



Annual Report 1899-1900

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 August 31st, 1900.

During the year the City of Boston has finished the work of construction in the Arboretum provided for under its indentures of 1882 and of 1895 with the University, with the exception of a sewer to carry off the floods of Goldsmith Brook and to lower the water-level in the meadow near the South Street entrance into the Arboretum. A contract for building this sewer has been made by the [Park Commissioners of Boston](#) and the work, which is already begun, will be finished before the end of the current year. Since 1883, when the City began to aid in the development of the Arboretum, it has spent \$79,315.85 in buying land which has been turned over to the University for the use of the Arboretum, and \$371,768.82 for Arboretum construction. With this money the City has built in the most substantial and thorough manner 3.48 miles of Telford and macadamized roadway with four brick culverts and all necessary slopes, and 5.70 miles of gravel walks; it has protected all highway boundaries with solid stone walls where such walls did not previously exist, and it has provided the seven entrances into the Arboretum with handsome iron gates. Last year the City paid \$8,500 for maintaining these drives and walks and for police protection. With interest at four per cent, this annual expenditure represents a further contribution to the Arboretum of \$210,000 and makes the total of the City's expenditure on the Arboretum \$661,084.67.

Since 1877 the Arboretum has received from the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture grants amounting to \$10,500 and as gifts from individuals the sum of \$178,100. In this amount is included the Bradley Fund of \$20,000 of which the income can be used only for some special piece of scientific work. Of the balance \$14,500 has been added to the Arnold Endowment of \$100,000 which has been increased to \$150,000 by the accretion of interest. The remainder of the money derived from gifts, \$143,800, has been spent or will be needed during the next year or two in the construction and development of the Arboretum. This expenditure is represented by a fire-proof building large enough to contain the scientific collections, laboratories, and administration offices of the Arboretum for many years to come, a library of seven thousand bound volumes and many pamphlets, and a large herbarium of ligneous plants. It is further represented by soil and manure purchased for the plantations and by the grading, draining, and planting of the grounds. This construction work is now finished or is already provided for, but the income of the endowment, which is now only a

little more than \$7,000 and is gradually decreasing, is entirely inadequate to maintain the Arboretum or carry on its scientific and educational work.

During the year the valley north of Hemlock Hill has been graded and work has been done in lowering the bed of Goldsmith Brook and in grading the adjacent meadows. Boundary plantations in the Peter's Hill extension have been made and the preparatory work for the remaining plantations in this part of the Arboretum has been finished. The ground occupied by the Maple, Elm, and Birch groups and by the Conifers has been plowed and graded and next year this land will be permanently laid down. To facilitate easy access to all parts of the Arboretum, grass walks have been made leading through the natural woods and to the collections which are not immediately adjacent to drives. These walks follow the contour of the ground and are cheaply made and maintained; and, as the Arboretum is not much used by the public in winter, they will serve a useful purpose for many years. About two and one-half miles of these walks have been finished. The woods and plantations are in generally good condition, and in spite of two successive summers of excessive drought the young trees have made satisfactory progress.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. There have been 10,104 plants and 760 packets of seeds distributed as follows: To the United States, 10,107 plants and 343 packets of seeds; to Canada, 38 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 97 plants and 122 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 197 packets of seeds; to Japan, 55 packets of seeds; to the East Indies, 3 packets of seeds; to India, 2 packets of seeds. There have been received during the year 6,604 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 324 packets of seeds.

During the year 2,125 sheets of dried plants have been added to the herbarium; and the library has received by gift 685 bound volumes and 201 pamphlets.

By an arrangement made with the President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, students of landscape-gardening in the Institute are instructed by [Mr. J. G. Jack](#) in dendrology and arboriculture at the Arboretum. During the year two popular courses in dendrology were given by Mr. Jack with an average attendance in the autumn of twenty-seven and in the spring of thirty-four. As usual these courses were largely composed of teachers.

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

C. S. SARGENT, Director.