



It is claimed for these flannels that a more pure material cannot be produced, and they are made unshrinkable 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.

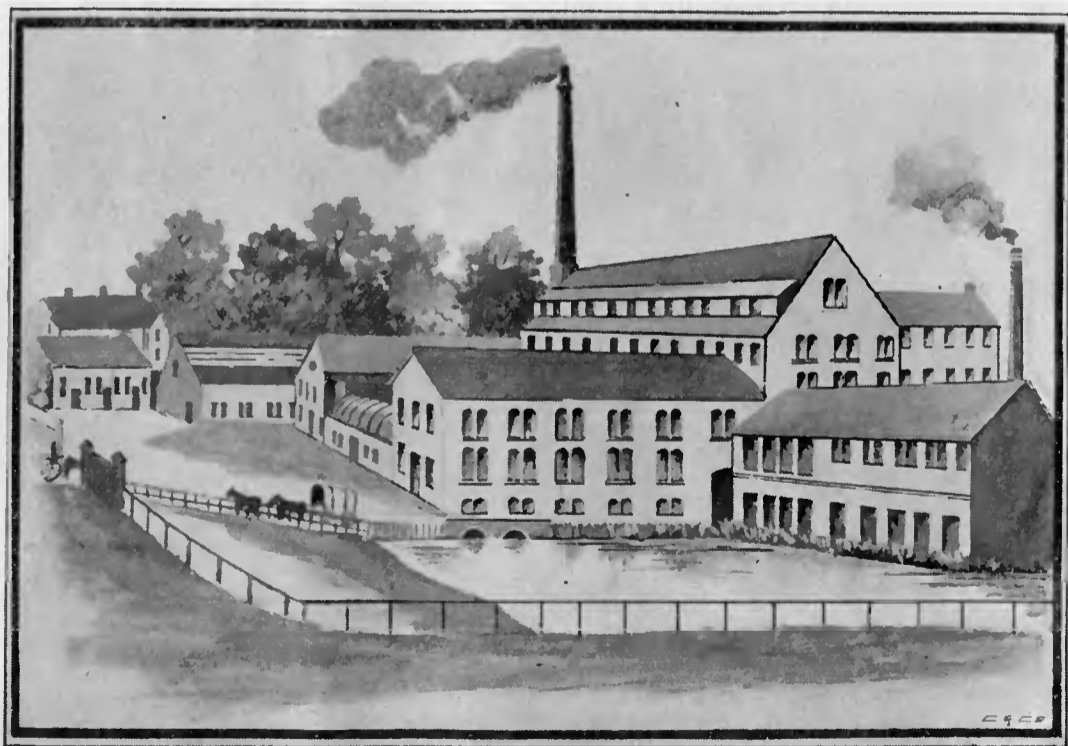
Mr. D. Humphreys has been engaged in the woollen industry for the greater part of his life, and with conspicuous success. He was a Clothworker's Scholar at the Yorkshire College of Science; First Prizeman, 1881-2; Medallist in Cloth Manufacture, and Honours in Wool Dyeing, City and Guilds of London Institute Exam., 1883-4; Judge at the Welsh Industries Exhibition, Aberystwith, 1899; Cardiff, 1901; Liverpool, 1902; and Bristol, 1903. It is safe to predict that under his progressive management the Woodlands Mills will more than regain their former prestige.



ROBERTS, JOWLINGS & CO., LIGHTPILL MILLS, STROUD.

Manufacturers of the best "West of England" Woollens.

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



GENERAL VIEW OF THE LIGHTPILL MILLS, STROUD.

The Firm manufacture most of the specialities of the district, including superfine black and blue cloths, livery cloths, Venetians, doeskins, beavers, vicunas, Llamas, chevots, tweeds, trouserings, etc., and a large variety of woollen and worsted coatings in all shades, the designs being carefully studied to suit present

requirements for the home and foreign markets. Their heavy patent beavers are a special feature, and cloths of splendid quality and finish are turned out. It is but just to add that all of their productions are held in high esteem by the trade for their uniform excellence.

Messrs. Roberts, Jowlings and Company do an extensive business at home and abroad. They have an office at 1, Upper James Street, Golden Square, London, W. Mr. W. H. Preedy is their London representative, and Messrs. Aldwinckle and Son, of 31, Monkwell Street, E.C., are their London shipping agents. Their travelling representatives also visit all parts of Great Britain.

Accompanying this brief notice is an engraving, kindly loaned us by Messrs. Roberts, Jowlings and Company, giving a general view of the Lightpill Mills.



W. WALKER & SONS, LTD., DUNKIRK MILLS, NAILSWORTH, NEAR STROUD.

The only Hosiery Manufacturers
in Gloucestershire.

IN 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 large hosiery factory at Nottingham, bought an additional freehold plant for the purpose of largely increasing their capacity. This plant 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

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 with 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



DUNKIRK MILLS, NAILSWORTH. (W. Walker & Sons, Ltd).

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 even with this staff it has frequently been found necessary to work overtime in different lines.

The present directors of the Company are Messrs. W. Walker, sen., (chairman), and S., 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 and Company, which was recently 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.

