



# Textile Fabrics.



special process. These rugs, which are particularly light and warm, are made in a great variety of colours and patterns. They have already become widely popular, and are being largely exported to the Colonies and to France and Germany. We regret that limited space precludes mention of other special weaves for which the Company have become so noted.

The present directors of the Company are Mr. Alfred Apperly, chairman; Mr. Chas. Apperly and Mr. E. P. Apperly, his sons; Mr. B. Pitt (who has been with the Company continuously for over fifty years), and Mr. E. T. Black, who directs the London branch at 15, Golden Square, W.

It is but just to add that in addition to having appreciably advanced Gloucestershire's industrial prosperity, Mr. Alfred Apperly has been not less influential in its higher life. He is a J.P., a County Councillor, a member of the County Educational Committee (having previously been chairman of the Rodborough School Board during its entire existence), a member of the Rural District Councils and the Board of Guardians. In public and religious questions he takes an active interest, and has rendered valuable public service.



## P. C. EVANS & SONS, BRIMSCOMBE, NR. STROUD.

**Manufacturers of Highest Grade Woollens.**

**T**HE important industry carried on by Messrs. P. C. Evans and Sons, Brimscombe, near Stroud, was established about 1840 by Mr. P. C. Evans, the father of Mr. P. J. Evans, J.P., the senior partner of the



BRIMSCOMBE UPPER AND LOWER MILLS.  
(P. C. Evans & Sons)

present Firm. The style of the Firm was originally P. C. Evans, being subsequently successively changed to Evans and Bishop, P. C. Evans and Company, and finally P. C. Evans and Sons. It is interesting to know that members of the Evans family have been cloth manu-



BRIMSCOMBE LOWER MILLS. (P. C. Evans & Sons).

facturers in the Stroud Valley for five generations now, and that they have contributed materially to the high reputation the West of England cloth has so long enjoyed in the markets of the world.

**Industrial Gloucestershire 1904**

The present industry was established in what are known as the "Brimscombe Mills" in the year 1855, and in 1872 the "Port Mills," but a short distance away, were taken over, both mills being now fully utilised. During the past few decades the mill premises have been largely extended and remodelled to bring them up-to-date. The mechanical equipment has also been



BRIMSCOMBE UPPER MILLS. (P. C. Evans & Sons).

frequently added to and improved, and the most modern fast running looms have been installed in place of the older and less efficient types. Among the more important additions to the mills was the establishment of a worsted spinning plant, the only one of the kind in the neighbourhood. Owing to the improvements that have been made to the plant and equipment the product of the mills to-day is four times as great as it was formerly, while its character has been fully maintained.



BRIMSCOMBE PORT MILLS. (P. C. Evans & Sons).

Messrs. Evans and Sons manufacture all kinds of high-class woollens for the home and export trade, though they have gained particular prominence for several specialities. Among these may be mentioned their black vicunas, covert coatings, and blue serges in light weights, a large quantity of the latter being exported to tropical climates.

The Firm's London offices are at 9, Warwick Street, W., and they maintain agencies in Paris, Vienna, New Zealand, and other places.

