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Trauma Registers

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Computerization

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FOR MANY centuries man has sought means to ease the tedium of arithmetic in order to focus on the usefulness, integrity, and elegance of number manipulation. Early attempts at tools for arithmetical operations included the abacus (3000 BC), Napier's Bones (1617), Pascal's Arithmetic Machine (1642), and Leibnitz's Stepped Reckoner, which (in 1694) could add, subtract, multiply, divide, and extract square roots mechanically.

The cascade of technology that followed the inception of the Industrial Age in the mid-19th century led to a rush of ingenious ideas. These, coupled with developing engineering capabilities, gave rise to electromechanical mathematical devices and, in the late 1940s, to the first all-electrical calculating machine, ENIAC, at the University of Pennsylvania.[1]

These early computers weighed tons, were enormously complicated to maintain, and were most unforgiving to work with. The invention of the transistor in 1948 by Bardeen, Brattain, and Shockley allowed more pieces in a smaller, lighter space, paving the way in 1971 for the first truly "per-

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