

THE ARSENAL FROM THE EAST DRIVE, CENTRAL PARK.

7

THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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THE PARK BOARD :

JOHN J. PALLAS, President,

Commissioner of Parks for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.

WILLIAM P. SCHMITT,

* JOHN J. BRADY,

Commissioner of Parks for the Borough of The Bronx.

MICHAEL J. KENNEDY,

Commissioner of Parks for the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.

SAMUEL PARSONS, Jr., Landscape Architect.

WILLIS HOLLY, Secretary.

* Appointed October 7, 1904.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904.

The Park Board.

The head of the Department of Parks is the Park Board, consisting of three Commissioners. The Park Board establishes and enforces general rules and regulations for the administration of the Department, and subject to the ordinances of the Board of Aldermen, establishes and enforces rules and regulations for the government and protection of public parks and of all property in charge of said Board or under its control, which rules and regulations so far as practicable are uniform in all of the boroughs.

All rules and regulations of the Park Board which were in force on the first day of January, 1902, were continued in full force and effect by the provisions of the new Charter. Any person violating such ordinances is guilty of a misdemeanor. The Park Board receives bids for works and supplies, lets contracts and has general power over all matters relating to the parks of this city, taken as a whole.

Each Commissioner of Parks, subject to the general rules and regulations established by the Board, has administrative jurisdiction within the borough or boroughs to which he was designated by the Mayor in his appointment.

The offices of the Park Board are, under the Charter, in the Borough of Manhattan, and are located in the Arsenal Building, Central Park. Branch offices in the Boroughs of Brooklyn and The Bronx are provided also by the Charter, and are located respectively in the Litchfield mansion, Prospect Park, and the Zborowski mansion, Claremont Park.

The City of New York is divided for purposes of maintaining parks and parkways into the following Borough divisions:

1. Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.
2. Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.
3. Borough of The Bronx.

The assent of the Landscape Architect of the Department of Parks is requisite to all plans and works or changes thereof, respecting the construction, development

or ornamentation of any of the park squares or public places of the city. It is the duty of such Landscape Architect, from time to time, to prepare and submit to the Board plans for works or changes respecting the parks and parkways of the city.

The Commissioner's Report of the Work of the Department of Parks for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond, for the Year 1904.

Office of the Department of Parks,
Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond,
The Arsenal, Central Park,
New York, December 31, 1904. }

Hon. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, Mayor of The City of New York:

Dear Sir—In compliance with the provisions of the Charter, I send you herewith the report of work undertaken and accomplished in this Department for the year closing, together with an outline of plans and recommendations for the year 1905.

Respectfully,

JOHN J. PALLAS,
Commissioner of Parks, Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.

Foreword.

The first park in The City of New York owed its origin to the old-time Dutch burghers' love of bowling, and similarly the latest additions to the Municipal park area have been due mainly to the desire to provide athletic facilities for the young of the present day.

The earliest of New York's parks was Bowling Green, laid out in 1732 for playing the game of bowls. In 1770 a leaden statue of George III. was here upreared, but upon the Declaration of Independence, a patriotic mob promptly tore it down and the lead served as bullets for Washington's army. Sixteen years later Bowling Green was formally laid out as a park, and for years served as the fashionable promenade ground of the Knickerbocker folk.

A ledge of rocks stretched across the Island of Manhattan in the city's early days, and these were fortified and known as the Battery. The name, "The Battery," has steadily clung to the locality, and for many years municipal improvement took the shape of filling in to the present water line.

Aquarium.

Although part of Battery Park, the Aquarium is so rich in antiquarian interest as to deserve separate mention.

Fort Clinton, afterward Castle Garden, and now the Aquarium, was erected in 1814 as the result of a mass meeting held to determine the best method of forti-

fying the city against an anticipated attack by the British. "A patriotic dame of high social position," says Charles H. Haswell in his "Reminiscences of an Octogenarian," "trundled a wheelbarrow full of earth from Trinity churchyard down Broadway to the fort." Ceded back to the City in 1822 by the Federal Government, it was turned into a place of public amusement, the most popular of New York's early days. Here in 1850, all New York thronged to hear Jenny Lind, and hundreds of those who failed to obtain tickets hired row boats, and night after night this queer flotilla besieged the old fort. The uptown drift of population finally rendered it no longer practicable as an amusement place, and it fell into use as lodging quarters for arriving immigrants. Now, after a varied career, it has returned to its old amusement function—as the public Aquarium, the finest in the New World.

City Hall Park.

Next in age is City Hall Park, part of the common lands of the Seventeenth Century. Originally devoted to the grazing of cattle, it was afterward laid out as a parade ground, and each Fourth of July the militia paraded past the City Hall (erected in 1803-1811), where it was reviewed by the Mayor and Aldermen. Here also were held State lotteries, and the drawings took place upon the esplanade, as the law required, "in the presence of an Alderman." On the site of the old Hall of Records, was the Bridewell, or City Prison, whence culprits condemned to death were driven forth, dressed in black and seated on a coffin in an open wagon, and transported to a level field at the junction of Second avenue and Thirteenth street, where the death sentence was carried out. It is frequently asked why the rear of the City Hall is of freestone, while its front and sides are of white marble, and the explanation came glibly enough, that when built its location was so far up town that the authorities of the day were convinced it would be useless to incur the cost of a marble rear, when, as a writer of the period declared, it "would be out of sight of all the world."

Among the next group of parks, Washington Square, Madison Square and Union Square, as well as Bryant Park, of later date, all owe their existence as pleasure spots to prior use as pauper burial grounds.

Madison Square Park.

This park was the City's Potter's Field in 1794, at what was then the junction of the Post and Bloomingdale roads. An extensive arsenal was hereon erected, but was abandoned and afterward burned in 1839. The area of the old cemetery was reduced, in 1844, to the present limits of Madison Square, and the present plans of improvement adopted in 1870.

Union Square Park.

After being abandoned for burial purposes, this park was laid out in 1815, but its improvement lagged until 1870.

Washington Square Park.

The present Washington Square Park became the Potter's Field in 1797, when Madison Square was given over to other purposes. In 1827 three and one-half acres were added, being purchased for \$78,000, then considered an extravagant price. In 1835 the Twenty-seventh (now the Seventh) Regiment lay under arms in Washington Park for four days and nights, to protect convicts from Sing Sing, who were preparing the stone for the New York University Building, then in progress. Two years later Samuel F. B. Morse, then a professor at New York University, strung wires partly across the park or parade ground, and gave the first public exhibition of the electric telegraph.

Tompkins Square Park.

Tompkins Square in 1816, when Jacob Radcliffe was Mayor, was noted as a hunting ground for snipe. It was subsequently laid out as a market place, but this was soon abolished by an Act of the Legislature. In 1866 it took its turn as a parade ground, and when finally established as a park, so-called, it was paved with concrete, but the folly of this was realized and trees and sod took the place of stone.

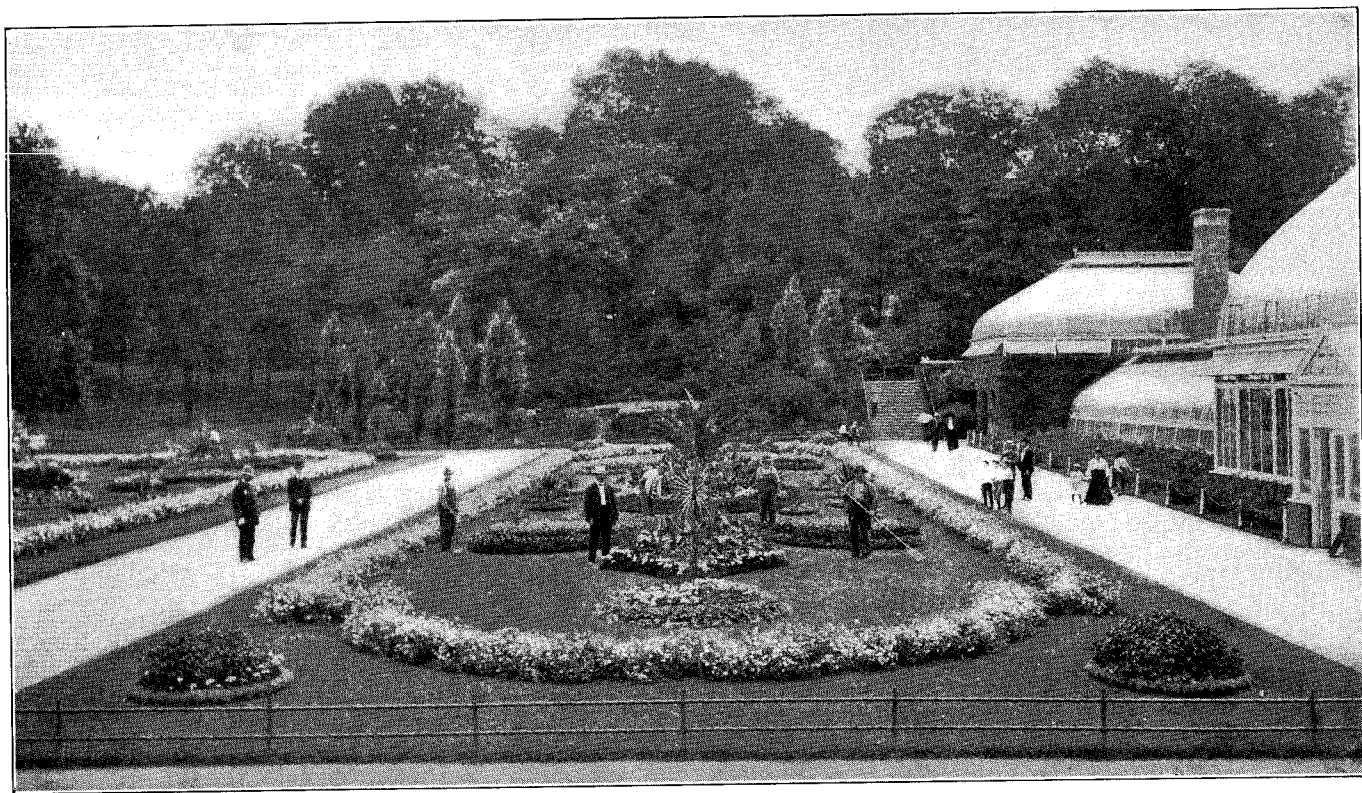
Bryant Park.

When, in 1823, the Potter's Field of the day became the Washington Parade Ground, the plot of land bounded by Fortieth and Forty-second streets, Fifth and Sixth avenues, was purchased as a place of pauper interment. The city drove a fair bargain in the purchase, for \$8,449 was paid for the 128 building lots now comprised in Bryant Park. A World's Fair, the first in America, was held here in 1853, and was opened by President Pierce. When the Croton Aqueduct was constructed, a reservoir was built on the site of the former burying place and on July 5, 1842, the water was turned into this stone storage tank, then described as being "at Murray's Hill, a short drive from the City." After many vicissitudes, the aspect of the park has again changed and the superb structure of the New York Public Library is being upreared, where stood the grimy old reservoir, and where, in earlier days, rested the bones of the pauper dead.

Two of the newer small parks likewise have interesting histories.

Mulberry Bend Park.

The scene of the present Mulberry Bend Park in the middle of the Nineteenth Century was an "Alsatia," where desperate criminals and human derelicts sought safety from the police. Afterward remarkable only for its poverty and squalor, it was acquired under the provisions of Chapter 30 of the Laws of 1887, and converted into a much needed breathing spot.



CONSERVATORY GARDENS, CENTRAL PARK.

Corlear's Hook Park.

Corlear's Hook Park in 1817 was an open shore noted as being the scene of the practice of the rite of immersion. On part of the present park site was constructed in 1833 the first tenement house ever built in the City of New York, and it seems more than fitting that the spot should now be one of the many recreation centres in the crowded tenement districts.

Central Park.

In letters to the "Horticulturist" in the autumn of 1850, Andrew J. Downing pointed out the lack of park space in the city, and urged that a great park be established far uptown, while land was yet cheap enough not to seriously burden the community. During the following year Mayor Kingsland sent to the Common Council a message setting forth the necessity of early action in the matter. The Common Council in response voted to ask the Legislature for authority to acquire the land. A committee to choose a site was appointed, and in 1853 it recommended that the park should be located on the East River shore opposite Blackwell's Island, taking in the property then, and for many years afterward, known as Jones' Wood. A steamboat was chartered and members of the Legislature, Chamber of Commerce, and many prominent citizens were invited to inspect the proposed site, President Franklin Pierce being a guest of the party. The objection was raised, however, that as one side of the tract was bounded by a deep and rapid river, the facility for crimes of violence would be too great. Therefore the Committee found a more central location, and Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment for the land now occupied by Central Park were appointed by the Supreme Court. The report of these Commissioners awarded for damages \$5,169,369.69, and for benefits \$1,657,590, and the Common Council at once appropriated \$5,000,000 for immediate expenditure. The Commission appointed to direct the work of construction was aided by a Consulting Committee including Washington Irving, William Cullen Bryant and George Bancroft.

Eighteen hundred and fifty-seven was a year of great financial distress and unusually severe weather, and the Common Council distributed food to prevent rioting, and ordered many laborers put to work in Central Park to allay the general distress. The year following the plans were changed, extending Central Park from the northern border originally fixed at One Hundred and Sixth street to One Hundred and Tenth street, and the lands for the extension were acquired in 1863. During the laying out of Central Park, the purchase of a tract so far above the bulk of population was denounced as rank folly, and a magazine writer declared, "we might as well establish a park in the middle of the Desert of Sahara, as to fence in this wilderness."

The area of Central Park is 839.921 acres, its length a trifle over two and one-half miles, and its width half a mile plus seventy-nine feet. The land cost \$5,028,844, and

its construction and maintenance to date has approximated \$20,000,000. The present value of the land is considerably in excess of \$200,000,000. The park contains 9.452 miles of drives, fifty-four feet wide, on an average, and the bridle paths aggregate 5.503 miles. There are nearly thirty-two miles of park walks.

Small Parks.

In 1887 the dearth of small parks in the city became evident, and Chapter 320 of the Laws of that year gave the Board of Street Opening and Improvement power to select and locate and lay out as many parks south of One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street as the Board might, from time to time, determine. On confirmation of the report of the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment, appointed under this law, the City became seized in fee of the lands included in the report, and they immediately came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

The following lands have been acquired under Chapter 320 of the Laws of 1887:

Name of Park.	Cost of Land.
De Witt Clinton Park (7.377 acres).....	\$1,272,385 00
Mulberry Bend Park (2.750 acres).....	1,522,055 60
Hudson Park (1,700 acres).....	533,765 04
Park at Worth and Baxter streets, adjoining Mulberry Bend Park (0.187 acres)	184,724 67
Washington-Lafayette Park (0.018 acres).....	47,000 00
East River Park extension (12.546 acres).....	522,118 88

In addition to the small parks acquired under the park law of 1887, these small parks have since been acquired:

Name of Park.	Cost of Land.
Hamilton Fish Park (3.673 acres).....	\$1,719,455 00
Thomas Jefferson Park (15.409 acres).....	2,748,122 50
Colonial Park (12.790 acres).....	1,473,071 62
William H. Seward Park (2.651 acres).....	1,811,127 00
Corlear's Hook Park (8.300 acres).....	1,370,421 00

New Small Parks.

Under course of improvement are two new small parks, John Jay Park (3.004 acres) situated at Seventy-sixth to Seventy-eighth streets and the East River, and St. Gabriel's Park (2.947 acres) at Thirty-fifth street and First avenue.

Work of the Commissioner of Parks for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.

The features of the year 1904 in the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond were:

First—A marked increase in the number of playgrounds and recreation centres, and added efficiency in the maintenance and development of the playground system.

Second—The re-surfacing and improvement of the Central Park drives and adjacent parkways.

Third—The acquisition of the Roger Morris House (popularly known as the Jumel Mansion and Washington's Headquarters) and grounds.

Fourth—The improvement of the parks of Richmond Borough, to which little attention had heretofore been paid.

Despite the increase of park acreage, the appropriations for 1904 were not in excess of those of previous years, save that an additional \$11,000 was directly devoted to the improvement and maintenance of playgrounds, kindergartens and bathhouses, and that \$6,000 more was expended in labor and supplies for the small parks and recreation grounds.

During the year eight park playgrounds were continually kept open to the public: William H. Seward Park, Tompkins Square Park, Hamilton Fish Park, East River Park, Corlear's Hook Park, Hudson Park, John Jay Park, and Seventeenth Street Park. The importance and usefulness of these playgrounds may be well gauged by the attendance for the months of October, November and December, which, from the daily attendance book, was found to be 1,389,200, despite the inclemency of the weather during the latter part of this period. The daily attendance books showed the following figures:

Park	October	November	December
East River.....	250	200	100
John Jay.....	300	500	200
Hudson	200	200	100
Tompkins Square.....	1500	900	500
Hamilton Fish.....	1800	1500	500
Seward	2000	2000	500
Corlears	250	250	100
Seventeenth Street.....	100	100	...

Patriotism and Play.

Situated as they are, for the main part, in the crowded foreign sections of the City, the park playgrounds have accomplished even more than physical betterment of the children of the tenements. The Department has sought not only to make these children physically strong, but to make them good and patriotic citizens, as well.

Many of them come from homes where foreign tongues are spoken, and foreign ideas prevail. In schools patriotism is inculcated, but there it is associated in the childish mind with the daily tasks. The officials of the Park Department feel that by teach-love of country, in connection with the daily recreation of the children, it will take a firm hold on their minds and well supplement the work of the schools.

In all kindergarten exercises, all the play of the older children and the public exhibitions are interspersed with the singing of patriotic songs and salutes of the American Flag.

The programme of the opening of the girls' playground at Tompkins Square Park on August 31, furnishes a typical list of exercises.

- 1 March.
- 2 Assembly—Salute to the Flag.
- 3 Songs (Patriotic)—
 - “Star Spangled Banner,”
 - “Out on the Breeze,”
 - “Our Flag.”
- 3 Fancy Marching.
- 4 Kindergarten Games—
 - “The Snail,”
 - “Looby Lou,”
 - “Did you ever see a Lassie?”
 - “Oats, peas and beans.”
- 5 Races—
 - Egg and Spoon,
 - Potato,
 - Pursuit,
 - Tether Ball and Volley Ball contests.
- 6 Song—“My Country 'tis of Thee.”
- 7 Cornet Solo.
- 8 March.

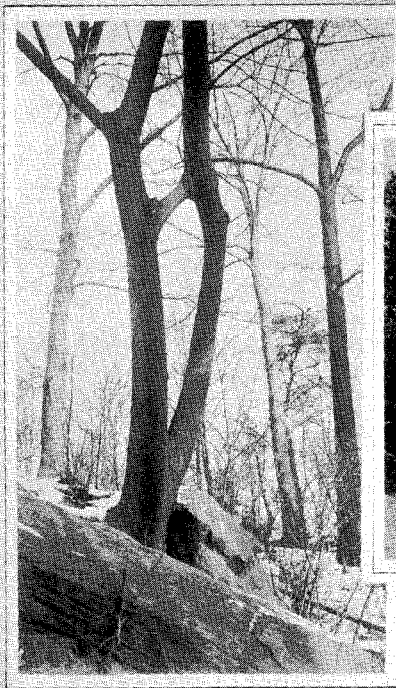
Signal for opening of playground.

In the daily salute to the Flag, the children in concert recite this pledge of allegiance:

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag and to the Republic for which
it stands. One nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

William H. Seward Park.

While William H. Seward Park had been thrown open to the public during the previous year, it was sadly incomplete, and six months' hard work were required to finish the pavilion and install all necessary gymnastic and playground apparatus. The



SIAMESE TWINS.



THE DRIVE, CENTRAL PARK.

feature of this park is the pavilion containing an elaborate free bath plant. On the evening of July 1 this building was formally dedicated, and more interesting than any number on the formal programme was a line of two thousand men and boys, all eager to avail themselves of the marble baths, of which they had heard so much. The bath rooms have partitions of marble, with enameled brick walls and mosaic floors. Each bath room is divided into two compartments, one containing clothes hooks and the other equipped with a nickel plated shower. As this pavilion was the first of its kind and to a large extent experimental, it is gratifying to report its entire success. As an experiment it has shown the entire feasibility of equipping all the small parks in congested districts with free baths for those whose home bathing facilities are lamentably inadequate, where they exist at all. In fact, the plans for DeWitt Clinton and St. Gabriel's Parks now include a similar free bath feature, and the pavilion at Thomas Jefferson Park is even better equipped than Seward Park in this respect.

So popular did the Seward Park baths become, that it was soon found necessary to keep them open at night for the use of those whose employment rendered a visit during the day impracticable, and provision was also made for their use by women, during certain restricted periods. In the exceedingly hot weather they were kept open all night, a relief measure which was greatly praised by the Settlement Workers of this vicinity and by charitable organizations whose main field is the crowded East Side. The Seward Park pavilion itself is a handsome structure of limestone and light hued terra cotta, and the electrical equipment is such as to render the facilities for night work equal to those by day.

On a wide porch facing the park, a number of comfortable wide-armed rocking chairs have been set about for the exclusive use of women accompanied by small children. So encouraging were the results of this innovation that the department has been urged by charity organizations to extend the idea to other parks in the tenement sections. This plan is already well under way and the request of these philanthropic associations but served to emphasize the popularity of the departure. Of course, the chairs in this "Mothers' Corner" are entirely free, as are all facilities at the disposal of the department. The rest of the Seward Park pavilion is devoted largely to indoor gymnasium work, a considerable portion of the first floor being set aside for kindergarten work when the weather will not permit outdoor exercises.

At the time William H. Seward Park was constructed, a section known as the building site was inclosed by a crude wooden fence and otherwise left in an unfinished condition. This plot has been enclosed with a picket and pipe rail fence, lawns sodded, new asphalt walks laid, and the entire section properly drained.

Thomas Jefferson Park.

Very similar to William H. Seward Park in general design, scope and arrangement, is Thomas Jefferson Park at One Hundred and Eleventh to One Hundred and

Fourteenth streets, First avenue to the East River. During the year the park itself was fully completed and the work on the pavilion, which greatly resembles that in Seward Park, was pushed well toward completion. The public were permitted to avail themselves of the park itself, and of a temporary gymnastic plant, installed until the permanent apparatus was ready. The pavilion contains shower baths for both sexes and public comfort stations, and the upper floor is devoted to recreation and kindergarten purposes for the children.

Thomas Jefferson Park, which has an area of about fifteen and one-half acres, offers to the residents of one of the most thickly populated districts of the city many new features. The combined length of the walks in this park is about 5,450 feet, or a little over a mile, and in width they vary from twenty to forty feet. The esplanade is a forty-foot walk along the riverside boundary of the park, and thence the visitor may obtain an excellent view of the islands in the river, the Long Island shore and the constant procession of passing craft. There are two outdoor gymnasia, one for boys, the other for girls, and these are laid out on a scale liberal enough to permit the construction of running tracks of seven laps to the mile. The interior spaces within the cinder paths have an area of 36,512 square feet for each gymnasium. The grounds are being equipped with an unusually full set of gymnasium apparatus of most approved modern style, and will compare favorably with any park athletic ground in the country.

A new crib bulkhead stretching along the entire water front of the park has been built, and a new iron railing of ornamental design protects the patrons of the park, especially the children, from the dangers of the swift running river. It may be of more than passing interest to note the amount of work necessary in the construction of this park.

Cubic yards of excavation.....	16,500
Cubic yards of filling in place.....	20,100
Linear feet of six-inch bluestone curb set.....	2,328
Linear feet of two and one-half inch bluestone edging set.....	11,283
Square feet of asphalt walk pavement laid on rubblestone foundation and concrete base	214,913
Walk basins built	50
Surface basins built.....	19
Receiving basins built.....	2
Linear feet of six-inch vitrified drain pipe laid.....	1,455
Linear feet of eight-inch vitrified drain pipe laid.....	1,744
Linear feet of twelve-inch vitrified drain pipe laid.....	737

In constructing water supply system complete:

Linear feet of four-inch cast iron water pipe laid.....	2,070
Linear feet of two-inch galvanized iron pipe laid.....	4,138
Linear feet of one-inch lead pipe laid.....	235
Four-inch gate valves set.....	12
Two-inch stopcocks in place.....	43
One-inch stopcocks in place.....	11
Brick vaults for four-inch gates built.....	3
Street washers set	14
Drinking hydrants set.....	11
Brick chambers (drips for hydrants) built.....	6
Linear feet of six-inch drains from hydrants laid.....	224

In constructing subsoil irrigation complete:

Linear feet of six-inch drain pipe specials for main laid.....	2,035
Linear feet of three-inch perforated tile pipe laid.....	29,700
Cubic yards of gravel around tile put in place.....	1,100

In constructing two playgrounds complete:

Linear feet of three-inch tile drains laid.....	1,750
Square feet of rubblestone eight inches deep, as foundation, laid.....	89,700
Cubic yards of broken stone as superstructure.....	830
Cubic yards of fine gravel as superstructure.....	830

In constructing two gymnasiums complete:

Linear feet of three-inch tile drain laid.....	2,200
Square feet of rubblestone eight inches deep, as foundations, laid.....	74,600
Linear feet of oak curb (including 520 oak posts four inches long).....	3,122
Cubic yards of broken stone as superstructure.....	715
Cubic yards of fine gravel as superstructure.....	715
Cubic yards of sand as finish for running track.....	160
Cubic yards of cinders as finish for running track.....	160
Linear feet of six-inch wrought iron picket fence.....	2,044
Linear feet of five-foot six-inch wrought iron picket fence.....	2,813
Cubic yards of concrete for six-foot and five-foot six-inch fence.....	236
Linear feet of three-rail pipe fence.....	6,123
Cubic yards of mould or top soil.....	16,804
Cubic yards of manure on lawns.....	2,563
Square feet of sod laid.....	278,686
Linear feet of crib work bulkhead, with a cross section of ten feet high and twelve feet deep, with the necessary pile construction built.....	860

It is planned to formally dedicate this park as soon as possible next year, and its location in the heart of the populous section known as "Little Italy" will make it one of the most useful of the municipal recreation centres.

