CHAPTER 20

ROGUES' GALLERY

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This chapter is a small collection of photos of things that are and are not designed very well. It is hoped that this chapter will be expanded in future editions of this manual.

Clocks

Clocks should be on a central system that synchronizes the time with all the hospital's computers. In reconstructing a medical emergency, and for billing purposes, everyone must be using the same time.

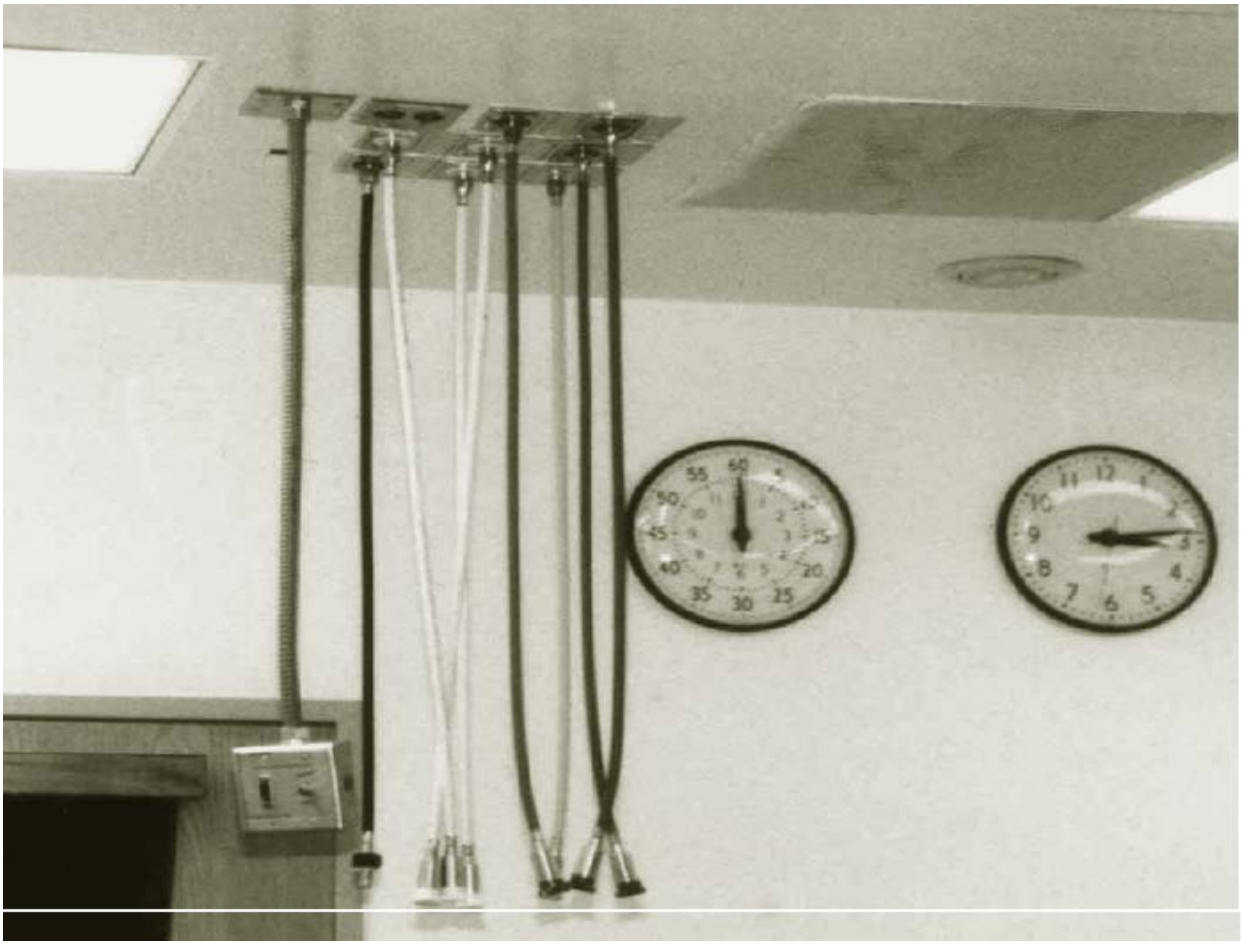
One hospital used clocks that rely upon shortwave radio signals for synchronization. In a brick-and-steel building, those signals do not penetrate into the operating rooms (ORs) to synchronize the clocks. The workaround is to place the clocks in a west-facing window at intervals, so that they will receive the radio signals and synchronize.

In this photo, the clocks have synchronized to the correct minute, but not to the correct hour. Some unknown person or persons have supplied labels that might explain the situation.

