

58/84

AUTOMATION GEARS UP.

One of the most revolutionary advances in Britain's machine tool industry was demonstrated at Blyth on Tyne near Newcastle. Claimed to be Europe's first fully automatic gear processing assembly line, this system produces the "layshaft", the backbone of the motor car gear box. From start to finish, this complex job is done untouched by human hand.

Motor manufacturers from Britain, the Continent and America watched as this assembly, 175 feet long linking 25 different machines, went into action. Production figures for this installation are a closely guarded secret, but independent experts say, it will require only two operators instead of ten to complete the process.

It is hoped that one of the effects of this machine will be to reduce the price of motor cars, at a time when Britain is facing strong competition on the world market.