

sized garden, while cricket or football requires at most a moderate patch of meadow. These are games not only compatible with the commonplaces of civilisation, but actually demanding their assistance. Golf, on the contrary, brings men into contact with unadulterated nature. . . . It must be plain that the game is admirably suited to Wimbledon, and Wimbledon to the game. Nowhere else within practicable distance of London can we find in equal perfection the space, the quietude, and the ruggedness of surface which are as essential to the golfer as to the blackcock. It would surely be hard to deny him the enjoyment of these things, and to attempt this becomes most unreasonable when we remember what manner of man he is. It is not to rash and adventurous youth that golf recommends itself; it is the game of sedate middle age, of hale old age, and of bookish men of all ages, who have learned for themselves, without blazoning the fact in the newspapers, that only a very big candle can be burnt at both ends, and only very vigorous constitutions can undertake heavy brain work together with exacting forms of physical exercise. If Wimbledon Common is to be anything more than a private riding-ground for the inhabitants of the parish of Putney and the immediate vicinity of the common, surely nothing could be less objectionable than a game so played by such players. It is suspected that some notion of a right to exclusive possession has been fostered by the constitution of the Wimbledon Conservancy, which is mainly composed of gentlemen elected by the local ratepayers; but I need hardly point out that the surest way to get the common placed under the control of the Metropolitan Board of Works is to display a jealousy of the rights of the general public. It is on these rights that the Golf Club takes its stand; and I feel sure it will have a vigorous public opinion upon its side the moment it becomes understood that what the conservators object to is the intrusion of Londoners. The plea that golf is dangerous is, of course, too absurd to bear a moment's examination. It may serve as an excuse, but it cannot be the motive of the conservators' action. Golf is played upon a narrow strip, nowhere more than 150 yards wide. Every ball is played with a deliberation which I have not exaggerated in the least; and though it would undoubtedly be awkward for a rider to stop one in mid-volley, he can hardly do so without actual premeditation, or carelessness equally culpable. But perhaps the best practical answer is that during the twenty years that golf has been played at Wimbledon not a single injury of any kind has been inflicted upon a passer-by."

Among the low-lying fields on the banks of the Wandle, skirted on the one side by the Merton road and contiguous to the cemetery, is an extensive range of buildings used as sewage-works. The buildings were designed and erected under the superintendence of Mr. W. F. Rowell, the engineer to the Wimbledon Local Board; they consist of a substantial and by no means unsightly edifice, containing the engines, boilers, mixing machinery, and stores, flanked by two tasteful cottage residences, detached from the main building. In front of the engine-house, but covered over so as easily to escape observation, is the artesian well, 400 feet deep, which supplies water both for the boilers and the mixing. Adjacent to the engine-room are two mixing cylinders of wrought-iron. By a self-acting arrangement it is ingeniously contrived that the supply of water from the artesian well to these cylinders shall be regulated by the speed of the engines, so as to furnish a quantity of disinfecting liquid proportionate to the volume of sewage. The disinfecting liquid thus prepared goes into the sewage contained in the pumping reservoir beneath. A pump, also driven by the main engines, forces a portion of the disinfecting liquid into the tanks provided for the treatment of the high level sewage. The action of the pumping-engines lifts the low-level sewage from the reservoir under the engine-house, and forces it into a mixing-well outside the building. The middle level sewage is likewise lifted into this well. The sewage mingled with the disinfecting liquid is here tossed about as it is forced up from the rising main, and a perfect blending of the whole is obtained. From this well, which is, in fact, a species of circular tank of brickwork raised above the ground, the prepared sewage runs off into one or other of two precipitating tanks, each capable of holding about 400,000 gallons. In the space of three hours the precipitating process is accomplished, and the purified sewage is discharged through an overflow pipe or channel on to the filter bed, or else drawn off through valves at the bottom of the tank into open stoneware carriers for irrigating the land, about forty acres being provided for this purpose.

The overflow from the precipitating tanks leads into a long, open bricked channel, whence the purified sewage overflows on to the filtering area. This is one acre in extent, and holds about 12,000 cubic yards of burnt ballast, with an average depth of four feet. A 12-inch pipe at the opposite end of this filter leads the finally purified sewage into the Wandle, opposite the silk-works, where the stream looks so black and foul that all the purify-