De Witt Clinton Park.

The improvement of De Witt Clinton Park, which stretches from Fifty-second to Fifty-fourth streets, Eleventh to Twelfth avenues, was begun February 3, 1904. The layout of this park, as to its topography, differs from the average city park in that the centre is treated practically as a plain, crowned to a height of five feet between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues. The ground to the north and south of this plain to Fifty-second and Fifty-fourth streets slopes in graceful lines and forms the lawns. This centre plain is to be utilized for playgrounds, kindergartens, gymnasias, a running track, and a \$56,000 pavilion.

The children's farm garden—one of the most unique innovations in park work—and the pergola, are found on the westerly end of the park. Between the pergola and the top of the slope is a wide walk twenty feet above the level of Twelfth avenue, from which a splendid view of the Hudson and the Palisades may be enjoyed. The pavilion crowning the centre plain is to be equipped with shower baths, comfort stations and school rooms for indoor gymnasium and kindergarten exercises. The upper floor is set aside as a recreation place for mothers and small children. Roomy rockers are to be placed beside the windows and here the mothers and their little ones may gaze out on the river panorama, and in the summer months frequent band concerts will add to their enjoyment.

The pavilion is to be constructed of light brick and terra cotta; the roof being carried on arches and supported by columns, leaving the building open to the air on four sides.

The basement walls are of enameled brick with tiled floors and marble partitions for the bath rooms.

The second structure in the park, known as the Pergola, is to cost about \$35,000, and its location directly overlooks the river. The basement is to be used for the children and teachers in connection with the farm garden. A lecture hall is to take up a portion of this floor, and in addition the plans call for several kitchens which are to serve the use of the school of household industry, maintained in connection with the farm school. To harmonize with the pavilion in design, the Pergola is likewise of light brick and terra cotta. The roof is of summer house construction, consisting of beams stretching from column to column, and on these will be trained creeping vines. In this way, the view of the river, and in the other direction, of children at play, will be unobstructed.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS (JUMEL MANSION).

This park will be hastened to completion during the coming year and its cost when completed, exclusive of the site, will be \$203,300, distributed as follows:

Park proper.....	\$112,500
Pavilion	56,000
Pergola	34,800
Total cost.....	<u>\$203,300</u>

The work done during the year on the above improvement as to park construction was:

Cubic yards of excavation and distribution of mold from site of old farm gardens	495
Linear feet of 6-inch fine-axed bluestone curb furnished and set.....	2,650
Linear feet of 2½-inch fine-axed bluestone edging furnished and set.....	7,540
Cubic yards rubble masonry in step foundations built.....	390
Linear feet of bluestone steps furnished and set.....	1,175
Linear feet of bluestone cheeks furnished and set.....	76
Square feet of pavement of rock asphalt mastic laid.....	62,890
Walk basins built complete.....	20
Walk basins built to head stones.....	20
Surface basins built complete.....	10
Receiving basins under construction.....	4
Linear feet of 6-inch vitrified drain pipe furnished and laid.....	1,830
Linear feet of 8-inch vitrified drain pipe furnished and laid.....	700
Linear feet of 10-inch vitrified drain pipe furnished and laid.....	726
Linear feet of twelve-inch vitrified drain pipe furnished and laid.....	<u>520</u>

In the matter of water supply system:

Linear feet of 4-inch cast-iron pipe laid.....	970
Linear feet of galvanized wrought-iron pipe laid.....	3,150
Linear feet of one-inch galvanized-iron pipe laid.....	174
Four-inch stop-cocks furnished.....	4
Two-inch stop-cocks furnished.....	12
One-inch stop-cocks furnished.....	2
Street washers furnished.....	<u>29</u>

In the matter of constructing playgrounds:

Cubic yards of rubble stone foundation.....	1,233
Cubic yards of broken stone.....	318
Cubic yards of gravel and clay.....	467
Linear feet of 3-inch porous drain pipe laid.....	3,453
Cubic yards of broken stone around pipe.....	159
Acres, area of playground.....	<u>1.15</u>

In the matter of constructing gymnasiums and running tracks:

Cubic yards of rubble stone foundation.....	472
Cubic yards of broken stone.....	120
Cubic yards of gravel and clay.....	177
Linear feet of 3-inch porous drain pipe laid.....	326
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Cubic yards of broken stone around pipe.....	15
Cubic yards of sand in running track.....	90
Cubic yards of cinders in running track.....	90
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Park proper:

Linear feet of wrought-iron picket fence 6 feet high erected.....	2,100
Linear feet of wrought-iron picket fence 5 feet 6 inches high erected.....	2,150
Cubic yards of mold furnished and deposited in place.....	4,700
Cubic Yards of manure furnished and deposited in place.....	1,100
Square feet of sod furnished and laid.....	55,000
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St. Gabriel's Park.

This park was authorized in response to the plea for a breathing spot, by the dwellers of the middle east side of Manhattan. It takes in the square between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Streets, and First and Second Avenues, formerly a crowded tenement block. The work of demolition of the old tenement structures was begun February 3, 1904, and the improvement has been hastened in every possible way.

St. Gabriel's Park will probably be thrown open to the public before the present administration comes to a close. The area of this park is 2.94 acres. The destruction of the tenements has left the site covered with rubbish and debris to a depth of seven feet, but the work of removal will be completed in a few months. 17,000 cubic yards of clean earth must be furnished and lawns graded where now stands a dreary wast of broken brick and plaster.

The treatment of this park, though small, is to be carried out on the lines of newer park work, introducing modern playgrounds and gymnasium features. The amount of work done during the year follows:

Cubic feet of excavation of all kinds, such as rubbish, brick, mortar, laths, plaster, walls, etc.....	14,000
Cubic yards of clean earth filling in place in embankments and slopes and under walks where the ground was below subgrade.....	17,000
Cubic yards of rubble masonry in cement mortar in step foundations.....	27
Linear feet of 6-inch fine-axed bluestone curb furnished and set.....	1,645
Square feet of asphalt walk pavement laid.....	4,000
Walk basins built.....	29

Surface basins built.....	7
Receiving basins built.....	2
Linear feet of 6-inch vitrified pipe laid.....	330
Linear feet of 8-inch vitrified pipe laid.....	525
Linear feet of 10-inch vitrified pipe laid.....	80
Linear feet of 12-inch vitrified pipe laid.....	500
<hr/>	
For work done in the matter of constructing water system, estimated value..	\$3,750
For work done in the matter of building playgrounds, estimated value.....	1,650
For work done in the matter of building gymnasiums and running track, estimated. value.....	1,100
<hr/>	
Cubic yards of mold in place and shaped.....	140
Cubic yards of manure furnished and spread.....	30
Square feet of rubble stone foundation for walks in place, and the restoration of all street pavements disturbed in prosecuting the work of laying pipes..	2,200
<hr/>	

The cost of the park proper, without considering the buildings or the gymnasium and playground equipment, will be approximately \$65,000.

Central Park.

The present administration found the drives in Central Park in an exceedingly unsatisfactory condition.

For want of drainage, the roads presented a sticky, unstable surface. The chief obstacle to be surmounted was the necessity of regrading and resurfacing these driveways without closing them to the public. This, however, was accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience to the public, and the results have been entirely satisfactory. Before resurfacing, the roads were thoroughly scraped and all the worn and dead material removed. The roadbed received a dressing of from five to eight inches of Roa Hook gravel, and after continual rolling this presented a hard and even surface, so graded as to obtain adequate drainage and symmetrical lines. Under the old conditions, the constant patch work resurfacing had left the gutters on either side of the roadways well below their proper grades, making traffic on the outer edge of the drives dangerous, owing to the steep incline.

The Park Commissioner for Manhattan and Richmond ordered a contract for the laying of sheet asphalt gutters on a concrete base, and reconstructing the drainage system and cleaning the pipes and catch-basins where necessary. Three and six-tenths miles of gutters were treated in this manner, to the unbounded satisfaction of road drivers, who for several years had continually protested against the dangerous conditions hitherto prevailing. By raising the drives to the proper grade, the space

available for driving was widened at least six feet. The work done under this contract follows:

Cubic yards of concrete as a foundation for wearing surface.....	621
Square feet of asphalt wearing surface, two inches thick, on gutters.....	33,811
Square feet of asphalt wearing surface, one inch thick, on walks.....	2,562
Cubic yards of bituminous concrete binder as a base for crosswalks.....	12
Square yards of rock asphalt wearing surface in crosswalks, two inches thick	195

On May 17 the work included in a contract for constructing a new walk and slopes adjacent thereto, between the East drive and the Fifth avenue wall, and from Eighty-sixth to Ninetieth streets, was completed. The construction of this walk offers a thoroughfare from Seventy-ninth to Ninetieth streets and obviated the danger of accident entailed through pedestrians crossing the drive. The walk along its entire length is shaded by thickly planted trees and at every point a full view of the drive is obtained.

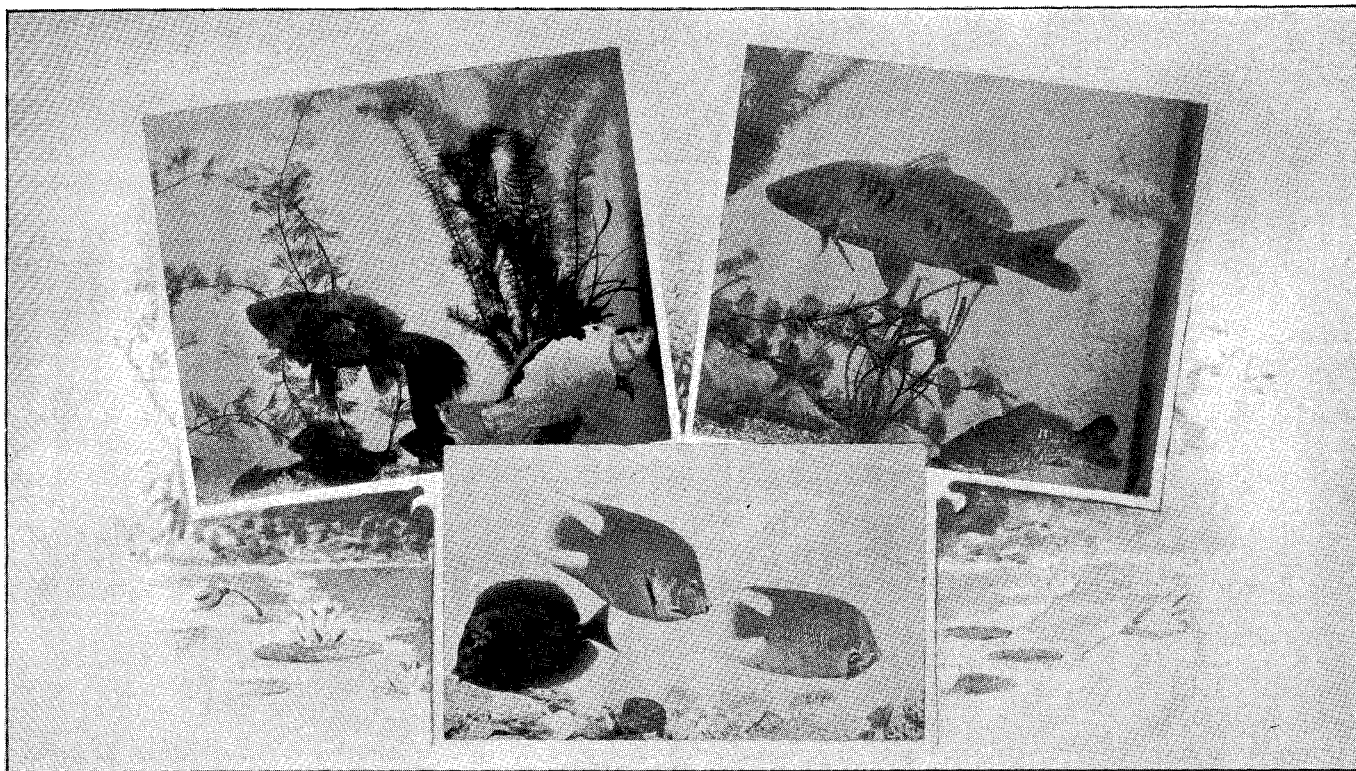
Landscape Improvements.

The Superintendent of Parks reported that in several places in Central Park the slopes and embankments presented a raw and ragged appearance, and he sanctioned a general remodeling to remedy these defects. In the woodland north of the lower tennis grounds many shrubs and trees suffering from lack of proper nourishment were saved by application of thousands of cubic yards of richer mould. The grading was also changed to restore and accentuate the natural scenic advantages, and a marked change for the better in the landscape resulted.

Along the line of the Eighty-sixth street transverse road the embankments on either side received much needed attention, and 5,000 cubic feet of mould, 20,000 square feet of sod, and a liberal sowing of grass seed worked a wonderful transformation.

At One Hundred and Sixth street, around the Block House, the Landscape Architect found a strip of land in surprisingly bad condition, and reconstructed the section with new embankments, new walks, more natural slopes, and crowned the work by the planting of 500 Rhododendron trees. Another neglected section was that between the east and west drives around the Ninety-seventh street transverse road and south to the bridle path. Here the slopes and embankments were found completely out of grade, and to rectify these conditions the slopes were spread with fresh mould, newly sodded, and a proper drainage system established.

Dwellers on the upper West Side complained of the lack of a park entrance around Ninetieth street, and in answer to their petition a gate was authorized at Ninety-third street and Central Park West. Owing to the undulating nature of the ground thereabouts, and the general planting scheme, a wide entrance and walk could not be constructed, but a path eight feet wide was laid out, with a gate to correspond.



IN THE AQUARIUM.

JAPANESE GOLD FISH.

ANGEL FISH.

A KING CARP.

Drainage of Lakes.

Many park administrations have vainly wrestled with the problem of park lake drainage. The three park lakes, the Conservatory Pond and the Lily Pond, while beautiful in appearance and undoubted enhancements to the park scenery, have invariably become stagnant during the summer months and have exerted, it is claimed by physicians, an unfavorable influence on the health of those living around Central Park. The ultimate solution of the difficulty has not been attained and can be accomplished only by an expenditure of a large sum of money, to concrete the lake bottoms and establish a free flow of water. The present administration had not the funds to undertake a full remedy for existing evils, but did all that was possible with the money available. The improvement made was vital, however, and goes far to end the most dangerous of the old conditions. A new drainage system was inaugurated whereby the comfort stations around about the various lakes now empty into city sewers and not into the lakes, as heretofore.

The Swan Lake, which follows the line of the southern wall, had been used as a receiving basin for the drainage from the Mineral Springs, and the comfort stations in the southerly section of the park. A new pipe sewer half a mile long and varying from twelve to eighteen feet from its source to its point of discharge, was constructed, with branches running to the various cottages and buildings in that section. The depth of excavation for this sewer varied from six to twenty-one feet, the greater part being through solid rock, and the total length of pipe laid was somewhat over 4,000 feet. The completion of this work resulted in thoroughly sanitary drainage in the entire territory between Fifty-ninth and Seventy-second streets.

Wherever possible, the same result has been accomplished around the large lake, and a similar drainage plant is planned for the entire park.

The Department has kept men constantly at work throughout the summer months cleaning the borders of the lakes and freeing the surface of the water from noxious vegetable growths. As frequently as possible a fresh supply of water has been run into the lakes, and everything possible done to keep the lakes from becoming a menace to health.

Comfort Stations.

With the co-operation of the Health Department, a diligent effort has been made to render more sanitary, the condition of all the public comfort stations in the various parks. During the year a number of old comfort stations in Central Park were overhauled and repaired and in many cases these repairs almost amounted to rebuilding. All the old plumbing was taken out and new and more modern plumbing installed, as well as tiled flooring.

A new comfort station was established near the North Meadow tennis grounds, taking the place of an old wooden structure that had been condemned by the Board

of Health. Another new comfort station was built in the Swedish School House, with direct connection with the city sewer. In Union Square Park, City Hall Park, and others of the smaller parks, the comfort stations were entirely remodeled, and in Morningside Park, an entirely new station constructed.

The Museums.

Many material improvements have been made during the year in the American Museum of Natural History building. The most important was the completion of a power, light and heating plant located in a separate building. The old plant in the Museum building proper, had never been adequate for the needs of the institution, and was open to the further objection that it occupied space needed for the proper display of the museum's treasures.

The old Lecture Hall in the southern wing of the building was converted into two floors, the lower for general uses, and the upper utilized as a teacher's assembly room, where instructors and students from the various city schools can meet and discuss the Natural History exhibits which they came to study.

The erection of the power plant and the conversion of the old Lecture Hall were exceedingly expensive items of park work, costing in all \$329,355, but it is felt that this money has been well spent, in that the improvements will add materially to the pleasure and comfort of visitors to the Museum.

The construction of the parapet wall and piers along Fifth Avenue in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art was completed in July. The park walks south of the Museum building have been thoroughly repaired, and the path system completed. The southerly entrance is likewise completed, and the only remaining work to be done is the building of a traffic road, an employees' entrance walk on the northerly side of the building. When this is accomplished, the environs of the Museum will have been brought into harmony with their park surroundings and at the same time, the utilitarian needs of the Museum properly provided for.

Public Library.

The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden foundations, is under the jurisdiction of the Park Department, because of its location on park property, occupying as it does, the site of the old reservoir in Bryant Park. Although there were many delays, some more apparent than real, steady progress was made on this magnificent building, and during the year \$454,857 was expended on construction. The work was not materially impeded, though interrupted at times by labor troubles, and the quarrying and cutting of marble blocks was carried on steadily, even while work on the library structure seemed at an utter standstill. Litigation over some

of the contracts, including the stack work, also contributed to delay, but these problems are all in a fair way toward solution. Bids have been received for the steam-heating and the ventilating work, and their acceptance will be a long step forward toward the structure's completion.

Park Recreation.

It is computed that more than 1,000,000 children found recreation on the lawns of Central Park and other Manhattan parks, in the course of the year. During the months of May and June, permits were issued for 110,485 children to participate in May parties and June walks, and many times this number availed themselves of the lawns in small family gatherings. Of the formal organized May parties and June walks, 29,184 children resorted to the baseball ground, 13,419 to the East Green, 2,647 to the Ramble lawn, 7,385 to Cherry Hill, 32,508 to the North Meadow, 9,085 to Cedar Hill, 4,169 to Peacock lawn, 2,142 to the Green, and 10,000 to the specious, but unnamed lawn near Eighty-first Street and Central Park West.

For lawn tennis, 2,700 permits were issued, besides 685 for croquet, 310 for football, and 130 for cricket. Nearly 260 tennis courts were kept in daily operation.

Skating.

The unusually cold winter enabled the Department to provide the longest skating season in many years, on all the lakes of Central Park.

Park Flower Shows.

The Easter Flower Show in the Conservatory was exceptionally successful and many fine varieties of Azaleas, Easter Lilies, Rhododendrons, Primroses, Cinerarias, Calceolarias, etc., were on exhibition during the closing week of the Lenten season.

The Autumn Chrysanthemum Show was similarly successful and the 3,000 blossoms on display for a full month included many rare and beautiful varieties of Chrysanthemum, as well as an unusually varied collection of Orchids. Banana trees bearing great clusters of fruit, Orange and Lemon trees also displaying their fruits, Coffee bushes in blossom and creeping Peanut vines were unique features of the exposition.

Concerts.

The concert programme was considerably extended in scope and provisions made for additional concerts in the small parks in the crowded sections. Dwellers in the thickly populated districts were afforded the choice of evening concerts in Washington Square Park, Corlears Hook Park, Mount Morris Park, Tompkins Square Park, Abingdon Square, Mulberry Bend Park, East River Park, Madison Square Park.

Hamilton Fish Park, Hudson Park, William H. Seward Park, and Battery Park, while Saturday afternoon concerts in Morningside Park and Saturday and Sunday concerts on the Mall in Central Park, completed the Department's musical programme. It is planned to extend the concert system to Staten Island next season.

Care of Trees and Shrubs.

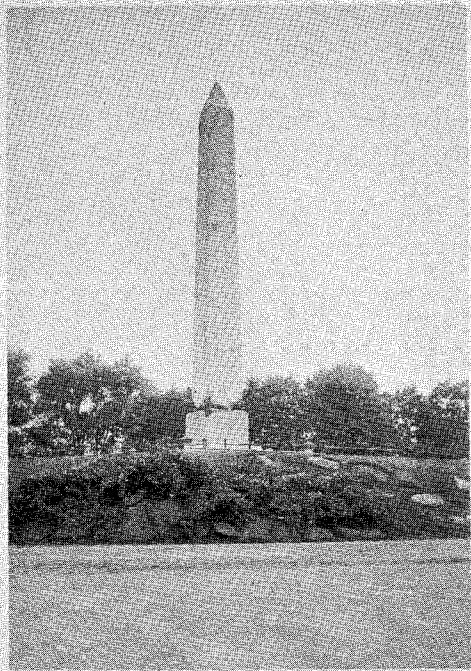
Vigorous work by the aboricultural, horticultural and entomological forces of the Department resulted in the saving of many fine trees whose life or vitality were threatened by previous lack of care, or by insects.

During the year 300 trees in various parks and parkways were cut down and healthy saplings or trees slightly older, but vigorous, substituted. In addition, many other new trees were planted. Two hundred and seventy Norway maples were set out, seventy-five elms, thirty ashes, twenty-five honey locusts, forty lindens, ten oaks, ten pines, seventy-six trees of assorted varieties, forty ligustrums, thirty spiraea opulifolia, fifteen forsythia, eight hundred and ten rhododendrons, twenty-five hybrid rhododendrons, twelve honeysuckles, and four hundred varied shrubs.

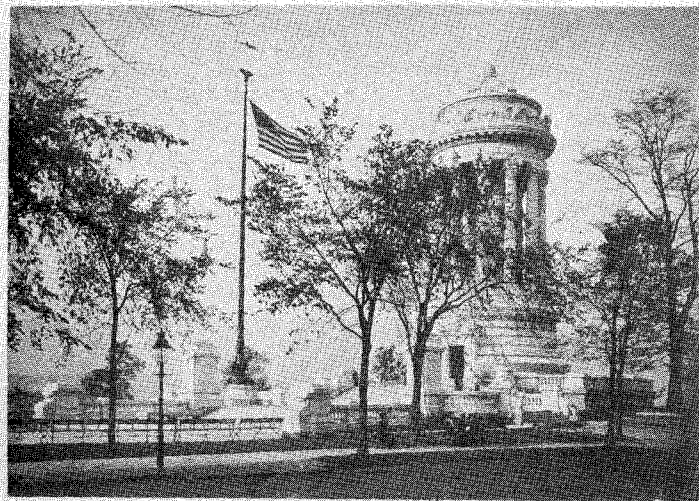
Enemies of the Trees.

About 2,000 distinct species of noxious insects threaten the lives of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in the city parks. Many of these are imported pests, having been brought here in consignments of exotic trees and plants, but they quickly adapt themselves to the existing conditions and constitute a menace that requires constant study and experiment to keep in subjection. It is by no means a difficult matter to destroy noxious insects, but it is a harder problem to do so without injuring the tender foliage. The most destructive are minute in size, innumerable in quantity, and widely varied as to the necessary method of extermination. Some must be destroyed by contact poison, while others successfully resist this treatment, rendering it necessary to induce them to absorb the poison with their food. Two powerful spraying machines and a large number of hand sprayers were kept in constant use. The most effective work, however, was done during the winter months in the removal from the trees of cocoons and egg masses of the tussock moth and kindred species. A great number of trees and shrubs had also to be treated for scale insects, so destructive to the ash, willow, apple thorn, lilac and quince.

The great danger that threatened the woodlands and shrubbery of the parks, however, was turned to good use, in that thousands of specimens of these pests in the different stages of development were turned over for study to the botanists and entomologists and students of the various colleges and schools. An Insectary was inaugurated in the Experiment Garden of the Department, and utilized for the breeding and rearing of the different pest species, so that new methods for their



CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.



SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MEMORIAL.

destruction might be tried. Advice was given to all inquirers as to the best means of destroying insects that infest the gardens and back yards of city homes. Many letters of inquiry in regard to household pests, those attacking stored goods, imported goods, food products, tobacco, drugs, timber and wood manufactures, were also answered, and modes of relief suggested. In this way many persons not interested directly in park work were brought into close touch with the Department, and its scientific work not only popularized, but made of immediate value.

Central Park Menagerie.

The number of visitors to the Menagerie during the year was much greater than for several years past, proving conclusively the folly of the suggestion heard occasionally, that the Central Park animals be transferred to the Bronx Zoological Gardens. As a means of education and recreation to the dwellers in Manhattan, the Central Park Menagerie is of great service, being available to many thousands who could not afford the time nor the carfare for a visit to the Bronx Zoological Gardens. Particularly is this true of the school children of Old New York.

During the year a new and more adequate building has been erected for the buffalo, elk and nylghaus, and repairs amounting almost to rebuilding made in several of the other animal houses.

The annual sale of sheep, held in June, resulted in a profit of \$601.50, one ram, twenty-one ram lambs, eight ewes and 1,389 pounds of wool being sold. While small in itself, the annual Central Park sheep sale is an event to sheep-breeders, as the Central Park stock is recognized as the finest in the country, and the strain is greatly sought for by the foremost breeders.

