



Annual Report 1900-1901

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the progress and condition of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending July 31st, 1901.

The principal work of construction accomplished during the year has been the draining of the large peat meadow near the Jamaica Plain entrance, made possible by the construction of the sewer built by the City of Boston to lower the water-level in this meadow and adjacent territory, and finished last winter. A drainage canal from five to six feet deep has been cut through the meadow, and in connection with this tile drains have been laid where necessary. In this way about fourteen acres of land which has been too wet for the satisfactory growth of trees has been made available for the collections and for the use of the public. About thirty acres occupied by the Birches, Nettle-trees, and conifers have been plowed, graded, and laid down permanently in grass; these trees have been carefully cultivated and the ground about them enriched. The boundary plantations on the Peter's Hill extension have been finished; a beginning of the arrangement of the systematic groups of Willows and Poplars has been made on the lower southern and southeastern slopes of the hill; and a large group of conifers, principally Spruces and Firs, occupying several acres, has been planted near the Walter Street front, to supplement groups of these trees already established on the opposite side of Bussey Street. The strip of land between the drive at the eastern base of the hill and the woods which separate this drive from Bussey Street has been planted with a collection of the different species and varieties of Crab-apples, to supplement the collection of these trees and shrubs near the Forest Hills entrance, which is greatly confined for want of sufficient space and is an inadequate representation of these plants. It is hoped that this new group, which will eventually occupy between two and three acres, will in a few years prove an attractive popular feature when the trees are in flower, and, like the flowering of the garden varieties of the Lilac, bring many visitors to the Arboretum.

The exchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. 6,119 plants and 1,739 packets of seeds have been distributed, as follows:

To the United States, 6,074 plants and 328 packets of seeds; to Canada, 17 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 45 plants and 205 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 1,000 packets of seeds; to Japan, 179 packets of seeds; to Java, 10 packets of seeds. There have been received during the year 6,183 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 415 packets of seeds.

During the year 2,479 sheets of dried plants have been added to the herbarium, and 1,928 sheets distributed to other establishments.

The library has received by gift 856 bound volumes and 460 pamphlets.

The study of the genus *Crataegus* (Hawthorns) as it appears in North America has for the last two years largely engrossed the scientific activity of the Arboretum, and large collections of these plants have been made in all parts of the country where they grow. Sowings of the seeds of many species have been made, and seeds and herbarium specimens have been distributed to the principal gardens and botanical museums in the United States and Europe. Four technical papers on this subject have been published by me during the year, but careful and sustained work extending through several years will be needed before all the forms which this genus has developed in North America can be satisfactorily elucidated and added to the collection. This work, which has already made known a number of trees which had previously escaped the notice of botanists, has delayed the appearance of the two final volumes of *The Silva of North America*; these will probably appear, however, before the end of another year.

Satisfactory progress has been made on the [Bradley Bibliography](#) of dendrological literature, and about thirty-one thousand cards are now finished.

In response to an appeal to the public made by the Visiting Committee, \$95,970 has been added during the year to the Endowment Fund of the Arboretum in sums varying from \$5 to \$5,000. It is a cause of satisfaction that these gifts for the endowment of the Arboretum have not come entirely from persons living in Massachusetts, and that a substantial portion has been contributed from other states.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks again to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture for their annual grant of \$2,500 for the maintenance of the Arboretum, and to the members of the Visiting Committee for their support and assistance.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.