



# Shirts & Sleeping Suits.



## GLOUCESTER SHIRT CO.

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#### An Interesting Description of their Model Factory.

LIKE most of Gloucestershire's best industries, the splendidly-equipped factory owned and operated by The Gloucester Shirt Company grew to its present importance from a very small beginning. The business was established in Gloucester in 1882, and in 1886-7 factory buildings were erected in

tion; and the heating system is so perfect that every room is kept at a proper temperature in the coldest weather by steam pipes. The lavatories and other sanitary arrangements are excellent, and have been highly commended by the Government Inspector. In no factory in Gloucestershire do the operatives work in more agreeable surroundings, and visitors cannot fail to be impressed with the absolutely clean and wholesome conditions in which the Firm's manufactures are produced.

The second engraving shown represents one

the mills, the stocks comprising thousands of yards showing every imaginable colour, pattern and texture, imported direct from the leading English, Scotch, and French manufacturers; cutting rooms where the material is placed on patent adjustable folding tables, marked according to pattern, and cut into shape by machinery; and the large reserve stock room, heated with hot air and thoroughly ventilated, where the finished garments are held until needed. The mechanical equipment includes a 20 h.p. steam boiler and steam engine, and laundry machines of the very latest description, a number of power-driven high-speed sewing machines of special pattern, cutting machines, and even a machine for making cloth buttons. Not a single stitch is done by "out-workers"; that is, no garment in any stage is sent out to work-people at their homes. The Shirt Company are "shirt specialists," confining themselves wholly to the manufacture of shirts and sleeping suits. This specialization has given them peculiar skill in their own line, and their shirts have been justly celebrated for high quality and fit. They make a speciality of medium and high grade shirts, including all patterns and sizes for boys, youths and men, in Linen, French Cambric, Porous Net, Oxfords, Zephyrs, Flannels shrunk by a special process, and all other desirable fabrics. In the past twenty years they have not only made thousands of different styles and patterns, but they have introduced several exclusive styles which have become widely popular.

Mr. H. T. T. Higgins was the founder and is the present head of the Gloucester Shirt Company. For twenty years he has devoted himself unremittingly, and with entire success, to the work of building up one of the leading, as well as one of the most interesting, industries in this section. Associated with him is Mr. James Hill, the manager, who has been identified with the business from the very beginning, and whose technical skill and judgment have contributed largely to its growth. The Firm have appointed agents in all towns of any importance in the Midlands, and in the Eastern and Southern Counties, and their specialities and makes can be obtained through them. It should be added that their agents include some of the most fashionable and best known tradesmen in London and other principal cities.



View of the Laundry and a Portion of the Factory of the Gloucester Shirt Company.

Magdala-road, to which almost constant additions have since been made. From having started with a half-dozen operatives and two or three sewing machines, the factory now employ over two hundred operatives, whose capacity is greatly multiplied by the best machinery and appliances that modern invention have produced. Adjoining property is held in reserve for the further enlargements that seem inevitable, as during the past few years the present buildings have been frequently enlarged. Owing to the fact that the factory premises are almost entirely surrounded by cottages and other buildings their real extent cannot be seen from any one point of view, and the first of the accompanying engravings, which were kindly loaned us by the Firm, does not give as complete a view as we would like to present.

The steam laundry is detached from the main factory, and is a substantially constructed two-storey building. The ground floor is used for washing, and has a concrete paving, slightly convex, with gutters at the sides to carry off waste water, the result being that the room is always perfectly dry and clean. The upper floor, where the shirts are given their final finish ready for packing, is provided with the latest appliances and ironing machines, and with a set of drying-off chambers fed from the steam passing up from the drying chambers below. The room is as cool and comfortable as could be desired, owing to the modern system of ventilation. All the walls on both floors are whitened, and the walls, floors and ceilings are kept wonderfully clean. In every respect this laundry, which is devoted exclusively to the Firm's own work, is as well equipped and as thoroughly up-to-date as any in the district.

The main building is a splendid three-storey structure 100 x 40 feet in dimensions. In every room the walls are kept white and clean; the floors and staircases are swept daily; all of the rooms are thoroughly ventilated, not only having opposite windows, but being fitted throughout with the Boyle system of ventila-

tion of Gloucestershire's most interesting scenes, and is reproduced from a photograph of the special order work-room taken several weeks ago. At the time the photograph was taken 120 operatives were at work in this room, and a large number of machines were running at high speed, yet a conversation could be easily carried on in ordinary tone of voice. Another notable feature was the freshness of the air, there being not the slightest "stuffy" smell that could be detected. Among other interesting departments there are stock rooms, in which the materials are stored as they come direct from



A Corner of the Gloucester Shirt Company's Special Order Work-room.