

VISIT TO THE WORKS OF MESSRS. THOMAS FIRTH AND SONS, LTD., TINSLEY, SHEFFIELD.

ABOUT twenty-five members of the Society paid a visit to the above works during the morning of Wednesday, January 17th, 1923, and witnessed methods of producing stainless steel. They were first shown several electric furnaces in action, each of about ten tons capacity. The tapping of one of these furnaces by a process of tilting, and the casting of ingots proved a most interesting experience. A great contrast was provided by the old crucible-steel process in which crucibles, each holding only about 50 to 60 lb. of steel, were heated in furnaces beneath the floor level. This latter method is still the most suitable for the production of certain kinds of steel such as high carbon tool steels. The visitors afterwards witnessed the rolling and hammering of stainless steel and the casting of small articles, such as bath taps, etc.

Shaping and toughening mild steel motor-car springs by heating and then immersing in oil, and the manufacture of saw blades, were other processes displayed to the visitors.

VISIT TO THE WORKS OF MESSRS. LEMINGTON GLASS WORKS, LTD.

DURING the morning of Wednesday, February 21st, 1923, a party of members of the Society had an opportunity of visiting the works of Messrs. Lemington Glass Works, Ltd. Members were met by Mr. W. W. Warren, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.E.E. (General Manager), and Mr. G. W. Barras (Works Manager). An instructive time was spent observing the processes in the manufacture of electric lamp bulbs and of glass tubing. The bulbs were made both by the hand process and by means of a recently installed 24-arm Westlake machine. Of recent installation also was a 10-pot Hermansen recuperative furnace. The grouping of the hand workers round the D-shaped furnaces attracted the special attention of the visitors. The importance of the grouping and methods of working adopted were emphasised by Mr. Warren in the paper he presented to the Society at the afternoon meeting, his subject being "Organising for Production from Pot Furnaces."