

sidering that it was erected before the real principles of Gothic architecture were fairly grasped. The present church consists of chancel, nave, aisles, and a western tower with lofty spire, containing six bells and a clock striking the hours and chiming the quarters, by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, Croydon. There is on the south side of the chancel a small mortuary chapel, erected by Lord Wimbledon in the early part of the seventeenth century, containing an altar-tomb of black marble to the Cecil family, some painted glass with arms of the Cecils in the windows, and some armour. In the churchyard is the tomb of one Hopkins, a usurer, mentioned by Pope as "Vulture Hopkins." The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester.

The old parsonage, near the western end of the church, is a picturesque and interesting building, and almost the only old house in the place. It is thought to have been the home of Sir William Cecil during his residence in the parish. In the survey taken by order of Parliament in the seventeenth century, it is described as containing a considerable number of rooms, and having "two coach-houses, stabling for fourteen horses, and a hawk's mew." One other building is mentioned as adjoining it, containing "two rooms above stairs and two below stairs, wherein," continues the survey, "the minister of Wimbledon, the French gardiner of Wimbledon orange-garden, doe live." At the north-west side of the building is a circular staircase terminating in a turret. The stairs were formed of solid blocks of oak. The exterior of the building was restored in 1863 by Mr. J. A. Beaumont. The building was sold in 1883 to a Mr. Willson, who has fitted it up with due regard to its antiquity of style, though not perhaps with any great regard to strict uniformity of plan.

Wimbledon would seem to be very well off in respect of churches and chapels. Besides the parish church, there is Christ Church, on Cope Hill, which was built in 1869, and much enlarged in 1881. It is in the Early Decorated style, and consists of nave, side aisles, chancel, and a tower at the east end, and will hold nearly 700 worshippers. The Church of St. John the Baptist, on Spencer Hill, is a smaller and less pretentious building, mostly of brick, and in the Early English style, and capable of accommodating an equal number. Near the railway-station is St. Mark's, also of brick; it is as yet unconsecrated, and is used for occasional services. The district south of the railway has been formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish, and has its own church—in the Early Decorated style—Holy Trinity, with sittings

for nearly 800 more. It is a good specimen of Gothic design.

Wimbledon has also three other Episcopal chapels; the Wesleyan, the Congregationalists, the Baptists, the Primitive Methodists, are all represented in the list; and the Roman Catholics have a chapel in Cottenham Park Road, dedicated to St. Jerome and St. Agnes. In addition to these, there are three or four mission-halls and Christian Associations. There are also parochial schools for both North and South Wimbledon, with nearly 2,000 children on their books.

The cemetery, situated in the eastern part of the parish, is about twenty acres in extent. It reaches nearly to Tooting and Merton.

Wimbledon has also its Local Board of Health, its Fire Brigade, its Fever, Cottage, and Convalescent Hospitals, its Village Club and Lecture Hall, its Croquet Club, its Working Men's Club and Institute, its Benefit Building Societies, its Horticultural and Cottage Garden Society, its Musical Society, its Coffee Taverns, its Industrial Training School for Girls, its Parochial Library, its Medical Dispensary, its Art and Benevolent Society, and associations almost beyond number for helping the working-classes and encouraging habits of thrift and temperance. With such advantages, and with plenty of rich persons to support these various charities, surely Wimbledon ought to show an exceptionally good bill of health, moral as well as physical, and its local bench of magistrates ought to have an easy time of it.

Wimbledon Green was occasionally used for cricket matches. In Lillywhite's book on the noble game, it appears that a match was played here, at the commencement of her Majesty's reign, against the Kennington Surrey Club, by the united parishes of Wimbledon, Mitcham, Wandsworth, Esher, Richmond, and Kingston-on-Thames; so it is clear that cricket was a favourite pastime with the natives of the parishes which we have been lately visiting.*

For many years the "royal and ancient game of golf" has been played on Wimbledon Common, where the London Scottish Golf Club has expended large sums of money in maintaining the spaces of smooth sward known as "putting-greens," or golfing-lawns, and surrounding the small holes or pockets into which it is the golfer's aim to play his ball. "Golf," remarks a writer in the *Times*, "has some peculiar advantages which entail peculiar difficulties. It is the most outdoor of outdoor games. Lawn-tennis can be played in any fair-

* See ante, p. 359.