

HOWARDS & SONS, LIMITED*

Owing to the fact that the name of "Howards" has been before the public in connection with chemicals for considerably more than a century, a few sentences about the early history of the firm will probably be of interest to our Canadian friends.

In 1797 Luke Howard and William Allen went into partnership as Chemical Manufacturers, and carried on a business at Plough Court, Lombard Street, with a factory at Plaistow. The business grew rapidly, and in 1807 the partnership was dissolved, William Allen continuing the druggist business at Plough Court, which developed gradually into the well-known firm of Allen & Hanburys, and Luke Howard continuing the Chemical Department in larger premises at Stratford.

The firm of Howards in these early days obtained considerable fame for their mercurial preparations (especially calomel), refined borax, sublimed camphor, soda bicarb, ether and magnesia. Calomel is still manufactured in the identical spot in the Stratford factory, and by the same process as that patented in 1807 by Joseph Jewell, the first "foreman" and afterwards a partner in the firm.

It is impossible to deal with the gradual increase in the number of articles manufactured and the growth of the business, but it was between 1825 and 1830 that quinine was first taken up and worked on a large scale, mainly through the researches of John Eliot Howard, F.R.S., with whose name this article has been so closely associated.

The business has rapidly increased, and in 1898 it was found necessary to acquire more room for extension than was available in the already crowded Stratford factory. A site was obtained at Ilford, and a large new factory has rapidly sprung up there as fast as the growing business demanded increased accommodation. The concern was in 1903 converted into a limited company, all the existing partners joining the new board as managing directors. All six of these are "Howards," and they are all direct descendants of

LUKE HOWARD, THE FOUNDER OF THE FIRM

The list of awards obtained by the firm in the past is a long one, beginning with the chief prize at the great Exhibition of 1851. Among our more recent successes are the Grand Prix, Paris, 1900, Grand Prix, St. Louis, 1904, Gold Medal, Buenos Aires, 1904, and Grand Prix, Franco-British Exhibition, Lon-

*Publisher's Department.