

ERSATZ KIDNEY SAVES MOTHER

The life of a young mother has been saved through the use of Stanford University Hospital's new artificial kidney, and the patient once threatened by death is in "fine condition," the hospital reported yesterday.

Mrs. Mildred Brace, 24, of The Dalles, Ore., was saved because the artificial kidney took over when her own kidney function failed because of an infection.

Mrs. Brace, facing slow death from uremic poisoning, was flown here April 29.

SIX HOURS OF PUMPING.

A team of doctors and nurses took over. A plastic tube was inserted into an artery in Mrs. Brace's arm and another into a vein.

For six hours Mrs. Brace's blood was pumped through the machine, which took over her own kidneys' function of filtering out wastes and poisons.

Her own kidneys, rested and no longer under pressure of clearing out the infection, were able to resume their normal functions at the end of the six hour treatment.

Mrs. Brace's recovery was rapid after the artificial kidney had performed its miraculous work, doctors said.

The artificial kidney at Stanford Hospital, installed last November, was the first available for civilian use in northern California and is one of only about a dozen in the Nation. Another is at Oakland Naval Hospital.

Blood entering the machine passes through approximately 200 feet of transparent plastic tubing of exactly the same kind used for sausage casing. The tubing is in a salt bath in a revolving drum.

IMPURITIES WASHED OUT.

Impurities in the blood pass through the walls of the tubing and are washed away, but the larger blood cells, proteins and large molecules are retained.

The purified blood then passes from the artificial kidney back into the patient's body.