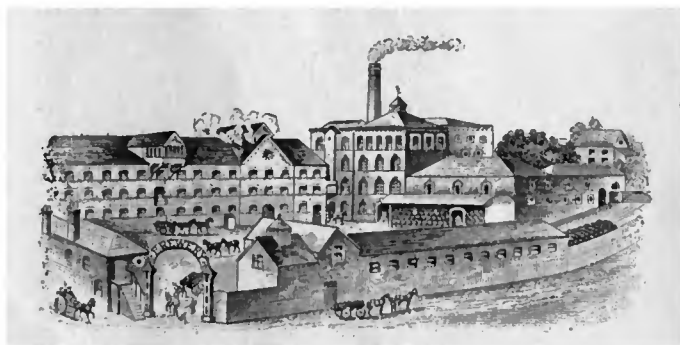




been given to perfect the smallest details which could in any manner affect the product. In the boiler and copper house, and in some other departments as well, the walls are of white glazed brick, and are, therefore, absolutely germ proof; the woodwork everywhere is painted and is frequently washed; the floors are of concrete; and the copper vessels and piping, and the pumps, engines and machinery generally, are spotlessly clean. As a further illustration of the care taken to prevent contamination from dust or from any other cause, it may be interesting to add that the dust arising from the screening of the malt is collected and is converted into mud by a special apparatus and then discharged into a drain. This method effectually prevents the dust from flying about. The mechanical equipment throughout is all that a large expenditure and a thorough knowledge could make it.

The brewery plant also contains a cooperage and carpentering shop, a fitting and repair shop, extensive stables, and houses for the vans and for the large motor which is used for delivering. The premises are lighted throughout by gas, though the erection of an electric lighting plant is in contemplation.



Forest Brewery, Mitcheldean. (F. Wintle, Proprietor.)

Practically all of the barley used in the brewing is obtained from Herefordshire, which is one of the best barley growing districts in the kingdom. Before malting, the barley is put through a cleaning apparatus, and all the small, broken and imperfect grains are rejected. The hops are obtained from Worcestershire. It need scarcely be said that absolutely no adulterant is used in any process, though frequent laboratory tests are made to insure uniformity of product. Mr. Wintle has made himself thoroughly familiar with the art of brewing, in which he takes great interest apart from any question of profit, devoting almost his whole time to the brewery.

He brews mild and bitter ales and stout, all of which are sent out in casks. He has throughout the district between sixty and seventy public-houses, at which his ales are sold exclusively, and also agents in all the neighbouring towns. Many private families also obtain their supply direct from this brewery, and to such we can say, after careful inspection of the plant, that they are served with a beverage which for purity and wholesomeness is not excelled anywhere.

In addition to his brewing interests, Mr. Wintle owns and operates a flour mill at Cinderford. This mill is equipped with the new "Elite" system, a recent invention which was installed by Messrs. William Gardner and Sons, milling engineers, Gloucester. The advantages of the "Elite" system, which marks a radical departure in milling, are described in an article in this publication referring to Messrs. Gardner and Sons' works.

In concluding this inadequate notice, it is but just to acknowledge Mr. Wintle's courtesy in permitting an inspection of his admirably appointed brewery. It is perfectly accurate to say, without disparaging other firms, that as regards both the equipment and the management of the brewery it is a very creditable type of Gloucestershire's best industries.

E. HARDING & CO.,

GLoucester.

Manufacturers of all kinds of High-Class Mineral Waters.

THE business carried on by Messrs. E. Harding and Company, Barton Street, was established by the late Messrs. Wilesmith and Moreton in 1839. It has, therefore, been in continuous operation for the greater part of a century, and has become widely known throughout this and the adjoining counties.

The continuous extension of the business necessitated frequent enlargements and alterations, and in 1885 new buildings were erected. These buildings were specially designed for the purpose to which they are put, and at the date of their erection it was supposed they would be amply large for any future development of the business. In recent years, however, it has been found necessary to make several extensions, new wings being added and other important improvements being made. Messrs. E. Harding and Company's premises to-day cover a total area of approximately one acre, by far the greater part of which is under roof. They have the advantage of a particularly favourable location, facing three streets—Barton Street, Victoria Street, and Blenheim Road—with as many entrances and exits. In point of lighting, ventilation and general sanitary arrangements the buildings are in every respect thoroughly modern. A special feature, and one which at once commends itself to every observer, is the scrupulous cleanliness noticeable in all departments.

