

tiny fraction of the time.

Keeping physician records—of AMA members and non-members alike—is the computer's biggest job now. However, Mod-40 is capable of serving every division of AMA in addition to organizations affiliated with or close to AMA, such as the Woman's Auxiliary and AMA-ERF, component and constituent medical societies and medical specialty organizations.

Mod-40's components include the console, through which it is controlled; memory banks to store millions of items of information for instantaneous retrieval; and input-output devices that accept information for storage and produce figures, charts or reports on the screen or in printed form.

Data fed into the computer is stored on discs and tapes. The full information on the nation's 318,000 physicians is contained on six reels of tape. Information also is stored in a "data cell," which can file 400,000,000 characters and symbols. The average physician's record consists of 1,500 characters of information.

In addition to keeping statistics on physicians, Mod-40 prepares mailing lists, survey and research reports and AMA booklets and directories. It keeps statistical records and makes weekly revisions of the AMA membership report.

New assignments are being sought for it. All accounting and budgeting operations are being computerized, and additional work already is scheduled for other departments or sections of AMA.

Computer technology is advancing at such a swift pace that it is necessary for Mod-40's "keepers" to undergo continual re-training. A new generation of computers is developed every five years and each innovation leads to changes, improvements, new uses and new operating procedures.

The inner complexities of Mod-40 are somewhat a mystery even to its highly trained programmers and operators. "We know what goes into her," one said, "and we know how to get what we want out of her. But we really don't know how she does it."

