

The testing of fitness for night flying: The light sense.

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Abstract : This paper, although prepared primarily in connection with testing of night flyers, should be of interest to those considering dark adaptation tests for visual deficiency. The important functions to be tested in the case of night flyers are: (1) the amount of light seen at night and at low illumination and the effect of dark adaptation on this amount and speed of dark adaptation. The first of these functions is tested by determining the threshold of light sensation or light minimum at intervals from

beginning of dark adaptation until the process is complete. For testing the a range of adaptation, the light minimum is determined at the beginning of da and at the end of a definite tune interval, preferably 20 or 30 minutes. Four testing speed of adaptation are discussed. In the first two, alternate proced for measuring the speed of adaptation. The others are quick tests for the a rejection of candidates on the basis of predetermined critical values. In the 1 methods designated as alternative procedures, the time of adaptation is fix intensity of light required for the discrimination is determined, and in the se intensity of, light to be discriminated is fixed and the time required to attain needed for this discrimination is determined. In the authors' opinion there a objections to the second of these methods, firstly because the observer's f uncontrolled and the test field may be sensed in either the central or the m peripheral retina which introduces a considerable element of variability, and because attempts to hold the state of fixation of the eye for any considerab time induce an ocular condition that is very detrimental to the test. A fixed e loses its sensitivity to differences in brightness. A singular ocular movemen restore the sensitivity but it is almost impossible to standardise such mover An instrument, devised by the authors for making the tests with control of i factors, is described and illustrated by diagrams and its advantages are disc S. L. Smith (Washington).

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