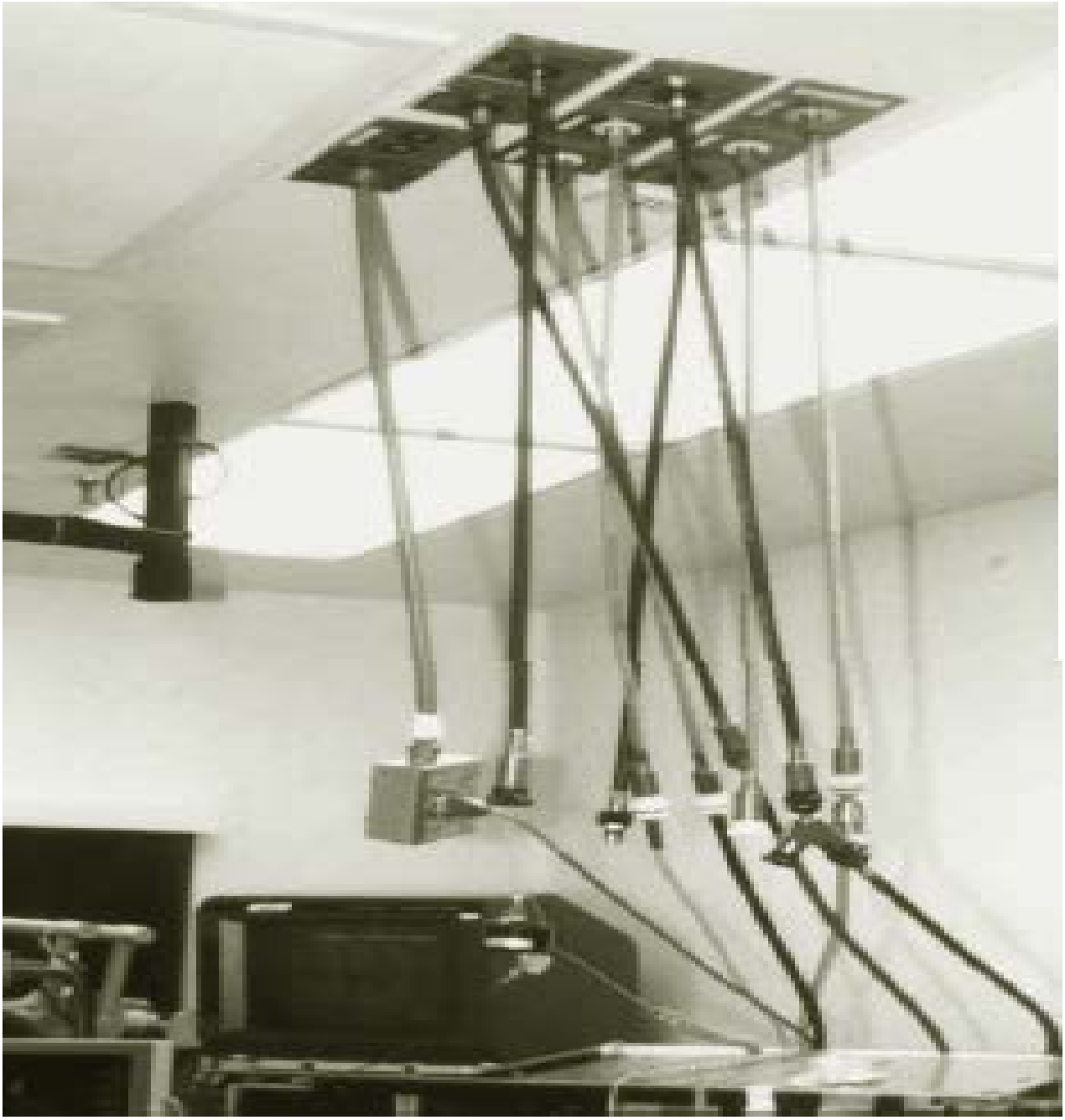
The labels read “AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK, ROME, PARIS, LONDON, BRUSSELS, and MELBOURNE.”

Hoses

The following picture shows gas drop lines (pigtails) (i.e., hoses) that were positioned in front of the door. They are in the way when patients and equipment are brought into the room. The hoses were supposed to have been located several feet to the right, next to the overhead light.



In the next picture, hoses are located directly over the anesthesia machine. This location makes it extremely difficult to move the anesthesia machine, and equipment on top of the anesthesia machine may be displaced by the hoses.



Mirror Operating Rooms

In a two-OR freestanding surgical facility, the rooms were constructed as mirror images, so that all the plumbing could be located in the shared wall.

Door to Operating Room 1
In this room, the OR table and the anesthesia machine are to the right as you enter the room.

The OR table is on the right as you enter the room.

The anesthesia machine is on the right as you enter the room. The anesthesia machine and gas line booms are located to the right of the table. There is free access to the OR table for the patient when entering and to the stretcher when leaving without having to reach around the anesthesia machine and electrical/vacuum boom.

Door to Operating Room 2

In the second room, the OR table and the anesthesia machine are to the left as you enter the room.

The OR table is on the left as you enter the room.

The anesthesia machine is on the left as you enter the room. The anesthesia machine and the ceiling boom for gases, vacuum, and electrical are located to the right of the OR table. Therefore, at the end of the case, the stretcher is brought into the room to the right of the OR table. To move the patient, the anesthesiologist must reach around the anesthesia machine and boom.

Mirror image rooms are not necessarily ideal for patient care, even if this design facilitates construction.