

**FARQUHAR BROTHERS, GENERAL AND FANCY DRAPERS,
SILK MERCERS, JUVENILE AND LADIES' OUTFITTERS,**

4 & 5, ALLEN TERRACE, HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, W.

High Street, Kensington, has long been celebrated for its array of attractively appointed shops, and prominent among the most noted of the caterers to the every-day needs and requirements of the community in this favoured West End district, stand Messrs. Farquhar Brothers, the owners of a veritable mine of riches, to the seeker after ladies' and children's attire in all its branches, which has appropriately been named "The Kensington Bonanza." Situated within easy distance to the westward of the Metropolitan Railway station, the grand window display always made at this popular emporium marks it as a house well worthy of being visited; and once within its portals, the economic housekeeper may well congratulate herself on coming to an establishment where for ready money she can purchase to decided advantage, and where she may always depend upon being shown only the latest and best of everything by a staff of well-trained, efficient, civil, and obliging attendants. Messrs. Alexander and William Farquhar entered upon their career of activity in the year 1877, opening business proceedings at No. 4. In the early spring of 1892 Mr. William Farquhar died, and the business is now carried on by Mr. Alexander Farquhar, who is the sole proprietor. By dint of perseverance, the adoption of the salutary principle of cash payments, and the retention of exclusively reliable and fashionable goods made available at almost cutting prices, the business increased and multiplied, and waxed strong, so that by 1889 No. 5 had to be added to the original stores, and considerable extensions made, thereby occupying every available inch of space. Within doors all the appointments are in keeping with the brisk business in operation, everything is most methodically and carefully arranged to the best advantage, so as to allow of a maximum of comfort and convenience for both customers and members of the serving staff; and a fairly accurate notion of the magnitude, character, scope and aims of the undertaking may be gauged from the following notes concerning the departments represented. These include hosiery, gloves, trimmings, laces, haberdashery, lace goods, collars and cuffs, cambric handkerchiefs, needlework, frillings, ribbons, flowers, and feathers, millinery, straws, caps, silks, and velvets, prints, calicoes, dresses, furs, umbrellas, sunshades, *et hoc genus omne*. Of special lines, mention must be made of the ladies' and children's underclothing department and baby linen store, in connection with which there are comfortably equipped private show-rooms. Costumes, mantles, dressmaking, and millinery, moreover, engage the careful and competent attention of a picked staff of skilled workers, and the firm have also gained a well-merited renown for their black dress materials, in the way of British and French cashmeres, French merinos, fashionable figured materials, and for the durable high-class home tweeds which they receive direct from their Scotch connection. At the end of each season an unreserved clearance is made of the entire remaining stock, at prices which attract the million;

that at ordinary times nothing out of fashion can be seen upon the premises. From the outline sketched above, it will be gathered that Mr. Farquhar moves distinctly with the times, and conducts his gigantic business in a manner which justifies the unreserved confidence reposed in him, and the liberal patronage of a very large and still rapidly growing sound middle and upper-class connection. Mr. Farquhar was the pioneer of the early closing movement in this particular neighbourhood.

**ARTHUR J. TAPLING, ARTISTIC TAILOR AND HABIT MAKER,
HEREFORD ROAD, WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.**

In every large and fashionable community the modern artistic tailor and habit maker necessarily plays a most important and responsible part, and among those notable establishments in this connection that have gained an enviable distinction, a place of prominence is due to the one organised and controlled by Mr. Arthur J. Taping. Mr. Taping gained his earlier experience at several of the leading West End houses, and thus in 1889 entered upon his new undertaking under peculiarly favourable auspices. Mr. Taping exemplifies the very highest attainments of the modern artistic tailor. Being a most skilful cutter and fitter, he thus imparts to each garment an individuality of style and faultless fit and finish which can only be attained by engaging none but the most skilled workmen, and carefully scrutinising every piece of work before it is permitted to leave his establishment. His premises although by no means extensive, are compactly arranged and elegant to a degree, affording every facility for fitting on, for both ladies and gentlemen, while his work-rooms are constructed on the best approved hygienic

