863 Benefits from Professional Eye Care for Workers with Lowered Visual Performance. [illegible] and N.F. Stump. Ind. Med. and Surg. 18, 335-338 (August, 1949).

The Bausch and Lomb Industrial Vision Service made a survey of the visual performance of all the employees in a plant in Kentucky. As a result the new employee is, at least, visually qualified for his new job. Experienced employees who meet the minimum visual qualifications average from 4 to 9 cents more per hour with less make-up pay than those who do not meet the standards. Savings in learning time range from 12 to 35% when there is increased efficiency in visual performance. The visual performance tests are a part of the physical examinations. More applicants for jobs need professional attention, because of visual inefficiences than for any other cause. Sufficient controls were set up to indicate that the improvements reviewed in this paper were largely due to increase in visual performance. -- Condensed from Authors' Summary

864 The Sequential Analysis of Blood Pressure Scores. J. Moshman. Ind. Med. & Surg. 18, 344-346 (August, 1949).

A score which might serve as a useful index in the detection of external causes of abnormal systolic and diastolic blood pressure combinations was developed as a quantitative tool to guide the industrial physician in a program of preventive medicine. If the proportion of abnormal scores rises, there is likely to be some assignable cause, such as the continuous handling of a toxic chemical. A vigorous inspection of the working conditions should be made to find some means of protecting the employees and to return the blood pressure scores to their normal level. The methods of Foulger, Zapp, and Wald are explained.

865 Present Status of Aluminum in the Therapy and Prophylaxis of Silicosis. E.W. Brown and W. Van Winkle, Jr. J.A.M.A. 140, 1024-1029 (July 23, 1949).

This report was authorized by the Council on Industrial Health and the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. (1) Studies on the therapy of silicosis thus far have been inadequately controlled. The majority of subjects have reported subjective improvement, apparently of psychic origin. No convincing evidence of objective improvement either of pulmonary function or by roentgen ray has been forthcoming. Certain cases have shown eventual progression by roentgen ray subsequent to aluminum therapy under present conditions of dosage. (2) It is too early to expect evidence of the effectiveness of aluminum prophylaxis in men who do not have a history of exposure to silica dust prior to the beginning of the treatment. It is a fact that certain Canadian miners with a history of previous exposure have shown roentgenologic progression despite treatment with aluminum, although statistical data are not as yet available. (3) Aluminum is apparently not harmful to the normal or silicotic human lung in the dosages given for the therapy and prophylaxis of silicosis. Whether or not it increases susceptibility to tuberculosis is unproved. As far as we can ascertain the mass administration of aluminum in the United States and Canada over the past five to six years has not had an unfavorable effect in this respect, although again statistical data are not yet provided.