



## J. M. COLLETT & CO., GLOUCESTER.

**Manufacturers of Chemicals and Essences.**

**T**HROUGH the courtesy of Messrs. J. M. Collett and Company, manufacturers of chemicals and essences, we are permitted to include in this publication a brief reference to their extensive new works just completed in Bristol Road. These works are one

Messrs. Collett purchased Llanthony Farm with the view to erecting a new factory on that site. Unfortunately, the Great Western Railway finding that they wanted the ground, obtained powers to buy. This led to the present site in Bristol Road being purchased by Messrs. Collett from the Charity Trustees, and the erection of the new works was begun in 1902. The situation is admirably adapted to the purpose, having the advantage of excellent re-

floors, in which the greater portion of the machinery is placed; a one-floor building 109 feet long by 23 feet wide, divided into a boiler-house, boiling-houses, and stores; and a building connecting these two, used for the engine and dynamo room, and for various machines such as ammonia compressors, air pumps, etc. Adjoining the main works are the well-appointed offices and caretaker's cottage, and sheds used for various purposes. The mechanical equip-

ment throughout, being new, is of the very best description, while in the details of lighting, heating, ventilation, etc., the works represent the latest ideas in factory construction. Accompanying this notice is an excellent engraving of the works, taken by a drawing kindly loaned by the Firm.

Messrs. J. M. Collett and Company's preparations are widely known, their excellent quality and purity having won them fame in face of the very keen home and foreign competition. In their well-equipped laboratories all raw and finished products are analysed, ensuring that none but the best is ever sent out. The preparations include fine chemicals used in medicine, photography, dyeing, etc., and also harmless preservatives for fermented liquors, meat, jam, etc., as

well as a great many special articles which it would be impossible to enumerate in a few lines.

The Firm have recently instituted a branch for the manufacture of essences used by confectioners and aerated water manufacturers, these essences being distinguished by the high quality to which the continuous growth of the business has been due. They are also importers and cutters of isinglass.



General View of J. M. Collett & Company's New Works, Bristol Road, Gloucester.

of the most notable additions to our manufacturing plants in recent years, and afford a very gratifying illustration of Gloucester's continued development along industrial lines.

The Firm was established by the present proprietor (Mr. J. M. Collett) in the year 1869. Although the business was begun on a small scale, it experienced a steady growth from the beginning, and in 1878 the premises were removed to High Orchard to obtain the better facilities that had become necessary. The business continuing to expand, the High Orchard premises were re-constructed and enlarged in 1891. Even these improvements soon proved inadequate, however, and in 1898

ceiving and forwarding facilities, a private railway siding extending through the premises. The works are isolated from other factories, occupying a large, open space, with ample reserve ground for still further extensions should they become necessary.

The new buildings, which were planned by Mr. Collett and carried out by Mr. E. J. Cullis, A.M.I.C.E., are of the most complete and substantial character, embodying every desirable feature which a long acquaintance with the peculiar requirements of the business could suggest. The general shape of the main buildings is that of a large U, consisting of a building 130 by 42 feet in dimensions, with two

## LYDBROOK CHEMICAL CO., LYDBROOK.

**Manufacturers of Wood Charcoal, Naphtha, Tar, Acetate of Lime, and Grinders of Founders' Blacking, Charcoal, Plumbago, etc.**

**T**HE business carried on by the Lydbrook Chemical Company, at Lydbrook, near Ross, was established in 1857 by Messrs. Russell and Powell, who were succeeded in 1873 or 1874 by Mr. S. M. Thomas. For some years after its establishment it was one among a group of similar concerns in this neighbourhood, most of which made the manufacture of charcoal for steel producers a special feature. The introduction of the new processes of Bessemer and others rendered the use of charcoal unnecessary, with the result that, one by one, the works were closed, that of the Lydbrook Company being the only survivor in the Forest of Dean. Ten years ago they were purchased by Mr. Thomas Newcomen, the present proprietor. Since he acquired the works the business has developed, the plant

being operated night and day. The connection of the Cannop Chemical Company (established 1840), the Oakwood Chemical Works, and the Crown Chemical Works, Whitecroft, has also been amalgamated with this business.

The Lydbrook Chemical Works have the advantage of a most favourable location. Situated on the edge of the Forest of Dean, with its 20,000 acres of woodland, the larger part of which is oak, the wood most suitable for the manufacture of charcoal, and within an easy distance of the densely-wooded Valley of the Wye, the supply of raw material is accessible and almost inexhaustible. In addition to the charcoal made in the works, a number of men are employed in burning charcoal in the Forest, an old method revived. In the works and in the forest from 30 to 40 hands are given constant employment. The plant at Lydbrook is complete and equipped with all necessary machinery and appliances. It comprises retorts for carbonising wood, distilling apparatus and grinding machinery.

Without attempting to be in the least technical, it may be of interest to the general reader to learn that almost every particle of the wood which is brought to the works is

manufactured into some useful product. A considerable portion is transformed into charcoal (about 30 per cent. of the weight of wood used) and from 65 per cent. to 70 per cent. is recovered as vapour, this being condensed in iron and copper pipes laid in a stream, which flows alongside and through the works, into a thick liquid from which is distilled the wood naphtha, crude acetic acid, and tar. The crude acid is further manufactured into acetate of lime. The only waste is a small percentage of gas, which, being useless, is burned. The processes of manufacture are exceedingly interesting.

One of the specialities of the Firm is powdered charcoal, largely used in the metal trade for facing moulds. This is ground by a process which gives it the fineness and evenness so much desired. It is also prepared for paint making, for chemists' use, etc. By reason of its purity and fineness of texture "Lydbrook Charcoal" has gained a high reputation wherever it is known. The various products manufactured by these works are sent to all parts of England and Wales, and are also exported.