

58/77.ROBOTS SMOOTH OFFICE WORRIES:

How is this possible without that beautiful typist? It's automation. One girl able to do the work of many, aided by latest Auto-Typist equipment. Push-button selection of pre-set sentences, most useful for instructions to salesmen and many other things, is all that's necessary; the almost magic typewriters do the rest.

The Post Office, too, is going in for machines in a big way. Some of them are still being tested, to make sure they'll have no teething troubles later on. Proto-type models at Southampton perform apparent miracles in arranging letters the right way up, for cancelling the stamps. In this machine, and some others, postal authorities of several foreign countries are interested.

Sorting by hand has reached such a pitch of speed and accuracy that it was long thought that no conceivable machines could be as efficient. But at last one has been devised. Only one man is needed to operate it. He reads the addresses, touches the appropriate location button, and the machine takes over. It's just within the bounds of possibility that a future model will dispense with even the one operator. The machine can almost guarantee that your income tax demands won't go to the wrong address.

The big question, however does it work? Quite simple, see for yourself. The Postal services are well in the van of the campaign for automation in the office.