Several fine specimens of Australian Black sheep were donated to the Department by Miss Giulia Morosini. The other donations to the Menagerie during the year follow:

- January 1—One cockatoo, donated by Mr. Russel B. Hobson.
- February 1—One Java monkey, donated by Mr. Brown.
- February 1—One ringtail monkey, donated by Mr. Brown.
- February 6—One owl, donated by Dr. Curtis.
- February 8—Two marmosets, donated by G. H. Witthaus.
- February 9—One opossum, donated by Nathan B. Williams.
- March 3—Two Mexican deer, donated by Valentine Frank.
- March 22—One monkey, donated by John D. Creamer.
- April 5—One guinea pig, donated by Charles R. Grand.
- April 11—Three pigeons, donated by GG. Pomroy.
- April 11—One rabbit, donated by Mrs. C. R. Lowery.
- April 15—One alligator, donated by Master Taylor.

- April 19—One monkey, donated by N. L. Lupton.
 April 19—Two raccoons, donated by N. L. Lupton.
 April 19—One parakeet, donated by Miss M. Frieberger.
 April 22—One parrot, donated by Miss Erbslop.
 April 22—One rabbit, donated by Frank A. Cutter.
 April 23—One raccoon, donated by Mr. Bevins.
 May 1—One black bear, donated by Hon. Michael J. Kennedy.
 May 18—One fox, donated by I. D. Crawford.
 May 18—Six squirrels, donated by I. D. Crawford.
 June 16—One parrot, donated by Mr. J. J. O'Donohue.
 June 21—One alligator, donated by James Moffit.
 June 23—One parrot, donated by I. E. Linahan.
 June 23—One porcupine, donated by George C. Siordet.
 June 28—One owl, donated by M. A. Borden.
 July 1—One rabbit, donor unknown.
 July 6—One parrot, donated by Mrs. O'Leary.
 July 6—One porcupine, donated by William Snyder.
 July 11—Two rabbits, donated by Mrs. Janeskie.
 July 13—Two robins, donated by Mrs. Vallaurie.
 July 13—Four gray foxes, donated by Charles Francis.
 July 13—One raccoon, donated by Charles Francis.
 August 3—One turkey gobbler, donated by Professor Bushnell.
 August 11—Two peafowl, donated by Mrs. A. Schonreid.
 August 19—One rabbit, donated by Miss I. Hedankamp.
 August 19—One cinnamon bear, donor unknown.
 August 30—Four mountain sheep, donated by Miss Giulia Morosini.
 August 31—One Collie dog, donated by J. Pierrepont Morgan.
 September 2—One parrot, donated by Mrs. H. Kimball.
 September 9—One red fox, donated by Colonel N. B. Thurston.
 September 9—One rabbit, donated by J. H. Britt.
 September 17—One parrot, donated by A. S. Daniels.
 September 28—Two alligators, donated by J. F. Skinner.
 September 29—One Java monkey, donated by Delmouth McClelland.
 October 3—One Brown thrush, donor unknown.
 October 9—One rabbit, donor unknown.
 October 17—One woodpecker, donated by M. Flasch.
 October 24—One ringtail monkey, donated by Mrs. Dubois.
 October 26—One Rhesus monkey, donated by Mrs. Dexter.
 October 29—One Golden eagle, donated by Thomas M. Frazer.
 November 9—One ringtail monkey, donated by J. H. Ladew.
 November 9—Two sand grouse, donated by Captain F. Paton.
 November 10—One raccoon, donor unknown.

November 11—One parrot, donated by Mrs. Mitchell.

December 6—Two macaws, donated by Daniel Bacon.

December 15—Two canaries, donated by Edmund H. Martin.

December 23—One macaw, donated by Henry Weiler.

December 30—Two ringtail monkeys, donated by Daniel Bacon.

The births in the Menagerie were as follows:

March—Thirty-five lambs.

April 19—Four aoudads.

April 25—One zebu.

June 11—Two fallow deer.

June 24—One nyghau.

July 7—Two nyghaus.

July 10—One nyghau.

July 13—Two nyghaus.

July 27—One Wapiti deer.

July 29—One Wapiti deer.

August 11—One Wapiti deer.

August 29—One Axis deer.

August 29—One red deer.

September 4—One Wapiti deer.

September 26—One nyghau.

October 17—Four lion cubs.

November 14—One zebu.

The following purchases were made during the year:

March 8—Six Rhesus monkeys.

April 4—Two golden eagles.

April 4—Two ringneck pheasants.

April 7—Six snakes (pythons).

April 18—One polar bear.

May 19—Five snakes (pythons).

May 19—One golden eagle.

July 11—Two Giffon vultures.

July 11—One Monachus vulture.

August 9—One red deer.

November 1—One Dorset ram.

November 18—One golden eagle.

December 17—One golden eagle.

The following exchanges were made during the year:

March 2—Two aoudads for Mexican deer and one fallow deer.

May 19—One zebu calf for six Rhesus monkeys.

May 23—One Crusoe kid for one Rhesus monkey.

The Metereological Observatory.

The Meteorological Observatory of the Department of Parks, with quarters in the Arsenal building, was established in 1869 under an act of the Legislature. In the year 1868 Mr. Andrew H. Green advocated the permanent establishment of a Meteorological and Astronomical Observatory in the City of New York, and the following May the act became a law.

At the time of its creation the Central Park Commissioners ordered the observatory to be installed in the Arsenal building "until a suitable building for the purpose could be erected," and the present director, Professor Daniel Draper, was then appointed to take charge.

When the observatory was opened observations were made several times each day from six o'clock A. M. until ten o'clock P. M., and much attention was devoted to the designing of self-recording apparatus and to the study of atmospheric problems. From 1869 to the present time, Professor Draper has designed many self-recording instruments, and all of the observations now made by this Department are registered automatically, duplicate instruments being used to guard against a lapse due to the breaking down of any instrument.

Not until 1870 were steps taken by the United States Government to establish a storm signal corps, at which time, at the request of the Government, the Central Park Observatory co-operated in establishing the national organization.

The records and observations of the observatory have played an important part in the settlement of meteorological problems, such as:

Did the clearing of land diminish the fall of rain?

Was the climate of New York changing?

Had the summer temperature of the Atlantic States undergone a modification?

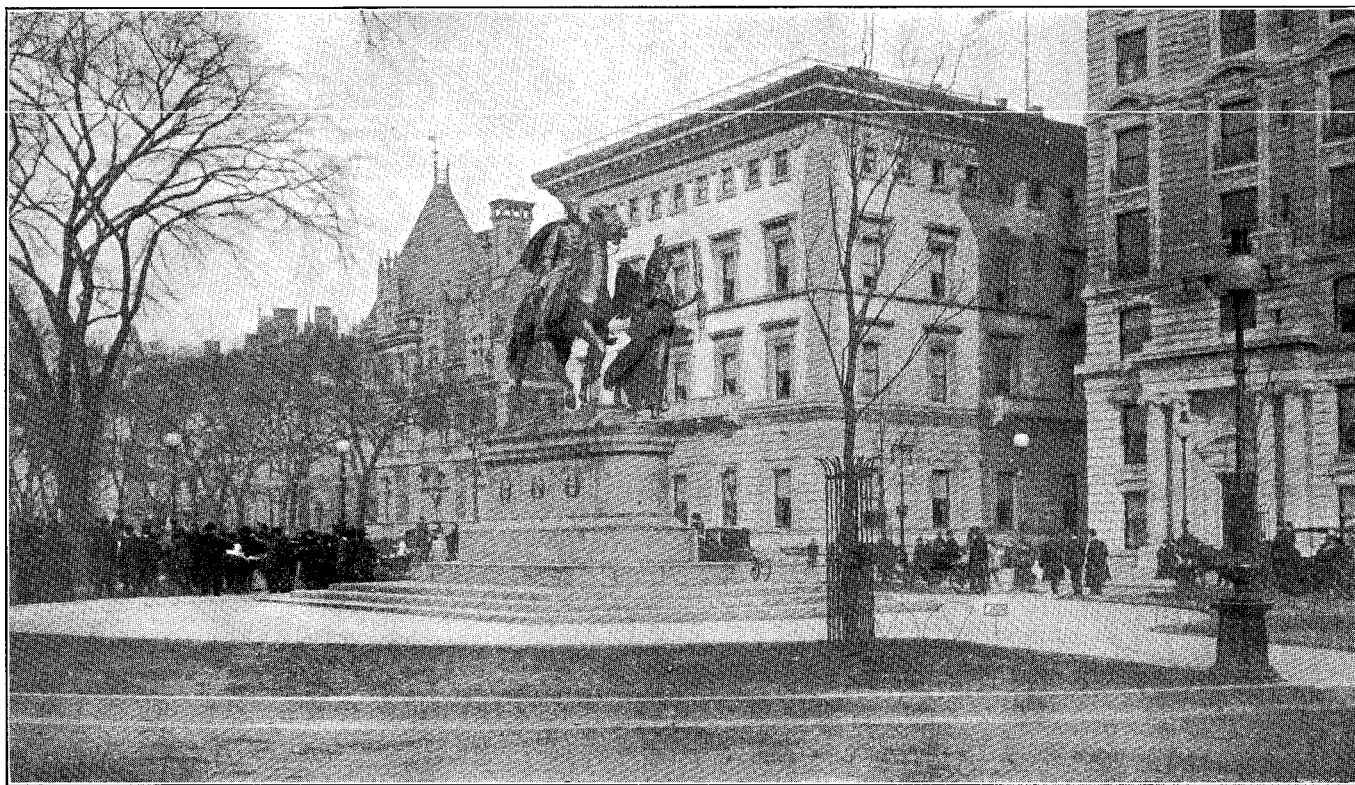
What was the direction in which atmospheric fluctuations crossed the United States?

Was it possible to trace the passage of American storms across the Atlantic, and predict the time of their arrival on the European coast?

Did the rainfall of New York diminish, and would it continue to do so?

Did the variation occur in the early or latter portion of the year?

Since the installation of the self-recording barometer several interesting and practical facts have been noted by the observatory. For instance, in a certain section of the city, the gas lights were extinguished at two o'clock in the morning. The cause remained a mystery for some time. There was no wind at the time and the officials of the gas company were at a loss to account for the occurrence. An examination was made of the records of the Central Park Observatory in the hope that some solution of the question might be found. The self-recording barometer showed that a very sudden fluctuation had occurred at the time indicated. The release of



GEN. WILLIAM T. SHERMAN STATUE (ST. GAUDENS).

pressure on the outside of the gasometer due to this fluctuation was found to have been sufficient to stop the flow of gas into the street supply pipes, which in turn caused all of the lights in the district to be suddenly extinguished, as stated.

In August, 1883, the self-recording barometer registered a fluctuation of a very unusual character. At the time this was supposed to be due to an atmospheric wave caused by an earthquake and volcanic eruptions that were occurring at the Straits of Sunda. Subsequently a letter was received from the Meteorological Office of London inquiring whether the instruments of the Central Park Observatory had registered a severe fluctuation at the time indicated, and stating that one had been recorded at their stations and at all of the European observatories.

Hourly writings showing the direction, velocity and force of the wind, temperature and rainfall were first published in 1889. In 1892 the United States Weather Bureau requested permission to copy from the Central Park records the hourly rainfalls given by self-recording rain gauge, and a transcript was made by officers of the Government.

In 1893 a paper prepared by the Director of the Central Park Observatory on "The Relative Merits of the Various Types of Registering Maximum and Minimum Thermometers" was read at the Columbian Exposition.

The observatory has, on numerous occasions, been called upon to present its records in court and to give testimony as to the weather conditions affecting matters at issue. In 1901 it testified in behalf of the City, and the evidence produced was instrumental to a large degree in obtaining a decision favorable to the City. In this one case a suit against the City of New York involving many thousands of dollars was materially affected. The records have been produced in court many hundreds of times, and they have, at times, been used in two different courts on the same day where such testimony was required. They are regarded as very valuable evidence in deciding questions in suits pertaining to accidents, exposure of perishable property and extensions of time on contracts due to weather conditions.

The daily work of the observatory has been continued for thirty-five years without interruption, not a day being missed, including Sundays and holidays, and the records for all of this period, obtained from the various self-recording instruments, are available when required. The self-recording instruments used are the following:

Barometer, direction of wind, velocity of wind, force of wind, sun thermometer, wet and dry thermometer, hygrometer, rain and snow gauge, dial thermometer.

Parkway Innovations.

Encouraged by the innovation of providing good driveways in Central Park, the residents of West Seventy-second street and West Eighty-sixth street petitioned the Department to make similar improvements on these streets, which, as parkways, are

under the jurisdiction of the Park Department. Various property owners' associations of the West Side complained that they had vainly appealed to every park official under the previous administration.

The Park Commissioner for the Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond promised that the improvements would be undertaken at once, and immediately began the repaving, recurbing and replanting of the two parkways. Not only was a new asphalt pavement provided, and new curbs set, but sickly trees were replaced, the grass plots surrounding these trees resodded, and new ornamental railings erected around them. Sixty-one thousand three hundred and ninety-two dollars was spent in this way on West Seventy-second street, and \$21,034 on West Eighty-sixth street.

West side property owners who had previously striven to have the control of these two streets taken from the Park Department, expressed their entire satisfaction with the work of improvement and notified the Park Commissioner that they would have a bill introduced in the Legislature to transfer the control of West End avenue to the Park Department, in order that it might have the same care as that bestowed on West Seventy-second street and West Eighty-sixth street.

Cathedral Parkway.

Another source of general complaint was the condition of the sidewalks of Cathedral Parkway, between Seventh avenue and Riverside drive. They were sunken many inches below grade, and after heavy rains resembled a swamp. The requisite funds were obtained and the parkway at once restored to decent condition. Contracts are now under way for the improvement of One Hundred and Tenth street, between Fifth and Seventh avenues, and the widening of the roadway, setting of new curbs, laying out tree plots, and a new sidewalk are contemplated, as well as the regrading, relaying of pavement and the general rehabilitation of the Plaza at One Hundred and Tenth street and Fifth avenue. With the completion of this work the parkway bounding Central Park on the north will cease to be a disgrace to the Department.

East River Seawall.

The building of a seawall stretching from Eighty-sixth to Eighty ninth street on the river border of East River Park was completed during the year. This work was begun in 1901, but so treacherous was the nature of the foundation that it was found necessary to continually change and modify the plans. Spile foundations capped with concrete finally had to be constructed, and further serious difficulties were encountered in the slanting rock formation at the bottom of trenches.

The building of an esplanade walk adjacent to the seawall is now contemplated, the proposed walk being a continuation of the one now in existence. The slopes arising from the river wall are now being sodded and planted, and save for the extension of the esplanade the work is now complete.

Riverside Improvements.

At the outset of the administration, the approaches to Grant's Tomb, and the concrete walks thereabout, were found to be in wretched condition. A programme of thorough and immediate repairs was undertaken and within a year the entire approach and path system has been placed in excellent condition by the working forces of the Department. Heavy washouts on the steep slopes of Riverside Drive during the winter are unavoidable, and owing to the severe weather the work of re-establishing the slopes was more difficult than for many years. Where possible, trees and shrubs have been planted to bulwark the slopes. In places the landscape conditions have been changed and considerably improved by the tree planting. A rustic stairway was constructed from the Drive to the river edge at Eighty-sixth street, enabling members of the Columbia Yacht Club, in particular, and others interested in aquatic sports and pastimes, to reach the water front easily. This stairway is constructed of cedar and broken at intervals by platforms which are backed up by rustic stone walls to prevent washouts, and planted with Japanese ivy.

Jasper Oval and St. Nicholas Park.

Pending the inauguration of permanent park improvement, Jasper Oval has been kept available as the last and only free baseball field on Manhattan Island. From early spring until late autumn, every fair day has found the field thronged with ball-players of all ages. At times the throng has voluntarily given way and cleared the field for two more skillful teams, and the stands, once used by Manhattan College, crowded with adherents of the rival nines and others attracted thither by the free contest.

The hard winter previous resulted in heavy washouts at the Oval, and many hundred yards of soil were used to refill and level the diamond.

At St. Nicholas Park a wide wooden stairway was built, enabling "L" passengers to attain the heights above the park without a long roundabout journey.

The Aquarium.

A contract for a \$20,000 underground reservoir was completed early in the year, and in this connection a brief statement of the conditions may be of interest.

When the Aquarium was established, salt water was supplied to the different fish tanks and pools by means of two large bronze suction pipes that extended fifty feet out into the bay, being sunk deep below the riprap in order that water might be obtained at low tide. From the reservoir tanks the sea water was pumped into filters and thence to the distributing tanks. This system proved inadequate, as the density of the salt water varied according to the season of the year. The spring freshets of the Hudson converted the salt bay water into brackish water. Many specimens of

sea fish could not live in this brackish water, and it became evident that another plan would have to be devised, so wells were sunk under the floor of the Aquarium to store salt water of the requisite density. Even this proved unsatisfactory, and it was realized that a storage reservoir must be constructed outside the Aquarium. This is the reservoir now under construction, and in it will be stored pure sea water brought from beyond Sandy Hook. It will also enable the Director of the Aquarium to vary the density of the water supplied to the different tanks, in accordance with the needs of the fish exhibited therein.

A \$3,000 system of gravity filters is also under construction, which will facilitate the varying of the density of the water and likewise permit a system of purification and recirculation resulting in increased economy.

Jumel Mansion Decision.

The Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames of America sought the Legislature with rival petitions for the custody of the Jumel Mansion (Washington's Headquarters) on the heights overlooking the Harlem. The Legislature placed the burden of the decision on the Park Commissioner for the Borough of Manhattan, and a public hearing was ordered by the Commissioner. After hearing all sides, the Commissioner decided that the public spirit and patriotic impulses of both organizations and of all other kindred associations and similarly interested individuals could best be conserved by keeping the mansion and adjacent grounds as a public park feature, and calling upon all Revolutionary societies to loan or donate articles of historic interest for exhibition there.

The popularity of the decision is well evidenced by these self-explanatory extracts from letters.

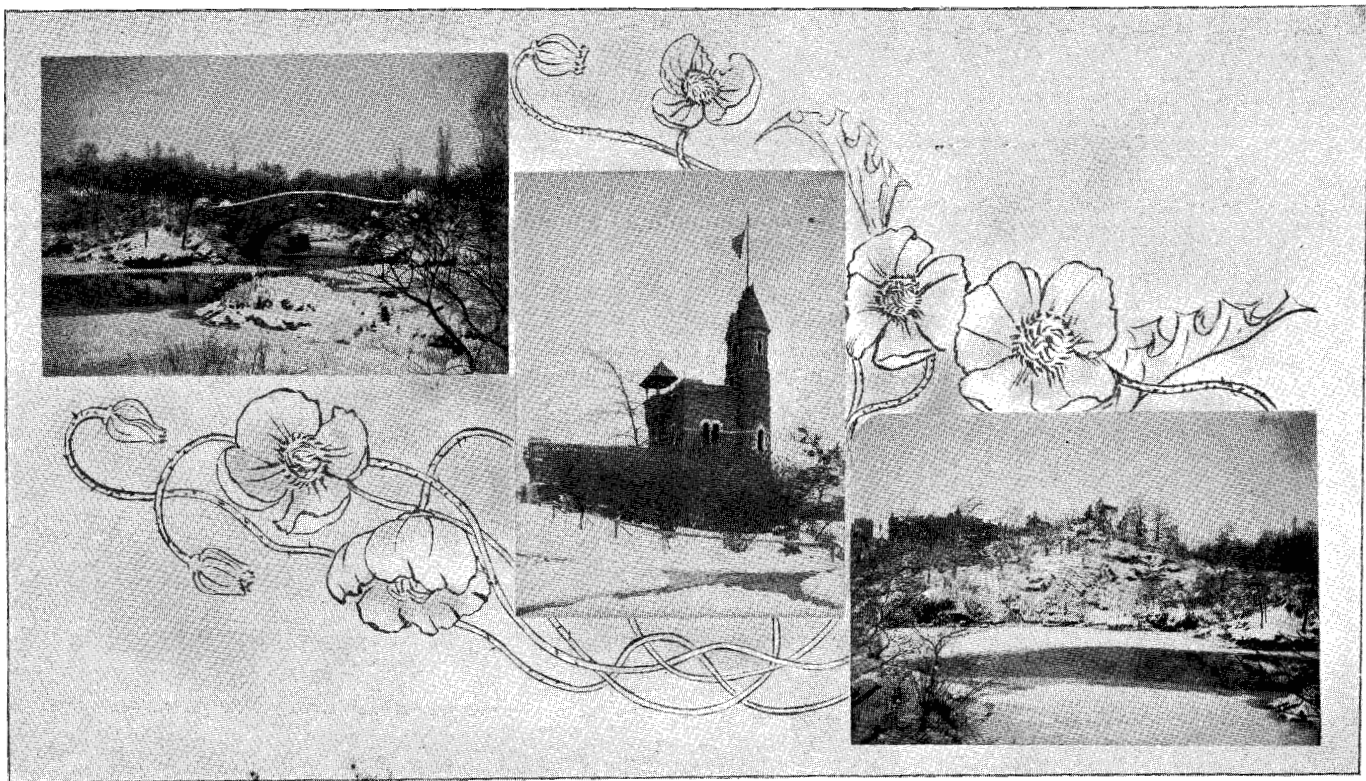
From Mr. Walter S. Logan, President of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution:

"I think your decision is an eminently wise and proper one under the circumstances. Representing as I do a society of members with Revolutionary ancestors, I should have been much disturbed at a decision which would place the custody of this property of Revolutionary interest in a society of purely Colonial antecedents, but I can personally find no fault with your decision to retain the property in the custody of the City authorities, so that all societies and all individuals will stand on an equal footing.

"I commend your decision, and I have no doubt but that the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will be only too glad to co-operate with you in every possible way in your plans in connection with the property."

From Mr. James de la Montagne, Secretary, Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution:

"Personally I consider your action is the best that could have been taken under the circumstances. This society will do all it can to further the object for which this building has been secured by the City, and we hope all other societies of a like nature will do the same."



WINTER SCENES IN CENTRAL PARK.

It might be added in this connection, that plans are under way to restore this historic landmark to the conditions that existed in the days when George Washington made it his headquarters, in the ebb and flow of the Revolutionary struggle for the possession of the City of New York.

The Farm Garden, De Witt Clinton Park.

A decided innovation in park work is the farm garden in existence in De Witt Clinton Park since 1902, when the park site was an arid waste. Mrs. Henry Parsons, the pioneer in farm school work, secured permission from a former Park Commissioner to carry on a farm garden as an experiment, while the park was yet uncompleted. The experiment proved successful, and under the present administration the farm garden became a regular feature of park work.

During the past year the farm area was divided into 458 small plots, and each assigned to a juvenile agriculturist. Under the supervision of competent teachers, seeds were sown and the little farmers tended their plots, from sowing time to the harvest. Several crops were harvested—there being a rotation of farmers, as well as of crops—and in all 2,500 children have enjoyed the advantages afforded.

The total yield of vegetables for the year was as follows:

		Average Per Plot.
Radishes	45,096	127
Peapods	7,139	30
Beets	11,450	32
Beet tops, quarts.....	845	2.4
Carrots	10,189	29
Ears of corn.....	698	2
Lettuce, quarts	703	2
Heads	3,843	10.8
Onions	10,471	29.6

In conjunction with the farm garden has been conducted a school of household industry, where young girls were taught household duties, boys being assigned to the heavier chores; and more than 500 girls have participated in the work of this school within the last three months.

List of Statuary, Monuments, etc., in the Public Parks.

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN.

Central Park—

Bolivar (equestrian).
 Schiller (bust).
 Beethoven (bust).
 Eagles, The (group).
 Daniel Webster (standing figure).
 Indian Hunter (group).
 Columbus (standing figure).
 Shakespeare (standing figure).
 Robert Burns (sitting figure).
 Walter Scott (sitting figure).
 Fitz Greene Halleck (sitting figure).
 Humboldt (bust).
 Thorwaldsen (standing figure).
 Commerce.
 Seventh Regiment Memorial (standing figure).
 Mazzini (bust).
 Morse (standing figure).
 The Pilgrim (standing figure).
 Still Hunt (group).
 Falconer (standing figure).
 Tigress.
 Moore (bust).
 Hamilton (standing figure).
 The Alexandrian Obelisk.
 Richard Morris Hunt (exedra).
 Shepard Fountain.
 General W. T. Sherman (equestrian).

Riverside Park—

Washington (near Eighty-ninth street).
 Soldiers and Sailors' Memorial Monument (Ninety-second street).
 Tomb of General U. S. Grant (One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street).

Madison Square Park—

Chester A. Arthur.
 Admiral Farragut.
 Roscoe Conkling.
 William H. Seward.

Washington Square Park—

Washington Arch.

Garibaldi.

Alexander L. Holly.

Bryant Park—

Dr. J. Marion Sims.

Washington Irving.

Union Square Park—

Lafayette.

Washington.

Lincoln.

D. Willis James Fountain.

City Hall Park—

Nathan Hale.

Morningside Park—

Washington-Lafayette.

Hancock Square—

General Winfield Scott Hancock.

Greeley Square—

Horace Greeley.

Cooper Park—

Peter Cooper.

Battery Park—

Ericsson.

Broadway and Thirty-fifth street—

William Earl Dodge.

Printing House Square—

Franklin.

Broadway and Twenty-fifth street—

Worth Monument.

Bowling Green Park—

Abraham DePeyster.

