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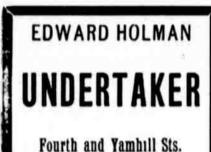
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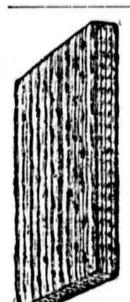
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Do you realize as you tear the paper band from your freshly laundered shirt, and shake it out of the folds, with a critical glance at the smooth bosom or frowningly look for a possible wrinkle in the cuff, that at least twenty persons have spent a portion of the last few days preparing this garment for you to wear?

"I always send my clothes in my own bag," said the particular man, "because I cannot bear the idea of their being dumped in with other people's." But the best laid plans gang aft aglee, and if the man but knew the blessed democracy which prevails in the sorting room of the laundry what shivers of disgust would pass over him. You are "S. B. J." or "G-45," or something else quite as impersonal to the woman who marks your garments, and they are shirts, collars, cuffs and other things to the next young woman who takes them in charge.

The sorters not only separate the collars from the shirts, each in its own little or big pile, but the collars are also separated and each pile is then put into a roller basket and wheeled over to the washer. And in these days of progress the actual work of washing is done by a man, that is a man puts the clothes in and attends to the manipulation, but a machine is really the laundress. It is a very pretty machine, of copper, with a multitude of what appear to be openings upon the side, but the ordinary observer watching a basket full of collars thrown into it knows that it revolves three times in one direction and three times in the opposite direction, and then the snow-white collars are removed and the dirty water is allowed to flow out and that is all there is to the washing, and one cannot help but wonder how the machine knew where the solled part of the collar was. The washed clothes are then put into the "extractor"-not the wringing machine, mind you, but the extractor-which takes the water out, and the clothes come forth dry enough to starch. The starching process seems to be the most important of all. In the olden times-



COLLAR AND CUFF STARCHER. the olden times of the laundry, which

are, however, not so long ago-the starch was squeezed through with a bumper, but the machine of to-day has a piece of canvas cloth on rollers. Along this the starch flows and the rollers carry the collars along. Before the collars are starched, however, they are wiped and some of the wrinkles taken out. After starching they are laid on a long zinc table and all carefully wiped In order that there may be no wrinkles. The girl who starches the shirts, gathers up the bosom and wristbands, put-

ting only these parts into the machine, which then does the work in a very thorough manner. The shirt is wiped until not a wrinkle is left, and then hung up on a regular coat hanger, and a forlorn lookin; garment it is.

Did you ever see a man with a shirt bulging in the bosom? Well, the reason his shirt does that is because there wasn't any clothespins put in it at the top as it was hung up to dry. The pin will hold the two sides together straight, so that the holes are directly over the buttons, and so it will dry.

At first glance the drying room looks like the locker room in the college gymnasium. In each locker there are side wall coils heated, and covered with netting to protect the material. There is also a double coil on the bottom, and the temperature is between 280 and 300 degrees. It is lined with galvanized fron and between the iron and wood is a sheet of asbestos.

After the shirt is dried it is again made wet, which seems a paradoxical

thing to do to it, but it must be damp

ened for the pressing, and this is done by hand, and the process would be interesting to the home laundress, who sprinkles the whole shirt generally. The skirt of the shirt is put into water, and by a dexterous turn of the hand the bosom and sleeves are wrapped in the dampened they are put into a press, a steam press, which works on the same principle as the hydraulic press. They are kept in the press for thirty minutes. and the object is to make them of uniform dampness. After the shirt is taken from the press it is at last taken to the first froning machine, and the bosom ironed. The machines, which stand in a row, have a the operator wishes to iron the shirt bosom, she simply puts a match to the gas heater and the machine is set in motion and the shirt quickly ironed of scorching.

