

Occupational Health Services

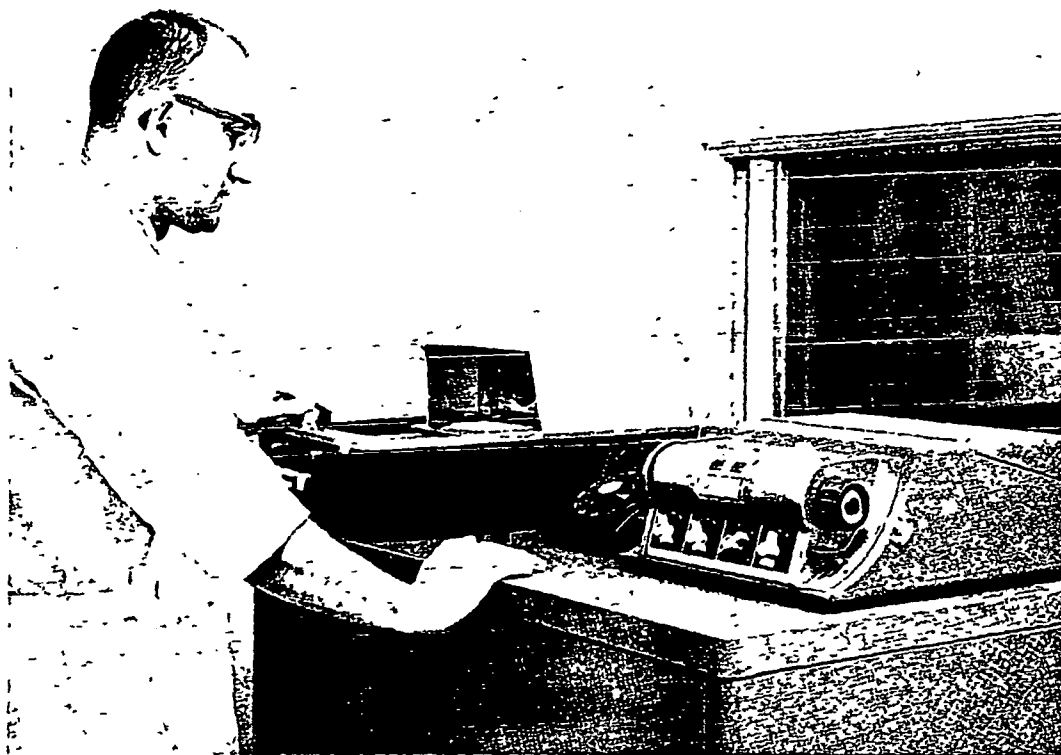


FIG 40-2 — Automatic audiometer (left) and manual audiometer (right) can be used for accurate hearing evaluations

Courtesy Erie Mining Co., Hoyt Lakes, Minn.

examination which warrant extra-careful study. A nurse or other specially trained person can secure basic data from the examinee, such as height, weight, age, and the history. Nurses may also assist in other portions of the examination when specially trained and authorized to do so. This relief from minor details will give the physician more time to devote to an analysis of the whole person. Custom requires that a nurse or other female attendant be present when women are being examined.

Health problems of women

There is no reliable evidence to support the view that women are more susceptible than men to occupational health hazards, except during pregnancy.

The policy of some companies has been to

dismiss women on learning of their pregnancy. As a result, many women concealed their condition until it became obvious, frequently until the last half of the pregnancy. This policy can work to the disadvantage of both employee and company inasmuch as the early months present the greatest danger of spontaneous abortion. It is desirable that women who work during this time be under medical department supervision. The woman should consult her own doctor who should, in turn, report her condition to the plant doctor so that he may determine the advisability of her continuing to work.

Both preceding and during pregnancy, exposure to lead is potentially dangerous. Lead in the blood, tissue, and body fluids remains in the system for many months. Because of change in the physiological mech-