Statement of Balances of Appropriations, December 31, 1904.

Titles of Appropriations.	Amount of Appropriations.	Payments.	Amount of Unexpended Balances.
Salaries of Commissioners, Secretary and Employees of the Board of Parks.....	\$27,806 38	\$27,806 38	.....
Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.			
Administration	36,300 00	34,586 32	\$1,713 68
Labor, Maintenance and Supplies.....	466,316 12	.....	.....
Supplies .....	.....	119,688 00	.....
Pay-rolls .....	.....	346,425 10	203 02
Zoological Department	30,500 00	.....	.....
Supplies .....	.....	15,654 04	.....
Pay-rolls .....	.....	14,811 35	34 61
Maintenance of Museums—			
American Museum of Natural History....	160,000 00	160,000 00	.....
Metropolitan Museum of Art.....	150,000 00	150,000 00	.....
Music	26 200 00	26,188 00	12 00
Supplies and Contingencies	2,500 00	2,500 00	.....
Surveys, Maps and Plans.....	2,000 00	2,000 00	.....
Aquarium, N. Y. Zoological Society.....	46,500 00	41,274 92	5,225 08
Ambulance Service, Central Park.....	1,200 00	1,199 89	11
Care of Grant's Tomb.....	5,000 00	.....	5,000 00
Harlem River Driveway	18,660 00	18,646 95	13 05
Maintenance of Playgrounds, Kindergartens, Bathhouses and Comfort Stations in the parks	34,000 00	33,969 20	30 80

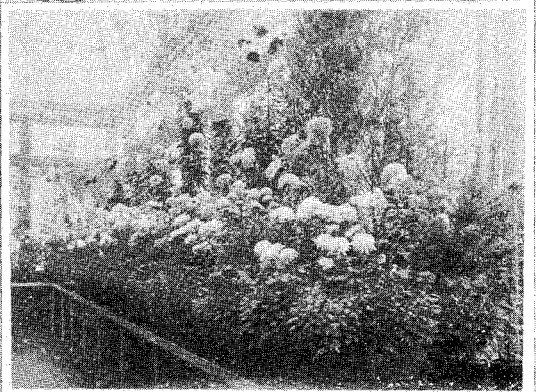
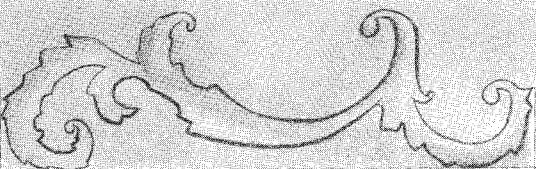
Cash to the amount of \$33,308.68, received from privileges and various sources during the year 1904, was deposited with the City Chamberlain.

Expenditures on Construction Accounts, 1904.

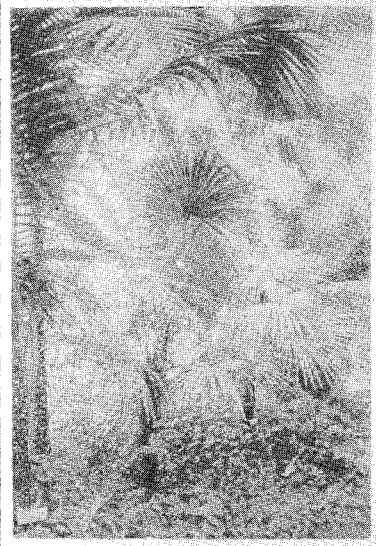
Riverside Park and Drive, completion of construction—grading and construction, drainage and walks.....	\$ 286 92
East River Park, improvement of extension.....	17,063 82
Asphalting in other localities in Central Park.....	172 42
New York Public Library Fund.....	499,844 72
Hester Street Park Fund—William H. Seward Park.....	12,879 22
Repairing with asphalt Eighty-sixth street, from Central Park West to Riverside Drive	22,128 44



BANANA PALM.



MIDWINTER IN THE CONSERVATORY.
CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.



PALMS.

Washington Park, in the Town of Stapleton, and the small park in Port Richmond, Borough of Richmond, improvement of.....	3,872 03
Constructing improved toilet facilities in City parks, and rebuilding Bank Rock Bridge, Central Park, Borough of Manhattan.....	19,356 47
Improvement of parks, parkways and drives, Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond	442,345 17
Constructing and improving small parks in the Borough of Manhattan, to wit: John Jay Park, De Witt Clinton Park, Thomas Jefferson Park and the small park at Thirty-fifth street and First avenue.....	174,915 57
Constructing and improving parks, parkways, playgrounds, boulevards and driveways, Boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond.....	214,994 75
Aquarium building, Battery Park, improvement of.....	27,945 50
Repaving with asphalt roadway to the Plaza, Fifty-ninth street and Fifth avenue	267 29
Cathedral Parkway, improvement and completion of.....	10,040 04

The Commissioner's Report of the Work of the Department of Parks for the
Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens for the Year 1904.

Office of the Department of Parks,
Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens,
Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park, }
Brooklyn, December 31, 1904. }

Hon. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, Mayor of The City of New York:

Dear Sir—In compliance with the provisions of the Charter, I send you herewith the report of work undertaken and accomplished in this Department for the year closing, together with an outline of plans and recommendations for the year 1905.

I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,

M. J. KENNEDY, Commissioner.

Upon assuming the office of Commissioner of Parks for the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens on January 1, 1904, I made a careful study of the general conditions of the parks and parkways in the system, and concluded that for a number of years past the chief aim of those responsible for the conduct of the Department had been along the line of expansion. As a result I found that while the total improved area of parks in the two boroughs had considerably increased, a manifest tendency to let the older parks suffer in order to concentrate all efforts toward the creation of new ones was apparent. It has been my aim during the year just closed, while not neglecting the further development of new parks, which had been begun under previous administrations, to do all in my power to bring the older parks in the Borough of Brooklyn to a degree of perfection which the means at hand made possible.

Prospect Park.

The principal park in the Borough of Brooklyn is Prospect Park, acquired in 1865 and shortly afterward improved. It was practically completed in 1875, and, while a great number of minor improvements have been made since, the original design and construction are to-day still in evidence. When first laid out a considerable area consisted of native woodland, while other portions were planted during the time of its construction. The park itself is used by a vast number of people, especially on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and the wear and tear on lawns, trees and shrubbery is very great. Despite this fact, little effort seems to have been made toward replacing dead trees or shrubs, nor has any of the worn-out and vitiated soil been renewed.

As soon as the weather permitted I undertook the work of acquiring a large number of trees and shrubs for planting in the various portions of this park, as well as a considerable amount of good top soil, which was spread on bare and denuded places, and used in planting.

The walks generally throughout the park, and a portion of the roadways required resurfacing, and in some cases rebuilding. This work was started early in the year, as weather conditions permitted. While successful in putting all the roads in the park in excellent condition, I was not so fortunate as to the walks, and there is still considerable room for improvement in that direction. A contract for re-asphalting the walks was awarded last summer, and much work was done up to the time the cold weather set in. About two thousand square yards of resurfacing work are yet to be completed under the old contract, but even this will not bring the walks to the condition I desire to see them in. If the money is available I will enter into a further contract for this much needed improvement.

Among the other important improvements were the completion of the Grecian shelter on the South Lake drive facing the parade ground and the large lake; the Pergola entrance at the intersection of Parkside and Ocean avenues, and a new bear cage at the menagerie. The two first named were constructed under contract, and while the Pergola entrance has not as yet been accepted by the Department, it is practically finished. The bear cage was constructed by employees of the Department, and is considered one of the most substantial and ornamental of its kind in the country. It is large enough to not only accommodate the animals now in the possession of the Department, but leaves considerable room for expansion in the future.

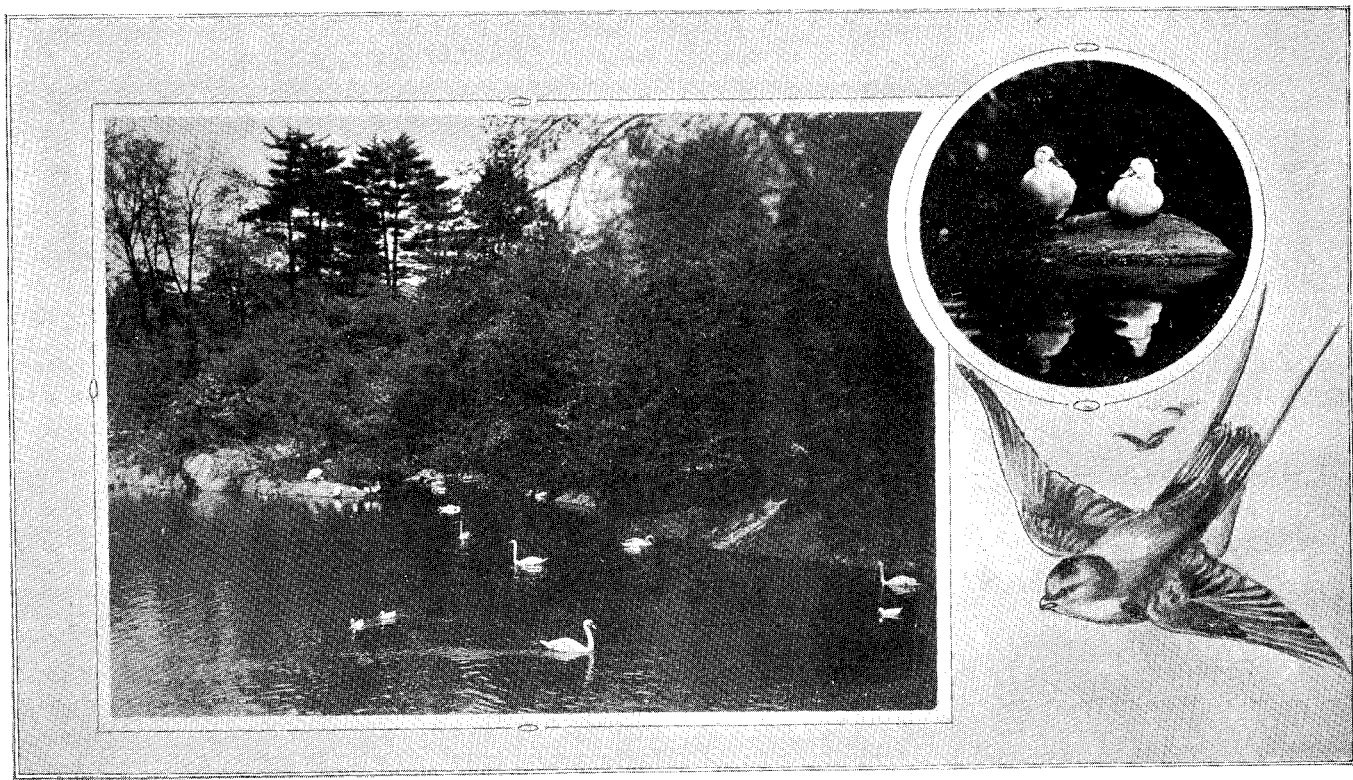
In connection with the planting and the repair of the roads and walks, a large amount of sodding and seeding was carried on during the entire season throughout the park. The portion of the park located between the Willink and Lincoln road entrances, which had for years been a dumping ground for all sorts of park refuse, and an eyesore to people living in the neighborhood or passing through it, was entirely remodelled. The sharp and ugly banks were properly shaped, depressions and hollows filled in, a series of new walks cut through it, and the entire area covered with good, rich top soil and planted with trees and shrubbery.

A contract was made for new cement walks at the entrance at Ninth avenue and Fifteenth street, and the work was completed in a satisfactory manner. The grounds surrounding the shelter house at the flower garden have long been a source of annoyance to those in charge of the park, and I have decided to remodel the same. An old carriage shed adjoining one of the principal drives was removed, a new approach to the building erected, and a number of other improvements in connection with this building started, all or most of which were terminated by the frost.

Particular attention was paid to the cultivation and care of flowers in the green-houses, the rose garden, flower garden and the old fashioned garden on Breeze hill. Displays at the various points of interest were fully up to the high standard set in former years. Arrangements have been made to add to the floral display in the park by making preliminary arrangements for the establishment of a flower garden fronting on the new Grecian shelter and a smaller one below Battle Pass on the East drive, and it is expected that this work will be accomplished early in the summer.

The condition of the lake system which covers an area of over sixty acres, has been a source of annoyance to the visitors in the park as well as to your Commissioner. When this chain of lakes was constructed, the bottom and the sides were lined with puddling clay, and it was intended to have a continuous and constant supply of fresh water therein. It was originally estimated that of the total water supply in Prospect Park, which was calculated to be about one million gallons a day, one-half of the amount could be daily added to the waters of the lake. It is a fact, however, that the water supply has now dwindled so that it barely exceeds one-half million gallons, while the demand for water for various purposes has largely increased, and therefore very little fresh water finds its way into the lakes. Furthermore, nearly all the surface drainage in the interior of the park is carried into the lake, bringing with it considerable deposits of earth, leaves and refuse matter. As a consequence, a growth of very pernicious weeds and alga has started in the lakes, and, remaining unchecked for a number of years, has spread over the entire lake area, thereby not only making the waters of the lake unsightly, but, during the summer time, actually interfering with the boating. A number of experiments were tried during the last two years, to eradicate the weeds and destroy the alga, but with indifferent success. Last summer conditions became intolerable, and I decided to have the lake given a thorough cleaning, and at the same time repair the banks which had become honeycombed by the action of muskrats and other animals, and had in numerous places fallen into the lake. Specifications for this work were drawn and bids advertised for, but I found the prices to be so high that it was inadvisable to award a contract, and the work of repairing the banks, etc., was started by park labor. The results were most gratifying, and a large portion of the banks of the lake were restored to their original condition. Up to last year the lake was without an overflow, and whatever water found its way therein had necessarily to stay there until it disappeared through evaporation or seepage. This condition was, of course, detrimental to the healthfulness of the waters, and I took steps last summer to provide a proper overflow which has proven to be a great relief.

Heretofore fertilizer and manure used on the lawns and upon the plantations of the various parks were obtained by giving numerous small contracts to persons who had small lots for sale. In this way the price usually paid for manure was about one dollar and twenty-five cents per small truck load containing little over one cubic yard. Last fall I decided to purchase on a better business basis, and accordingly



CENTRAL PARK SWANS.

advertised for the furnishing of upward of eleven thousand cubic yards for the various parks, and reduced the cost to the Department to fifty-three cents a yard, or about one-half the former price.

Among the buildings in Prospect Park is the old Litchfield mansion, fronting on Prospect Park, West, opposite Fifth street, which is used for the offices of the Department, and as the Station House of the Seventy-third Precinct. It has never been properly lighted, and a contract was made last fall to have electricity introduced and a sufficient number of lights established. The stables and workshops nearby were in a like condition, and the placing of electric lights throughout these buildings was also part of the contract. This work was completed in a satisfactory manner in December.

The maintenance work in this park was carried on in the usual thorough manner throughout the year, the roadways and paths were kept clean and attractive, and the former were regularly sprinkled throughout the season. Numerous repairs were made to the buildings, gutters, basins, fountains, hydrants and rolling stock in the possession of the Department, among them being the painting and remodelling of the Litchfield Mansion, repairs to and renewal of furnaces and heating plant attached to the greenhouses, alterations and additions to the shops and store-rooms, repairs to and painting of various shelters in the park.

While successful in carrying out many needed improvements in Prospect Park, I realize that much must be done in order to make it what the citizens of the Borough of Brooklyn have a right to expect it to be. My plans for the future include a new concrete sidewalk on Prospect Park, West, between the main entrance to the park and Fifteenth street; a continuation of the boundary wall along this avenue, from Fifth street to Fifteenth street; a further addition to the buildings connected with the menagerie, and the erection of a new boat-house on the banks of the lake. The present structure was put up as a temporary building some thirty years ago, has been used ever since, and is in an unsafe, unsightly and unsanitary condition. It cannot last another season. It is used in summer as a boat-house and in the winter by the skaters. I propose to erect in its place a modern structure of steel, glass and concrete, and expect to have it completed before the next winter season sets in.

The work of replacing the worn-out soil and planting new trees, shrubs and plants will be pushed as soon as the weather permits in the spring.

The Prospect Park Plaza, which forms the main approach to Prospect Park, is covered with an antiquated stone pavement, sunken in many places, and should be entirely remodelled. Inasmuch, however, as the proposed subway extension on Flatbush avenue will pass through the centre of this plaza, I deem it unwise at the present time to begin this work until the plans of the Rapid Transit Commission are fully formulated.

Parade Ground—The Parade Ground, which adjoins Prospect Park to the south, is an open field covered with turf, containing about forty acres of ground, and is used throughout the season as an athletic field whereon baseball, cricket and other games are played. A portion of it contains a bowling green, considered the finest in the country, which is largely patronized by the devotees of the old Scotch game. It is also largely used by military companies and the mounted squad of the Police Department for drilling purposes, and of late years championship games of polo have been played on this field.

The only accommodations provided for those using the grounds are contained in two low, rambling, wooden structures which were erected over thirty years ago, and have now become not only obsolete, but actually unsanitary and are in danger of tumbling down. The amount expended on repairs during the last ten or fifteen years would be sufficient to erect a handsome new structure. I have decided to remove these buildings and erect in their stead a modern and ornamental structure, providing locker-rooms, shower-baths and all sanitary arrangements. The field itself was kept in good condition throughout the entire season.

Institute Park.

Institute Park adjoins Prospect Park to the east and is separated from it by Flatbush avenue. This is a new park, a greater part of which was completed in the fall of 1903, and is to be extended to the south as far as Malbone street, when condemnation proceedings are completed. The work carried on during the year just past consisted of the grading, seeding and sodding of the slopes near the north boundary adjoining the new Museum of Arts and Sciences. About seven thousand truck loads of clean earth were delivered at this point free of charge by the various contractors, and the work of shaping the slopes was done by park labor. The walks, which consist of limestone screenings on a rough stone foundation, were badly washed during the severe storms of the spring and early summer, and had to be resurfaced. The edges of the walks were destroyed in a like manner and were resoiled and resodded. A considerable number of trees and shrubs were added. In other respects the park was in a clean, well kept condition throughout the season. The lawns were cut at regular intervals and the plantation ploughed, harrowed and watered.

Fort Greene Park.

This, the oldest park in the Borough of Brooklyn, is located on a high bluff overlooking the lower portion of the Borough of Brooklyn, the Navy Yard, the East river and the lower part of Manhattan. It is surrounded by densely populated quarters of the borough, and is used by the people to a very large extent. The wear and tear on the lawns, slopes, etc., is eminently great, and the work of maintenance is not easy.

During the year just past the park was thoroughly overhauled, a number of dead and decaying trees were removed, and the remaining ones, by pruning and other methods, put in a satisfactory condition. The lawns within the park as well as those on the plaza fronting it, were kept in an excellent condition throughout the year, and the walks repaired where necessary and kept clean. The comfort house in this park was erected almost forty years ago and is now absolutely useless. I have decided to replace the same with an attractive modern building, provided with all sanitary arrangements. Plans and specifications for the same have been completed by the architects. It is expected that work will be started thereon early in the spring and the structure completed by midsummer.

On the northerly slope of Fort Greene Park, facing Myrtle avenue, is located the Martyrs' Tomb, wherein the bones of the Prison Ship Martyrs are collected and preserved. It is here where frequent memorial and patriotic services are held.

Highland Park.

Highland Park, which was purchased by the former City of Brooklyn, is located partly in Kings and partly in Queens boroughs. The portion of this park under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, comprises about twenty-six acres, but some forty-five acres controlled by the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity and immediately surrounding the reservoirs of the Borough of Brooklyn at Ridgewood and at present not used for reservoir purposes are also included in the park scheme and have been improved by this department. It is proposed to add about fourteen acres of additional land to the south of the present park, fronting Jamaica avenue, so as to give the thickly populated section of the City known as East New York access to the park.

The work carried on during the last season consisted largely of the building of roadways, paths, grading of slopes and banks, and the construction of a lake. The major portion of the land, located at a considerable elevation, is heavily wooded, and lent itself very readily to ornamentation and park making. In all about three thousand cubic yards of top soil was spread on the slopes after grading, about one-half of which was purchased, and the other half collected on the grounds. The road system was fully completed and sod gutters were laid. A number of walks leading through various parts of the grounds were graded, covered with ashes and topped off with limestone screenings. A plaza was graded and treated in a similar way around the music stand. A portion of the park which had heretofore been swamp land was reclaimed by drainage, plowed and harrowed, and is ready for top-soiling. It is proposed to establish in this spot, containing about three acres, an old-fashioned flower garden, which I am sure will be appreciated by the large number of people visiting the park.

A depression among the hills which had formerly been an unsightly stagnant pool and a detriment to the entire park, was cleaned out, graded, puddled and turned into

a clean and wholesome lake. A fountain in the centre of the lake keeps the water clean and fresh, and an overflow takes care of the surplus. The banks of the lake are paved with small cobble stone, and the slopes leading down to it were sodded. There being no sewers in the vicinity of the park available to take care of the drainage, a number of cesspools of proper depth were constructed which served the purpose.

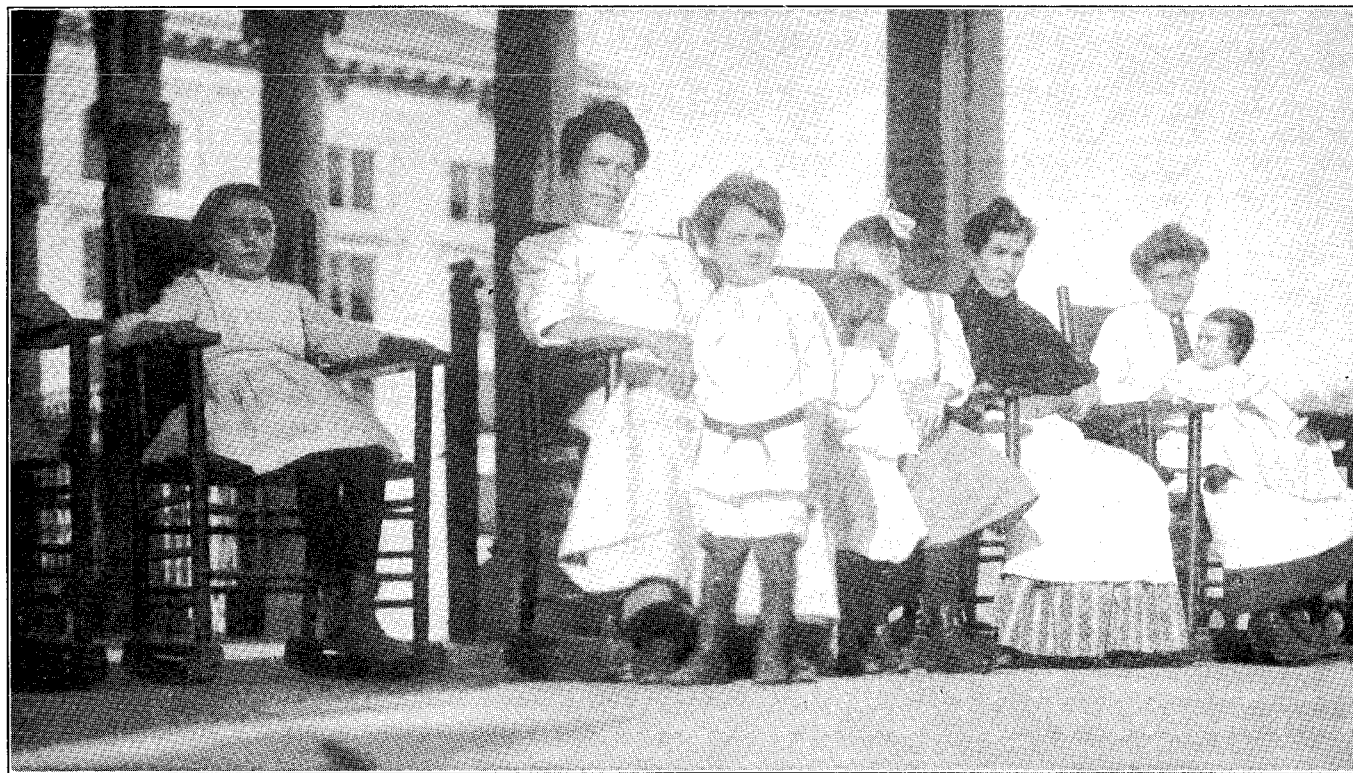
In all about twenty-one thousand square feet of sods were laid during the season, fifteen thousand of which were purchased. The native trees and shrubs as well as the plantations were given a thorough overhauling and dead wood was removed and the younger trees carefully pruned. About four hundred cubic yards of stable manure which had been collected and stored in the park during the previous year, was spread on the lawns. The usual floral display on a plot in the middle of the park was made during the spring and greatly enjoyed by many thousands. The maintenance work, such as cleaning walks, drives, gutters, basins and the cutting of the grass and raking of leaves, etc., was carried on satisfactorily throughout the year.

Sunset Park.

This park is located on a high elevation rising from twenty to fifty feet above the street level. It comprised originally four City blocks, but during the past year two additional blocks were purchased, adding largely not only to the area but to the general usefulness of the park. The work executed there during the season comprises the establishment of a well planned system of irrigation and drainage, and the grading of walks and the exterior slopes. A new entrance was constructed at Seventh avenue and Forty-fourth street, which entailed much grading and required the removal of about forty-five hundred cubic yards of soil. The following amounts of drain pipe were laid:

- 45 brick catch basins.
- 2,750 feet 10-inch pipe.
- 360 feet 12-inch pipe.
- 300 feet 15-inch pipe.
- The irrigation system includes the following:
- 1,500 feet 4-inch cast-iron pipe.
- 3,200 feet 2-inch galvanized pipe
- 1,000 feet 1-inch galvanized pipe.
- 60 garden valves.

