

## VISIT TO THE WORKS OF THE PARKGATE IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD., AT PARKGATE, ROTHERHAM.

ON the morning of Wednesday, November 22nd, about thirty members of the Society availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the extensive works of the Parkgate Iron & Steel Co., and were able to see the working of the various processes from the smelting of the ore to the casting and rolling of steel ingots.

The visitors were conducted in small parties through the gas engine houses, which contained five gas-driven blowing engines supplying air at a pressure of 8 lb. per sq. in. to the furnaces throughout the works. One blowing engine alone had a capacity of 25,000 cubic feet of air per minute. Adjacent to this house were a number of Babcock boilers generating steam at a pressure of 160 lb. per sq. in. by the combustion of surplus blast furnace gas. The steam was used for various works purposes and that exhausted from the mill engines was collected and used in mixed turbo-generators, which provided the works with electric power. Of the three blast furnaces only one was in operation at the time of the visit; this was equipped with three Cowper stoves acting as regenerators. The steel furnaces were served by batteries of producers (38 in all) which were seen in operation with their coal handling and storage plant. The Siemens furnace plant, making basic steel, consisted of a mixing furnace of 400 tons capacity, a tilting furnace holding 75 tons, three of 60 tons, and seven of 50 tons. The charging and emptying of these furnaces were carried out by means of high-speed overhead cranes capable of dealing with ladles containing as much as 25 tons of liquid steel. The casting of a steel ingot was watched, and then the plate and rolling mills were seen in operation, with their continuous gas-fired reheating furnaces.

Members taking part in the visit were very well pleased with everything they saw, and with the excellent organisation of the works as a whole. Many were astonished at the cleanliness and orderly appearance of all the shops and yards.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Parkgate Iron & Steel Co. was passed at the general meeting in the afternoon.