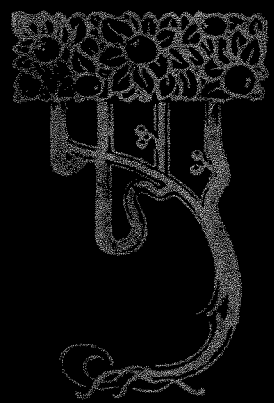




THE . . . . .  
WIMBLEDON  
& . . . . .  
MERTON &  
ANNUAL



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## PREFACE

IN these days when the output of magazine literature is being multiplied to such an extent, some justification is necessary for any addition thereto, and we should hesitate in placing this Annual before the public, were we not able to put forward a special claim for its appearance.

The environs of London have a wealth of traditions, and the local histories of such places as Greenwich, Hampstead, Chelsea and Dulwich, not to mention others, are worthy of preservation. Unfortunately, in many places, for the want of a chronicler, much that would be of extreme interest has been irretrievably lost. It therefore behoves us, wherever possible, to save from oblivion those records that remain of the days gone by, and to preserve them for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Our own neighbourhood is scarcely less rich in historic and other associations than any other London suburb. The attractiveness of its surroundings, its proximity to the

Capital, its freedom, in earlier times, from

' . . . . the roar and scream that nowadays  
Alters for good or ill all places such  
As this,'

drew to it kings and queens, prelates and monks, court dignitaries and leaders of fashion, exiles, litterateurs, scientists and others, whose residence has helped to make its history and given it a title to fame.

To collect this history is the principal intention of this Annual, and with every confidence that in essaying such a venture we are undertaking a work that will appeal to all who love this little corner of Surrey, we commend this volume to your kind reception.

We desire to take this opportunity of thanking very cordially all those who have so readily given their assistance by contributing articles and poems, and granting permission to reproduce pictures, but for which hearty co-operation the furtherance of our object would not have been possible.

H. v.d.B. C.

*December, 1903.*

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