Over twelve hundred cubic yards of top soil were spread on the slopes which will be made ready for seeding and sodding in the spring. It is proposed to extend the substantial and ornamental retaining wall which now encloses two sides of the park property, around the entire park, and to build a suitable and adequate shelter supplied with all sanitary arrangements within the park limits. All the work so far done in the construction of this park, with the exception of the building of the retaining wall,



MOTHERS' CORNER, WILLIAM H. SEWARD PARK.

was carried on by park labor. It is my intention to employ a large enough force of men there during the coming season so as to complete the park within the year 1905.

City Park.

City Park, one of the oldest in the park system, is located in a densely populated section of the Borough and accommodates great crowds during the entire year. Considerable work was done in the nature of regrading, and a large number of dead and decayed trees were cut down and removed from the park. The asphalt walks throughout this park were in a deplorable condition, and the repairing and resurfacing of the same were included in the contract let during the summer. A considerable amount of this work has already been done, and I expect to see the remainder finished by May 1. I propose during the coming season to replenish the worn out soil in this park, and to plant quite a number of trees and shrubs.

Tompkins Park.

Tompkins Park, one of the older parks in the system, consists of two city blocks, and has been laid out and planted in a thorough manner. As in all new plantations where immediate effects are desired, the planting here was done rather closely, and with the expectation of doing considerable thinning out later on, so as to allow various specimen trees and shrubs to obtain their proper proportions. It is to be regretted that this necessary thinning out process was neglected, with the result that some of the finer specimens were crowded out by those of hardier and coarser growth. Some work toward correcting this mistake was undertaken during the fall season, but much is still required in order to bring about a harmonious appearance of the landscape. In the centre of the park is located a branch of the Brooklyn Free Library, which adds to the number of visitors that ordinarily frequent the park. A considerable amount of pruning, sodding and seeding was done throughout the park, and the walks, sidewalks and lawns kept in a clean and wholesome condition during the year.

Previous to last summer the park was inadequately lighted, only a few electric lights being scattered at long intervals, and in response to numerous complaints, addressed to this office, I induced the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity to replace the electric lights by a larger number of Welsbach naphtha lamps, with satisfactory results.

Saratoga Square.

Saratoga square comprises one City block in a neighborhood which is rapidly building up and is much frequented by women and children. The work in this park during the season consisted largely of maintenance such as pruning and thinning out trees and shrubbery, the resurfacing of the walks with limestone screenings and the regulating, grading and draining of the area around the new shelter.

A concrete sidewalk which was contracted for by my predecessor was laid around the entire park, and the work finished early in the spring. The lawns were covered with fertilizer late in the fall.

Irving Square.

Irving square, containing one City block, is well patronized by the public. The work here was also mostly maintenance, the walks and sidewalks being resurfaced with limestone screenings, a number of dead trees removed and replaced, and all the shrubbery in the park thoroughly weeded and trimmed. The lawns were kept well cut and treated to a generous coat of manure late in the summer. Plans and specifications have been prepared for a new shelter, with sanitary accommodations, which is very much needed in this park, and I expect to have the same completed by midsummer.

Bushwick Park.

This park, which was laid out and planned about nine years ago, was originally a sand hill, and it appears that only a small amount of soil was spread on the sand when the park was constructed. As a consequence the trees and shrubs planted have attained only a stunted growth, a large number of them dying from year to year. The lawns became very easily worn and exhausted. It is my intention to resoil the park and put it in good condition. During the year the usual work of maintenance was carried on in a thorough manner. The park was kept as neat and attractive as circumstances permitted. It is located in a tenement-house district, probably the most populous one in the borough, and the number of visitors, mostly children, congregating there is enormous. During the coming year I propose to erect a handsome and artistic shelter and comfort house, the plans and specifications of which are now in the hands of the printer and have been approved by the Art Commission. Work will be started as soon as the weather permits in the spring, and I intend having it completed as early as possible. The limestone walks are subjected to washouts and other disturbances, and the plan is to replace them with a pavement of asphalt tiles.

Winthrop Park.

Winthrop Park, containing two City blocks, is located in the section formerly known as Greenpoint. The same condition as in Bushwick Park exists here, inasmuch as there was very little soil suitable for planting trees and plants placed on the subsoil. Besides the ordinary work of maintenance, cutting of grass, raking of leaves, cleaning of walks and sidewalks, a number of dead trees were removed and replaced with new ones. Some shrubs and flowering plants were set out, and the entire park kept in a presentable condition. Considerable repairs were made to the toilet building, and the walks were resurfaced with limestone screenings. These walks should also be paved with an asphalt tile pavement, and arrangements will be made for doing so during the coming season if the necessary money can be obtained.

Cooper Park.

Cooper Park, containing two City blocks, is also located in the Greenpoint section of the borough and within one-half mile of Winthrop Park. The planting and laying out of the same was completed in 1897, and the growth of trees and shrubbery has been vigorous. It is very largely used by the neighbors, and in response to numerous requests I have decided to erect a handsome modern shelter. The plans and specifications of the same have been approved by the Art Commission and will be ready for advertising before spring. The trees and shrubs were thoroughly pruned, the grass kept closely cut and otherwise the park was kept in good condition. The walks were resurfaced with limestone screenings where necessary and will be repaved with asphalt tiles during the coming year if the money can be obtained.

City Hall and Municipal Parks.

These two parks surround and immediately adjoin the Borough Hall. The former, on account of the subway operations and the rebuilding of the interior of the Borough Hall, had become littered with refuse and almost destroyed. It was resoiled, reseeded and restored to good condition. The floral display during the spring and early summer was greatly enjoyed by the people.

Municipal Park, while not owned by this Department, was planted and laid out as a park some years ago and kept as neat as it was possible to do.

Carroll Park.

Carroll Park, one of the oldest of the system, contains but one city block. There are some very fine old trees in this park and a great many visitors enjoy the shade and the grass during the summer months. The soil has become exhausted and will be replaced early in the spring. Suitable toilet arrangements and shelter have long been demanded by the patrons of the park, and plans and specifications have been drawn and approved by the Art Commission for such a building. Work will be started early in the spring and pushed to a speedy completion. The buildings now in existence for that purpose were put up many years ago and are entirely useless for that purpose. They will be razed as soon as the new building is finished. The sidewalks surrounding the park were paved with concrete and the walks in the interior repaired and patched where necessary. The park itself was kept at all times in a clean and wholesome condition.

Red Hook Park.

The site of this park, containing two city blocks, was formerly a dumping ground for ashes, garbage and other refuse matter. When laid out as a park the thickness of the soil, in which the trees and shrubbery were planted, was not sufficient to insure a successful growth of the same. The surface of the park lawns, as well as the walks, settled in numerous places and the drainage system was insufficient to carry off

the water readily. I propose, during the coming year, to supply the deficiency in soil, to relay the walks and plant a large number of trees and shrubs. The maintenance of the park has been carried on in the usual manner, and the showing, considering all circumstances, is creditable.

Fort Hamilton Park.

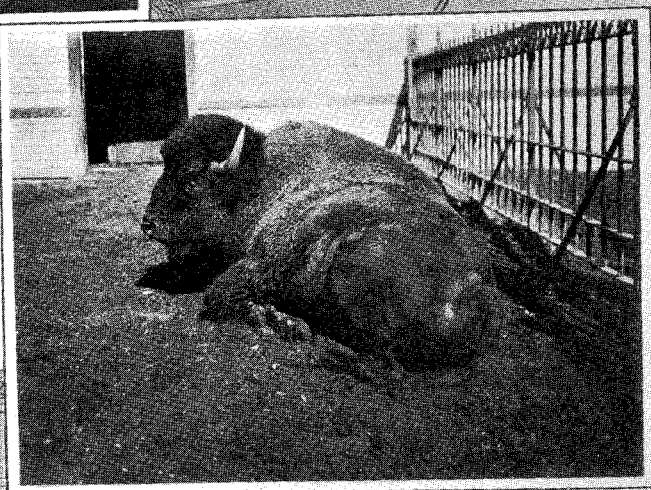
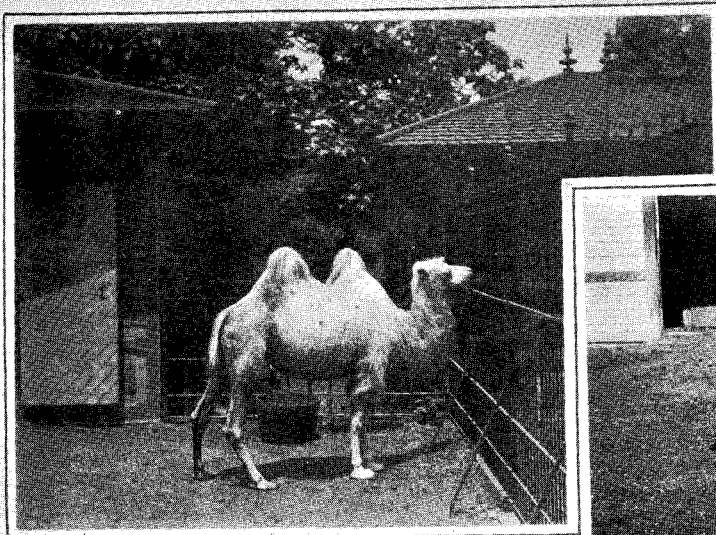
Fort Hamilton Park is located at the terminus of the Shore road, adjoining Fort Hamilton and fronting the New York Bay. Up to last spring the park consisted simply of a large level lawn, and I concluded to lay out a series of walks and do some planting. The work was done by park labor and completed during the summer. The walks consist of a layer of steam ashes, surfaced with limestone screenings and thoroughly rolled. A large number of trees and shrubbery were subsequently planted and the whole area turned into a neat and attractive spot.

Dyker Beach Park.

This park is one of the largest in the Borough of Brooklyn, containing one hundred and forty-four acres. It adjoins Fort Hamilton to the south and faces the lower bay. Little work was done here during the season, the approved plan being of such a nature that it requires a large appropriation before intelligent work can be started. The plan includes the formation and construction of a large central salt-water lagoon, surrounded by a number of drives and walks. This lagoon must first be excavated before any further work can be done in the park. The estimated cost of the construction of the lake and banks, slopes, etc., pertaining thereto, is in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand dollars. I have been unable thus far to secure this amount. The only drive near the southerly and easterly boundaries of Dyker Beach Park, constructed a number of years ago and crossing the proposed lake, which is now a swamp, on a timber causeway, has been kept in excellent condition throughout the season. It has been repaired and resurfaced where necessary and thoroughly rolled. The timber causeway has been repaired and the footpath adjoining it replanked and a new railing put up. The latter work was done by contract. The lawns and slopes, so far constructed, have been kept clean, well cut and watered, and the beach in front of the park has been frequently cleaned.

Bensonhurst Park.

This park, located at the foot of Bay parkway, fronts on the lower bay. It is bisected in its entire length by an attractive drive, only a few feet above high-water mark, and the banks stretching from the drive to the upland are sodded. Scarcely any planting had been done therein up to last spring, and while a number of trees and shrubs were set out during the last season there is considerable room for further improvement in that direction. The roadway and the gutters adjoining were greatly



CAMEL.

CENTRAL PARK MENAGERIE.

BISON AT REST.

damaged during the storms of the spring and early summer, and portions of it were rebuilt. The lawns and slopes were kept in fine condition and the paths were resurfaced with limestone screenings. The beach was kept in a clean and healthy condition throughout the summer season.

Seaside Park.

Seaside Park, which was constructed and completed by my predecessor, is located at the foot of the Ocean parkway, fronting the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island. Considerable damage was done by the elements last winter and the park received a thorough overhauling in the spring. A considerable amount of top soil was spread, about five thousand square feet of sod were laid, and the trees and shrubs, which survived the severe winter, were attended to. Nearly one hundred new trees and shrubs were planted and the walks in and around the park were given a top-dressing of fine limestone screenings. Over five thousand flowering plants were set out and the display was reputed to be one of the finest ever seen so near the seashore. Late in the season the entire park area was covered with a heavy layer of manure.

The beach in front of the park and separated from it by the Coney Island Concourse was severely scoured during the storms of the early spring, and I realized that if steps were not taken to stop the erosion, not only the beach but also portions of the park would disappear in a short time. It may be interesting to know at this point, that the original site whereon Seaside Park is located, was purchased in 1875, and contained at that time seventy-five acres. For about six years thereafter the beach line had a tendency to move further out into the ocean, and it is estimated that in 1881 the park area contained over eighty acres. Subsequently, however, there was a decided change in conditions, and the land controlled by this Department was eaten into by the waves to a greater extent from year to year. As a consequence the easterly half of the park lands, except a small triangle, have been entirely lost, and the street formerly forming the northerly boundary of the park is now for the greater part of its length, covered by water, even at low tide. My predecessor constructed a large breakwater of approved design at the foot of the parkway, to check the inroads of the ocean, and this has proven successful. In order to further prevent the erosion of the beach, and if possible to add to the same, I have had plans and specifications prepared for the construction of a jetty, eight hundred feet long, which stretches between five and six hundred feet into the waters of the ocean. The contract price for this work is but twenty-three thousand dollars, and when it is considered that land fronting on the ocean in this vicinity has now attained a market price of from twenty-five to one hundred thousand dollars per acre, it must be evident that if only a small portion of the beach can be saved, the money will be well spent.

The two shelters located on park property were thoroughly repaired and repainted, and otherwise put in good condition. The tents usually erected on the

beach for the accommodation of mothers and children were largely added to, and a new feature, that of an ice-water drinking fountain, was introduced. The latter, while very simple and cheap in construction and maintenance, has proven popular and has been enjoyed by a great many people. The entire park, beach, Concourse, walks, etc., have been kept at all times clean and wholesome.

Canarsie Park.

Canarsie Park, containing about forty acres, is located at the foot of Rockaway parkway, in what was formerly the Village of Canarsie on the shores of Jamaica Bay. Very little work has been done in this park beyond the usual maintenance. About one hundred trees were set out, and otherwise the place has been leveled off and made ready for the coming year. It is my intention to turn this property into an athletic field and playground, as it is admirably located and adapted for that purpose.

New Lots Playground.

New Lots Playground contains one city block and is located in the section of the City known as Brownsville. It was formerly laid out as a small park, but, inasmuch as the tastes of the visitors seem to run more in an athletic direction, I decided to erect therein a gymnasium for boys and young men and a playground for children. It is a pleasure to say that this innovation has proven entirely successful and the playground is crowded during the entire season. A capable instructor has been put in charge of the gymnastic apparatus and the playground feature is looked after by a competent woman. The shrubbery and the trees bordering and surrounding the playground have been carefully cared for and are to-day in a healthy condition. The paths in the park and the sidewalks surrounding same are of the usual limestone variety and need frequent repairs. These have been attended to.

Linton Park

Linton Park, covering one city block, was laid out and opened last year. The long and severe winter damaged some of the newly planted trees and shrubs, a large number of them being entirely destroyed. I replaced the latter last spring and otherwise improved the park as far as practicable. The borders of the walks were recut and sodded, and the walks themselves surfaced with limestone screenings wherever required. The floral display during the spring and early summer was unusually attractive and was enjoyed by a great number of people. The lawns were kept well cut and watered and the shrubbery beds cleared of weeds and put in good condition.

Lincoln Terrace.

Lincoln Terrace, embracing two city blocks, is located on the Eastern parkway at Buffalo avenue. It is one of the most picturesque of the smaller parks and was

completed in 1897. The trees and shrubs which had originally been very thickly planted for immediate effect, were thinned out in a systematic manner, and those taken out were replanted in other parks and parkways. The park now presents an attractive appearance and has been kept throughout the season in fine condition. The usual drawback which all walks paved with cinders and limestone screenings furnish—that of numerous washouts—occurred here likewise. The repairs were promptly made, the paths resurfaced where necessary, and other improvements added.

The newer parks in the Borough of Brooklyn had the sidewalks surrounding them, as well as the walks in the interior, covered with a layer of steam ashes and topped off with a course of fine crushed limestone for reasons of economy. Since their construction the repairs on these sidewalks and walks have been continuous and numerous. I have decided to pave the paths, etc., in all these parks with a permanent modern pavement. If the money is allowed it is hoped to have this work begun early in the spring and completed during the summer of 1905.

Bedford Park.

Bedford Park, containing one city block, is located in the Twenty-fourth Ward of this borough. When purchased this park absorbed a number of large private estates. It contains one large building which has been turned over to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and is used as a children's museum. The park contains a number of fine old trees, and altogether is a very attractive breathing spot. The paths are of the cinder and limestone variety, and required frequent repairs and resurfacing. All this was promptly attended to. There are no toilet arrangements provided. To supply this want, plans and specifications have been drawn by a competent architect, approved by the Art Commission and are now in the hands of the printer. The general work in the park was principally maintenance, such as the pruning of trees and shrubbery, the cutting of grass, the raking of leaves and cleaning of walks and sidewalks, all of which was carefully attended to. The roof of the building in the park was repaired and painted, and a number of small repairs made around and in the building.

Williamsburg Bridge Park.

This park is located directly under the new Williamsburg Bridge, and extends from Bedford avenue to Kent avenue. The greater part of the work pertaining to the construction of the same was done under the previous administration. During the year just past about five hundred cubic yards of good top soil were spread where required; the lawns were regulated, graded and seeded, and a number of trees and shrubs planted. A portion of the park was set aside as a playground. It was fenced and the surface leveled off and prepared for this purpose, but I have hesitated about

setting up the gymnastic and other apparatus and opening the grounds to the public on account of the work going on overhead on the roadways of the bridge. Tools and material are frequently dropped into the park grounds. This work is now completed, and I expect to have the playground in full operation during the coming summer.

Williamsburg Park.

Williamsburg Park, located on the outskirts of the old City of Williamsburg, now part of the Borough of Brooklyn, at Manhattan avenue, North Twelfth street, Berry street and Leonard street, comprises altogether about forty-three acres. Parts of the proposed park have not as yet been acquired by the City, and only a small portion of the same have so far been put to any practical use. The plots improved are, one at Manhattan and Driggs avenues, which has been used as a playground for girls in the summer and skating pond in the winter. It has been constructed in such a manner that it can be flooded when desired and affords during the proper season, a great deal of enjoyment for the children living in the neighborhood. A competent woman is in charge and it has been provided with adequate toilet facilities. The other portion at Bedford avenue and North Fourteenth street has been fenced in, leveled off and used as a playground and gymnasium field for boys. It is under the charge of an instructor and has been largely patronized during the last season. The construction of the park in its entirety, which may be begun during the coming year, if the funds for that purpose are available, presents one of the most interesting studies of municipal park making. Large portions of the grounds have been used in the past and are to-day a dumping ground for all sorts of refuse matter, while other parts have been covered with factory buildings. Several railroad lines bisect the property, and it will require careful study to formulate a comprehensive plan for this pleasure ground.

McKinley Park.

McKinley Park, located at Seventy-fifth street and Fort Hamilton avenue, contains about nine acres and has been acquired about two years. It is covered largely with a native growth of fine trees and has been used by the residents of the neighborhood. Little work has been done there so far except the cleaning up of the woodland, the removal of dead and decaying trees and the pruning of the trees and shrubbery on the street lines. It is not the intention to expend any considerable sum on this park during the coming year, as it can be used in its present condition for some time to come.

Small Parks.

The park system of the Borough of Brooklyn contains a number of small gore and other parks such as Cooper Gore, Cuyler Park, Stuyvesant Park, five small parks on Columbia Heights, Underhill Park and Woodpoint Park, ranging in size from one-eighth to one-half acre. They were carefully looked after during the entire year, the



FEEDING A SQUIRREL.



THE ZEBU FAMILY.
AN UNWILLING SUBJECT.

sidewalks surrounding them were kept clean, and fountains and fences were repaired and painted. The grass was cut during the season, trees and shrubs pruned and in some instances replaced, and a floral display was the feature in each one of them during the proper season.

Queens Parks.

Chief among the parks in the Borough of Queens is Forest Park, containing five hundred and thirty-six acres, it being the largest park under my jurisdiction. It was purchased about ten years ago by the County of Kings at a relatively small expense, and has been improved from year to year. It is located on the high ridge which forms the backbone of Long Island, and was covered to a great extent with a fine growth of native trees.

During the year a considerable amount of constructive work was carried on therein. The golf course, which heretofore has been one of nine holes, has been extended so as to make it one of eighteen holes, a large amount of grading, grubbing, sodding and seeding being necessary in its preparation. This work has now advanced to such a stage that it is expected to throw open the entire course to the players by May 30. The links are pronounced by experts to be among the finest in the country.

A system of roadways, which was formerly laid out throughout the length of the park, was only partly covered with any permanent pavement. During last year the remaining portion, extending from Woodhaven avenue to Myrtle avenue, a distance of about nine thousand feet, was covered with a substantial macadam pavement, the roadway thus paved varying in width from twenty to thirty-five feet, and the gutters adjoining the same were excavated and shaped throughout its length. A baseball ground containing two diamonds was graded, completed and opened early in the spring.

One of the great drawbacks in the Department, as heretofore conducted, has been the lack of an adequate nursery, where specimens of trees and shrubs, such as are required for the planting of our parks, could be propagated and raised. Shortly after assuming office I decided to supply this deficiency and have selected a site in Forest Park for that purpose. A good beginning has already been made in that respect, an area of some fifteen acres having been set aside and partly cultivated. Several thousand trees, shrubs and flowering plants have been propagated and will be used in our spring planting. Two large modern greenhouses have been designed, and work thereon was nearly completed when interrupted by the winter. The boiler house and other appurtenances requisite for the proper conduct of the greenhouses are in course of construction and will be completed early in the spring. An area of over one acre has been covered with hothouse frames and glass and is now in use. It is my intention to largely extend the area under glass as well as the open nursery during the coming season.

A corps of gardeners, etc., has been at work during the spring and fall season removing dead trees and undesirable underbrush, widening and cutting paths and doing other work of that nature. The trees fronting on drives and on the surrounding streets were carefully looked after and pruned where necessary.

Complaints have been numerous concerning the lack of shelter and toilet accommodations, especially near the golf course. Accordingly, competent architects were instructed to prepare suitable plans and specifications for a building to accommodate the golf players and others. These plans have been approved by the Art Commission, and bids will be asked for shortly. A commanding site has been selected for this structure, cleared of all underbrush and partly graded, and work will be started as soon as the weather permits.

A number of houses which were formerly scattered throughout the park and rented for a small consideration, mostly to employees of the Park Department, had become unsightly and dilapidated and were sold at auction to the highest bidders, who removed them from the park.

Kings Park.

Kings Park, located in the former Town of Jamaica, on Jamaica avenue and Ray street, comprises two large city blocks and covers an area of eleven acres. It contains an old mansion formerly owned by the King family, which dates back to revolutionary times. Some fine old trees are scattered over the lawns, and little work was required in this park to assist nature. The building has been put and kept in first class condition and has been leased to the Kings Manor Association, composed of several patriotic societies. Several tennis courts were laid out during the season and used continuously while the good weather lasted. A portion of the park was laid out as a baseball ground and games played during the summer. The work of maintenance received careful attention. The lawns were cut, a number of trees pruned and otherwise improved, and some dead ones removed. The sidewalks surrounding the park were cleaned, and those in the interior of the park carefully attended to.

Ashmead Park.

Ashmead Park, a triangular piece of land in the former Town of Jamaica, was brought to grade early in the spring and a fine display of flowers was given during the proper season. The sidewalks surrounding the park were repaired, put in first class condition and cleaned whenever necessary.

Flushing Park.

Flushing Park, located at the junction of Main street and Broadway, in the former Town of Flushing, contains one square and one gore block. It has some

fine large trees, which were pruned in the spring. The fountain at one end of the park was repainted, repaired and otherwise improved. The borders of the walks were cut, the walks themselves resurfaced with limestone screenings wherever required. The grass was cut, flowers planted and park in every way cared for.

College Point Parks.

The park at Louisa and Fifteenth streets, containing one city square about one and one-quarter acres in area, was thoroughly overhauled last spring. The borders of the walks were resodded, the sidewalks and fountain repaired and the walks resurfaced with limestone screenings. A number of trees were planted, the older ones pruned and a generous amount of flowers set out.

Poppenhausen Park.

Poppenhausen Park, at the junction of College avenue and Thirteenth streets, covers about one-quarter acre. It contains the bust of Poppenhause, the donor of the park, some large trees and a number of flowering shrubs. It was given a thorough overhauling, the trees pruned, sidewalks repaired, grass cut, etc.

Linden Park.

Linden Park, in Corona, covers an area of a little over three acres. Some fine old trees adorn it, and there is a small lake near the centre of the park. Considerable work was done during the season, some of the banks of the lake and the slopes at the street line were sodded, trees were pruned, the walks and sidewalks repaired and the lawns cut at regular intervals.

Parks in Long Island City.

Five small gore parks along the line of Jackson avenue in Long Island City, varying in size from one-eighth to one-quarter acre, were given the usual amount of care. The grass was cut when necessary, the sidewalks surrounding them cleaned and repaired, and all other work done which was required.

Proposed Parks.

The work of laying out and constructing the new parks during the coming season will be begun without delay. These include Maxwell Park, bounded by Tillary, Jay and Bridge streets, Borough of Brooklyn. This area is now covered with a number of buildings which will be demolished in the spring and the work of construction pushed forward.

