

# Questions

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Photographs: Cover, National Institutes of Health; p. 35, Westinghouse Research Laboratories; p. 37, Bethlehem Steel Company; p. 39, Delco Radio Division; p. 42, Dr. R. W. Gerdel; p. 48, Bakelite Company.

**BIOCHEMISTRY**

## Human Skin Garden To Aid Burn Victims

► A "GARDEN" in which living human skin will be grown is being set up at Duke University, Durham, N. C.

If successful, it is expected to provide means for saving thousands of lives now lost each year as a result of burns.

A bit of the burned victim's own skin would be set to growing in this or a similar skin garden. In two weeks the piece of skin so grown may be multiplied to ten times its original size, laboratory experiments have shown. This would give a good sized piece of skin for grafting.

For a permanent graft to replace skin burned off, victims must have some of their own skin. Skin grafted from a relative or donor lasts only 10 to 30 days.

A severely burned patient, especially a child, however, may not have enough intact skin of his own to spare for grafting on the burned area. That is where the skin garden, or skin "growing patch," is expected to help.

The Duke project is believed to be the world's first skin garden and the first recorded attempt to reproduce the patient's whole skin, consisting of both outer layer and true skin, for grafting. The attempt will be made by Dr. Nicholas G. Georgiade plastic surgeon, in the laboratory of Dr. Duncan Hetherington. The experiments are supported by a grant from Playtex Park Research Institute.

Science News Letter, January 21, 1956

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