



Annual Report 1922-1923

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition and progress of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending June 30, 1923.

The living plants have not suffered unexpectedly during the severe winter during which small shrubs and trees were protected by an unusually heavy snowfall. A few shrubs and young trees, however, were killed or injured by field mice working under the snow.

During the year 311 plants in 38 genera were added to the permanent collections. Generally all the plants in the Arboretum are in good condition and have made a satisfactory growth during the year. The flowers, however, on many of them have been less abundant than usual.

During the year 2,069 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 1,372 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: To the United States, 1614 plants and 983 packets of seeds; to Canada, 38 plants and 6 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 338 plants and 134 packets of seeds; to France, 17 packets of seeds; to South Africa, 36 plants and 7 packets of seeds; to Australia, 194 packets of seeds.

There have been received 7,873 plants (including grafts and cuttings) as follows: From the United States, 6,344 plants; from Canada, 1,104 plants; from Great Britain, 283 plants; from Norway, 2 plants; from Japan, 3 plants.

On the 24th of August [Mr. E. H. Wilson](#), the Assistant Director, returned to the Arboretum from his southern journey for which he left twenty-five months before. During this journey Mr. Wilson brought back to the Arboretum 5,000 herbarium specimens, 1,830 photographs and 500 books, pamphlets and reports.

More important for the Arboretum is the information he has obtained of the vegetation of the countries visited, and the excellent relations he has established with the Directors of botanic gardens and forest officers. He found everywhere south of the equator that the native forests were being destroyed to make room for the cultivation of fast-growing timber trees like some of the species of Eucalyptus or of different rubber-producing plants, and his observations

have confirmed my belief that if the dendrologists of the future are to have the opportunity to study trees in this country in a really comprehensive and exhaustive manner there is no time to lose in extending the herbarium of the Arboretum to include representatives of the trees and important shrubs of the world.

A good beginning has been made in this work during the [first fifty years of the Arboretum](#), and in its herbarium can already be found specimens of what is believed to be the richest collection in the world of cone-bearing plants and the best collection of the woody plants of North America.

The herbarium is so well equipped with material from Japan, Korea, and from northern and western China that it attracts Chinese and Japanese students who often find better opportunities here to study the trees of their native countries than can be found elsewhere.

During the year 10,842 specimens have been incorporated in the herbarium. Among these are 1,350 North American plants, 2,200 plants from the Philippine Islands, 650 Chinese plants chiefly from the northern provinces, contributed by Mr. L. Her of Peking, 470 plants from western Asia, 1,550 African plants, 1,500 Australasian plants and 700 Indian plants. There have been distributed from the herbarium in exchange 3,500 herbarium specimens among fourteen institutions in the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

The library contained on the 30th of June 35,004 bound volumes and 7,706 pamphlets, 690 volumes and 60 pamphlets having been added during the year. A few of the important books obtained are Stephen Blake's *Compleat Gardeners Practice*, 1664; *Apuleius Platonicus Herbarium*, Rome, 1481; Petri Castelli, *Hortus Messanensis*, 1640; P. P. Alyon, *Cours de botanique*, 1787-88; Macer Floridus, *De virtutibus*, Venetiis, 1506.

There are now 9,649 mounted and catalogued photographs in the collection, 1,222 having been added to it during the year.

During the year a brick house has been built for the Assistant Director on land on South Street belonging to the Arboretum. Brick houses have also been built for two of the Arboretum employees, one near the northwest corner of the Arboretum on Walter Street, and the other on May Street on land bought for the purpose. The house at the corner of Centre and Prince Streets occupied by the Superintendent has been thoroughly repaired.

