

# 'Cobalt Bomb' Planned for Area Hospital

Plans for the building addition to South Bay Hospital, Redondo Beach, which will house a "cobalt bomb" are now on the drawing boards and will be finished sometime in February, it was announced by Arthur E. Miller, hospital administrator.

The schedule allows for construction to be completed in late 1963, and for installation and use of the equipment shortly thereafter, Miller said.

Working plans for the project—which is estimated to cost a total of \$110,000—is the Los Angeles architectural firm of Kalionzes and Klingerman, specialists in hospital design.

WHEN COMPLETED, the cobalt therapy unit will be the only one in the area. As such, it is intended to provide the area's medical needs in the field of super voltage cancer therapy, Miller said.

Cost of such a unit, and the high degree of utilization which is necessary to justify its purchase and placement in a community hospital, means that the cobalt unit at South Bay Hospital is likely to be the only one in the area.

Statistics show that South Bay, as an area of 200,000 or more persons, is sufficiently large to justify and support a cobalt therapy unit, according to medical authorities.

RADIOLOGISTS in charge of the program estimate that approximately 10 to 20 patients at a time will be undergoing therapy at the hospital. The majority of these will be "out patients," or persons making daily visits to the hospital for treatment.

At present, South Bay and other area hospitals rely on ortho-voltage therapy units which are run at a maximum of 250,000 volts.

The cobalt "bomb" is equivalent to 3,000,000 volts. This energy delivers a substantially higher dose to deep-seated tumors, doctors explained.

OTHER DISTINCT advantages are less serious skin reactions and reduced radiation sickness during therapy, radiologists said.

Of major importance is that patients from this area requiring cobalt therapy will no longer have to go to other areas.

Physicians explained that the cobalt source which is housed in the machine, or the "bomb" is about three-fourths of an inch in diameter and one inch high—the size of a stack of dimes.

However small the source is, it must be housed in a large sphere of lead and steel for protection of personnel. Additional protection of concrete walls and lead doors will complete the therapy room.

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