they have gained no fewer than twenty-one gold medals and highest awards. At all of these exhibitions their attractive display has been a practical demonstration of the excellence of British-made goods, and has done not a little to promote a knowledge of, and interest in, our own industries.

During the past century the manufacture of cloth has been completely revolutionised, and in the Stroud Valley several manufacturers who were unable, or unwilling, to meet the new conditions imposed by science and invention have been forced to suspend operations. The result is a survival of the fittest, though the number of cloth mills has been greatly reduced, the district, by means of the remaining mills, of which those referred to in this article are an excellent type, still produces as large a quantity of cloth as formerly.

The readiness with which Messrs. Apperly, Curtis and Company, Limited, have adapted themselves in manufacturing cloths to suit the changes in taste and style, has always been a distinguishing feature of the business. To minimise labour, and to effect that economy which comes from production on a large scale,

they have made frequent additions to their plant and equipment. They have four acres of ground, the larger portion of which is covered with buildings fitted with the latest machinery. In 1891, after a destructive fire which destroyed the tilted, which, with the whitened walls and general cleanliness, make it as beautiful and comfortable as could be desired. The mechanical equipment is of the most modern and approved construction. It is interesting to note, by the way, that in 1851 the late Mr. James Apperly and Mr. William Clissold, then connected with the Company, invented and patented a self-acting feed for the carding machines which has since been developed and perfected. This invention is now in general

| VIEW OF DUDBRIDGE MILLS, STROUD.  (Apperly, Curtis & Co., Ltd.) |
| VIEW OF DUDBRIDGE MILLS, STROUD.  (Apperly, Curtis & Co., Ltd.) |
| CORNER OF WEAVING SHED, DUDBRIDGE MILLS, STROUD.  (Apperly, Curtis & Co., Ltd.) |

England. In this one room the wool is carded, spun and woven, the arrangement being such that the material passes from stage to stage, with the least possible loss of time and labour. The room is admirably lighted, heated and ven-

| VIEW IN THE SPINNING ROOM, DUDBRIDGE MILLS, STROUD.  (Apperly, Curtis & Co., Ltd.) |

Industrial Gloucestershire 1904

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use, having been sold in all parts of the world where cloth is woven, and its adoption marked a decided advance in the art of carding.

In all of the departments the same thoroughness and completeness are observable, and the sorting, scouring, dyeing, milling, dressing, and finishing rooms give every evidence of progressive management. The motive power is furnished by a pair of 500-h.p. engines (designed and constructed by Messrs. H. J. H. King and Co., Nailsworth), supplemented with a 50-h.p. turbine, and the boiler fires are fed by mechanical stokers. Every known device which saves hand labour or facilitates production seems to have been adopted. We regret that the accompanying illustrations, which afford interesting glimpses of several of the departments, can only give an inadequate idea of the importance which has been attached to this feature, but such can scarcely be the case. Although the old hand-processes have been largely replaced by machinery, there is still room for human fingers to make or mar, and the cloth that emerges from the loom must bear the impress of those who designed and fashioned it.

In their Dudbridge Mills Messrs. Apperly, Curtis and Company manufacture a great variety of high-grade woollens, including several exclusive weaves for which they have gained a name far beyond national reputation. Among their specialties is their celebrated Hyde cloth, introduced two years ago by Mr. Alfred Apperly. Apart from its intrinsic excellence, the Hyde cloth supplies an admirable theme for those who prefer British industry, other things being equal, for it is a purely English cloth made from English wool. By a special softening process and other methods of treatment, Mr. Apperly has succeeded, after a great deal of experimenting, in producing a thoroughly sanitary fabric, of fine texture and permanence of colour.

While there is no sentiment in business, there is sometimes business in sentiment. To support our own industries is certainly a good sentiment—and it is not less, certainly, good business. Quality and price being the same, there is no reason why Englishmen should not wear this English cloth—especially as by so doing they not only advance the cloth-making industry, but also that larger industry, agriculture. It may be interesting to know that the word "Hyde," which has become familiar throughout the entire kingdom, is derived from Hyde Farm, owned by Mr. Alfred Apperly, and where he grows a large part of the wool from which (augmented by purchases from other breeders) the Hyde cloth is made.

Hyde Farm is beautifully situated on the Cotswold Hills, a few miles distant from Stroud, in a district which for centuries has been celebrated for the fineness of its fleece. The farm, like the mills in which the cloth is woven, has been the subject of favourable comment by those who have been privileged to inspect it. In his elaborate work, "Rural England," Mr. H. Rider Haggard mentions Hyde Farm as illustrating in a high degree that combination of beauty and utility which gives to an English landscape its peculiar charm. We present herewith an illustration showing a flock of Haupshire Down sheep on the Farm.

Another specialty recently introduced by this Company are the well-known rugs, woven by a
The present industry was established in what are known as the “Brimscombe Mills” in the year 1833, 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 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 its 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.

HUMPHREYS AND COMPANY, WOODLANDS MILLS, STRoud.

Manufacturers of Highest Grade Flannels and Twedes.

At 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 re-opened 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 advantages 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 unsinkability. 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.

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