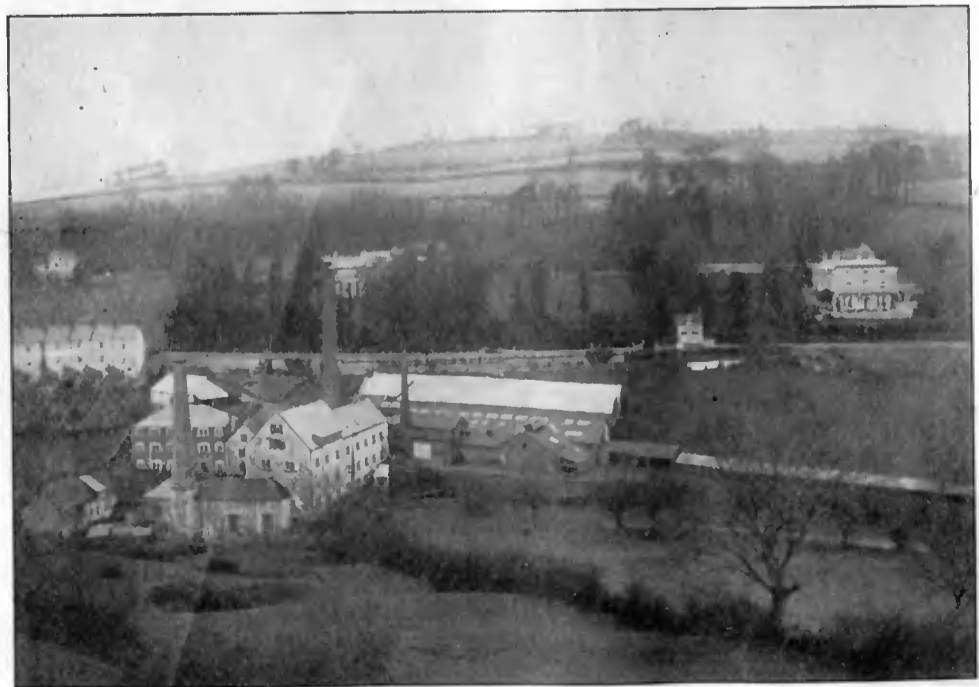
## HUMPHREYS AND COMPANY, WOODLANDS MILLS, STROUD.

**Manufacturers of Highest Grade Flannels and Tweeds.**

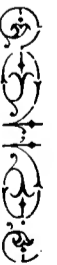
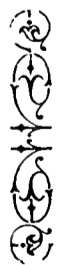
**A**T a time when "dull trade" is a general complaint it is a pleasure to refer to the establishment of a new and important industry. It is, therefore, a privilege to include in this publication a brief reference to the Woodlands Mills, Stroud, which have recently been taken over by the Messrs. D. Humphreys and Company. Although the Woodlands Mills were for a long time well-known in the West of England cloth trade, they were recently suspended for a brief period, and it is a distinct gain to the community to have them reopened under favourable auspices.

About eighteen months ago Mr. D. Humphreys (the head of the firm of Humphreys and Company, and who for a number of years has been engaged in the manufacture of flannels and tweeds at Narberth, South Wales) decided to materially extend the scope of the business. With that end in view, he purchased the Woodlands Mills, thus obtaining the advantage of commodious existing premises and a supply of labour skilled in the manufacture of textile fabrics. He has made extensive alterations to the buildings, all of which are of the most substantial construction, and are well-arranged. Besides remodelling the buildings, he has installed the latest and most approved looms and other machinery which are specially adapted for the treatment of English wools, no mill in the Stroud Valley having a more up-to-date equipment. It should be added that the location of the Woodlands Mills, which cover nearly two acres of ground, is probably the most picturesque in the district, the valley in which they are situated suggesting a Swiss scene. A little stream, which furnishes a small part of the power required, is also used for dyeing and other processes, the purity of the water being an important consideration in this respect.

Messrs. Humphreys and Company manufacture a great variety of high-grade woollens, though they make special features of several fabrics. Among these may be mentioned their guaranteed all-wool flannels, which have gained a splendid reputation throughout the kingdom and abroad for their purity of texture and colour, and for their fineness, durability, and unshrinkableness. These flannels, which are known to the trade as the "Jubilant" (registered) Welsh flannels, and were first introduced in Jubilee year, 1887, have gained a number of highest awards at various International Exhibitions, and have been the subject of the most favourable comment in the leading technical journals.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE WOODLANDS MILLS, STROUD. (Humphreys & Company).





It is claimed for these flannels that a more pure material cannot be produced, and they are made unshrinkable without being chemically treated, thus preserving the natural properties of the wool.

Another noteworthy feature of the Firm is the production of tweeds made of pure English wool, which is softened by a special treatment. These tweeds are not only the most durable made, but in finish and general appearance are deserving of the highest praise. Apart from their intrinsic excellence, it is to be hoped they will become still more widely popular, as the manufacture of English cloth from English wool cannot fail to give a decided stimulus to agriculture.

