

Viscount Montague, and at the beginning of the present century it belonged to Lord Gwydyr, who inherited it from his grandfather, Mr. Peter Burrell, of Beckenham.

A topographical book, published in 1817, shows that Thornton Heath was the name of a tract of land on which there were sixty-eight copyhold tenements before it was enclosed by the Crown in 1797.

Between Merton and Croydon is a gentleman's seat called Colliers' Wood, and still bearing

acres. They are all in the parish of Coulsdon, and are wastes of the manor of that name. Short-sighted economists may exclaim against the action of the London Corporation in putting an almost inappreciable tax on foreign grain in order to obtain a very appreciable good in the shape of breathing spaces, untouched by the demon of bricks and mortar, for the benefit of overworked and unrefreshed London. But when Mr. Shaw Lefevre dedicated Coulsdon Commons to the use and enjoyment of his fellow-citizens, a great wave of



WADDON MILL. (See page 183.)

testimony by its name to the ancient employment of the neighbourhood in charcoal-burning.

The neighbourhood of Croydon is interesting to the geologist, as standing at the edge of the London clay basin at its junction with the chalk, the presence of which shows that what is now *terra firma* was once washed by an inland sea.

In May, 1883, between 300 and 400 acres of common lands on the outskirts of the parish, having been secured by the Corporation of London, were dedicated to the public use for ever. These lands, which are known as Coulsdon Commons, are four in number, namely: Fairdean, or Farthing-downs, containing 121 acres; Reddlesdown, 78 acres; Kenley, 70 acres; and Coulsdon, 77

approval and pleasure undulated through the assembly he addressed, and there were but few who did not echo Lord Sherbrooke's hope that "what had been done that day had been well and wisely done, and in the future it would bear the fruits which the most sanguine among them anticipated."

About the year 1870 proceedings were instituted in the Court of Chancery, by two gentlemen named Hall, to stop various enclosures which were gradually encroaching on the common. Judgment having been given in their favour, Messrs. Hall offered to allow the Corporation to become, by purchase, freeholders in the manor. The price asked was, however, considered so excessive for the