



Newark News Photo

FAIL-SAFE SYSTEM—Dr. Thomas Wickerdon, medical staff anesthesiologist at Overlook Hospital, Summit, checks one of four newly installed anesthesia machines.

Overlook Additions

Anesthesia Machines Have 'Extras'

Staff Correspondent.

SUMMIT — Four new anesthesia machines, boasting improvements growing out of the nation's space exploration efforts, have been installed at Overlook Hospital here.

The machines, believed to be the first of their kind in the state, cost a total of \$13,800. Made with new and lighter metals and plastics developed for the space program, they contain features "that could mean the difference between life and death to the patient," according to Dr. Henry A. Connolly, hospital anesthesiologist.

Among these features is a "fail-safe" system with audible alarm, which automatically

shuts off all other gases in case the oxygen supply to the patient is cut off in any way. The machines also have their own emergency oxygen tanks in case the central oxygen supply fails.

The units have their own electrocardiograph and electroencephalograph monitors, each also with its own alarm, for constant observation of heart and brain condition. Emergency equipment is kept nearby in case of cardiac arrest to restart the heart.

The equipment also is "color-keyed" for additional safety, with differently colored tubing matching different types of gas. New vaporizers also permit more precise dosages.