Proportioning Equipment

Probably the minimum equipment of a well equipped flat work laundry, outside of the capacity of a domestic laundry, is as follows: one, 36 in. x 48 in. washing machine; one, 36 x 64 in. washing machine; one, 26 in. centrifugal extractor; one, 4-roll 90 in. flat work ironer; one, 30 x 42 in. drying tumbler; one, 2-truck dry room; one, 15 gal. starch cooker; one, 38 in. pressing machine for uniforms, etc.; one, hand ironing board, two 8 lb. electric irons; two, laundry tubs and one wringer.

If it is a hospital laundry, one disinfector about 36 in. high x 42 in. wide x 84 in. long may be included. This is large enough to receive an ordinary hospital mattress without distortion. It is placed in the laundry, rather than elsewhere, for the reason that its principal work consists of disinfecting (or sterilizing) clothes and other things to be laundered.

Such a laundry would meet the requirements of a 250 bed hospital or a 350 room hotel on a basis of 44 hours operation per week. For a smaller number the equipment would be about the same but it would be operated fewer hours per week. The purpose of the two washing machines in the minimum laundry is primarily to provide a breakdown service. Washing machines require repairs oftener than any other machine in the laundry and they are indispensable to the operation of the plant. One small washing machine is generally desirable in any plant, however large the number of washing machines.

Typical Layout

Fig. 1 illustrates a layout of a laundry for a 500 bed hospital, the equipment consisting of:

One, 36 in. high x 48 in. wide x 84 in. long disinfector; one, 36 in. x 48 in. standard washing machine; two, 42 in. x 72 in. standard washing machines; one, 60 gal. soap tanks; one, 48 in. and one, 30 in. extractor, one, 42 in. x 90 in. drying tumbler; one, 120 in. six-roll flat work ironer; two, 38 in. garment presses; two, 49 in. garment presses; one, 66 in. handy flat work ironer; one set of hose forms; five hand ironing boards; six, 8 lb. electric irons; one, 20 gal. starch cooker; one, 36 in. x 60 in. starch table; two laundry trays; two wringers attached to trays; two, 36 in. x 120 in. wood tables for flat work ironing; four, 24 in. x 24 in. x 30 in. truck tubs; one, electric sewing machine.

Washing Machines

In the instances cited the washing machines are of the standard type, in which about one cycle, or washing, per hour is accomplished. There is another type of so-called *high duty* washer in which, on account of larger supply and waste connections, approximately two cycles per hour are possible if the attendants will work fast enough, with consequent doubling of capacity.

Another type is called a sterilizing washing machine and is specially designed for hospital use. The bodies are steam tight and operate with a pressure of about 30 lb. while washing. Laundry from the average hospital is not disinfected, even though much, if not all of it, might better be.

With average material about 2 lb. of dry laundry per cubic foot cylinder

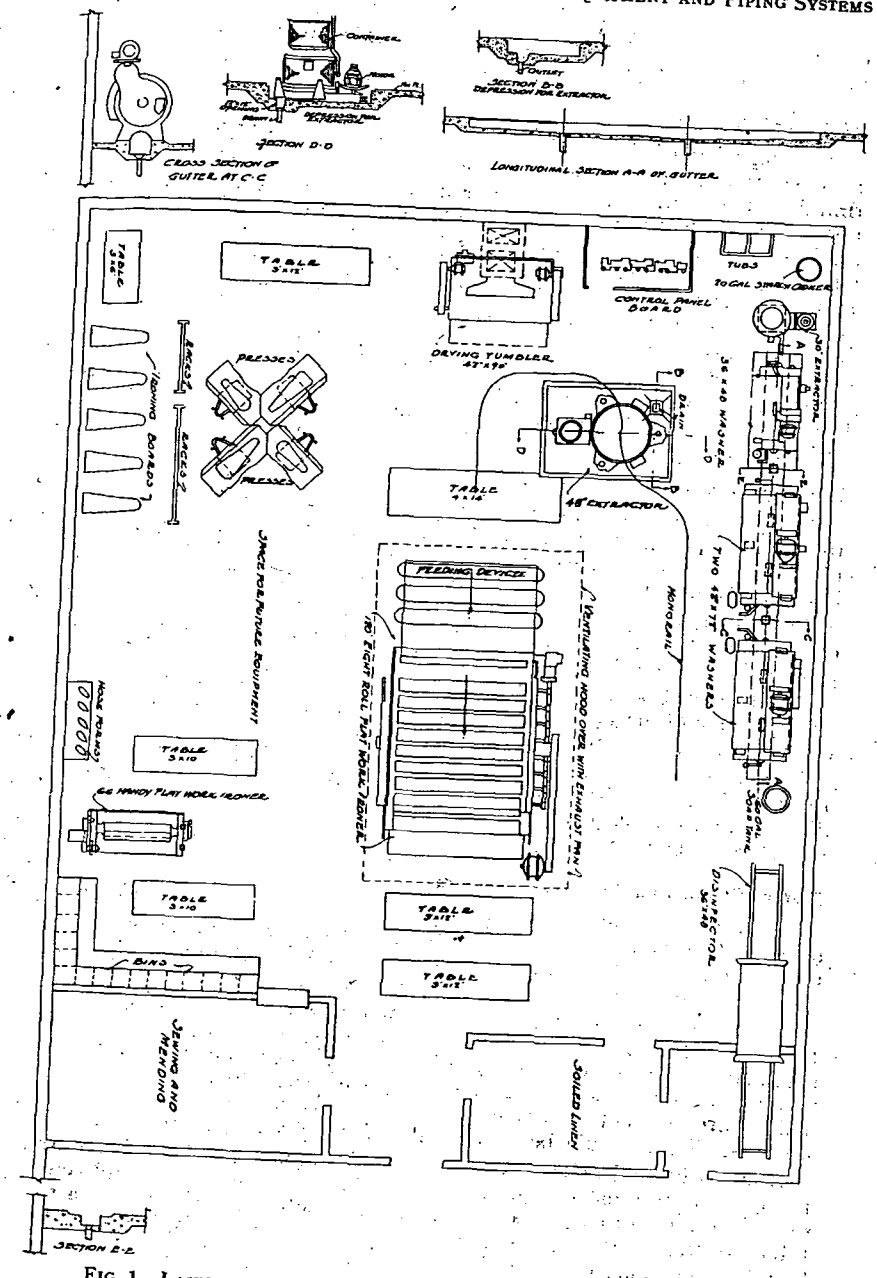


Fig. 1. Laundry for 500 Bed Hospital (Floor Area 4600 sq. ft.)