



Blood Bank locale, ground floor of the Water Tower, 3230 J Street, donated by city. —Pope Studio

The Sacramento Medical Foundation Blood Bank in its twenty-one months of operation has maintained a steady supply of blood and served a steadily increasing area of northern California. It is justly proud of supplying blood to every call made during this period without exception.

In the early months of the blood bank development this meant considerable amount of effort on the part of the staff to procure the necessary donors. Now, with a steady supply of blood constantly being replaced an ample reserve is on hand to supply the needs of Sacramento and the surrounding community without delay.

Depots are supplied by this bank in Woodland, Marysville, Auburn and Oro-

Blood Bank Expands . . .

FILLS NEEDS OF ENTIRE SACRAMENTO AREA

ville and one will soon be opened in Chico to serve that territory.

The Sacramento Blood Bank in the twelve months ending August 1, 1950, drew 9,184 pints of blood or a monthly average of 756.3 units. The average procurement is 900 pints per month at present. The peak was reached in March of this year when 1000 units were drawn.

Among the eight community blood banks in California, Sacramento has created a special niche of its own. This is due partly to the large number of smoothly functioning reserve funds. There are now 168 reserve funds which, with the exception of a few, are active and well supported. These accounts are maintained by civic, fraternal and business groups, churches and clubs. Through the donations of their members these funds are able to keep a supply of credits at the bank which enables them to furnish blood when needed to their members and their families.

While the "bank account" of blood credits gives the group or person to whom it belongs much the same feeling of security as a good checking account in a commercial bank, at the same time the bank receives a constant supply of blood of the various types. This is especially beneficial to the blood bank as most donors to reserve funds signify their willingness to give again when their particular type is needed.

Many donations are made to replace blood used and credit allowed according to the plan set up at the bank. Two charges are made on each unit of blood. First, the responsibility fee of

\$25.00, and second, a service charge of \$7.50. The patient and his family have three possible ways of handling the account:

1. Replace one credit by a blood donation, and pay the \$7.50 service charge.
2. Replace "two-for-one"—that is, two donations for the one unit of blood used and make no payment at all.
3. Pay \$32.50 and make no replacement.

The blood bank, at present, prefers the one-for-one replacement as payment of the service charge by those using this method helps supply the funds necessary in conducting the business of the bank. Thirty percent of the units used are replaced two-for-one as a matter of financial benefit to the patient. These extra credits give the bank the surplus necessary to provide the various types as well as plasma pools.

Public health regulations will not permit the blood bank to accept blood from patients with polycythemia vera or patients with blood pressure over 200 systolic or 100 diastolic. Therefore it has been necessary to turn down some of the patients who have been sent to the bank when their pressure exceeded the limits set. However, all those patients falling within the prescribed limits will be gladly accepted.

On these patients who cannot be accepted by the blood bank it will be necessary for the physician to draw the blood in his own office at his discretion, though the blood cannot be used for transfusions. The bank will be glad to cooperate in furnishing the equipment.



Blood Bank Personnel—Left to right: Mrs. Joyce Burns, Nina Craig, Mrs. Hugh Carmichael, Mrs. Edward S. Babcock, Dr. W. S. Frantz, Betty Lou Geiger, Eileen White and Millicent Gomperts. Standing: Jean Tatarka and Allen Guttman.