

DOMESTIC MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

The ready availability from sterling sources of component parts and raw materials required in the manufacture of vacuum cleaners, dish-washing machines, clothes-washing machines, and domestic refrigerators has permitted these industries to become more firmly established. The output of dish-washing machines and vacuum cleaners continues to meet local needs, while an increasing production of washing-machines, including some new types, is coming closer to meeting the demand.

LAWN-MOWERS

The production of hand roller-type lawn-mowers has progressed considerably during the past year, and it is not anticipated that any further large-scale importation will be necessary. The position in regard to locally-produced motor mowers, both electric and petrol engine driven, is favourable also as output meets demand except for large mowers (with blades exceeding 18 in. in length).

RADIO APPARATUS : MAKING AND ASSEMBLY

This industry has made good progress towards the readjustment and consolidation necessary for efficient operation under the relatively normal conditions now prevailing. Wholesale stocks have increased and, whilst considerable effort has been made to stimulate sales, there have been no important technical changes in design, and the market for ordinary replacement sets shows a downward tendency which may continue over the next few years. Nevertheless, advancements in the design of portable and car radios and the increasing popularity of radio gramophones has provided added marketing opportunities. Attention has also been given to the production of mobile radio equipment which is now recognized as necessary for the efficient operation of essential services, including ambulances, patrol-cars, and taxis.

An increased outlet for surplus capacity has been found by diversifying production to a marked degree, and the extent of this is shown by the following table :—

—				1946-47.	1947-48.
				£	£
Radio production	..	..	..	874,117	895,481
Other products	..	..	..	335,226	522,568
Repairs	..	..	..	118,334	67,421
				1,327,677	1,485,470

Fluorescent-lighting components and fixtures, electrical appliances such as jugs, toasters, kettles, radiators, rangettes, and extruded plastic hose are some of the products now being made on an increasing scale.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ALLIED PRODUCTION

As is to be expected, this important industry continues to expand concurrent with the development of hydro-electric resources. Its growth may be gauged from the following table :—

—				1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.
Number of establishments	..	..	..	110	120	134
Total number of persons engaged	..	..	..	1,707	1,865	2,040
				£	£	£
Value of output	..	..	..	1,904,182	2,237,110	3,203,260
Added value—i.e., value of output less cost of materials	..	..	..	991,576	1,060,233	1,379,198