Fulton Park, bounded by Fulton street, Chauncey street, Stuyvesant avenue and Lewis avenue, Borough of Brooklyn, also contains nearly one hundred buildings,

most of which are occupied. It is proposed to remove the same early in the spring, and I expect to be engaged in constructing this park by May 1.

Amersfort Park, bounded by Avenues I and J, East Thirty-eighth and East Thirty-ninth streets, was recently acquired by the City. There are no buildings located thereon and it can be turned into a useful and ornamental park at little expense. I expect to have the same completed before July 4 of next year.

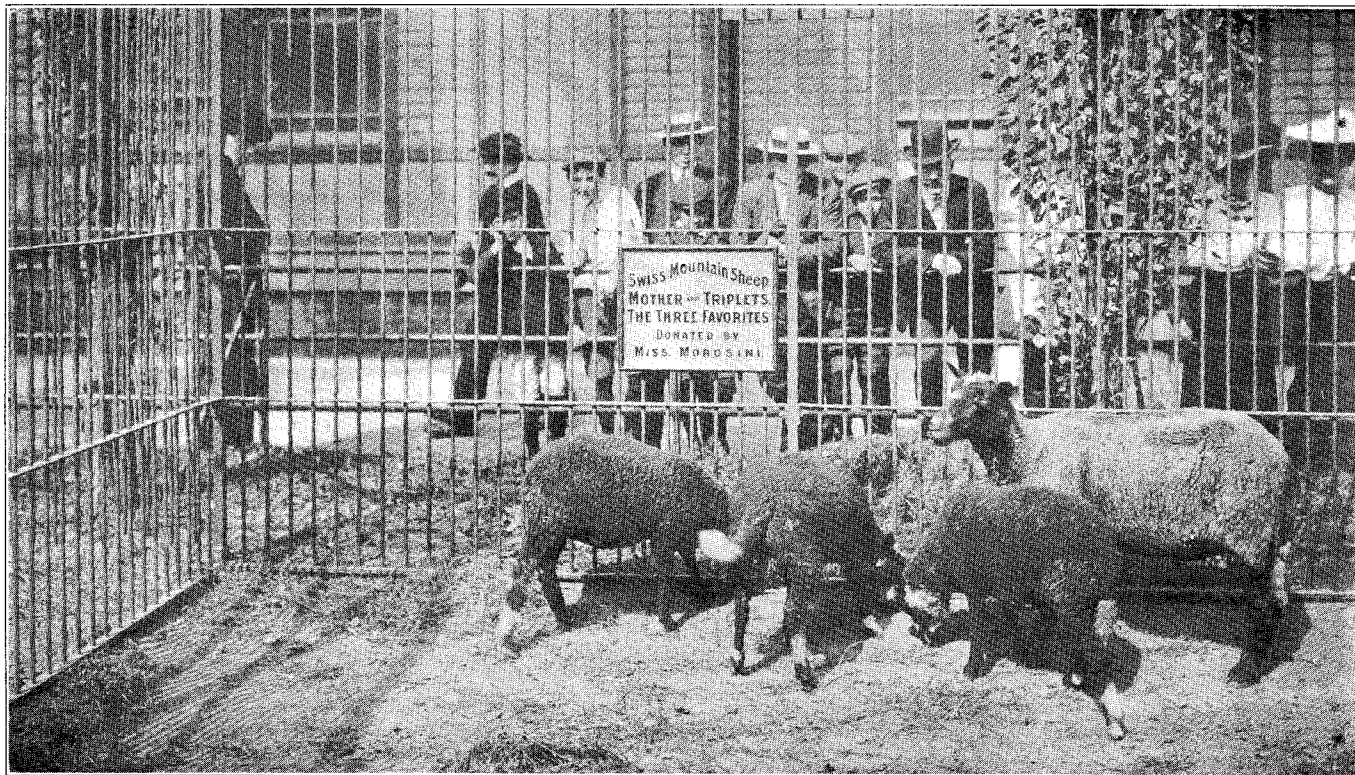
Rainey Park in the Borough of Queens is located at Vernon avenue, the East river, Sanford street and Pierce avenue. It has been recently purchased by the City and turned over to this Department for improvement. It contains several old buildings which may be made useful for park purposes. It is my intention to begin the work of construction as early as the weather will permit in the spring. It should be in a finished condition by midsummer.

Parkways.

In point of beauty, length, arrangement and width of roadways the Ocean parkway is the most important one of those under the jurisdiction of this Department, with the possible exception of the Shore road when the latter shall be completed. It begins at the southwesterly corner of Prospect Park, runs west for about one thousand feet and then stretches south to the Atlantic Ocean for a distance of over five miles in an almost straight line. It is subdivided into a main roadway seventy feet in width, flanked by two bicycle paths, which latter are bordered with two fine rows of trees and grass plots. Next to the cycle paths on either side are roadways twenty-five feet in width, the westerly one of which is used as a traffic road and is paved with macadam pavement; the easterly one is an equestrian road and is covered with loose loam and sand. Two sidewalks on either side of the parkway, each fifteen feet in width, complete its full width, two hundred and ten feet.

Early in the spring work was begun on resurfacing the cycle paths with limestone screenings, which work was accomplished about June 1. The lower portion of the main roadway received attention next. It was carefully rolled, trap rock screenings being spread wherever the surface had become worn, and by early summer it was in the usual fine condition. The traffic road on the west side of the parkway is difficult to maintain. It is at the present time and has been for some years past the only well paved street leading from Brooklyn to Coney Island, and as a consequence the traffic is heavy and the work of renewing and repairing the surface of the roadway is a continuous one.

During last year the portion of this road between Prospect park and Kings highway, a distance of about three miles, has been almost entirely resurfaced and otherwise repaired. The material used in this work was crushed trap rock and trap-rock screenings, to a depth of about four inches. The part of the roadway lying between Kings highway and Coney Island could not be attended to in a thorough manner,



REAL BLACK SHEEP.

but was temporarily repaired and kept in good condition and made ready for resurfacing next spring. The section of the main road lying between Bay parkway and Kings highway is known as the Brooklyn Speedway and is used by the drivers of light harness horses. It is seventy feet in width and about seventy-nine hundred feet long. The surface is covered with a layer of native loam, with a slight percentage of fine sand. It has to be harrowed, leveled, raked and watered frequently during the dry season. All this work has been attended to in a careful manner and the worn-out places have been resurfaced and the entire Speedway treated to a light surfacing of loam. Twenty-five hundred cubic yards of this material were purchased and nearly all used during the season. The northerly portion of the main road between the Bay Ridge parkway and Prospect Park has been repaired wherever required, but it is becoming worn in many places and will have to be resurfaced entirely during the coming year. The equestrian road on the east side of the parkway has been harrowed, cleaned and covered with a layer of sand and loam. It is a hard matter to retain this path in good condition, as it is difficult to keep drivers off, the peculiar circumstances under which the parkway was originally acquired making it impossible to secure proper legislation for its management. The police as a result cannot enforce the regulations made for the general government of parkways.

The drainage of Ocean parkway, although greatly improved during the last few years, is not as complete as I would desire. The lack of proper sewers nearby has made it difficult in the past to drain the roadways, and the chief reliance has been cesspools built where necessary along the line of the road. Conditions in that respect are steadily improving as the lines of sewer construction draw nearer to the parkway. Last year a number of catch basins were constructed and several hundred feet of drain pipe laid in order to drain a number of low places along the parkway. Last fall the grass plots along the entire length of the parkway received a generous top-dressing of manure, and the trees not heretofore attended to were pruned and cleaned. All the roadways, bicycle paths, etc., were kept throughout the year in a clean and attractive condition. They were frequently sprinkled during the dry season, and during the winter months sleighing was excellent.

Eastern parkway begins at the northeasterly end of Prospect Park at what is known as the Prospect Park Plaza and extends in a straight line due east for about two miles. It occupies the high ridge which is commonly known as the backbone of Long Island, and affords a fine view of the southern portion of the borough and the Atlantic Ocean in the distance. Its width is the same as that of the Ocean parkway, two hundred and ten feet, and the arrangement of its roadways are practically the same, except that the middle roadway is but sixty feet wide, as compared with seventy on the Ocean parkway. The intention of its designers was to have the centre roadway for pleasure driving and the two roads on either side for heavy traffic. This arrangement cannot be maintained at the present time on account of the wretched pavement

on the two side roads. All the traffic, which is exceedingly heavy, is crowded onto the main roadway, thereby making it almost impossible to keep the pavement of the latter in good condition. A number of efforts have been made to secure funds wherewith to obviate this drawback by paving the side roads with a modern pavement and rearranging conditions on the main roadway. It is estimated that the cost of this improvement would be in the neighborhood of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but it has been impossible to secure this amount. As a result, conditions are going from bad to worse, and complaints of drivers as well as residents along the line of the parkway, have been numerous throughout the season. The Department has done its best to satisfy all demands and the main roadway has been kept in fair condition throughout the season. Portions of it have been resurfaced with gravel and numerous repairs have been made. The side roads could not be improved for the reason above stated, and furthermore, on account of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity laying a 48-inch water main throughout the length of the parkway on its northerly roadway.

During the previous administration a contract was let for the paving of both sidewalks on the Eastern parkway, and this work was completed in a satisfactory manner early last summer.

The statue of the late General Henry W. Slocum is located on this parkway at the intersection of the same with Bedford avenue. A contract has been let for the creation and embellishment of a plaza surrounding the monument, and I am assured that this work will be completed by May 15. Arrangements are under way to have the same unveiled on Decoration Day, May 30. The Eastern parkway, in its entirety, received the usual treatment of maintenance, such as cleaning of gutters, sweeping of roadways, cutting grass along its borders, the pruning and replacing of trees, the sprinkling of the roadways during the dry season and maintaining the same in proper condition for sleighing in the winter months. The grass plots, flanking the bicycle path and the limestone paths throughout the parkway, were covered with a good layer of fertilizer early in the winter, and it is expected that this treatment will bring about very good results during next year.

Eastern parkway extension extends from the end of the Eastern parkway proper to Highland Boulevard, and thence to Highland Park. The pavement of this parkway represents four different types, namely, asphalt, macadam, asphalt blocks and vitrified paving brick. The traffic conditions over nearly its entire area are severe, and its maintenance involves a great amount of labor. The asphalt portions of the roadway, which flank a strip of macadam along its middle, have been repaired and kept clean and well sprinkled at all times. The macadam roadway was resurfaced with trap-rock from Bushwick avenue to Stone avenue, a distance of over a quarter of a mile. A contract let by the previous administration for the repaving of a portion of this parkway formerly known as Bushwick avenue, with asphalt block pavement was completed early in the summer and has proved very successful. It extends from the line of old Vander-

veer street to Jamaica avenue. The portion of the parkway sometimes known as Highland Boulevard and extending from Bushwick avenue to Highland Park, is covered with vitrified brick pavement, which is slowly disintegrating. The traffic, however, on this roadway is not as heavy, and the pavement may last several years longer. A concrete sidewalk was laid along part of the latter portion of the parkway, extending from the Vermont street viaduct to a point near the entrance to Evergreen Cemetery. This work was done by contract and completed early in the summer.

The maintenance work, such as cleaning gutters, roadways and sidewalks, the sprinkling of the roadways and the removal of refuse matter was carefully attended to.

Fort Hamilton parkway, beginning at Flatbush avenue and extending in a westerly direction along the southerly boundary of Prospect Park and from there past Fort Hamilton to the terminus of the Shore road, on the banks of New York Bay. It has a roadway of fifty feet in width as far as Fort Hamilton and from there to its end of twenty-eight feet. It required constant repairs during the driving season. Portions of it from Greenwood Cemetery to New Utrecht avenue were resurfaced, the material used being crushed trap rock and Hudson river road gravel. The roadway was disturbed in many places by the operations of contractors building sewers and laying water mains. Nevertheless the Department succeeded in having this popular driveway at all times in fine condition. It was regularly cleaned, sprinkled and otherwise maintained and improved.

Bay parkway, formerly known as Twenty-second avenue, begins on the west side of Ocean parkway and extends in a westerly direction to New York Bay. It has a roadway fifty feet in width which is macadamized its entire length. Repairs were made wherever necessary, grass plots on the sidewalks adjoining the roadway were kept neat and attractive, and the roadway itself thoroughly cleaned and sprinkled throughout the season.

Ocean avenue—Only a portion of this avenue, namely that immediately adjoining Prospect park and extending from Flatbush avenue to Fort Hamilton avenue, is under the care of this department. One of its sidewalks, that nearest the park, is used as a cycle path and covered with limestone screenings. This was resurfaced early in the spring, thoroughly rolled, its edges cut and sodded where required, and otherwise maintained. Part of the roadway is occupied by railroad tracks of the Coney Island and Brooklyn Railroad Company. The remaining portion is paved with macadam pavement. The latter was thoroughly cleaned, repaired and sprinkled in season.

Pitkin avenue is located in what was formerly known as East New York. It begins at the terminus of the Eastern parkway and extends thence in an easterly direction for a considerable distance. Part of it also has been placed under the care of the Park Department, namely that from Eastern parkway to Stone avenue. It is essentially a business street and really has no place in the park system. It is my

intention to request the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to petition the Legislature to have this street, along with a number of others, put under the care of the Highways Department, as it probably will never be used as a parkway. Building operations along Pitkin avenue have been extensive throughout the year, and it is impossible to keep the roadway in good condition. If not relieved of the care of the street it is my intention to repave the same during the coming season providing the money for that purpose is granted. Repairs were made wherever it was possible to do so, and the street kept in as good condition as circumstances permitted.

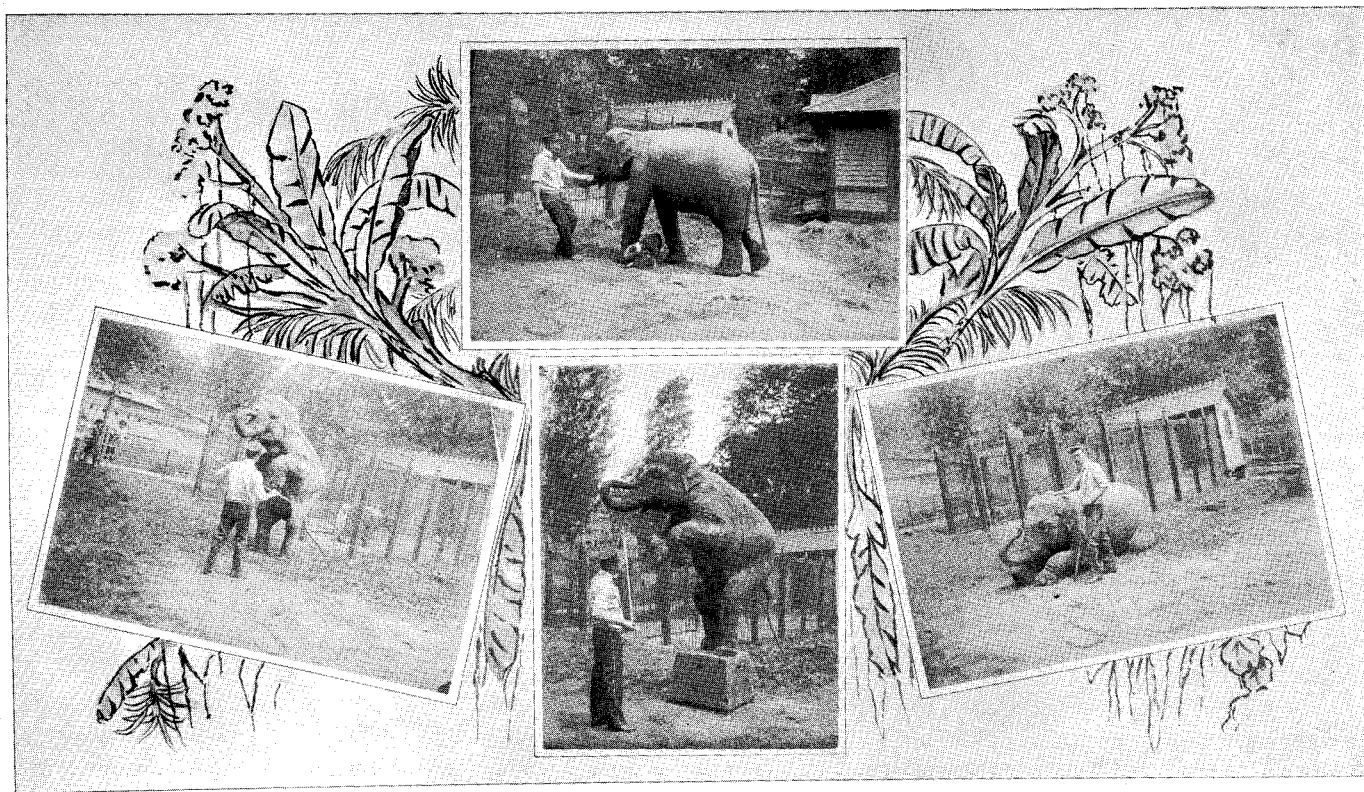
Glenmore avenue—This street is also located in the section formerly known as East New York, and parallels Pitkin avenue. It is sixty feet in width with a roadway of thirty feet. That part of the street beginning at Stone avenue and ending at Eldert street is under the care of the Park Department. It is paved with macadam, except a section about one mile in length which is asphalted. This street is considered a connecting link of the good road system of the Borough of Brooklyn with that of Queens, but on account of the narrowness of the roadway it does not appear suitable for that purpose. The trucking along the same is heavy. Parts of the roadway extending from Cleveland street to Conduit avenue have been resurfaced with trap rock and the remainder has been carefully repaired. Glenmore avenue is one of the streets I desire to turn over to the care of the Bureau of Highways, as it is entirely unsuitable for the purpose of a parkway. It has been cleaned, sprinkled and otherwise maintained in a fairly satisfactory manner throughout the season.

Pennsylvania avenue, extending from Jamaica avenue to Jamaica Bay, is only partly opened and paved. The pavement between Jamaica avenue and Belmont avenue consists of vitrified brick which is almost worn, and between Belmont avenue and New Lots road it is paved with block pavement. The street has a wide roadway and would be eminently suitable for a parkway were it not for the fact that the Brooklyn, Queens County and Suburban Railroad Company has a franchise on the street, and sooner or later will lay tracks thereon. In view of this condition it is my desire to put the same under the care of the Highway Bureau. It has been kept throughout the year in good condition, and repairs made wherever necessary.

Riverside avenue, Dumont avenue and New Lots road, all located in the same section of the city, have not as yet been paved, are useless for park purposes and should be returned to the care of the Bureau of Highways.

Miller avenue, two blocks of which are under the care of this Department, is paved but otherwise unsuitable as a parkway, and also included in the list of streets that should be transferred.

Stone avenue was paved from Eastern Parkway Extension to Riverdale avenue with asphalt pavement under the previous administration. It is essentially a business street and is flanked with tenement houses. It is unsuitable for park purposes and it is my desire to be relieved from the care of the same. During the year it was cleaned daily and kept in as good condition as circumstances permitted.



THE CAKEWALK.

"HATTIE," TRAINED CENTRAL PARK ELEPHANT.

PERFORMING WITH DOG.
ON GUARD.

CREEPING LIKE A BABY.

Bay Ridge parkway and Shore road—The Bay Ridge parkway as far as it has been opened as a public drive, from Fourth to First avenue, has been carefully looked after. Parts of it have been surfaced with road gravel and rolled. The work of forming and beautifying the slopes adjoining the driveway has progressed satisfactorily; some three thousand cubic yards of earth were deposited by contractors free of charge to the City, and about eight hundred cubic yards of top soil were taken from unimproved portions of the parkway and spread on the new work. One hundred and thirty trees taken from the park nursery were planted and are in good condition. Sixty-five hundred square feet of sods obtained in the neighborhood without cost to the Department, were laid and a considerable area was seeded.

The Shore road proper, beginning at First avenue and extending along the shores of New York Bay to Fort Hamilton, presents a very difficult problem. By an act of the Legislature, passed in 1892 and amended in 1894, a commission was created to purchase the property for and lay out a driveway along the shores of New York Bay, and subsequently the property which is now called the Shore road was purchased. The Act provided that plans and specifications for the improvement of this parkway were to be formulated by the Commission and when formally approved by them, filed with the Park Department and with the Clerk of the County of Kings. This was subsequently done and improvements were begun. The Charter of the Greater City legislated the Commission out of office and made the Commissioner for the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens its successor. On assuming office I carefully inspected the work already done and examined the plans on file. I found in the first place that the roadway as built was exceedingly narrow in a number of places, hardly wide enough to permit of two vehicles passing at the same time, and it was determined to take steps to at least widen the roadway so as to make it safe. Plans and specifications were drawn and contracts awarded for the temporary widening of the Shore road. The contract price is in the neighborhood of sixty thousand dollars, and the work is now under way. It is obvious, however, that this work relieves only the actual necessities, and I determined to apply to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for a large enough sum to enable me to undertake some work looking toward the building of the Shore road according to the plans as formulated by the Shore Road Commission. While examining these plans, details of which were never worked out, I realized that it would be contrary to the best interests of the City to carry out all these details, and after a consultation with the engineers of this Department and the Landscape Architect, concluded that it would be wise to omit some of the minor features of the proposed plan and add others. Upon inquiry the Corporation Counsel advised me that, the plans of the Shore Road Commission being final and conclusive, it would be necessary to have the Act amended by the Legislature, and am now having an amendment prepared and intend to present the same to the Legislature at its next session. Besides the contract work above referred to, numerous repairs were made to the roadways, catch basins and drain pipes were cleaned and repaired, portions of the brick

gutter were relaid and a great many washouts in the banks and slopes adjoining the roadway were refilled. The existing roadway was thoroughly cleaned and kept well sprinkled throughout the dry season.

Chapter 453 of the Laws of 1902 placed the care and preservation of all trees and other vegetation on public streets under the care of the Department of Parks. A section of the law provides for the establishment of a Bureau of Arboriculture in order to plant, trim, prune and otherwise care for the street trees. I have formulated plans looking toward this end and have applied to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to grant me the necessary money for that purpose, but the Board has failed to act. The law further provides that upon written application of the President of any Borough to the Park Board the same shall plant trees, etc., upon any public street or avenue, provided the soil and other conditions are suitable for the growth of trees. The act, however, omits to state how much money for that purpose is to be obtained. In pursuance of this act, my predecessor, upon the request of the Borough President, planted trees and shrubbery along Fourth avenue, between Sixtieth street and Atlantic avenue, and this work has been completed by me during last year. The cost incurred was charged to the bond account, entitled "Improvement of Parks, Parkways and Drives, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens," but I am not sure as to what my powers are regarding its future maintenance. Requests for the pruning, planting and care of street trees by private owners were numerous throughout the year, but as there was no money available for that purpose, the only alternative for this Department was to give permits to have this work done by individuals. I have also had many requests from telephone, electric light and street railroad companies for permission to cut the branches of trees to free their wires. Two such permits were granted early in the year, stipulating that the work be done under the inspection of the arboriculturists of this Department, but later, on the advice of the Corporation Counsel, have denied all such requests unless the owners of the trees have requested permission in writing to prune the trees.

The demands upon the Department for the care and protection of street trees are growing larger every year, and sufficient money should be allowed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to carry out the provisions of the Act of 1902, or the latter should be repealed.

Music.

The concert season opened on May 29 and closed on September 25 with concerts by the United German Singing Societies of Brooklyn, in conjunction with the Twenty-third Regiment Band. Both affairs were largely attended, as were indeed all the concerts given during the season. Thirty-three concerts were given in Prospect Park and thirty-four in the smaller parks, making a total of sixty-seven. It is estimated that over a million people enjoyed the music in the different parks.

Twelve thousand and seven dollars, the total appropriation allowed, was expended. It was my aim as far as possible to afford the people of the various sections an opportunity to enjoy the music. With that end in view the concerts were divided among the smaller parks, and I may say without hesitation that the people showed their appreciation in many ways. I am indebted to the German Singers for the fine concerts given by them in several of the parks. They received no compensation for their services, the only expense to the City being a small sum in each instance to pay for the rehearsals and the cost of arranging the selections. If it were possible, I would like to give concerts at more frequent intervals in all the smaller parks. With the increased amount allowed me by the Board of Estimate for the coming year I will be able to increase the number slightly over last year, but hardly as many as I would like to provide.

Financial Statement, Showing Amount Appropriated for Regular Maintenance, for Special Work, and Receipts from Rentals.

Title of Appropriation.	Appropriation for 1904 Allowed by Board of Estimate and Appor- tionment, January 1, 1904.	Transfers by Board of Estimate and Appor- tionment, Subsequent to January 1, 1904.	Total Appropriation for 1904.	Expended.	Outstanding on Con- tracts.	Balance.
Administration	\$19,162 45	\$1,369 53	\$17,792 92	\$17,792 92	.....	.....
Labor, Maintenance and Supplies.....	465,000 00	1,226 53	466,226 53	448,298 64	\$17,536 75	\$391 14
Maintenance of Museums	70,000 00	.....	70,000 00	60,165 93	.....	9,834 07
Music	11,864 00	143 00	12,007 00	12,007 00	.....	.....

Bond Accounts.

Title of Appropriation.	Amount of Appropriation.	Expenditures.	Balance.	Outstanding on Contracts.
Improvement of Parks, Parkways and Drives, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens	\$396,548 89	\$320,571 04	\$17,442 58	\$58,435 27
Improvement and Construction of Parks, Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways, Bor- oughs of Brooklyn and Queens..	251,809 50	121,763 38	80,799 45	49,246 67
Revenue Bond Fund for Labor, Main- tenance and Supplies for the Com- missioner of Parks for the Bor- oughs of Brooklyn and Queens...	50,000 00	42,084 94	41 94	7,873 12

Balances from 1901—Bond Account—(Brooklyn's Balances).

