



THE ALEX SCOTT FAMILY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLO., EXAMINE WITH APPARENT GLEE THE RESULTS OF A COMPUTATION MADE BY THE COMPUTER. THE PROBLEM WAS GIVEN TO THE MACHINE BY BILL WHEN THE SCOTTS VISITED THE CAMPUS RECENTLY. FROM LEFT ARE: WENDY, BILL, NANCY, MRS. SCOTT (ELINOR OLSEN), '41, AND ALEX SCOTT, '40

CARLETON'S COMPUTER

BY JOHN BOYD, '63

Intrigued by the computer's flashing lights as the machine works out a problem fed into it by a student operator, any alumnus who visits the computer laboratory in Laird Hall will be impressed by the fact that Carleton's computer is becoming increasingly useful as a part of the academic program.

The College acquired its IBM 1620 electronic computer in August, 1962. The machine is not large as electronic computers go, though it weighs nearly 2,400 pounds. Its list price is about \$115,000 and the Carleton discount price was \$46,000, half of which was paid by the National Science Foundation. For those interested, the machine's

main specifications are an IBM 1620 card system with 20,000 positions of core memory and automatic floating-point hardware.

During its first school year at Carleton, the computer was used almost entirely for undergraduate instruction. Its full potential for use in research has hardly begun to be revealed. According to Mr. Donald Taranto of the Department of Mathematics, about fifty students used the machine during the 1962-1963 school year. "Hopefully, this number will soon rise sharply," he added, "since we are offering a lecture series this fall on the use of the computer."

The ability to make use of the machine is not as hard to come by as one might expect. "One can learn in a matter of hours a