

LAUNDRY MACHINERY INSTALLATIONS.

A notable step forward in raising the standard of health and comfort of personnel in H.M. ships, is the provision of mechanical laundries. These have recently been approved by the Board of Admiralty and are being installed in existing ships and new construction. Considerations of space, of course, play a major part in the amount of equipment which can be accommodated, so units are generally fitted in the following order:—

- (1) Washing machinery and machinery for initial drying. This usually takes the form of a rotary washing machine and hydro extractor.
- (2) Seam sterilising equipment in the form of a Decoudun ironer and/or garment presses.
- (3) If the existing drying room arrangements are not sufficient, drying tumblers are provided.
- (4) Equipment to assist in obtaining an improved finish.

Even in ships still in the design stage it will be by no means easy to find space for all the equipment that could be employed.

The estimated output of the machinery being provided varies from about 3 lbs./man in some cruisers to 10 lbs. in some aircraft carriers. These figures are based on a 96 hour/week. About 10 lbs. per man has been taken as a satisfactory figure.

A 3 lb. weekly wash could consist of:—1 shirt, 2 collars, 1 vest, 1 pair of pants (long), 1 towel, 2 pairs of socks and 3 handkerchiefs.

A 10 lbs. weekly wash (tropical wear) could consist of:—2 shirts, 4 collars, 2 vests, 2 pairs of pants (short), 1 towel, 2 pairs of socks, 4 handkerchiefs, 1 pair of pyjamas, 1 drill suit and either of the following:—

- (a) 1 sheet and 1 pillow slip.
- (b) 1 blanket.
- (c) 2 tablecloths or
- (d) 1 hammock (if drill suit is omitted).

Difficulties have arisen in finding suitable personnel for the work, which is a moderately specialised job, but it is hoped that these may be soon overcome.