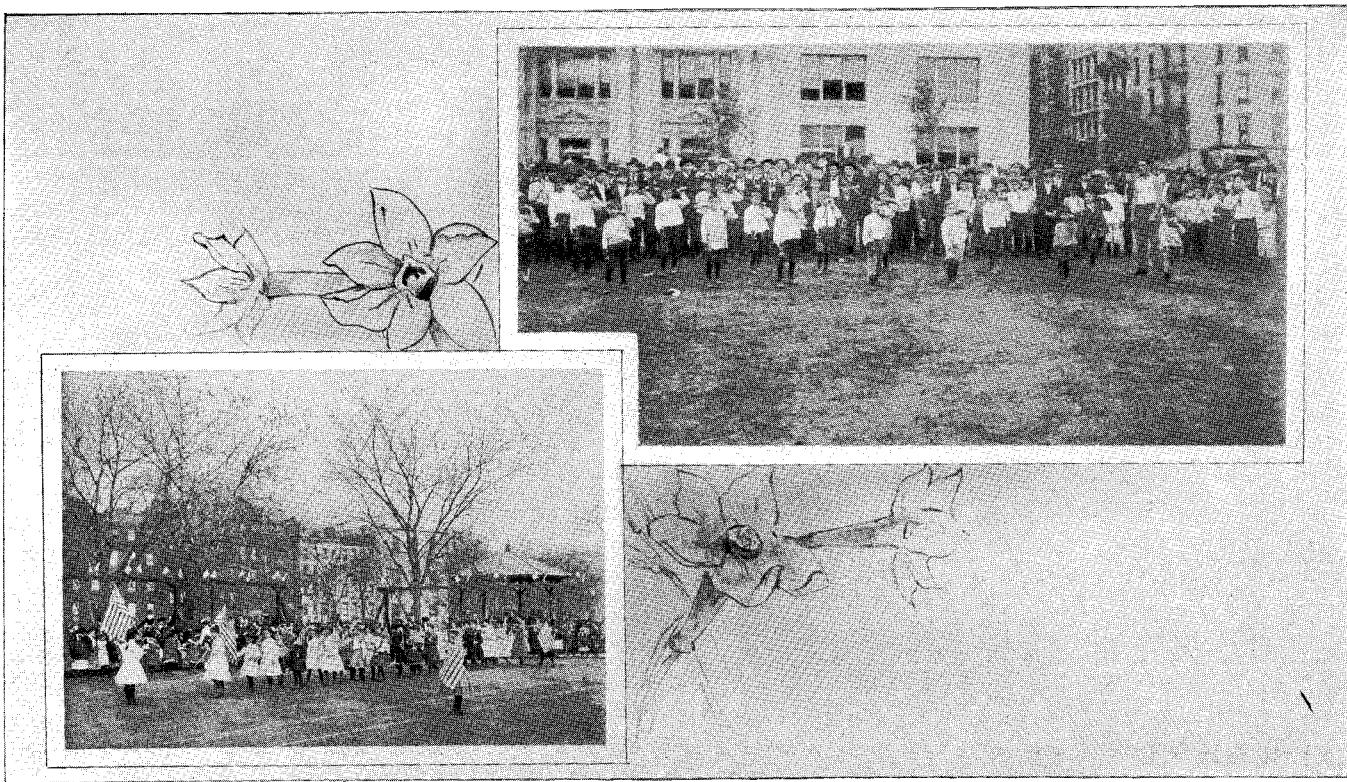
	Amount of Appropriation.	Expended.	Outstanding Contracts.	Balance.
Park Site and Improvement Fund.....	\$763 27	.....	.....	\$763 27
Memorial Monument Fund.....	5,000 00	\$5,000 00	.....	.....
Museum of Arts and Sciences Fund....	424 87	.....	.....	424 87
Memorial Arch Fund.....	3,018 57	.....	.....	3,018 57
Park Purchase Fund.....	115 15	.....	.....	115 15
County Street Improvement Fund.....	728 91	.....	\$725 00	3 91
County Improvement of Streets (Addi- tional)	52 74	.....	.....	52 74

Special Account—(Balance from 1901).

	Amount of Appropriation.	Expended.	Outstanding Contracts.	Balance.
Maintenance and Improvement of Public Parks on Brooklyn Heights, Borough of Brooklyn	\$1,013 43	\$782 00	.....	\$231 43
Museum of Arts and Sciences Fund— Erection of an Addition.....	720,592 93	220,235 39	\$386,729 96	113,627 58

Revenues from Rents and Privileges.

Prospect Park and Coney Island.....	\$7,887 52	
Forest Park	597 67	
'Shore road and Bay Ridge parkway.....	1,406 00	
Canarsie Park	60 00	
East Plaza street and Eastern parkway	87 50	
Kings Park	1 00	
Furman street	525 08	
		\$10,563 77
Sale of sheep, horses, tools, etc.....	\$1,888 20	
Bay windows and ornamental projections	251 97	
		2,140 17
		\$12,703 94



TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK FLAG DRILL.

DUMB-BELL DRILL.

Donations to the Department of Parks, 1904.

- Mr. E. H. Tohn, No. 734 Park avenue, one opossum.
 Mr. Charles Meyer, No. 70 Van Brunt street, one Java monkey.
 Mr. James F. Henry, No. 580 Gates avenue, one ringtail monkey.
 Mr. R. Sanwold, No. 308 Nassau avenue, one raccoon.
 Mr. W. J. Rigney, No. 348 Park avenue, two Angora goats.
 Mr. J. T. Dinsmore, Booth S. S. Co., one ocelot.
 New York Zoological Society, Bronx Park, two brandt geese, two Canadian wild geese, two mallard ducks, one male timber wolf, one female gray wolf, one male coyote.
 Mrs. O. H. Lewis, No. 378 Sterling place, one green parrot.
 Drs. McLean and McAustin, No. 397 Carlton avenue, one pair water rails.
 Mrs. H. Overton, No. 371 Sixth avenue, one Rheuses monkey.
 Mrs. William H. James, No. 246 Penn street, one hawk.
 Mr. James Bell, No. 956 Fulton street, one pigeon hawk.
 Mr. James Russell Conover, No. 485 Monroe street, one alligator.
 Miss Lillian L. Austin, Rutland, Vt., one red fox.
 Mrs. I. S. Barrett, No. 327 Hancock street, cacti and night blooming cereus.
 Mr. J. H. Peek, No. 472 Putnam avenue, hothouse plants.
 Miss A. C. Dixon, No. 652½ Lafayette avenue, passion plant.
 Mr. J. W. Pangborn, No. 665 Tenth street, hothouse plants.

 WORK OF THE POLICE.

Annual Report in Relation to the Police Department—Music in the Parks—The Number of Visitors—Games Played—Other General Information.

Hon. MICHAEL J. KENNEDY, Commissioner of Parks, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens:

Sir—I have the honor to herewith submit my annual report of the work accomplished by the men constituting the Police Force of the Seventy-third Precinct, Prospect Park, together with such other information in relation to games, etc., as is of general interest, and which comes under Police supervision.

Police Force.

During the year the Police Force consisted of the following members: One Captain, four Sergeants, five Roundsmen, seventy-three Patrolmen. One Roundsman and eleven Patrolmen are mounted on horses, five to patrol Ocean parkway, four to patrol the park proper and two to patrol on Eastern parkway. Five Patrolmen are mounted

on bicycles to patrol the principal drives and cycle paths around the park and Ocean parkway; the four remaining Roundsmen and five Patrolmen to patrol the Park Plaza and Institute Park on foot. Total force, eighty-four.

Number of Arrests.

During the year sixty-two arrests were made for the following offences: Violation of park ordinance, twenty-five; violation of City ordinance, nine; abandonment, one; vagrant, five; intoxication, eleven; assaults, two; petit larceny, three; indecent exposure, three; suspicious persons, two; disorderly conduct, one.

Parades in and Around the Park.

The following parades occurred in or about the park: May 30, Memorial Day parade; June 4, Brooklyn Sunday School Union; September 17, Battle of Antietam.

Field Sports.

During the year seventeen hundred and ten games of baseball were played on the Parade Grounds as follows: April, one hundred and sixty; May, four hundred and five; June, three hundred and sixty; July, four hundred and five; August, two hundred and ninety; September, seventy; October, twenty.

One hundred games of cricket were played as follows: May, twenty-four; June, thirty-six; July, twenty; August, sixteen; September, four.

Ninety games of football were played as follows: October, forty; November fifty.

During the months of April, May and September thirty games of basket ball were played.

The lawn tennis and croquet grounds were constantly crowded, the number of games played not known.

Skating on the Lake.

There were forty-five days of skating on the lake during the months of January, February and December.

Picnics.

During the year there were four hundred and fifty-seven picnics in the park, with an attendance of fifty-five thousand five hundred and forty-five persons, as follows: Sunday school picnics, one hundred and ninety; persons attending, forty thousand five hundred and forty-five; lawn, private and family parties, two hundred and sixty-seven; persons attending, fifteen thousand, which took place as follows: May, one hundred and sixty-one, attendance, seven thousand and sixty; June, ninety,

attendance, ten thousand four hundred and twenty-five; July, one hundred and thirty-eight, attendance, twenty-three thousand nine hundred and eighty-five; August, thirty-six, attendance, eight thousand nine hundred and eighty; September, thirty-two, attendance, five thousand and ninety-five. Total, four hundred and fifty-seven picnics; attendance, fifty-five thousand five hundred and forty-five.

Accidents.

There were one hundred and seventeen accidents during the year, as follows:

Taken sick in the park, ten; injured playing baseball and football, eight; fell from vehicles, thirty; runaways, thirty-three; fell on ice on lake, six; collisions of carriages, sleighs, bicycles, etc., thirty.

There were fifty-nine ambulance calls to the aid of persons who were injured, of which eighteen were removed to hospitals and forty-one left for their homes.

There were also two deaths by suicide, both by carbolic acid poisoning.

There was one foundling found in the park and turned over to the City Nurse.

Concerts.

The following concerts were given in Prospect Park during the summer months: Saturday concerts, fifteen; first concert, June 11; last concert, September 17; Sunday concerts, eighteen; first concert, May 29; last concert, September 25.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL McNAMARA,

Captain, Seventy-third Precinct.

Statement—Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Work on the Museum Building of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Eastern parkway and Washington avenue, was under way during the entire year. Messrs. Thomas Cockerill & Son, contractors for completing the interior of the second section of the museum, completed their work. Messrs. P. J. Carlin & Co., contractors, to whom was let in 1903 a contract for the construction of a power house and power plant in the rear of the Museum Building at a cost of \$78,693, completed their work under the contract. Peter Lauckhardt, to whom was awarded in 1903 the contract for building natural history cases for the second floor of the museum at \$23,450, delivered, set up and finished the cases in a satisfactory manner. A. H. Davenport Company, of Boston and New York, to which was let in 1903 the contract for orchestra chairs for the large lecture hall in the museum at \$13,272, finished the work according to contract. Joseph Ryan, painter, to whom was let the contract for painting the interior of the second section of the Museum Building at

\$6,850, also completed his work under the contract. On December 31, 1903, the Department of Parks awarded to P. J. Carlin & Co. the contract for building the eastern wing of the museum and for additional work on the present museum structure at \$407,315. Ground was broken for this third section on March 7, 1904, and the work of building the third section was under progress during the balance of the year.

On June 17 the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorized the issue of Corporate Stock of The City of New York to the amount of \$97,000, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be used in constructing the front steps and central approach to the Museum Building and in defraying the cost of carving the pediment of the front portico of the Museum. In February, 1904, the contract was let to the Sterling Bronze Company of New York, for putting in electric light fixtures in the second section of the Museum at \$7,216, and the work was completed within the year in a satisfactory manner. The Abramson-Engesser Company of New York, to whom was let the contract in 1903 for the construction of thirty-eight cases for ethnological collections at \$18,496, delivered the cases, but was unable to set them up in the building during the year, owing to the delays in the completion of the second section of the Museum. The appropriation for the maintenance of the Central Museum, and the Children's Museum by the City was \$70,000, and the entire appropriation was used in the maintenance of the two Museums.

The gifts to the Museum during the year were very important and included the following:

A painting entitled "The Vision of the Dying Virgin," by Cornelis Schutt, presented by eleven members and friends of the institute at an expense of \$3,600.

The Rev. Alfred Duane Pell presented some two hundred and twenty pieces of European china, thereby adding to the collection previously presented by him.

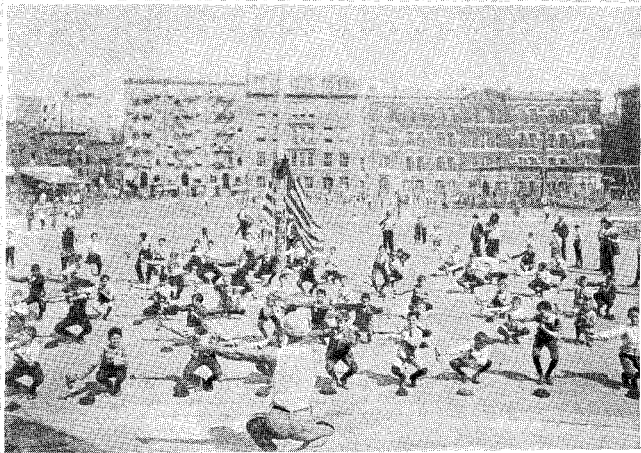
Mr. George A. Hearn presented a landscape painting by George H. Bogert.

Mr. A. Augustus Healy presented a painting by Daubigny entitled "The Apple Orchard"; and

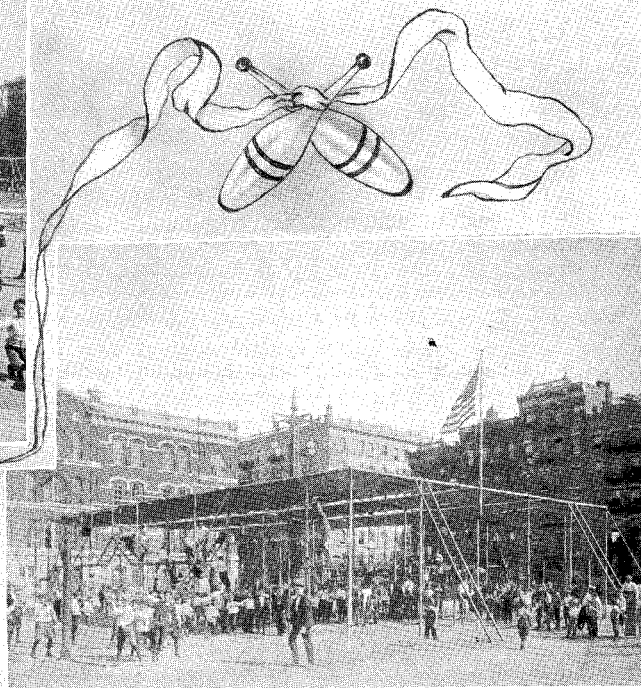
Mr. Samuel P. Avery, a painting entitled "Breaking Waves," by W. T. Richards.

Eighteen life members of the Institute contributed the sum of \$5,600 for the purchase of objects of art and antiquity and specimens of natural history for the Museum collections.

Mr. Stuart Culin, Curator of Ethnology, made an expedition to New Mexico and Arizona for the purpose of making ethnological collections during the months of June to September inclusive. He was accompanied by Mr. Herbert B. Judy, Museum artist. Very important collections illustrating ancient civilizations of the Southwest were obtained, together with paintings, studies and photographs of objects of antiquity illustrating the ethnology of the ancient races in Arizona and New Mexico.

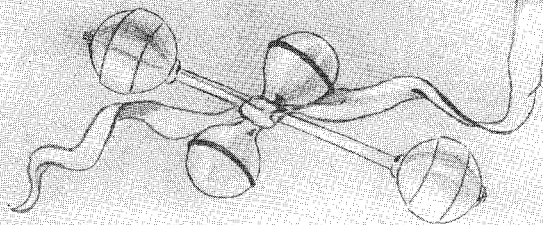


DUMB-BELL CLASS.



HAMILTON FISH PARK.

SNAPSHOT OF "GYM."



Mr. Carl Schaeffer, Curator of Lepidoptera, made collections in Southern Texas during July, August and September; Mr. Jacob Doll, Curator of Entomology, and Mr. George P. Engelhardt, Assistant Curator, made collections in entomology, herpetology and mammalogy in Arizona and New Mexico during the three summer months. Mr. George K. Cherrie, Curator of Ornithology, made an expedition to British Columbia to make collections of skins of mammals.

Courses of lectures on the History of Art were given by Prof. William H. Good-year, Curator of Fine Arts, and by Prof. John S. McKay, on Physical Geography, Astronomy and Physical Science, at the Central Museum Building, that were free to the public. Courses of lectures, open to the children in the public and private schools of the City were given at the Children's Museum by the Curator, Miss Anna B. Gallup, and her assistant, Miss Harriet E. Noble. Courses of instruction in Botany and on Birds and Insects were given at the Museums for the benefit of teachers in the public and private schools.

The attendance at the Central Museum for the year ending December 31, 1904, was 109,073; the attendance at the Children's Museum was 90,206.

The Commissioner's Report of the Work of the Department of Parks for the Borough of The Bronx, for the Year 1904.

Honorable GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, Mayor of The City of New York:

Dear Sir—In compliance with the provisions of the Charter, I send you herewith the report of the work undertaken and accomplished in this Department, for the year ending December 31, 1904.

Very respectfully yours,

J. HENRY SCHWAN,
Commissioner of Parks, Borough of The Bronx.

Report of the Commissioner of Parks for the Borough of The Bronx.

The general appearance of the parks has been maintained at a high standard during the year; lawns have been rolled and seeded, trees pruned and new trees planted, roads and bridges built, and many buildings for the accommodation, education and recreation of the public have been constructed. Some of the work of previous years had to be done over again in such a manner as to make it more substantial and lasting.

The following is an outline of the work of improvement and maintenance in connection with each park and parkway:

Spuyten Duyvil Parkway.

Length, 11,500 feet; width, from sixty to 180 feet.

On this parkway the roadway was repaired, and the culverts and drains were repaired and cleaned. Four hundred trees were planted along the parkway, in holes dug to a depth of from five to six feet. The earth dug out was used in widening the north side of the drive, to permit of a four-foot sod border and eight-foot walk being made. This work of improvement should be continued during the coming year. The roadway is laid out on a winding line, and there are a number of small parcels of land lying adjacent to it, belonging to the park system, which should be improved. When these improvements have been completed, this parkway will make one of the most picturesque and popular driveways in that part of the city.

Van Cortlandt Park.

Area, 1,132.35 acres.

Early in the present year plans were prepared for extensive alterations and improvements to the old Tremper House in this park, to be used as a restaurant. The improvements consist of raising the building from a one and two-story house to a three-story house throughout, thereby more than doubling the capacity of the building, which was entirely inadequate to the purpose for which it is to be used. New plumbing was installed, cement floors were laid in the cellar, and the house was painted throughout. The contract has been let for steam heating, and the work is nearly completed.

The nursery established in 1903 has been completed, and twenty thousand trees and shrubs have been planted and cultivated therein.

A shelter shed, for storing engineers' and gardeners' tools, was built at the nursery by park employees, and is now in use.

As the number of lockers in the Golf House was found to be entirely inadequate to supply the constantly increasing demand, plans were prepared for the erection of additional lockers in the Golf House; 184 new lockers were completed in due time, and most of them have been assigned for the season of 1905, at an annual rental of five dollars for each locker.

The golf links have been kept in excellent condition. A new golf course has been laid out in this park, near the Gun Hill road, for expert players. The preparation of the ground for this new course necessitated considerable work, as stumps of old trees, brush and stone walls had to be removed.

Many new tennis courts have been laid out, and several new baseball diamonds marked.

The polo field has been kept in first-class condition, and 3,600 feet of sod was cut and laid on the parade ground.

A topographical survey of the Colonial garden has been made, and plans are being prepared for making the improvements permanent in this garden, as the work previously done there was superficial and not lasting. It is proposed to raise the grade of the garden about three and one-half feet, in order that the grounds may be dry, thereby making it possible to cultivate plants and flowers. Also, stone bridges are to be built across the canals, to take the place of the present rustic bridges, and stone steps are to be substituted for the wooden steps. It is proposed, also, to have the garden properly drained, to build proper foundations for the roads, and to construct in the centre of the garden an ornamental stone fountain. These improvements are proposed with the view of making the garden attractive to the thousands who visit it during the summer season. It is the desire of the Department to make of it the show garden of the park system of The Bronx. If a special appropriation can be secured for this particular work, the proposed improvements will probably be completed during the coming year.

A fine macadam road, which was begun in 1903, is nearly completed. This road will extend along the easterly side of the parade ground, from the Colonial Mansion to and through the deer paddock, to connect with the road built last year, leading from Mosholu avenue to Yonkers.

The road in this park extending from the crossing at the end of the Lake to Mosholu avenue was graded and covered with trap-rock for a distance of 6,000 feet in length and thirty feet in width.

The road extending to the Yonkers line was also graded. About 6,000 yards of earth was carted for grading purposes, and about 400 yards placed and leveled, covering a distance of 4,000 feet. The condition of the weather prevented further work on this road; but, in the early spring, the work can be resumed.

In addition to the construction work in Van Cortlandt Park, the Lake was cleaned and a wall constructed around its borders for a distance of 250 feet.

In the Colonial garden, trenches were prepared and 400 feet of drain-pipe laid. The fountain was cleaned, as was also the canal around the garden, and the lawns in the centre of the garden were filled in, where required.

The dangerous crossing near the Van Cortlandt station is being eliminated by the joint action of the City and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, and the new underground passageway will probably be completed within sixty days' time.

Mosholu Parkway.

6,035 feet long, 600 feet wide.

Extensive work has been done on this parkway during the year. Working plans were completed for abutments to the bridges over the railroad tracks and over Webster avenue, at the entrance to Bronx Park, and for a complete layout of the tract from Webster avenue to Jerome avenue. Excavation for three of the abutments has been completed, one of the abutments at the railroad and one at Webster avenue have been finished, and one abutment at the north side of Webster avenue has been started.

In the improvement of this parkway all drainage has been laid, and nearly all the excavating and filling completed.

Bronx Park.

Area, 661 acres.

The bridge over the Bronx River and Pelham avenue was begun in August, 1903. This bridge is 100 feet wide. At the beginning of the present year the abutments were just started. During the year the arch has been completed; the limestone parapet is now being set; the fill over the arch has been made; the roadway and curbing are being laid, and it is expected that this bridge will be open to the public before the end of the present year.

A bridle path sixteen feet wide, leading from Bronx and Pelham Parkway to a point near the old Mansion, has been completed and is now in use.

The barn and shed in the rear of the Police Station, near the Lorillard Mansion, have been completed and are now in use.

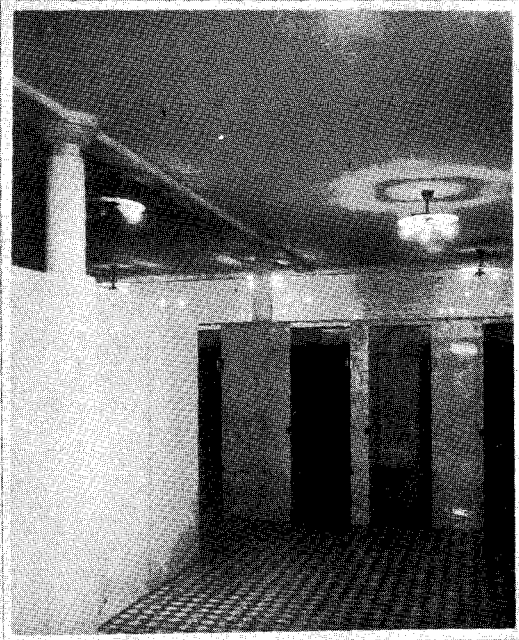
Along the Boston road to Bronx Park a stone retaining wall four feet high and 1,000 feet long was built, and the curbstone was set along this wall. Six stone culverts were built. A path fourteen feet in width was constructed of rubble and telford stone taken from Crotona Park.

The park employees were engaged in the following general work: filling in wash-outs, repairing roads, edging and grading paths, raking and mowing lawns, cutting down trees, cultivating shrubbery, cleaning and repairing gutters, digging ditches, marking and repairing tennis courts; screening, rolling and sprinkling paths, etc.

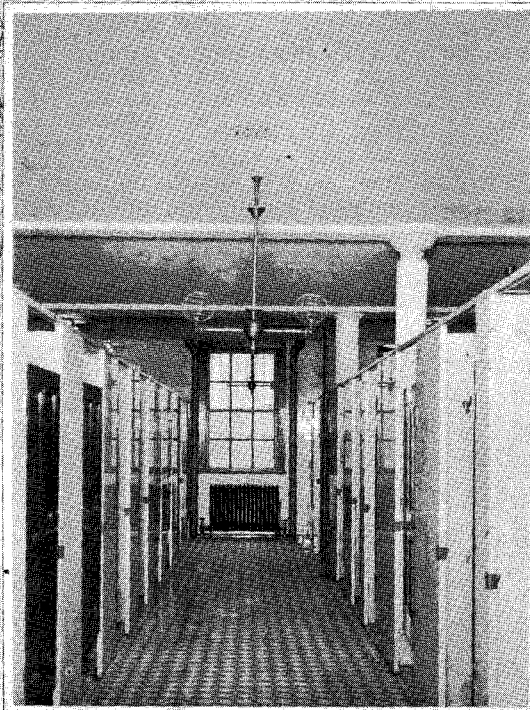
In the workshops, gates and stairways were made; also rustic easels for signs; benches were repaired and painted; wagons, carriages and sprinklers were cleaned and kept in repair; squirrel traps and seed boxes were made and delivered where required in the various parks; tools sharpened, etc.

