

PLATT'S TEXTILE MACHINERY WORKS.

The Thursday of the meeting—August 17—was devoted wholly to excursions, of which there were two. The first on the list was that to Messrs. Platt Brothers and Co.'s textile machinery works at Oldham. It will be remembered that we dealt at some length with this enormous engineering establishment in connection with the Manchester meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers,* and we need, therefore, only give some of the leading particulars. The works cover an area of 55 acres, and there are employed by the company, who also own their collieries, between 11,000 and 12,000 operatives. These works, now the largest textile machinery-making establishment in the world, were founded in 1821 by Mr. Henry Platt; and in 1868 the firm, which had become Platt Brothers and Co. in 1854, was made into a limited liability company in order to give a number of the heads of departments and agents, an interest in the business. At the branch known as the Hartford Forge all the malleable iron used by the firm is produced. The sawmills cover 8 acres. The packing-case department will work 4,800,000 square feet of deal into packing-cases in the course of the year. The foundries are served by seven cupolas, the average output of castings being about 640 tons weekly, and this quantity is the more remarkable as most of the castings are of small size. In the steel department an open-hearth furnace is being erected for making steel wheels, and a heavier class of castings than can be economically made from crucible steel. In one machine-shop devoted to cast-iron work, and which is only one of a number, there are 400 lathes. Similar shops are devoted to machinery for wrought iron. In what are known as the Hartford New Works, above 5850 men are employed. In the spindle works 1400 people are employed, and here the production is about 35,000 spindles, and 6283 gross of bolts, nuts, and screws weekly. About 33,000 tons of iron are worked up in the course of a year.