principles, and perfectly equipped with every requisite incidental to the trade. A large and most carefully selected stock of fashionable fabrics is always on display, and particular care is bestowed upon the making of tailor-made costumes, at strictly moderate prices. Liveries and uniforms and riding-habits, moreover, are produced in capital style, and an elegant and becoming effect is always ensured. The trade controlled is already one of considerable volume, and no further testimony to Mr. Taping's proficiency and sound system of business is needed, than the free advertisement and recommendation received from satisfied customers, which have been mainly instrumental in bringing his business to its present prosperous condition.

**MR. E. A. GIBSON, COAL MERCHANT,
54, WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.**

In every large and populous district the systematic distribution of coals and coke, to meet the wants of private individuals, manufacturers, and other large consumers, is necessarily of the first importance in every well-regulated community, and in the western districts and suburbs of London it would, indeed, be difficult to indicate a better known or more noteworthy institution than that presided over by Mr. E. A. Gibson, whose chief office is located at 54, Westbourne Grove. Mr. Gibson commenced operations as a coal merchant in the year 1868, on a comparatively small scale, but by dint of perseverance, well-directed energy, and a perfect acquaintance with every detail of the trade, he gradually developed a business which now ranks high among the most successful organisations of its kind in the Metropolis, and finds regular employment for a very large service of railway-trucks, carts, horses, and labourers in the distribution of his carefully-selected commodities over a very widespread area, some notion of the extent of which may be gathered from the fact that he now holds large depots in London, Westbourne Park, Ealing, Castle Hill, West Drayton, and Uxbridge, and at the two last-named places contracts for the delivery of all the goods in the surrounding districts for the Great Western Railway Company. With regard to his coals and coke, he holds an enormous stock of every variety likely to be demanded, from the very best Wallsends to the commonest kitchen cobbles. In every case his coals are strictly what they are represented to be, and are always available at the lowest possible figures consistent with equitable trading, and it is owing to a general knowledge of these circumstances that his success is mainly due. Personally, Mr. Gibson is a gentleman of extraordinary energy and ability. He conducts his vast business with a power that is beyond all praise, and although so busily engaged, yet finds time to devote to the support of benevolent institutions and local charities, but has hitherto refrained from accepting the many invitations to take part in public affairs, presumably because his business duties are so very heavy, and he will not undertake any duty unless he can see his way clear to discharging it with the vigour and success which have characterised all his actions in the past.

**PEARKS & CO., POULTERERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS,
109, GLOUCESTER ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON.**

SINCE its establishment in 1860, the business carried on under the title of Pearks & Co., has successfully catered for the requirements of the very highest class of patrons, and has become pre-eminent in the trade. The firm's select but extensive *clientèle* includes H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, to whom they have been poulterers and provision dealers by appointment since 1863. The business has been controlled since 1886 by Mr. E. Gunston, who has an expert knowledge of all its details, and who has made a point of obtaining only the very choicest goods from the most approved sources of supply. His scrupulousness in these respects has gained for him the confidence of aristocratic patrons, of club managers, hotel proprietors and other large purchasers, and his trade connection is as valuable as it is extensive. Although the goods he deals in are only of the choicest qualities, he supplies these at the most moderate prices, and special terms are arranged for customers who give large orders regularly. The establishment in Gloucester Road is handsomely fitted up and its appearance is sufficient to indicate the high-class business carried on. The stock, which is large, very varied and of the finest qualities procurable, includes general provisions, York hams, smoked bacons, butter, eggs and poultry (received daily from the firm's own farm at Whitton, near Twickenham), cheese of the best English and foreign makes, and game. In short every comestible noted for delicacy and appetising qualities may be had here in excellent condition and in the most tempting forms. To Mr. Gunston credit is due for the very satisfactory manner in which he has conducted the business for the past five years, but he is being rewarded by the gratifying and growing success which attends his judicious management.