

Fig 38-2 Typical device used to make routine screening tests of vision

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

Vision tests In recent years, special devices have been developed for routine testing of several aspects of vision (Fig 38-2) 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 With no consideration of the visual demands of jobs and with lack of appropriate tests, it is small wonder that many workers are easily fatigued, inefficient, and liable to accidents

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 signs of hypersensitivity 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 38-3)

Health history Some doctors think that a carefully taken personal health and occupational history gives clues to the areas of examination which warrant extra-careful