



EVANS, ADLARD & CO., LIMITED.

Manufacturers of the Noted Postlip Blotting Paper, Chemically Pure Photographic Blottings, Filterings, Tub Sized, Loft Dried Blue and Buff Samplings, etc.

THE business carried on by Messrs. Evans, Adlard and Company, Limited, manufacturers of high-grade blotting and other special kinds of paper, is a very old one, having been established in the eighteenth century. From that date to this the mills have been in continuous operation, with the exception of the brief stoppages made necessary by

Limited, cover thirteen acres of ground. The mills comprise two sets of buildings, the main mills, and a separate mill for what is technically known as "half stuff," or pulp. The latter building is situated a quarter of a mile from the main mills, and occupies a lower level, being so placed to utilise the same water for power a second time.

Although the business is an old one, both the buildings and the equipment are thoroughly modern. Additions and alterations have been, and are being, made to the plant almost constantly, with the result that to-day the mills are in their construction and arrangement equal to any in the kingdom. With the exception of several rag warehouses, all of the build-

on in the "Postlip Mills." Most of the paper manufactured by Messrs. Evans, Adlard and Company, Limited, is made from cotton rags. The first process consists of sorting the rags, according to quality, colour, and texture. Those rags which have any pronounced colour enter into the manufacture of paper of approximately the same colour. The second accompanying engraving shows a corner in one of the sorting rooms. From the sorting rooms the rags, after being cut by machinery to small pieces, are "boiled" by being placed in a huge revolving iron cylinder, into which a quantity of lime water is poured, and where they are steamed for several hours. Upon being taken from this cylinder, the fibre of the rags is softened, and all undesirable foreign matter has been removed, though a trace of colour still remains. After boiling, they are taken to a series of washing engines and "beaters," and are ground to pulp by powerful machinery. Here they are also given the desired colour. From the beaters the pulp is lowered into a still larger vat, and is kept at the proper consistency by means of revolving arms.

The pulp next goes to the "machine room," where it undergoes one of the most remarkable transformations known to any industry. The machine room at the "Postlip Mills" is 90 feet in length and 24 feet in width, admirably lighted from both the roof and sides, and with brick flooring and whitened walls. The machine which occupies this room is 80 feet in length and 18 in width, and is made up of thousands of parts which must act together with absolute precision. At one end of the machine the pulp is conveyed on to a moving endless wire cloth of fine mesh, this cloth having a rapid oscillatory as well as a forward motion, the oscillations thoroughly intermingling the fibres of the pulp and giving it an even thickness. As the cloth moves forward the larger part of the water drips through, leaving a thin layer of pulp, which passes between two heavy rolls, the pressure of the rolls removing the remaining water. The pulp, which has really now become paper capable of sustaining its own weight, next passes around a series of large revolving cylinders heated with steam, and is thoroughly dried. It is then wound in rolls, and is transferred to the cutter in the same room, where sheets of any desired size are cut. The visitor can scarcely imagine a greater contrast than that between the rags he first saw in the sorting room and the pure white



General View of Postlip Mills, Winchcombe.

alterations and additions to the buildings and equipment. Four years ago a limited company was formed, the directors being Messrs. Edward Adlard, J.P., F. Bird, and C. T. Henney.

The "Postlip Mills," as the company's mills are called, are situated about a mile from Winchcombe, at the foot of Cleeve Hill, one of the highest of the Cotswolds. It would be impossible to imagine a more beautiful or more picturesque site, the mills being placed in a little valley through which runs a clear spring-fed brook, the hills almost completely encircling the spot.

ings are made of stone taken from the Cotswold hills, and are unusually substantial. The walls are of great thickness, the ground floors are paved with brick or tile, and the upper floors supported with heavy iron columns. Although much of the machinery used is very heavy, not a particle of jar or vibration can be noticed in any part of the mills. All of the buildings are lighted by gas generated on the premises, and are heated by steam; fire plugs are conveniently placed in the various rooms, and a manual engine kept in readiness for emergencies; lifts connect the different floors; and the lighting and ventilation are all that could be desired.

