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 Apperley, chairman; Mr. Chas. Apperley and Mr. B. F. Apperley, his sons; Mr. B. Pitt (who has been with the Company continuously for over fifty years), and Mr. W. 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 Apperley 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.

The important industry carried on by Messrs. P. C. Evans and Sons, Brimcombe, near Stroud, was established about 1846 by Mr. P. C. Evans, the father of Mr. P. J. Evans, J.P., the senior partner of the 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 manufacturers in the Stroud Valley for five generations, 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.

HUMPHREYS AND COMPANY, WOODLANDS MILLS, STROUD.
Manufacturers of Highest Grade Flannels and Tweeds.

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. 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 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.
It is claimed for these flannels that a more pure material cannot be produced, and they are made unsinkable 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. He alone is safe to predict that under his progressive management the Woodlands Mills will more than regain their former prestige.

ROBERTS, JOWLING'S & CO.,
LIGHTPILL MILLS, STRoud.
Manufacurers of the best "Welt of England" Woollens.

The Lightpill Mills, carried on by Messrs. Roberts, Jowellings 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 woolen and worsted cloths. The mechanical equipment has been kept up-to-date, and includes the "Doberacs" and "Knowles" fast looms.

W. WALKER & Sons, LTD.,
DUNKIRK MILLS, NAIlSWORTH, NEAR STRoud.

The only Hosiery Manufacturers in Gloucestershire.

On 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 hosiery factory at Nottingham, bought an additional freehold plot for the purpose of largely increasing their capacity. This plot 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 building, which was erected in 1798, is referred to as the "Enderly Mill" in that charming English classic, "John Hallfax, Gentleman," forming the theatre of some of the stirring events described in that novel. While writing the story the authoress resided in Rose Cottage, situated on a hillside overlooking the mill.

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 of 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 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 every member of the staff has frequently been found necessary to work overtime in different lines.

The present directors of the Company are Messrs. W. Walker, sen., (chairman), and 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 & Cooley, who have been 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.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE LIGHTPILL MILLS, STRoud.

Industrial Gloucestershire 1904