

provided for the inspection of the goods and the selection of purchases; there is a wide range of choice, including the productions of the finest looms in the country; but even the cheapest grades will be found of reliable quality, of sound texture, and well finished. In the laying-in of stock great care seems to be taken in the selection, and only the leading firms are dealt with, so that in all cases purchasers can rely on obtaining the best value for their money. The large show-rooms on the upper floors are well-stocked, and coats, vests, trousers, overcoats, and suits in every size are shown, at prices which, considering the quality, seem marvellously cheap. The juvenile suits are in many cases very handsome, and the range of prices renders it possible for even the poorest families to dress their boys respectably at a trifling outlay. Messrs. Matthews also do a large order trade, and employ a numerous staff of experienced workmen on the premises,



MESSRS. MATTHEWS AND SON'S MANSFIELD PREMISES.

so that great promptitude is ensured in executing orders. Morning coats, office and lounge suits, evening dress suits, overcoats, and, in fact, all descriptions of male garments are turned out in the latest styles and perfect as to fit and finish. In this branch the firm have a special reputation, as all the work is done under experienced cutters, and no work is sent out before being carefully inspected, so that complete satisfaction can be guaranteed. The connection is not confined to any one class, for, while serviceable and well-made goods are provided for those who wish to confine themselves to the lowest possible range of prices, on the other hand the best class of fashionable tailoring is supplied, and suits turned out which, in point of style, material and workmanship, might be worn by any gentleman in the land. Mr. Matthews is highly respected in commercial and general circles as a worthy representative of an esteemed family that has for half-a-century occupied a leading place in the trade of Newark. In order to meet the convenience of the increasing number of regular customers, the firm have opened large and well-managed

branch establishments at Mansfield and Leicester. This in itself is a striking proof of the development of the business, and shows also that the firm has fairly earned its high place in public estimation. A large staff of assistants is employed at each establishment, and customers are always treated with exceptional civility and prompt attention.

Mr. H. J. Bliss, Artist and Photographer, 25, Lombard Street.

Amongst the arts which help to make life beautiful and bright, photography occupies a well-recognised place, and seldom can its powers of charming be better appreciated and studied than at 25, Lombard Street, where Mr. Bliss has provided a veritable "beauty show" for "all and sundry" of the good folks of Newark and their visitors. The great and rapid rise in popularity that photography has achieved needs no pointing out from us, nor is it to be wondered at considering what admirable work may be obtained at really reasonable rates. Almost every home is a witness to this, and there are few dwellings we could enter without finding on the table in albums, or displayed about the room, charming representations of friends and relatives, or tit-bits of scenery from some cherished spot. Mr. Bliss has contributed his full share to this state of things. Already established in the neighbouring town of Grantham, the sphere was felt too limited for an artist—a lover of his work—especially for one who had studied and worked at his profession in the English Colonies, the United States of America, the continent of Europe, and in some of the principal cities of England; and who numbers amongst his patrons both royalty and aristocracy. Newark was therefore chosen for a branch establishment. But, let us enter—our guide is Mr. Bliss, courteous, and painstaking; on every hand the evidence of an artistic nature, the perception of harmonious colouring and care for the comfort and convenience of his visitors. The showroom is a picture gallery crowded with gems of high merit, embracing life-size oil paintings, water-colour drawings, portraits and studies in black and white. On the same floor is that absolute necessity, a ladies' dressing-room; gentlemen may lay aside hat, gloves, and stick (or keep them), and be at once ready to be immortalized; but ladies need more careful preparation, and often have to dress the part after some private theatricals, or fancy fair. Accordingly, here is a convenient and comfortable room in which with maid or friends, the mysteries of the toilet may have full attention. Proceeding to the studio, we find a spacious apartment with a specially-designed arrangement of blinds for controlling and regulating the light, and on every side we see appliances, some designed and patented by Mr. Bliss himself, that secure the perfection of photographic work earnestly striven for by the true artist, whilst so little does professional jealousy reign, that a commodious and well-ventilated dark-room is on moderate terms at the service of the amateur, who may further if he wishes have his negatives developed, retouched, and printed. Passing through the workroom, we find all sizes of photographic pictures, from the tiny midget to a life-size portrait, in various stages of reproduction, miniatures on ivory, photographs on porcelain, local views, and reproductions of oil paintings are all in preparation. Another department that must not be forgotten is the production of magic lantern slides, carried on on an extensive scale; these may be hired or purchased, or if desired, the proprietor will attend with his own powerful oxy-hydrogen lanterns and fully illustrate almost any subject, or will go further, and provide illustrations, lecture, and lecturer, and many are the private gatherings in large houses, schools, and town and village audiences which have been delighted by the entertainment so provided.