In the manufacture of mineral and aerated waters modern invention has played an important part, and the machinery and apparatus now in use have facilitated economical production. In this respect Messrs. E. Harding and Company have been more than ordinarily progressive, and they have from time to time changed and added to their mechanical equipment, which is now fully equal to that found in any plant in this section of the country. The motive power is furnished by a steam engine.

One of the most interesting departments in the Company's factory, and one which forcibly illustrates the marked improvements made in the mechanical processes of the industry in recent years, is the "filling" room, where the machinery is the very latest and most approved pattern. One of the latest additions to the mechanical equipment is a steam filling machine, capable of turning out 120 dozen bottles an hour, as against the 40 dozen an hour filled by hand. The laboratory, where the ingredients are blended for the various beverages, is also excellently equipped.

The extensive use of machinery has another advantage besides increasing production and lessening cost—it ensures a thorough cleanliness in every stage which would not be possible were only hand labour employed. No water, syrups, flavouring, or other liquids entering into the composition of the beverages are touched by the hands of the employees. This, and the care given to frequently cleanse the machinery, makes contamination almost impossible. The spotless cleanliness of all of departments has already been referred to, though it is a feature which could scarcely be emphasised too strongly.

In the manufacture of the beverages city water is used, though not direct from the mains. All of the water is carefully filtrated by passing through Dr. Bond's Charcoal Filters, which remove any undesirable matter that may have remained. The same care is used in the selection and treatment of the various ingredients, which are selected for

their strength and efficacy rather than for their cheapness.

It would be impossible here even to enumerate all the beverages manufactured by Messrs. E. Harding and Company. Among those, however, which have gained particular favour may be mentioned the ginger ale, lemonade, quinine water, summer and winter beverage, and hop bitters. The Company's stone ginger beer has gained for itself a reputation second to none, a separate department being devoted to its manufacture.

All of the beverages manufactured by the Company are prepared after exclusive formulae, and it would be an ill-acknowledgment of the courtesy shown the writer during a recent inspection of the plant to make any extended reference to their character or composition.

The trade has shown that solid and substantial growth which is followed by permanent success. The Company have not attempted to push forward too rapidly, their chief consideration being to supply the best beverages that skill and care could produce, confident that the public would appreciate their efforts—a judgment which has been amply justified by the event.

The business is under the personal supervision of Mr. Thomas M. Harding. He is thoroughly acquainted with every detail of the business, having been interested in its management with his father, with whom he was associated for a number of years. Although the business has already grown to very creditable proportions, Mr. Harding is not content to remain stationary, but brings to it a progressiveness which is evident to anyone who is privileged to inspect his plant, and it is safe to predict a still further growth.



JOHNS & SONS,

21, COMMERCIAL RD., GLOUCESTER.

Ship Chandlers, Sail Makers, and General Merchants.

MESSRS. JOHNS AND SONS, Ship Chandlers, Sail Makers, and General Merchants, are one of the oldest firms in Gloucester. Their extensive stock, both at Gloucester and Sharpness, makes them well able to cope with the supply of stowers to the largest vessels which come to the port.

They are probably most widely known as tent proprietors, agricultural and general show contractors. Under the present new proprietorship special attention is being given to the builders' and engineers' sundries stores branch of the business. Messrs. Johns and Son have recently started to cater for the requirements of farmers, and are represented on the principal markets in the West of England. To their many clients they give the satisfaction which necessarily follows from a modern system of business capably managed.



EVERYONE who has followed the trend of events in recent years is familiar with the marked tendency toward decentralisation—the restoration of the people from the crowded centres to the land. The tide of emigration that has so long flowed from the country to the town, and which has been an equal loss to both, has, we hope, been arrested. "Garden cities," "industrial commonwealths," "co-operation farming," and other plans have been put into effect for providing toilers with employment under more natural and more wholesome conditions than are possible in large crowded cities. "Back to the land," is a sentiment with which all men can agree and is a consummation devoutly to be wished.