By an arrangement with the City of Boston the ancient and long unused cemetery on Walter Street bounded on two sides by the Arboretum, and containing approximately 3,650 square feet of land, has been devoted to the use of the Arboretum with the understanding that its graves and grave stones should not be interfered with. The stone wall which separated this cemetery from the Arboretum will be removed and the ground will be planted with trees. Most of the land now occupied by the Arboretum formed part of a grant made in 1640 by the Town of Roxbury to [Colonel Thomas Weld](#), an Englishman who had come to this country from Sudbury in England and was the founder of the Weld family of Roxbury. Seven generations of

Welds occupied this land until its purchase by [Benjamin Bussey](#) early in the nineteenth century. During the Weld occupation the high hill in the Arboretum now called Peter's Hill was known as Weld Hill, and the brook which flows by the northern base of Hemlock Hill was called Sawmill Brook from the small sawmill which once stood near what is now the junction of the Meadow and the Hemlock Hill Roads. I suggest that the Corporation authorize the change of the name of Peter's Hill to Weld Hill and that of Bussey Brook to Sawmill Brook, and that these names be printed on future editions of Arboretum maps.

The safety of the Arboretum has been increased by the substantial chain link iron fence which the City of Boston has built along its northern boundary as far west as the entrance from Centre Street. It has placed a similar fence on top of the stone wall which separates the eastern boundary of the Arboretum from the Arborway. This fence has stopped passing in and out of the Arboretum along this boundary, and permits a better display of the vines planted at the base of the stone wall.

During the year five numbers of the Arboretum *Journal* and sixteen numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* have been published. The spring field meetings open to the public, conducted by Assistant [Professor Jack](#), were attended by sixteen registered men and women.

In addition to a number of persons who studied at the Arboretum during short periods seven special or graduate students have worked in the herbarium and library, some of these being registered in the [Bussey Institution](#) for advanced degrees. Of these special students three are Chinese who have graduated from other institutions; two are women.

It becomes every year more difficult to maintain the Arboretum with the income of its present endowment. Higher salaries have been properly requested by most of the members of the staff; and every year the cost of maintaining the collections in good condition is increasing. The quality of labor which it is now possible to obtain is inefficient and uninterested, and has been more expensive even than during the war. Without a much larger income than it now enjoys the Arboretum cannot establish any of the new departments it needs or undertake in any comprehensive way the explorations of the flora of remote parts of the world by which in the past it has performed its greatest service.

During the year the Committee appointed by the Overseers of the University to visit the Arboretum made a successful effort to increase the Arboretum income by sending out to a carefully prepared list of 22,000 men and women interested in plants and their cultivation the following circular: "The Arboretum was established fifty years ago as the University's museum to increase the knowledge of trees and shrubs, of which it has now the largest living collection in America, supplemented by a great herbarium and library, and is everywhere recognized as the most important institution of its kind in the world, and also as one of the most beautiful of all public gardens. For forty years it has been the most active and successful of the agencies for the discovery and study of new trees and shrubs; and today it is a great national institution of

world-wide usefulness and reputation, to whose initiative and example the parks and gardens of America owe much of their beauty. "The Arboretum has outgrown its endowment, which produces only \$40,000 a year, and to meet the deficits of income the Director has been obliged for a long time personally to raise every year from forty to fifty thousand dollars, which have been given usually by not over one hundred and twenty persons chiefly living in Greater Boston. A still larger income will be required if the Arboretum is to broaden its influence and maintain its position. "A national institution is entitled to national support. Will you not contribute \$10 or such larger sum as you feel able to give for the work of the Arboretum? Every contributor will receive in return the Arboretum's *Bulletins of Popular Information* containing information about all new and interesting plants, the *illustrated Guide to the Arboretum*, if desired, and any assistance and advice about his own plants that can be furnished by correspondence.

"The Visiting Committee feels that it must make every effort to increase the usefulness and broaden the support of the Arboretum."

By this circular before June 30th \$15,821.50 were obtained from 778 persons in sums varying from \$2 to \$1000. It is interesting that contributions came from every state with the exception of Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico and Utah. By the campaign made by the Visiting Committee the Arboretum is now better known than it was before. It has brought a larger number of visitors to the Arboretum, greatly increased its correspondence, and substantially increased its income for the year. During the year the income of the Arboretum was further increased by \$26,680 in gifts from its friends of many years' standing.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.