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Questions

- AGRICULTURE**—Where was gibberellic acid discovered? p. 314.
- ASTRONOMY**—What is radial motion? p. 307.
- MEDICINE**—What new medical use has been found for radioactive phosphorus? p. 313.
- METEOROLOGY**—How much greater is the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere now, compared with 50 years ago? p. 306.

Photographs: Cover, Rutgers University; p. 307, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company; p. 309, University of Michigan; p. 310, British Information Services; p. 311, Republic Aviation Corp.; p. 314, Fremont Davis; p. 320, Bakelite Company.

MEDICINE

"Mother Bank" Cares For Neglected Babies

➤ "A MOTHER BANK" in a Chicago hospital now takes its place alongside the familiar blood bank and the less well known "eye bank" and "bone bank."

The "mother bank" is drawn on to help babies who come to the hospital very sick, usually with intestinal difficulties and colic and who have a history of severe neglect. It was reported to the American Orthopsychiatric Association in Chicago by Drs. Henry H. Fineberg and Elizabeth C. Jones, both of Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

The mother of the "bank" is a volunteer, usually actually a grandmother. She is assigned to one baby and instructed to hold and play with the baby as much as possible during his waking hours. She stays with him for six hours a day, five days a week during the whole of his hospital stay. She bathes him, changes his diapers and bed-clothes and feeds him.

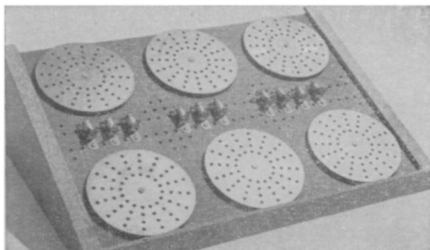
All the babies are under 18 months old. Since the number of volunteers available is severely limited, they are assigned to only the most deprived cases.

The "mother bank" volunteer shortens the baby's hospital stay. The gastro-intestinal symptoms are reduced or eliminated. In many cases emotional responses are stimulated in infants who were unresponsive before.

The volunteer mothers are also helped. It gives the older volunteers a feeling of being needed.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1957

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