In future it is intended that the Narberth Mills shall be confined to the manufacture of Welsh flannels, whilst the tweeds, serges, etc., are to be made at Stroud.

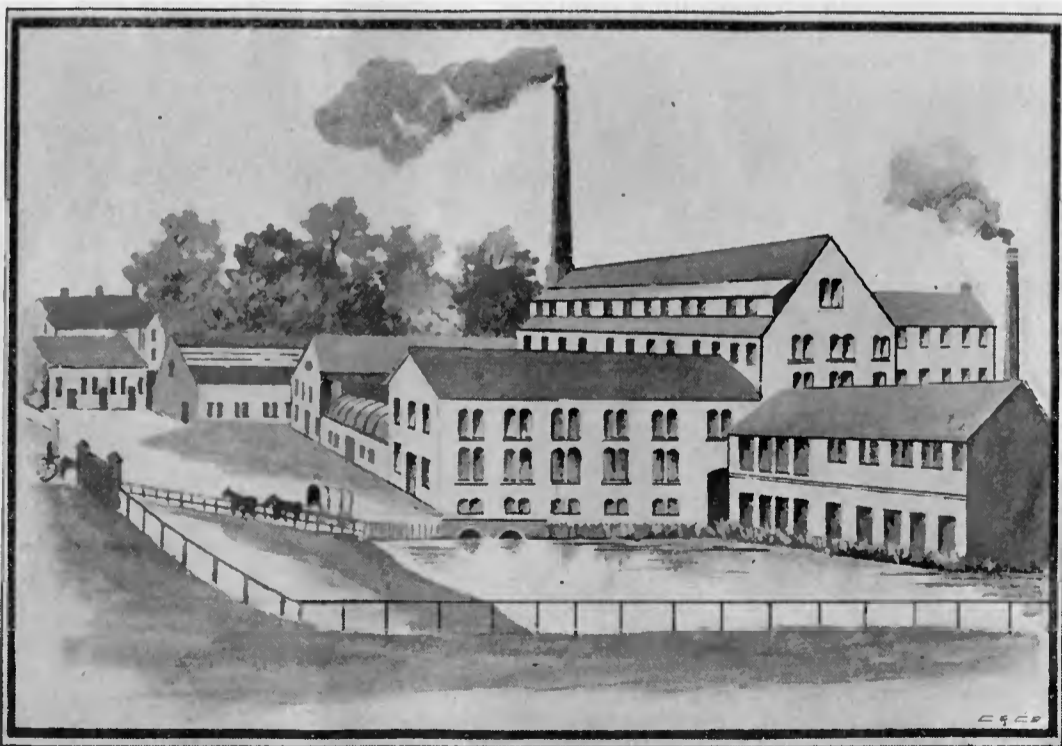
Mr. D. Humphreys has been engaged in the woollen industry for the greater part of his life, and with conspicuous success. He was a Clothworker's Scholar at the Yorkshire College of Science; First Prizeman, 1881-2; Medallist in Cloth Manufacture, and Honours in Wool Dyeing, City and Guilds of London Institute Exam., 1883-4; Judge at the Welsh Industries Exhibition, Aberystwith, 1899; Cardiff, 1901; Liverpool, 1902; and Bristol, 1903. It is safe to predict that under his progressive management the Woodlands Mills will more than regain their former prestige.



## ROBERTS, JOWLINGS & CO., LIGHTPILL MILLS, STROUD.

Manufacturers of the best "West of England" Woollens.

THE Lightpill Mills, carried on by Messrs. Roberts, Jowlings and Company, have held a prominent place in the West of England cloth industry for over half a century. They are conveniently situated within easy distance of the Great Western and Midland railways, covering a large area of ground, and are excellently adapted to the manufacture of high-class woollen and worsted cloths. The mechanical equipment has been kept up-to-date, and includes the "Dobercross" and "Knowles" fast looms.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE LIGHTPILL MILLS, STROUD.