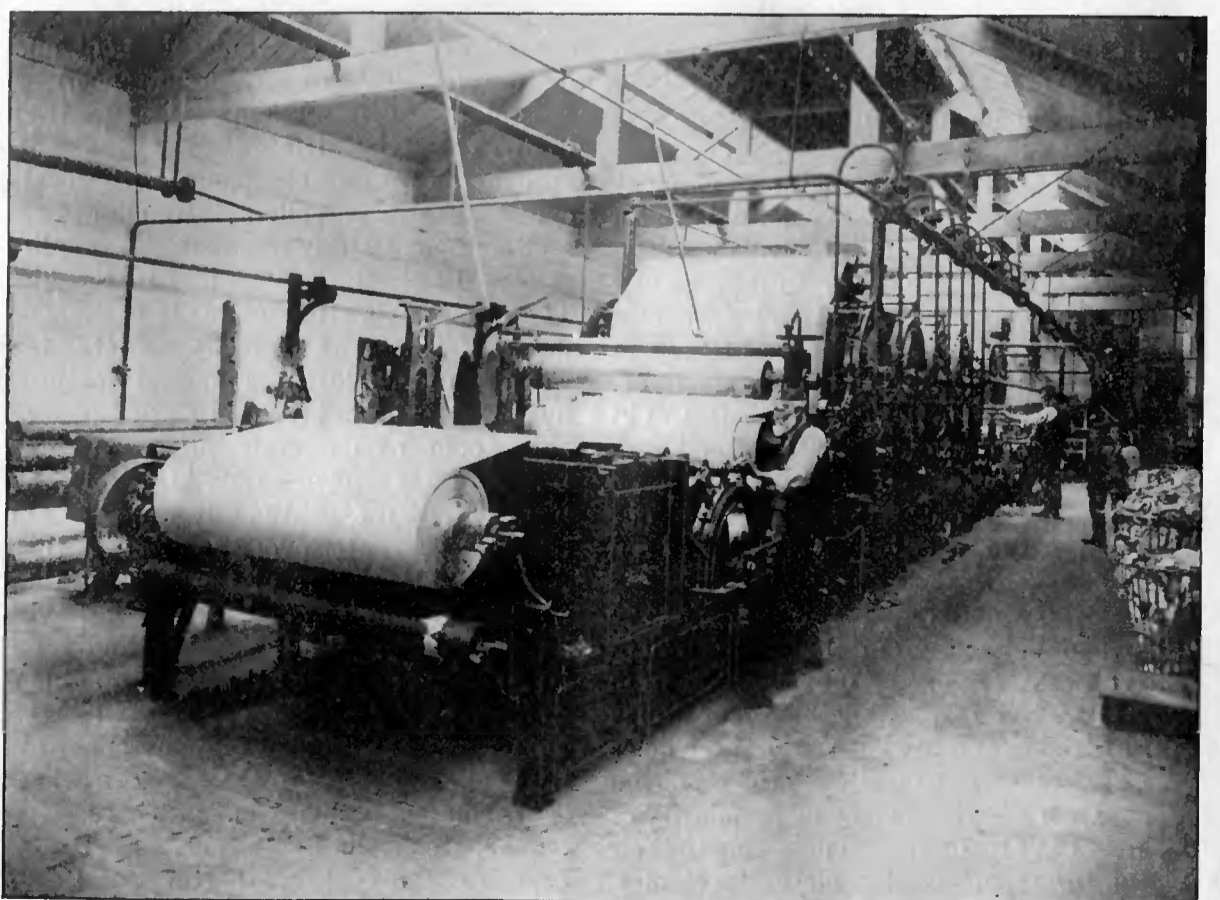
Since but few are familiar with the art of making paper, although everyone is familiar with its uses, it may be of interest to refer to several of the more interesting processes carried



Rag Sorting Room, Postlip Mills.

Besides the advantage of being removed from the smoke and dust caused by factories or traffic, an important consideration in the manufacture of high quality white paper, the mills have the further great advantage of an unfailing supply of the purest water. This supply is obtained from the brook to which reference has been made, and which is fed by springs in the hills, less than two miles away. The purity and softness of this water is peculiarly well adapted for their special manufactures, and previous to 1850 supplied the motive power, in which year steam power was first introduced. At the present time a recently installed 200 h.-p. steam engine is used in addition to two smaller ones.

The premises and reservoirs owned and occupied by Messrs. Evans, Adlard and Company,



Machine House, Postlip Mills.



or brilliantly-coloured paper that is constantly leaving the machine just described.

