

of the upper extremity. Preliminary trial of these instruments suggests the following points: (1) Work tolerance may be estimated with greater accuracy ergographically than by judgment of the examining physician. (2) Ergography may be clinically useful in evaluation of disability because it provides a simple quantitative tool by virtue of which the following measurements may be made: (a) initial functional capacity, (b) progress under treatment, (c) the end point of effective rehabilitation and (d) the degree of residual disability.

-- J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox.

- 978 Audio Smoke Alarm. R.L. Kent.
Electronics 22, p.77 (June, 1949).

The paper describes and illustrates a compact phototube instrument producing a signal which increases in pitch and intensity as the smoke density exceeds a predetermined level.

Miscellaneous

- 979 Crisis in Scientific Research. Editorial.
J.A.M.A. 140, 1220 (Aug. 13, 1949).

Concern is expressed over the fate of Senate bill 1703, providing for laboratory use of the 7,000 to 10,000 unclaimed dogs now destroyed each year in pounds in the District of Columbia. Agitation of antivivisectionists has placed the bill in jeopardy, according to the National Society for Medical Research. Interested persons are urged to write letters of endorsement of the bill to Senator J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, and Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.

- 980 Detroit Recommends New Solvent Mixture Minus Carbon Tet.
G.M. Hana. Ind. Hyg. News Letter 9, 8, 11 (Aug. 1949).

Carbon tetrachloride has been used for cleaning electric motors without disassembling the unit, because it is difficult to find another solvent with the proper combination of properties. However, a new product has been found satisfactory. It contains 25% methylene chloride, 70% Stoddard solvent, and 5% perchlorethylene by volume. The Underwriters Laboratories report states that it is neutral, that the inflammability is on a par with that of kerosene, but that the flammability increases if it is allowed to evaporate partially. It is less toxic than carbon tetrachloride but should not be used indiscriminately without good ventilation.

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