



# InterCom

VOL. 4, NO. 7

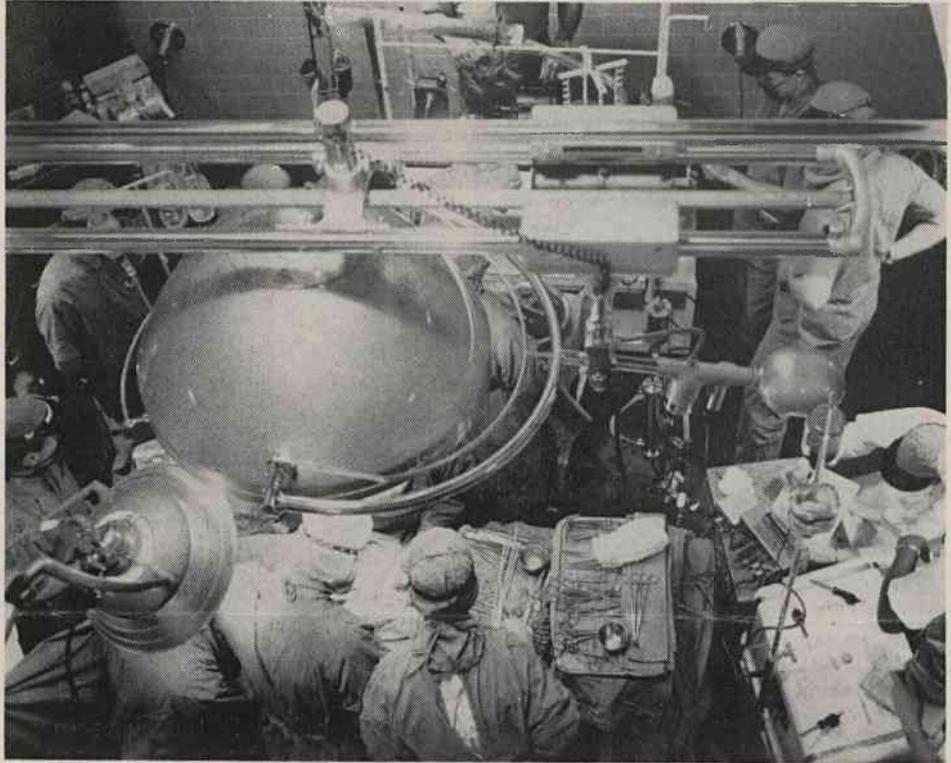
APRIL, 1958

DURHAM, N. C.

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Behind the black-lettered **No Admittance** sign which protects the operating rooms of Duke Hospital lies a complex wonderland of modern equipment and techniques. With its Preparation Room connected by elevators to Central Supply in the basement, and feeding patients out from the Recovery Room to the Intensive Nursing Unit or the other hospital wards, the operating room set-up is a world in itself.

The ten new operating rooms which are part of the new wing of Duke Hospital bring the total number of operating rooms now in use to eighteen. Of the twelve previously in service, four which had been improvised are now being converted to fill other needs. Also, with the addition of the new wing, the Recovery Room was



Open heart surgery in one of 10 new operating rooms



Paula Le Roi of the Operating Room staff at the ultrasonic instrument cleaner which uses high frequency sound waves to turn a tank of water into millions of tiny "vacuum cleaners."

moved from the third floor to the fourth, which makes it an integral part of the operating room set-up. The service area which takes care of the before-and-after phases—the preparation and clean up—lies between the old and new operating rooms, and so is readily available to both.

The **Preparation Area** typifies the careful planning evident in the entire operating room set-up. This will contain the reserve supplies and serve as a garage for the trucks of supplies in readiness or being readied for use in the operating rooms. This area and the adjacent sterilizing room will be staffed by two individuals. The area is provided with a scrub basin, and one individual will be scrubbed as though he were to participate in the

actual surgery. This area is connected directly by elevator with Central Supply to facilitate the movement of sterile supplies. Instead of being packed item by item in numerous small bundles, the linen for one operation will be packaged in one bundle. When placed on its table and unwrapped, the wrapper for the bundle will serve as the drape for the table.

A new method of packaging supplies for sterilization is being put into use. This utilizes a table consisting of a series of shelves made of heavy wire mesh and mounted on a carriage. The wire mesh makes it possible to sterilize the shelves and their contents in one operation because the steam can pass freely through the shelves. These shelves are encased