The sheets are next taken to the finishing room, a corner of which is shown here. This room is particularly bright, clean, and airy, and has been recently materially altered and extended. In the finishing department each sheet of blotting-paper is separately examined, all imperfect sheets being rejected. The perfect sheets are then counted and put into reams, and labelled ready for sending out.

For many years the blotting-paper manufactured by Messrs. Evans, Adlard and Company, Limited, has been noted for its excellent



Salle or Finishing Room, Postlip Mills.

quality. There are in Great Britain less than a dozen mills making a speciality of blotting-paper, and of these the "Postlip Mills" are counted among the best.

The company also make several other specialities, including a tub-sized paper, used for displaying samples of sugar, fruits, and other articles which must be protected from moisture. This tub-sized paper is light, tough and strong, and is impervious to water. During the past few years it has been in great demand, the "Postlip Mills" being practically the only mills at which it is made in England.

Still another speciality is a chemically pure filtration paper, made in white and grey only. This paper is used principally by chemists for filtering potions, and is valued by reason of its absolute cleanliness and freedom from any deleterious substance.

Messrs. Evans, Adlard and Company, Limited, are known almost wherever blotting-paper is used. They not only supply the leading wholesale stationers of Great Britain, but receive frequent orders from the Colonies and the Continent. Their Canadian trade is particularly important. They are continually making shipments to the United States, in spite of the 25 per cent. duty exacted by that country.

It has been a privilege to include in the description of Gloucestershire industries a reference to the "Postlip Mills," and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the Company's courtesy in permitting an inspection of them.



ARTHUR H. PITCHER, GLOUCESTER.

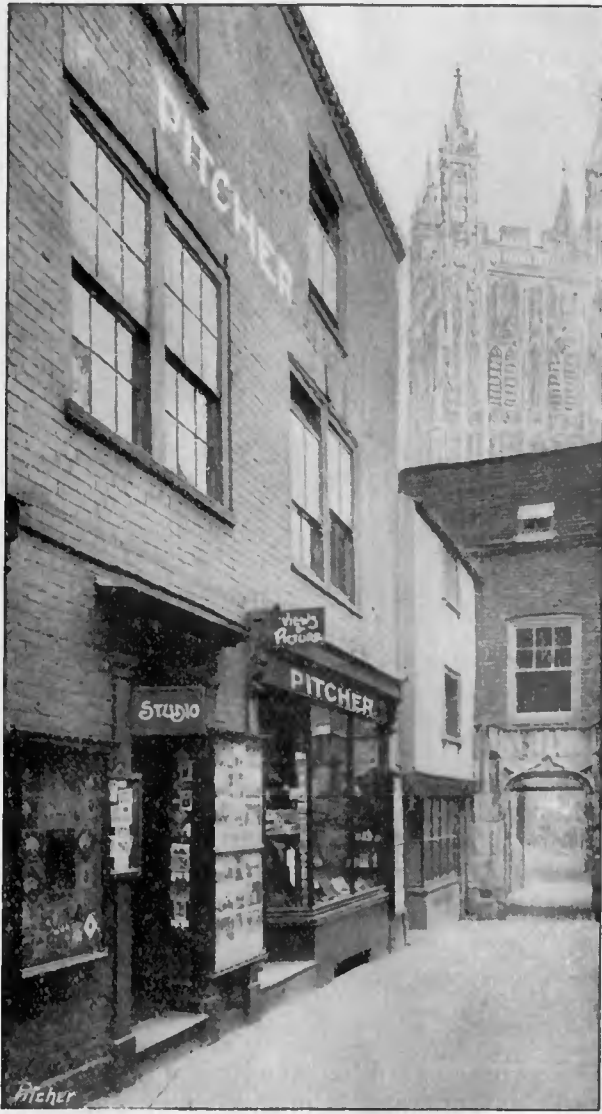
**An Exceptionally Versatile and Artistic
Photographer.**

NO photographic studio in Gloucestershire or the district is better fitted to execute high-class work than is that of Mr. Arthur H. Pitcher, College Court, Gloucester. Not only is Mr. Pitcher thoroughly proficient and experienced, but he is provided with the best obtainable instruments and accessories, without which the best results cannot be obtained. He is equally successful in all classes of photography, including single portraits, groups, landscapes, and exterior and

interior views of buildings. His work is invariably of high character, and is distinguished by a fidelity of treatment and delicacy of finish.