A new ball field was laid out, which necessitated considerable grading and filling.

At the greenhouses, the necessary work of caring for plants was carried on. Eighty-one thousand five hundred pansies, geraniums, cannas and other bedding plants



WOMEN'S SIDE.



MEN'S SIDE.

FREE BATHS, WILLIAM H. SEWARD PARK.

were grown for planting in the parks. Twenty-five thousand herbaceous plants were started in the fall. Five hundred azalea mollis were grown for planting on the border of drives leading to Pelham and Bronx Parkways. Threes were also prepared for planting in the various parks.

About ten acres of land was filled, graded and seeded.

A fountain was erected, and a pond constructed and planted with water lilies.

Plans have been prepared and contract let for an addition to the greenhouses in Bronx Park. This addition is to consist of a glass house 200 feet long, and there will be a propagating pit between the two houses.

Botanical Garden Section of Bronx Park.

The bridge over the Bronx River at Newell avenue, which was started in July, 1903, was completed during the early part of this year. A roadway was built over the bridge, and it is now in use by the public.

The five-arch rustic stone bridge over the Bronx River, about 400 feet north of the Blue bridge, was begun in April, 1904. The abutments have been completed, and, with the exception of the centre arch, the entire bridge is finished. The work was discontinued during the winter season, on account of the severe weather, but the bridge will probably be completed and opened to the public in the early summer.

Work on the abutment and retaining walls of the bridge at the Mosholu Parkway entrances has gone forward during the season, but lack of appropriation has compelled the Department to defer the completion of this structure. The work was far enough advanced, however, to permit much of the earth filling to be made during the winter.

The bridge across the railway at the Woodlawn road has been completed during the season.

Construction work during the year included the completion of the range of propagating houses, by the building of an additional greenhouse and completing the original plan, which was, however, modified by including the large and commodious cellar under the new structure. The building was put into operation during the summer.

Two completely equipped public comfort stations were built at the approach to the elevated railway station, and opened to the public in May.

At the power house an overhead structure for delivering ashes into a concrete ashpit just west of that building was completed late in the year; this avoids the heavy work of wheeling the ashes up the runways.

In order to supply additional stalls for horses, a modification of the interior structure of the stable was made, which has proved to be a great convenience.

In December, 1903, a contract was let to build two large and four small flights of steps, and a concrete steel tank, at the Horticultural building. This work was completed the latter part of October of this year, and the steps and tanks are now in use.

Work on the main park driveway west and north of the Museum building has been prosecuted at intervals, and is now so far advanced that this road may be completed and opened for use early in the spring.

Path building has gone forward on a large scale, and many of the roads were resurfaced. The stone for the foundations of all these driveways and paths has been furnished by our own grading operations.

The work of grading around the public conservatories was carried on; also grading and sodding on small areas near the Southern boulevard entrance, on portions of the ground south of the Museum building, and along the various driveways and paths under construction.

In 1896, at the time the temporary construction railroad for the Jerome Park reservoir was built through the grounds, a dirt embankment several hundred feet long was made by the contractor through a valley from the eastern end of the trestle nearly to the garden barn. The abandonment of this railway by the contractor during the past summer has given opportunity for using this embankment as filling for the driveways at the east end of the Long bridge, where it is now being carted. Its removal will restore this valley to its original form. The abandonment of this railway has also made it possible to regulate and grade the grounds just west of the barn.

The lane of the drain from the cellar of the Museum building to the Upper lake, commenced late in 1903, was completed in the spring. This work necessitated cutting through rock to a depth of about fourteen feet for a considerable distance, and putting in a ten-inch earthenware pipe, which now completely controls the drainage of the court. The sewer connection east of the Bronx River, on which work was commenced last winter, was also completed in the spring.

A sewer connecting the public comfort station at the elevated railroad approach with the large drain at the power house was laid early in the season.

The twelve-inch land drain east of the Bronx River, laid several years ago, was continued to the end of Long bridge.

Catch basins and short drain pipe connections from them to drains already laid have been built at a number of places.

New York Zoological Park Section of Bronx Park.

The most important works and events of the year may briefly be catalogued as follows:

Ostrich House.

For the accommodation of a large and representative collection of the great running birds—ostriches, emus, rheas and cassowaries—the ostrich house was completed and opened to the public on December 25. This building is 150 feet long by 29 feet wide in its interior, and connects with an extensive series of open-air yards which occupy its entire east front. The entire collection of birds for this building has been presented by Mr. Charles T. Barney, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Zoological Society.

Small Mammal House.

For the accommodation of the small fur-bearing animals and many other species which are not specially provided for elsewhere, a building of the same size as the ostrich house was erected under the same contract as the latter building, and opened to the public on Christmas Day. This building contains a total of 176 cages of the latest and most improved design, and constitutes a really great addition to the exhibition equipment of the New York Zoological Park. The building is connected with the ostrich house by a very handsome open portico.

Large Bird House.

The construction of this important building was begun early in the year, and has progressed favorably. It is situated on the northwest corner of Baird Court, and has been designed to accommodate a large collection of perching birds generally, and also many other species. During the year this building was advanced about two-thirds of the way toward completion, and it is expected that it can be completed, occupied and opened to the public about June 1, 1905.

Asiatic Deer Barn.

On a prominent elevation immediately west of the aquatic birds' house there was erected, during the year, a spacious and well-appointed shelter barn, designed to accommodate a collection representing the species of Asiatic deer. This building was completed and occupied in October, and it is believed that, together with its large and finely improved open-air yards, it may well be taken as a model structure for such collections as it will accommodate. It is now completely filled by eight species of deer.

Pheasants' Aviary.

In the month of October the contract for the pheasants' aviary was awarded, and the temporary structure was removed from the site to be occupied by the new building and its runways. Work began very promptly on the erection of the new installation, and has been prosecuted with vigor and success. It should be completed and occupied about June 1.

Baird Court.

During the year a great amount of labor and material was expended on the southern half of Baird Court. An elaborate system of drainage was laid, underground conduits were constructed for the cables and wires to convey electricity for lighting the building of Baird Court, and the entire surface was finished. The portions to be used as walks were covered with Telford macadam and finished with a tarred surface. The eastern wall was built up, in conformity with the final plan of Baird Court, and much of the new area thus enclosed was filled in.

Burrowing Rodents' Quarters.

The rusting of the wire of the burrowing rodents' quarters necessitated a new covering, and advantage was taken of that occasion to lay concrete floors in all the cages, to make the cages entirely rat-proof. The rock work was reconstructed on an improved plan, and on the whole the installation is now more perfect and more attractive than heretofore. It is believed that the plague of rats which once affected this collection seriously is now permanently abated, and with the beginning of spring this entire series of cages will be stocked with a new collection.

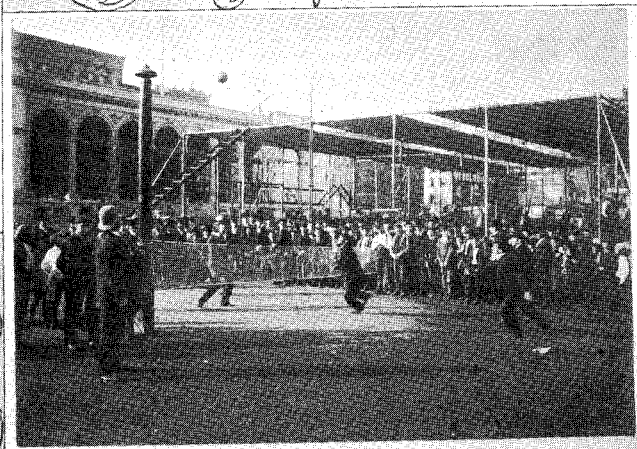
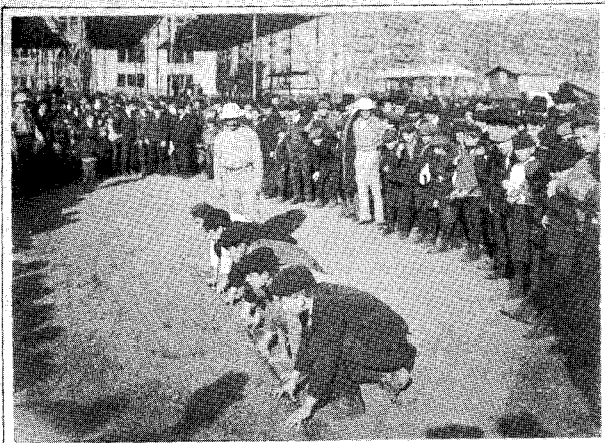
Iron Fence Around Seal Pool.

In May of this year a contract was let for the enclosure of the seal pool with an iron fence, and the work was completed on October 12.

Harriman Alaskan House and Totem Pole.

At the expense of Mr. Edward H. Harriman, a very fine Totem pole and house, originally constructed by the Tlinket Indians at Cape Fox, Alaska, and in 1899 brought to the Zoological Park as Mr. Harriman's gift, was erected between the north end of the aquatic mammals' pond and the wild turkeys' enclosure. These two objects together form a very striking and instructive exhibit, and constitute a valuable feature of the educational exhibits of the Zoological Park.

The extensive grading and filling operations necessary in the Zoological Park grounds east of the Bronx River and south of Pelham Parkway afforded an oppor-



TRAINING SPRINTERS.

PARK PLAYGROUND ATHLETICS.

VOLLEY BALL.

tunity to remove from Lake Agassiz a great quantity of earth for use as filling material. This opportunity was improved to the fullest extent possible, about three feet being taken from the surface of the mudflat in Lake Agassiz throughout about half of its entire area.

The exhibits of animals in the Zoological Park have steadily increased both in zoological importance and intrinsic value. The cash value of the animals in the park has never before been as great as now, and the number of large and important species is now much greater than ever before. Roughly estimated, it may be stated that, during the year 1904, the collections increased in intrinsic and zoological value about twenty per cent.

The total number of animals in the Zoological Park on December 31, 1904, is as follows: Mammals, 154 species, 516 specimens; birds, 165 species, 643 specimens; reptiles, 107 species, 572 specimens; amphibians, 10 species, 71 specimens, making a total of 436 species and 1,802 specimens.

During the year 1904 the Zoological Park was visited by 1,104,616 persons. The largest attendance in one day was on May 22, when 39,132 visitors were admitted.

Crotona Parkway.

Length, 3,815 feet.

A contract for the completion of the paving, regulating, grading and curbing of this parkway, from One Hundred and Seventy-fifth street to One Hundred and Eighty-second street, was awarded in 1903 and the work was begun in February of this year. The contract has been completed, and the work was formally accepted on November 30.

Crotona Park.

Area, 154.6 acres.

During the present year several new tennis courts and baseball diamonds have been laid out.

The southeast portion of the park has been filled in and graded, at a cost of several thousand dollars.

Some of the roads which were constructed on too narrow lines have been widened.

The flags and curbing on Crotona avenue were reset.

About 450 feet of macadamized road was constructed; also 500 feet of sewer pipe laid.

The wall at the lily pond was rebuilt, and embankment graded.

Two hundred feet of stone drain was repaired.

The path from Prospect avenue to Crotona avenue has been rebuilt.

All gutters, sewers and roads have been kept in good repair, and 100 loads of ashes have been carted and spread on paths and walks, where necessary.

A new skating pond was created at the northerly end of Crotona Park, in the rear of the Municipal building, on the baseball field. In preparation for the flooding of this field, it was necessary to close all blind drains and ditches and to construct dams in various low places, to prevent the water from escaping. This experiment has proven a great success, and as many as 1,500 people have availed themselves, daily, of the opportunity to enjoy skating on this new pond.

Claremont Park.

Area, 38 acres.

Plans were prepared for an addition to the public comfort station in this park, and the work was done by Park Department labor.

Twenty-five gray squirrels were caught, brought to this park, and housed in suitable boxes in the trees.

St. Mary's Park.

Area, 28.7 acres.

By making extensive alterations in an old building formerly used as a tool house in this park, it was converted into a stable, a shelter for carriages and wagons, a toolroom, and other conveniences, without much cost to the Department, all the work being done by park employees. Electric lights, also, were installed in this building.

New paths and roads were made, leading to the stable.

One hundred and seventeen loads of steam ashes were carted to this park, to be used for repairing washouts.

Twenty-five gray squirrels were brought to the park and placed in boxes in the trees.

Five thousand feet of sod was laid.

Forty-five yards of broken stone was carted from the stone crusher.

Melrose Park.

Area, about 1 acre.

Contract for the erection of a fence along three sides of this park has been completed.

Franz Sigel Park.

Area, 17.5 acres.

Plans have been prepared for changing the exterior of the comfort station in this park. This building was erected about two years ago. The intention is to

improve its appearance, making it more sightly and more in keeping with the surroundings.

McComb's Dam Park.

Area, 27 acres.

It has been the intention of this Department to lay out an athletic field in the easterly section of this park, and with that end in view, the filling in of the lowlands has been in progress. The work was at a standstill for a long time, owing to lack of funds, but it is now being rapidly pushed forward. Ten thousand loads of fill were deposited in that section.

A concrete walk has been laid under McComb's Dam bridge, for a distance of 950 feet.

About eighty-five loads of earth were used in repairing the walks and wash-outs, and thirty loads of ashes were required to repair roads and walks.

Plans and specifications have been prepared for strengthening the dyke, and the contract will be awarded by public letting.

One hundred and fifty feet of wire fence and one hundred feet of drain have been built.

University Park.

Area, 3 acres.

A wire fence has been built on the north and south sides of this park.

St. James Park.

Area, 11.83 acres.

Fifty loads of ashes were deposited along the sidewalk on the Creston avenue side of the park.

About 700 yards of fill was brought to the northerly portion of the park, and about 200 yards of topsoil distributed in low places, to prevent the formation of pools.

A site for a new comfort station was prepared by excavating for the foundation and digging a trench for drain pipes. When the pipes had been laid, the trench was refilled and the surface rolled, sodded and seeded.

A wire fence, with cedar posts, has been erected on the south side of the park.

Two new tennis courts were laid out.

Bronx and Pelham Parkway.

The bridge over the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad has been completed, and final payment rendered.

The parkway has been covered with traprock screenings from White Plains road to the Eastern boulevard—a distance of two miles.

Between the Southern boulevard and White Plains road the work consisted of cleaning road basins and culverts, repairing washouts, etc.

Between White Plains road and Eastchester road, traprock and screenings were placed on the road and rolled down.

Pelham Bay Park.

Area, 1,756 acres.

Extensive improvements have been made in this park. Early in the year a survey was made and plans were prepared for the construction of a public athletic field. The preparation of the ground and the construction of this field entailed an enormous amount of work, which was done almost entirely by park labor. An area of over forty acres of woodland was cleared of all weeds, brush, dead trees, etc., lowlands were filled in, and high grades leveled. Several thousand feet of roads and paths were laid out, drains were constructed, various sporting fields were laid out and equipped, a parade ground of twenty acres was constructed, and the field was formally opened to the public on September 10. This athletic field can be considered one of the best in existence, and has been so adjudged by visiting athletes.

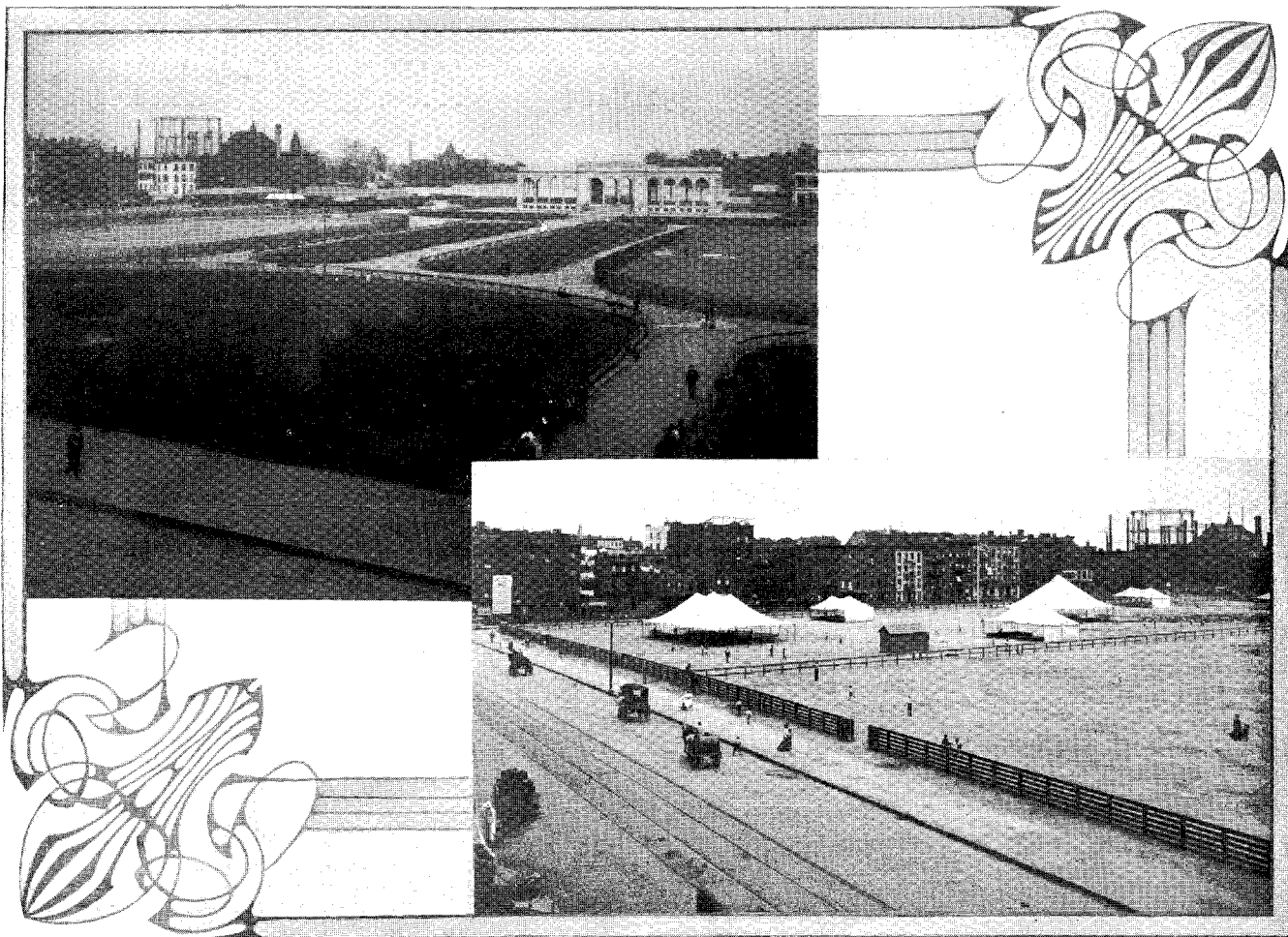
The roadway leading from Eastchester Bay bridge to Glover's Rock is at present being widened. This roadway was constructed last year, with a width of only sixteen feet, and could not be used by automobiles, on account of its extreme narrowness. It is expected that this work will be finished during the coming year, and, when completed, the roadway will have a width of thirty feet.

During the present year a music pavilion was erected in this park; also a boat house, a new shed in connection with the Hunter house, and a new summer house, most of the work being done by park labor.

Plans have been prepared for a temporary wooden bridge between Hunter Island and the main land, to take the place of the old causeway which at present so obstructs the flow of the channel that at low water only a three-foot stream is left. It is proposed to remove this old causeway to a depth of five feet below water, so as to give the action of the tides an opportunity to clean out the mud settlement. It is hoped to build a permanent bridge at this place at some future time. Nearly all the piles have been driven for this wooden bridge, and the work is progressing.

A water service line was carried from the main land, across the mud flats, to the Hunter house, on Hunter Island.

A path ten feet wide was constructed through the woods, from Woodbury's lane to Pelham boulevard, a distance of about 1,200 feet.



THOMAS JEFFERSON PARK (AS IT IS TO-DAY).

A LESSON IN PARK BUILDING.

THOMAS JEFFERSON PARK (IN 1903).

Also a path ten feet wide was constructed along Pelham Parkway, for a distance of about 400 feet. This work necessitated much excavating and blasting.

The golf links have been extended and much improved, thirty acres being added. To bring about the desired result, it was necessary to remove about 3,200 feet of stone wall, and to clear away trees and underbrush. Three bunkers 150 feet in length were constructed. Nine greens eighty-six feet square, and nine tees six by ten feet, were laid out.

Sufficient stone was broken by the stone crusher, now stationed at City Island, to cover various roads and paths in the parks, the stone consisting of old, unsightly party walls, which were removed.

Echo Park.

Area, 3 acres.

New paths have been made in the work of improving the appearance of the upper section of this park. Shrubs and trees have been cultivated, and lawns and flower beds given the necessary attention.

Poe Park.

Area, 2 acres.

The road on the south side of the park, which was impassable in rainy weather, has been raised to grade.

Fifteen hundred feet of sod was laid.

Dead trees were removed.

Squares at the intersection of streets have been improved wherever possible, and flowers and shrubs have been planted in the numerous small parks.

An Emergency Station was established in Van Cortlandt Park, and located on the polo field during the summer. When the cold weather set in it was transferred to the skate house. Between July 17 and December 31 thirty cases were treated.

During the summer concerts were given in the following parks, and were largely attended:

- Pelham Bay Park, athletic field.
- Pelham Bay Park, Hunter Island.
- Van Cortlandt Park.
- McComb's Dam Park.
- Claremont Park.
- Crotona Park.
- St. Mary's Park.
- Franz Sigel Park.
- St. James Park.
- Bronx Park.

The following permits were issued during the season:

	Baseball.	Croquet.	Football.	Golf.	Lawn Tennis.	Attendance, May Parties and June Walks.
Claremont Park	52	32	7	....	157	32,061
Pelham Bay Park	23	..	1	200	23	5,110
Van Cortlandt Park.....	31	..	11	500	116	4,257
McComb's Dam Park	16	5	5	....	44	.....
Crotona Park	80	5	20	....	244	16,443
Moshulu Parkway	6	..	5	....	22	.....
St. Mary's Park .....	..	5	..	....	51	29,825
St. James Park .....	..	3	..	....	7	.....
Bronx Park .....	..	..	..	....	20	15,140
Poe Park .....	..	..	..	....	14	.....
Franz Sigel Park .....	..	..	..	....	15	6,315
Echo Park .....	..	..	..	....	....	200
Total	208	50	49	700	713	109,351

In the work of preserving the forest lands much has been done toward stimulating a more vigorous growth of the trees, and the work of removing dead trees, decayed branches and underbrush still continues.

A new horsepower spraying machine was purchased, for use principally on the trees of the streets and highways, and was used with highly satisfactory results, as many of the trees and shrubs in the various parks, as well as on the highways, had been infested with injurious insects and scales.

Applications for permits to prune, plant, or cut down street trees were investigated by this Department, and permits granted or withheld, as was deemed advisable.

The lakes in Crotona and Van Cortlandt Parks have been cleared of snow, and many have enjoyed the skating, 35,000 skaters having visited Van Cortlandt Lake.

Scott Avenue Bridge.

The New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company has, during the past year, erected a bridge over their tracks at Scott avenue, leading into the Botanical Garden. Under the terms of the contract with the railroad company, only the minor portion of the easterly approach is to be constructed by them, and the burden of the cost will be with the City. There is no appropriation with which to construct this bridge approach, and it is hoped that funds may be had as soon as possible for the completion of this approach, as the bridge in its present condition is of no service.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX.

Statement of Balances and Appropriations, Year Ending December 31, 1904.

Title of Appropriation.	Amount of Appropriation.	Transferred to.	Total.	Payments.	Transferred from.	Total.	Balance.
Administration, 1904.....	\$11,050 00	.....	\$11,050 00	\$11,050 00	.....	\$11,050 00	.....
Maintenance and Construction, 1904	246,450 00	\$11,600 00	258,050 00	251,099 00	.....	251,099 60	\$6,950 40
Music, 1904	9,360 00	.....	9,360 00	9,150 50	\$200 00	9,350 50	9 50
Supplies and Contingencies, 1904	1,500 00	.....	1,500 00	1,488 69	.....	1,488 69	11 31
Surveys, Maps and Plans, 1904..	6,000 00	.....	6,000 00	4,574 98	1,400 00	5,974 98	25 02
Forestry Work, 1904.....	5,000 00	.....	5,000 00	5,000 00	.....	5,000 00	.....
Maintenance of Botanical Gar- dens, 1904	70,000 00	.....	70,000 00	61,237 35	.....	61,237 35	8,762 65
Maintenance of Zoological Gar- dens 1904	104,965 00	.....	104,965 00	97,028 83	.....	97,028 83	7,936 17

Receipts, Year Ending December 31, 1904.

From Rents, Licenses, Privileges, Rent for Lockers, etc.	<u>\$11,295 53</u>
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Expenditures, Bond Accounts, Year Ending December 31, 1904.

New York Zoological Garden Fund.....	\$241,783 14
Botanical Garden in Bronx Park, Improving, etc.....	134,972 29
Improvement of Parks, Parkways and Drives	281,291 69
Improvement and Construction of Parks, Parkways, Playgrounds, Boulevards and Driveways.....	162,216 44
Crotona Avenue, lying within the boundaries of Crotona Park, etc.....	25,197 82
Construction and Maintenance of Public Parkways, Improving Bronx and Pelham Parkway.....	<u>11,720 29</u>