Most men remember when it was cousidered necessary for the shirt bosom to shine; but in these days of higher refinement gloss is considered vulgar, and "domestic finish" the only acceptable one. In one laundry more than 900 are froned in a day, with the use of

three machines. "Speaking about starching," said one of the head men of a laundry which boasts of having the best trade, "we have not put any starch at all into at least half of the shirt waists which we have ironed this year. That is, into the body of the waist. Of course, the neckband and cuffs are starched, but the up-to-date young woman does not have any other part of it starched."

Shirt waists are ironed by hand, and many men prefer hand work on their

shirts. The shirt, after the bosom is ironed,



COLLAR AND CUFF IRONER.

is taken to the cutting machine and the cuff froned. It is then taken to the "sleever." Here one sees a heated roll, covered with flannel and muslin, and the object of the machine is simply to HENRY EVERDING iron the sleeves.

Now the neckband must be ironed, and after this the body is run between gigantic rolls and ironed. This machine is also used for ironing handkerchiefs, and it looks very easy to operate it, and very wonderful that there should be no wrinkles in the fabric, and it is all done so gently that there seems no excuse

for tearing the handkerchief. The shirt, with the skirt ironed, is now ready to be "finished," and this is done by hand. There is a brass ring, which may be made the size of the collar, and the neck is fitted over it, the buttons put in and the paper band placed around it, and it is ready for the final steps.

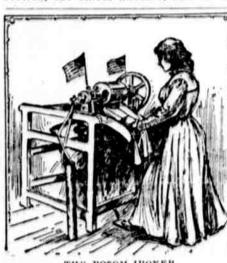
The collars in the meantime have ent process. They are taken in long ZIMMERMAN PACKING COMPANY sheets of 5 to 6 yards, put in the extractor, then into the steam press, and finally through the collar ironer. This consists of two padded and one heated roll and requires two persons to operate. If there are any raveled edges the collar is passed over to a machine which will remedy that defect. The edge is run over damp felt, then through the machine. Now, one would suppose the collar was ironed, but if it is a collar of a certain kind it must be rolled, and this is so easy to do that a 4-year-old child could work the simple machine.

To turn the "winged" points of the collar there is another machine. It is simply a triangular steam jet, over which the crease is made. And now the shirt and collar are ironed and ready for the assorting room.

The "mangle" work, which is a feature of some laundries, by which tablecloths, sheets and towels are ironed, is very simple in appearance, that is, the machine is, which seems to consist of two fuge rollers, worked by steam, these pressing the piece and ironing it

nicely. In every laundry the hand work is of the greatest importance. Most of the garments worn by women require to be froned by hand. Skirts, for instance, have boards of their own upon which an expert ironer places them, smoothing out the wrinkles and applying the iron in much the same way that the work has been done for generations. It is very important that the girls who do the hand work shall thoroughly understand the business, and they usually re ceive a much higher salary than the machine girls, but the work is, of course, much harder. All delicate fabrics are ironed by hand, and flannels, which are also carefully washed by themselves, are smoothed by hand.

After everything has been washed and ironed the clothes are taken to a long table, the collars occupying one section, the shirts another, and so on,



THE BOSOM IRONER

until the table is filled. Upon the wall are the boxes of the customers, from 300 to 500 of them in first-class laundries. Upon each box is pinned the slip after all the articles have been placed in the box and the men who send wet part. When all the shirts have been out the work can tell by the lists appearing upon the box that all the clothes are ready for distribution. Of course, the same system may not prevail in all laundries, but this is a common one. The next step is the wrapping of the bundles, and, finally, they are placed in baskets and hauled to the wagon.

Glancing down the long table recently one wondered how it could be possible to distribute that immense pile of colboard the shape of a shirt bosom, and lars. But a further inspection discovabove this are big iron rollers. When ered the fact that the A's, the B's and the C's were each relegated to their own little piles, and the work much expedited. Here were Mr. Anderson's collars, for instance, in the A's pile, and without a single wrinkle or any danger | there was Mr. Anderson's box.-St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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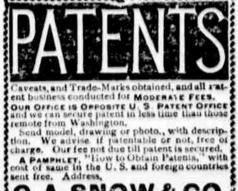
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