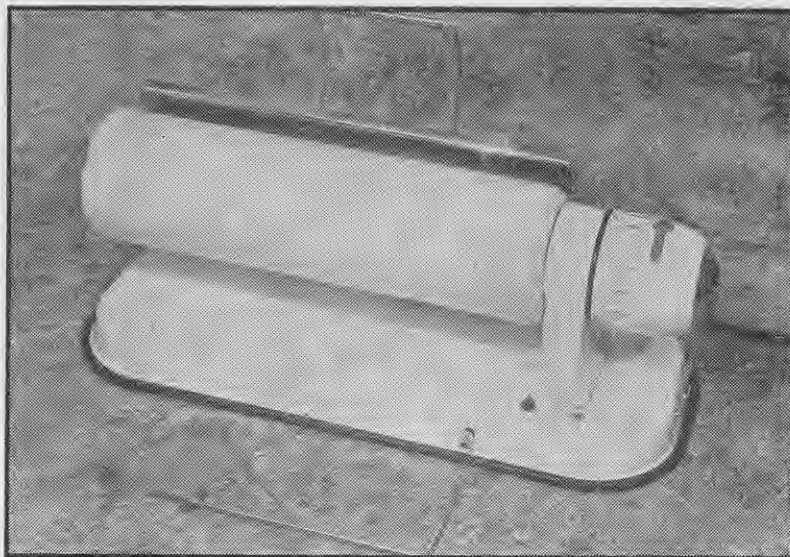


of the roller and ironed singly. The roller revolves so that garments pass under the heated metal shoe, which presses on and irons the work. The roller may be stopped temporarily to press particular parts. Skill with difficult pieces like shirts will come with practice; progress may be slow while the technique is being learnt, but once it is mastered the operator will never willingly revert to use of the hand iron.

**Preliminary work:** With rotary ironing, as with all methods of ironing, proper preparation of the clothes allows the work to be done more easily; the right amount of dampening will give the best results—clothes too wet require too much heat for drying out and clothes too dry will not be free of wrinkles. Orderly arrangement of dampened clothes in the basket is important. Rayons and light fabrics requiring a low temperature could be placed together and ironed first; afterward the temperature could be raised for cottons and linens, or they may be ironed last, making use of the cooling iron. The shoe heats up and cools down so rapidly that running a few tea towels through after the heat has been turned off will soon use up the effective heat. The main point is that if the articles are arranged in a definite order, time will not be lost rummaging in the ironing basket for items that require similar temperatures. Several articles of the same type done one after the other are handled more speedily than articles which each require different manipulation. Domes, hooks, pins, or buttons should not be run through the ironer, as they are likely to scratch the surface of the shoe. Embroidery may have to be finished by hand to give a raised effect.

#### Flat-bed Models

The flat-bed ironer has a flat bed of the same shape as an ordinary ironing board, but smaller. It is padded and covered with an ironing sheet and is not absolutely flat, being rounded at the edges. The iron is shaped to fit exactly and when brought down on the ironing board exerts a pressure of over 400lb. There are two switches on the iron, each controlling half the area so that heat need not be wasted when



Rotary-type household ironer.

small articles are being ironed. In principle the iron is similar to commercial laundry presses, but there are no special accessories for ironing sleeves and collars; however, with a little manipulation these can be done successfully. In commercial laundries where large numbers of similar articles have to be processed presses are made of varying shapes, each corresponding with the article for which the press is intended (for example, the press for stiff-fronted shirts is the same shape as the starched portion of the shirt).

The possibilities of the flat-bed type are worth investigating before an ironer is purchased. As it requires no motor, it is slightly cheaper than the rotary type. The pressure exerted by the shoe on the roller or board is usually rather greater with the flat-bed type than with the roller, where uniformity of pressure is difficult to secure unless the shoe is supported with sufficient rigidity to maintain alignment with the roller at all times.

With each type of ironer some hand finishing of parts which cannot be ironed satisfactorily by machine may

be necessary; however, the production of well-finished articles is possible with either machine when they are used correctly.

The most obvious advantage of an ironing machine is that the housewife can do the ironing sitting down. If the kitchen table is too high for comfortable working from an ordinary chair, a stool, which should be standard equipment in every kitchen, will be found most satisfactory, with the clothes basket placed at a convenient height alongside.

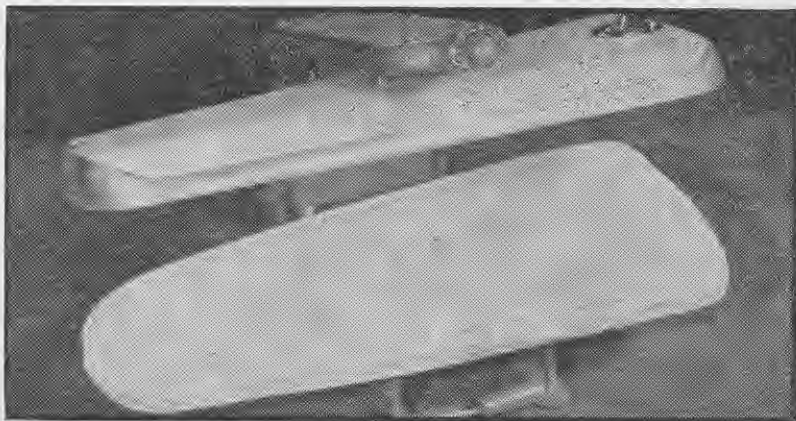
#### Care and Maintenance

An ironer requires very little attention. The machine should be allowed to cool completely with the shoe away from the roller before it is closed and put away. It should be covered with a clean cloth to keep dust and smuts from settling on the working parts and the table should be dusted before use and kept perfectly clean. The roll cover or ironing sheet should be removed and laundered whenever it becomes scorched or soiled.

The motor should be greased every 12 months. This can easily be done at home, full instructions usually being supplied with the machine.

Very bulky articles should not be forced between the shoe and the cylinder, as undue pressure on the cylinder causes excessive wear on the bearings. The shoe may be cleaned by using a damp cloth and any mild household cleaner to remove starch or other substance adhering to the surface.

Electric ironers have many points to recommend them—they save time and effort, are economical to run, and require a minimum of attention—but initial cost is high. It may well be argued that, in general, these machines do not give sufficient advantage over hand ironing to justify their cost. However, where time and effort are the main considerations an ironer soon pays for itself by providing opportunity, and conserving energy, for other household tasks.



Flat-bed type household ironer.