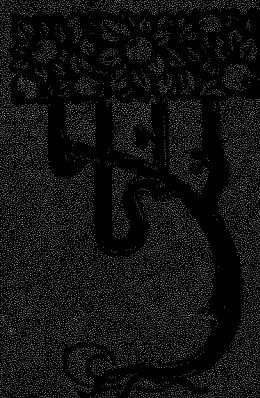




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1910



THE ARMS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WIMBLEDON.

THE
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CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. BY MONTAGUE S. GIUSEPPI, F.S.A. THE RIVER WANDLE : PAST AND PRESENT .	9
2. BY ELIZABETH RAYMOND-BARKER SOME SIDE-LIGHTS ON THE LIFE OF VISCOUNTESS WIMBLEDON	48
3. BY THE REV. J. E. JAGGER, M.A. MERTON CHURCH	57
4. BY P. J. HEATHER SOME NOTES ON THE CHURCH BELLS OF WIMBLEDON AND MERTON	83
5. BY EVELYN RICHARDSON EVANS OLD FOLKS' MEMORIES OF WIMBLEDON .	91
6. BY S. W. KERSHAW, M.A., F.S.A. WIMBLEDON AND THE ARCHBISHOPS . . .	110
7. BY G. L. APPERSON, I.S.O. THE PARISH POUND	118
8. BY CECIL T. DAVIES JOSEPH MARRYAT, M.P., OF WIMBLEDON HOUSE	134

9. BY T. K. ARNOLD
 HERALDIC AND OTHER GLASS IN ST. MARY'S
 CHURCH, WIMBLEDON 156
10. BY A. STEELE SHELDON
 THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF WIMBLEDON . 173

MISCELLANEA

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF FLOWERING PLANTS AND
 VASCULAR CRYPTOGAMS RECORDED FOR WIMBLEDON (*H. W.*
Pugsley, B.A.)—EDITOR'S NOTE

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- THE BOROUGH ARMS *From the Grant of Arms
 to the Corporation of Wimbledon . . . Frontispiece*
- THE RIVER WANDLE
 VIEWS AT MERTON AND MITCHAM *to face Page 24*
 VIEWS AT MITCHAM AND WADDON *to face Page 40*
From photographs by J. PASTON BROWN
- MERTON CHURCH *From Lysons' 'Environs of
 London' 1792 to face Page 57*
- MERTON CHURCH. THE LOVELL MONUMENT *From
 a photograph to face Page 73*
- MERTON CHURCH. PICTURE—CHRIST BEARING
 THE CROSS *From a photograph . . . to face Page 80*
- TABLET ERECTED IN ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN
 CHURCH, GRENADA, WEST INDIES, TO THE
 MEMORY OF JOSEPH MARRYAT, M.P. *From
 a photograph, by the courtesy of the Colonial
 Secretary of Grenada to face Page 153*
- BOOK-PLATE OF JOSEPH MARRYAT . . . *Page 155*

ARMS OF SIR THOMAS CECIL IN THE WINDOW
IN THE CHANCEL OF THE PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. MARY, WIMBLEDON *From a coloured
restoration by MISS ARNOLD . . . Page 161*

HERALDIC GLASS IN THE CECIL CHAPEL, PARISH
CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WIMBLEDON *From
photographs by G. C. DRUCE . . . to face Page 169*

The Illuminated Frontispiece reproduced by G. G. HUGGINS



THE RIVER WANDLE: PAST AND PRESENT *

INTEREST in the river which has gradually carved out the valley in which we live should be a perfectly natural emotion. As Charles Kingsley long ago pointed out, of all the physical agencies which have made our country what it is, and which are still continually modifying and gradually changing it, none, as a general rule, is more potent than water. Moreover, when we come to consider it, we shall find that no other of the various geographical features of which it may consist has more induced the first human settlement in any tract of country than the flow of a river or stream through or near it, and, accordingly, as that river or stream may be adapted to the purposes of man, whether for navigation, for mill power, or for whatsoever use to which it may be put, so has the development of the first early settlements in its valley proceeded,

* This paper was read at a meeting of the John Evelyn Club, held on Wednesday, November 20, 1907.