ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Masumdar, B.N., Dean and Senior Professor of Physiology, B. J. Medical College, Ahmedabad for his invaluable guidance and suggestions during the course of this study.

I am thankful to Dr. Shah, R.C., Professor of Physiology for his full cooperation and to Dr. (Mrs.) Bhattacharya, R.D., former Assistant Professor of Physiology, for her critical approach, suggestions and help throughout the study.

I acknowledge Dr. Pandya, C.B., Assistant Research Officer, Department of Occupational Hygiene, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad for his sincere help in operating the atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

My thanks are also due to Dr. Jhala, C.I., former Dean and Medical Superintendent, B. J. Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad; Dr. Chatterjee, S.K., Director, Dr. Parikh, D.J., Senior Research Officer, Mr. Satwara and all other staff members of Department of Occupational Hygiene; Mr. Kulkarni, P.K., Department of Statistics, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad and to Mr. Sarin, M.M., Department of Oceanography, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

I sincerely express my thanks to the participants of the study.

(Skehanan, K.P.)