C. PARKER & COMPANY,
GLOUCESTER.

For the larger part of a century what are known as the County Steam Dye Works have been in successful operation. The business was established in 1858 by Mr. C. Parker, the father of the present proprietor. In the course of their long existence the County Steam Dye Works have outlived several competitors, while their to-day enjoy the distinction of being the only really important and well-equipped works of the kind in Gloucestershire.

The business has always been conducted on progressive lines, and alterations and enlargements have been made from time to time. The most recent—and by far the most extensive—enlargement was made but a few months ago, when it was found necessary to greatly increase the facilities in order to cope with the steadily growing trade. Consequently the new building in Ryecroft Street, formerly used as a brewery, was purchased by the Company, and extensively remodelled to adapt it to their purposes.

The new premises extend back from the street to a depth of 120 feet, with a wide drive-way and convenient entrances and exits. The central portion of the building has four floors, the remainder being of two storeys. The various departments include a large dyehouse, 62 by 20 feet in dimensions, with a height of 16 feet; a finishing room, directly over the dyehouse, and of the same dimensions; a separate room devoted exclusively to the cleaning of gloves; a dry cleaning room; and a fitting shop, stores, several spacious drying rooms, etc. All of the lower floors are paved with brick, and are provided with a thorough drainage system, making the rooms as dry, clean, and comfortable as possible; the entire premises are lighted by gas; speaking tubes connecting the various departments, and the works have telephonic communication with the Eastgate Street offices. A noticeable feature of the works is the admirable lighting of the various departments, the finishing room, where the fabrics are finished preparatory to delivery, being particularly commendable in this respect. Indeed, the work throughout is carried on under the best conditions attainable, every provision having been made for the comfort of the workpeople and for safeguarding sanitation.

The mechanical equipment (much of which is new) is also of the best description, including the latest and most improved dry-cleaning machines, curtain cleaning machinery, steaming boards, gauffering bolts, etc. In this respect the works compare favourably with any in the kingdom, having facilities for turning out a large quantity of work promptly, at prices which are as low as they could be made consistent with high quality. The Company's patronage now extends far beyond the limits of the county, and they receive daily frequent important orders from all over the kingdom, including those centres where large and widely-advertised dye-works are located.

Although all kinds of dyeing and cleaning are given attention, it may be proper to mention several specialties in which Messrs. Parker and Company have been particularly successful. Their cleaning by the "dry" or "spirit" process is quite a feature, clothing and made-up goods used in house decoration being made to look like new by this process, the bright colours being fully restored and given a fine face and gloss without the slightest injury to the fabric, and without interfering with the linings or ornaments. This method of cleaning (in which the Company excel) has the additional advantage of being both rapid and inexpensive.

Another feature is the dyeing and cleaning of linens, valuable silk fabrics, embroidered screens, ostrich feathers, and other articles which require the most skilful and careful treatment.

Still another important part of their work is the cleaning and pressing of gentlemen's clothing by steam, the use of this method giving an appearance of newness not attainable by any other method.

But it would be useless to enumerate the variety of work executed by the Company. They issue a price list giving full particulars of their various processes, indicating the kind of work to which each process is best adapted.

Mr. H. Parker, the present head of the County Steam Dye Works, has been engaged in the business for the greater part of his life. It is to his constant supervision, as well as to his technical skill, that the very gratifying success of the business is principally due.

Corner of Dye House, County Steam Dye Works.