The Firm manufacture most of the specialities of the district, including superfine black and blue cloths, livery cloths, Venetians, doeskins, beavers, vicunas, Llamas, chevots, tweeds, trouserings, etc., and a large variety of woollen and worsted coatings in all shades, the designs being carefully studied to suit present

requirements for the home and foreign markets. Their heavy patent beavers are a special feature, and cloths of splendid quality and finish are turned out. It is but just to add that all of their productions are held in high esteem by the trade for their uniform excellence.

Messrs. Roberts, Jowlings and Company do an extensive business at home and abroad. They have an office at 1, Upper James Street, Golden Square, London, W. Mr. W. H. Preedy is their London representative, and Messrs. Aldwinckle and Son, of 31, Monkwell Street, E.C., are their London shipping agents. Their travelling representatives also visit all parts of Great Britain.

Accompanying this brief notice is an engraving, kindly loaned us by Messrs. Roberts, Jowlings and Company, giving a general view of the Lightpill Mills.



## W. WALKER & SONS, LTD., DUNKIRK MILLS, NAILSWORTH, NEAR STROUD.

The only Hosiery Manufacturers  
in Gloucestershire.

IN view of the prominent place Gloucestershire has so long held in the manufacture of textile fabrics, it seems rather singular that its only successful hosiery factory—and, indeed, the only one of any kind—was established but little more than twelve years ago. In 1891 the firm of W. Walker and Sons, Limited, who had for some years carried on, and still carry on, a large hosiery factory at Nottingham, bought an additional freehold plant for the purpose of largely increasing their capacity. This plant is the one now occupied near Nailsworth and known as the Dunkirk Mills, a view of which is shown herewith. It is the only hosiery factory in the county or the district.

The Dunkirk Mills were for many years used by a well-known firm for the manufacture of cloth, and, as may be seen from the accompanying engraving, form one of the most imposing factory plants in the county. It may be interesting to state, in passing, that the main

When Messrs. Walker and Sons took over the property they practically left nothing but the shell of the building, entirely remodelling the interior to adapt it to their purpose. Among other improvements was the substitution of a modern steam engine in place of the old beam engine. By an ingenious arrangement devised by Mr. J. Walker, a member of the Firm and the manager of the Dunkirk Mills, the engine can instantly be coupled with the water-wheel or the water-wheel with the dynamo. It should also be mentioned that the Dunkirk Mills have the great advantage of the finest water power in the Nailsworth valley.

Among the other noticeable improvements made to the plant is the lighting system, the large dynamo supplying 500 sixteen-candle power electric lights, which are placed in every department; the steam heat throughout; the iron fire escapes from the upper floor, and the general arrangements by which the comfort and efficiency of the operatives are provided for.

The mechanical equipment throughout may be sufficiently described by saying that it is in keeping with the splendid buildings in which it is installed. The machines in use are similar



DUNKIRK MILLS, NAILSWORTH. (W. Walker & Sons, Ltd).

to those adopted by leading hosiery manufacturers everywhere, and it has been, and is, the policy of the Company to discard an old machine and substitute a new one whenever by so doing an increased efficiency can be obtained. In the past twelve years the equipment has frequently been added to, the various departments to-day representing the highest stage of development in this branch of manufacture.

Messrs. Walker and Sons confine themselves exclusively to the manufacture of ladies' and men's half hose of every variety, not making to any extent underwear or other knitted articles. This specialisation, together with their fine equipment, has enabled them to successfully compete with the oldest and largest firms in the kingdom, and they find a steady and increasing sale for their manufactures. As has been stated, they also operate a large factory in East Kirkby, Notts, and they have their warehouse and distributing depot for both factories in Nottingham. The present number of employees at the Dunkirk Mills is about 150, fully employed, and even with this staff it has frequently been found necessary to work overtime in different lines.

The present directors of the Company are Messrs. W. Walker, sen., (chairman), and S., W., J. and H. Walker. Of these Mr. J. Walker is the active manager of the Dunkirk Mills, which show the results of his vigorous and progressive policy.

Elsewhere in this publication is described the stick factory carried on under the firm name of Drake and Company, which was recently taken over by Mr. J. Walker and his brothers. With characteristic energy they have in a remarkably short time made this factory one of the leading of its kind in the district.

