



Annual Report 1919-1920

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 June 30, 1920.

The long cold winter of 1919-20 with its heavy snowfall resting on a layer of ice which was formed early in December and remained covered until April did not do as much injury in the Arboretum as might have been expected.

Conifers and broad-leaved evergreens which suffer here from extreme cold were less injured than in the neighborhood of New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington and other places in the northern states with a less severe winter climate than that of Boston. A few conifers lost their leaves but have recovered; branches of Rhododendrons and other broadleaved evergreens were broken by the weight of snow, but the greatest damage was done by field mice which working under the snow girdled and killed several young trees.

The introduction of new plants from foreign countries which has been carried on successfully by the Arboretum since its earliest days has been stopped by the rulings of the Federal Horticultural Board. This Board, established by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States by authority of Congress, prohibits the importation, with few exceptions, of living plants and of the seeds of trees and shrubs unless on arrival in this country they are sent to Washington for inspection and disinfection. The methods of disinfection adopted by the Federal Board are so crude and so unnecessarily severe that a large proportion of the plants and seeds subjected to them are killed. The Arboretum has therefore given up the importation of plants and seeds, but has joined a number of other institutions and societies in an effort to obtain changes in the rulings of the Federal Horticultural Board which will make possible under reasonable regulations the importation of the material needed by the Arboretum to carry on an important part of its work.

The Arboretum as an out-of-doors museum needs room in which to spread, and if additional room cannot be obtained the time is fast approaching when it must be decided what general arrangement will best serve the purpose for which this museum was created. If the natural beauty which makes the Arboretum famous is to be preserved additional trees cannot

be planted, and many of those already planted must be removed if it is to contain the large and well-grown trees which alone can increase its beauty and general interest to the public. If the agreement, however, made by the President and Fellows of the University with the Trustees under the will of [James Arnold](#), by which the Arboretum must contain a specimen of every tree and shrub capable of growing in Massachusetts, is carried out the Arboretum if confined to its present bounds will consist of a great variety of small, badly shaped and crowded trees interesting only to those students of dendrology who care more for a tree as a representative of a species than as an object of beauty. In other words, if the area of the Arboretum's out-of-doors museum cannot be enlarged some one must soon decide if it is to remain a beautiful garden of a comparatively few handsome trees or a botanical collection in which the number of species is more important than their arrangement and health.

During the year 578 bound volumes and 219 pamphlets have been added to the library by its friends. It now contains 32,586 volumes and 8,358 unbound pamphlets. The mounting, cataloguing and arranging the photographs of trees and other plants which have been accumulating for many years has occupied much of the time of the librarian during the year. About 5,000 of these photographs are now arranged and catalogued, and for the first time can be easily used. Now that a practical plan of arrangement has been decided on this collection will grow rapidly, and should prove a valuable addition to the library and herbarium.

The herbarium is growing steadily; and during the year 11,859 sheets have been added to it. This is the largest addition which has been made to the herbarium in a single year, and 1,200 more sheets than were added to it in any previous year. It is estimated that the herbarium now contains approximately 177,400 specimens of trees and shrubs, exclusive of large collections of the fruit of conifers and other trees. Among the important collections added to the herbarium during the year are 3,725 plants collected by [Mr. E.H. Wilson](#) in Korea and Formosa, and 1,060 plants collected in Honan by [Mr. J. Hers](#), a Belgian railway engineer living in China, and sent by him to the Arboretum for determination. This collection, which contains several new species, is of particular interest for Honan is botanically one of the least known provinces of China.

Other important collections added to the herbarium during the year are 1,307 Philippine plants, a collection of 313 specimens of Himalayan plants presented by Colonel R.N. Parker of the British Army, and 3,900 specimens collected for the Arboretum in North America; of these 967 were collected by [Mr. E.J. Palmer](#) principally in southern Illinois and in western Kentucky and Tennessee, 574 by Mr. T.G. Harbison in the southeastern states, 731 by Miss Alice Eastwood in the Pacific states, and 362 by [Mr. Alfred Rehder](#) in Florida.

The herbarium has received in exchange from the Botanic Garden at Berlin a valuable collection of 750 woody plants, principally from the countries bordering the Mediterranean, and 137 specimens from the Botanic Garden at Copenhagen.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued during the year. Including grafts and cuttings, 2,356 plants

and 240 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: To the United States, 1,978 plants and 240 packets of seeds; to Canada, 22 plants; to Great Britain, 356 plants and 57 packets of seeds; to France, 66 packets of seeds.

There have been received 2,462 plants and 265 packets of seeds as follows: From the United States, 2,460 plants and 22 packets of seeds; from British Columbia, 1 plant; from Great Britain, 1 plant and 75 packets of seeds; from France, 2 packets of seeds; from Algeria, 2 packets of seeds; from Japan, 30 packets of seeds; from China, 95 packets of seeds; from India, 39 packets of seeds.

During the year 4 numbers of the new quarterly [*Journal of the Arboretum*](#) and 17 numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* have been issued.

The usual instruction in dendrology has been given in the Arboretum during the year by [Professor Jack](#) at field meetings held on Saturdays during the spring months and to special students who use the facilities offered by the Arboretum during the year.

The success of the Arboretum is largely due to the financial help it has now for many years received from the members of the Visiting Committee appointed by the Overseers and from its other friends. Without this annual assistance it would be impossible to maintain the Arboretum with the income of its endowment, and to the generous friends of the Arboretum are due the thanks of all students and lovers of trees.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.