieringa asked whether Dekking also taught his assistants to operate with the microscope. Colenbrander used the original Zeiss support and a sterile cover for the microscope, which enables the surgeon to adjust the microscope manually.

Rochat: In the course of many years, ophthalmologists will certainly have grown accustomed to operating with microscopical magnification. Dekking's ingenious apparatus will certainly contribute to the realization of this ideal. This process may be promoted by simplifying the device. In the first place, the price of the present apparatus will certainly be exorbitant. Secondly, it may be considered whether there is advantage in fixing both the microscope and the source of light to the operator's head, so that small reflex movements of the head might effect a very fine regulation. Are there important objections to this proposition?

Dekking replied to Rochat: I do not think that considerations of price should be an impediment to the development of new techniques. In practice it has always turned out that when an instrument is good and fills a need, either the doctor or the hospital is willing and able to supply it.

Roentgenology is a typical example. Of course we should try, as soon as the instrument has found its definite form, to simplify it as much as possible and to lower the manufacturing cost. In the operation microscope, only mass-produced standard parts have been used, so that I do not think that it will be excessively expensive.

With regard to the possibility of making a portable instrument to be fixed to the surgeon's head I believe that this would be a step backward instead of forward. We improved the original hand microscope by fixing it to a firm support

and the same applies to the binocular ophthalmoscope; the use of a binocular microscope with tenfold magnification attached to the head would necessitate constant shifting of the field of vision and of the focus

which constitutes a severe strain for the examiner's eyes.