

FIG 40-1 —Typical device used to conduct screening tests of vision

Courtesy Titmus Optical Co., Inc

zations make examinations and record the findings, particularly where operations involve definite exposure to health hazardous substances, such as lead, benzene (benzol), silica, and asbestos dust, or to harmful noise

Laboratory tests Minimum urine and blood tests are inexpensive and a good investment in detecting liver and kidney disease, diabetes, anemia, etc Where there is to be an exposure to toxic substances, appropriate laboratory tests may be indispensable

Chest X ray. *A record of the condition* of the lungs as shown by X ray is desirable for every applicant Those who will be engaged in a dusty trade will probably require periodic chest X rays Every X ray should be carefully identified with date and name and each should be compared with previous X-ray photographs Even a tiny, new spot might be an indication of what could become a rapidly growing lung cancer

Vision tests In recent years, special devices have been developed for routine testing of several aspects of vision (Fig 40-1) Near, as well as far, vision should be recorded The old, but still used, method of testing only distance vision at 20 ft is inadequate, having little relationship to the ability of the person tested to see well at near point or peripherally Failure to compare the visual requirements of a job with the visual abilities of employees may result in employees becoming easily fatigued, inefficient, and liable to causing an accident

If the job demands it, color vision should also be tested

Hearing tests Workers who are to be exposed to hazardous noise levels should be examined for hearing acuity before placement to determine prior hearing loss, if any, and periodically thereafter to detect early loss due to noise Personal protective devices can reduce noise reaching the auditory nerve, but wisdom dictates the value of tests and records The audiometer is the accepted method of testing (Fig 40-2) A special booth will usually be required

Health history Some doctors think that a carefully taken personal health and occupational history gives clues to the areas of