He has given special attention to taking photographs of factory and workshop interiors, complicated machinery, and similar subjects, having achieved a very marked success in this most difficult branch of the art. It is but just to say that most of the engravings in this publication are reproductions of his photographs, a list of which appears elsewhere in these columns. When one remembers that many of these excellent photographs were taken in imperfect light, in difficult positions, and in the midst of rapidly moving machinery, one can the more readily appreciate the tact and discrimination they reveal. Those manufacturers who desire to have photographs taken for reproduction in catalogues or for office use could not do better than to consult him, as it requires peculiar ability and experience for this class of work.

In connection with his regular photographic work he supplies plates, papers, and other materials, and develops photographs for amateurs. He also carries a large and carefully-selected stock of miscellaneous art views (mounted and unmounted) in his studio in College Court, which is familiar to all art



lovers who visit Gloucester. It may be proper to add that his agreeable personality, as well as his professional attainments, has been largely responsible for the wide connection he has secured and retained.



F. FRITH & CO., LIMITED, CHARFIELD.

Collotype and Photo-Mechanical Printers.

ALTHOUGH art lovers throughout Great Britain have long been familiar with the productions of Messrs. Frith and Company, Limited, but few are acquainted with the firm's interesting history, or are aware that much of their work is executed in Gloucestershire. We take pleasure in referring to their industry, as being one of the first of its kind in the county, and as representing the

highest form of production in artistic photography and photo-mechanical printing.

The business was established by Mr. F. Frith in City Road, London, about 1860. It was begun on a very small scale, though each succeeding year witnessed a quite remarkable increase, and in five years it was found desirable to remove, Reigate being selected as the place. In 1894 a branch was established at Charfield, Gloucestershire, and another branch in London for framed goods, etc. In four decades the business has gained a much more than national reputation, and Frith's series of postcards, albums, and illustrated booklets are known to everyone who appreciates the beautiful in art or nature. It is interesting to know, by the way, that this Firm was the first in England—as it is still the leading one—to publish landscape views, their list of subjects now embracing almost every spot in the world which has been made famous for scenic beauty or historic association.

As has been stated, the Charfield branch was established in 1894, when the Firm secured in freehold at that place a valuable property which had formerly been used as a cloth mill. The premises cover two and a-half acres of ground in an exceptionally picturesque locality, and comprise several massive stone buildings. The interior of these buildings has been entirely remodelled to adapt them to the Firm's needs, and they are excellently lighted and conveniently arranged. The premises have the further advantage of ample water power to drive all the presses and other machinery, steam being used only for gold lettering and similar work.

It is gratifying to know that the past ten years have been the best in the Firm's history, as evidenced by the enormous increase in the work done at Charfield. When this branch was established in 1894 it was equipped with but one press, and required the services of but three operatives; to-day the main printing room alone contains a number of large presses of the latest pattern, while the other departments are equally well equipped. The facilities of their plant may be illustrated by the statement that in a single month they have printed no fewer than 1,500,000 picture postcards, and this while executing the usual work in other departments. The buildings, by the way, include a number of separate departments, such as the paper stock rooms, the press room, the gold lettering and relief stamping room, and the finishing and packing room, each complete in itself.

In passing through the several departments even the least observant visitor is impressed with the very unusual cleanliness everywhere in evidence, which not only adds to the efficiency and durability of the mechanical equipment, but which must have an appreciable effect upon the operatives' work, by inculcating in them careful and cleanly habits. Indeed, in all the details every effort has been made to produce work of the highest character, and at the same time to secure that economy which comes from production on a large scale.

With Messrs. Frith and Company printing is less an industry than an art, as they specialise on those higher branches of work which the ordinary printer is the least competent to execute. The collotype and photo-mechanical printing particularly have been brought to a high degree of perfection, and they are probably the leading exponents of this art in Great Britain. Their beautifully-executed picture postcards and illustrated booklets are invariably characterised by excellence of design and finish.

Mr. Cyril Frith has been the manager of the Charfield branch since its establishment ten years ago, and his progressive methods are revealed in its gratifying growth.