

A PROPOSED CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM.

Stanford University is located in one of the famous garden spots of the world. It possesses several thousand acres of beautiful rolling hills and fertile fields. It is situated in the suburbs of a great metropolis. No institution in America or perhaps in the world has such ideal conditions for the development of a world-famed Arboretum. Probably nowhere can a region be found where a wider variety of plants can be successfully grown out of doors than in California. The mild winters and comparatively cool summers permit the growth of every sort of plant except the most sensitive tropical kinds.

There are trees growing now on the Stanford campus from such extreme climatological and geographical regions as Alaska, Central America, Brazil, Chili, Norway, England, Syria, Canary Islands, Algiers, South Africa, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. Enough pioneer work has been done in plant introduction and acclimatization in California to demonstrate that the plant resources of the world are at our command.

An Arboretum organized on broad scientific lines, free from politics, favorably located and permanently endowed with adequate funds, would become to California what the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew are to England. Kew is one of the most attractive spots in that country famed for

its beautiful parks and gardens, but Kew is more than a park. It is a scientific institution and has contributed perhaps more than any other to the scientific knowledge of plants; it has had a profound influence upon the development of an intelligent appreciation of gardens; it has carried on extensive acclimatization and breeding experiments, and it has trained men who may be found throughout her colonies.

In America there are very few Arboretums or Botanical Gardens, and only one west of the Atlantic States - the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis. The largest of these, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, is situated in the suburbs of Boston.

Few people realize the important work the Arnold Arboretum has done for American gardens and horticulture. It is now about 50 years old, and has introduced into North America many more kinds of plants than were formerly under cultivation. Many of the popular bright-berried cotoneasters, flowering cherries, barberries and rhododendrons, to mention only a few, are among the hundreds of plants this institution has brought into cultivation in this country.

But the severe cold of New England is a serious handicap at the Arnold Arboretum. It is not possible to cultivate successfully out of doors any plants except those of the cool temperate and subarctic regions. All the warm temperate and subtropical regions are a closed book, as

is also the entire southern hemisphere, for not a single species from the antipodes, even from the high Andes, has been found that will withstand the rigors of the New England winters.

Contrast with these conditions the possibilities of a California Arboretum where plants from all parts of the world except the strictly tropical can be successfully grown, and we begin to appreciate the significance of the conclusions of Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent, for fifty years the director of the Arnold Arboretum and the best known authority on trees, when he says that "nothing is so much needed for the science of dendrology as a California Arboretum."

Working in full cooperation with such institutions as the Arnold Arboretum and the New York Botanical Garden, a California Arboretum would fill a large gap in the development of plant introduction, acclimatization and other fields of scientific knowledge.

California is essentially a land of homes -- of beautiful country and suburban homes. The people are intelligent, progressive, and quick to respond to ^{new ideas} ~~worthy~~ movements. The landscape gardening and the plant collections at the Panama Exposition were greatly appreciated. The splendid work of Mr. John MacLaren and his associates at that time is still reflected in the plantings about the homes, the public institutions and even the industrial plants. The ^{in the Bay Region}

widespread influence of the ephemeral planting at the Exposition illustrates one line of service a permanent Arboretum would perform.

In a California Arboretum one of the special features should be a collection of conifers. California has more native conifers than any other similar area, and all or nearly all the species from other parts of the World can be successfully grown here. The bringing together for critical scientific study of a comprehensive collection of the world's conifers would in itself be of inestimable value to science, to landscape gardening and to forestry.

Special features should also be made of plants from the subtropical regions and from the southern hemisphere. Extensive collections from South Africa, South America, Australia and New Zealand could be a unique feature of an Arboretum in California.

But an Arboretum is something more than a collection of plants, or a park. It is a scientific institution, manned with scientifically trained men, and equipped with laboratories, herbaria and libraries, whose primary purpose should be to further the fundamental scientific knowledge of plants. The possibilities of such an institution for public service not only to the state, but to all mankind, can best be grasped when we stop to consider that:

1. Plants are the ultimate source of nearly all food, fuel, raiment, and shelter.

2. A thorough scientific knowledge of plants is becom-

ing more and more essential to the welfare of civilization, as the problems of raw materials become more and more acute. Horticulture, forestry, and all the industries dependent upon plant life rest fundamentally upon the scientific knowledge of plants and plant growth.

3. The scientific study of plants as living organisms out of doors in normal conditions is essential to the progress of this knowledge.

Stanford University and the San Francisco Peninsula have ideal natural facilities for developing a world-famed Arboretum. The laboratories, herbaria, libraries and experimental grounds would be on the Stanford campus. The permanent plantings would form a series of beautiful parks along San Francisco Creek and the adjoining hills, extending from Palo Alto to Searsville Lake, here perhaps to join other parks about Crystal Lakes and along the Skyline Boulevard to the Coast. Such a setting would give a great variety of soils, and climates as widely different as Spain and the British Isles. With such perfect natural conditions, the world's most famous Arboretum awaits only the necessary funds for development to become a reality. Stanford would welcome the opportunity to help develop such an institution.