



C. PARKER & COMPANY, GLOUCESTER.

Offices: 12, Eastgate Street. Works: Ryecroft Street.
Proprietors of the County Steam Dye Works.

FOR the larger part of a century what are known as the County Steam Dye Works have been in successful operation. The business was established in 1838 by Mr. C. Parker, the father of the present proprietor. In the course of their long existence the County Steam Dye Works have outlived several competitors, while they to-day enjoy the distinction of being the only really important and well-equipped works of the kind in Gloucestershire.

The business has always been conducted on



Corner of Finishing Room, County Steam Dye Works

progressive lines, and alterations and enlargements have been made from time to time. The most recent—and by far the most extensive—enlargement was made but a few months ago, when it was found necessary to greatly increase the facilities in order to cope with the steadily growing trade. Consequently an entire new building in Ryecroft Street, formerly used as a brewery, was purchased by the Company, and extensively remodelled to adapt it to their purposes.

The new premises extend back from the street to a depth of 120 feet, with a wide drive-way and convenient entrances and exits. The central portion of the building has four floors, the remainder being of two storeys. The various departments include a large dyehouse, 62 by 20 feet in dimensions, with a height of 16 feet; a finishing room, directly over the dyehouse, and of the same dimensions; a separate room devoted exclusively to the cleaning of gloves; a dry cleaning room; and a fitting shop, stores, several spacious drying rooms, etc. All of the lower floors are paved with brick, and are provided with a thorough drainage system, making the rooms as dry, clean, and comfortable as possible; the entire



Corner of Dye House, County Steam Dye Works.

premises are lighted by gas; speaking tubes connect the various departments, and the works have telephonic communication with the Eastgate Street offices. A noticeable feature of the works is the admirable lighting of the

various departments, the finishing room, where the fabrics are finished preparatory to delivery, being particularly commendable in this respect. Indeed, the work throughout is carried on under the best conditions attainable, every provision having been made for the comfort of the workpeople and for safeguarding sanitation.

The mechanical equipment (much of which is new) is also of the best description, including the latest and most improved dry-cleaning machines, curtain cleaning machine, steaming boards, goffering bolts, etc. In this respect the works compare favourably with any in the kingdom, having facilities for turning out a large quantity of work promptly, at prices which are as low as they could be made consistent with high quality. The Company's patronage now extends far beyond the limits of the county, and they receive daily frequent important orders from all over the kingdom, including those centres where large and widely-advertised dye-works are located.

Although all kinds of dyeing and cleaning are given attention, it may be proper to mention several specialities in which Messrs. Parker and Company have been particularly successful. Their cleaning by the "dry" or "spirit" process is quite a feature, clothing and made-up goods used in house decoration being made to look like new by this process, the bright colours being fully restored and given a fine face and gloss without the slightest injury to the fabric, and without interfering with the linings or ornaments. This method of cleaning (in which the Company excel) has the additional advantage of being both rapid and inexpensive.

Another feature is the dyeing and cleaning of laces, valuable silk fabrics, embroidered screens, ostrich feathers, and other articles which require the most skilful and careful treatment.

Still another important part of their work is the cleaning and pressing of gentlemen's clothing by steam, the use of this method giving an appearance of newness not attainable by any other method.

But it would be useless to enumerate the variety of work executed by the Company. They issue a price list giving full particulars of their various processes, indicating the kind of work to which each process is best adapted.

Mr. H. Parker, the present head of the County Steam Dye Works, has been engaged in the business for the greater part of his life. It is to his constant supervision, as well as to his technical skill, that the very gratifying success of the business is principally due.



General View of John B. Champion and Sons' Works, Dursley

JOHN. B. CHAMPION & SONS, RELIANCE WORKS, DURSLEY.

Manufacturers of Heavy Textiles from
Flax, Hemp, Jute, Coir, Hair and Cotton.

IT is seldom we find a manufacturing firm which has been established over 100 years, owned and managed during that period by members of the same family, and which to-day possesses every modern facility for the economical production of their specialities. This is the record and position of Messrs. John B. Champion and Sons, Reliance Works, Dursley, who manufacture the heavier textiles, such as ropes, twines, nets, canvas, webs and mattings from flax, hemp, jute and coir.

A recent visit to Messrs. John B. Champion and Sons' works was full of interest to our representative, who followed the manufacture of the above-mentioned goods from raw material to finished article.

The works consist of modern buildings, well adapted to their special requirements and constructed to obtain the best light, ventilation and comfort for employees. The spinning shed is 240 feet long and 36 feet wide; the weaving shed is 130 feet long and 30 feet wide, lighted from glass roof; the warehouse is a two-storey building, with a floor area of 2,500 square feet; and the interiors of all the buildings are light and airy, and, considering the nature of the work carried on, are models of cleanliness.

Ropes, twines and cords are here made in a very large variety of qualities, and in sizes ranging from sewing thread to a ship's cable; webs in flax, hemp, jute and cotton are made for mill use, upholstery, saddlery, and tent trades and military requirements. Sacking, wool-sheetings and canvas are woven and made into the various articles indicated by their names, such as sacks and bags for seed, coal, wheat and flour; sheets for wool, and bags for worsted yarns and tops, canvas for tents, waterproof oilsheets and rick covers.

The new tarpauling works, which have just been completed, are fitted with the latest machinery for manufacturing tarpaulings as used by agriculturalists, builders, ship owners and railway companies.

Messrs. John B. Champion and Sons have also an up-to-date plant for manufacturing cocoa mattings and mats. The many good designs and qualities in cocoa mattings produced by this Firm are, we understand, recommending this useful form of floor covering to an increasing number of buyers at home and abroad. The London Shipping Office is at 16, Eastcheap, E.C.