

THE CARLETON COLLEGE ARBORETUM

Twenty years ago the view northeastward from the main campus of Carleton College presented a weedy ravine with unsightly farm buildings beyond. In 1914 the farm land adjacent to the campus was acquired by the Carleton Corporation and made into a modern farm plant with attractive buildings and equipment. The intervening valley was transformed, through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Lyman, of Pasadena, California, into a series of lakes with beautifully landscaped environs. These lakes, known as the George Huntington Lyman Memorial Lakes, are fed by constant springs. In the cold of winter and throughout the dry summer, they furnish a continuous flow of water over two falls, their natural beauty adding greatly to the charm of the Carleton Campus.

Purchase of the Carleton College Farm and development of Lyman Memorial Lakes were only the beginnings however of President Donald J. Cowling's plans to surround students at Carleton with beauty in architecture and landscape as an important part in the educative process. In recent years the College has acquired additional land until at the present time it owns a total of 800 acres extending along three miles of the Cannon River. Of this tract, an area of 360 acres is administered as the Carleton College Arboretum. It presents a series of soil types extending from the alluvial soils along the river to scrub-oak bluffs and fertile uplands supporting a

broad-leaf forest. It includes an acid bog of several acres. Diversity of soil types and exposures makes it an excellent site for an arboretum. About half the area is covered with native forest including the most northerly known stand of black walnut. Some three thousand trees and shrubs have been planted. Five miles of graveled foot paths with adequate bridges and seven miles of bridle trail have been built. A bird sanctuary with feeding stations has been established in the area nearest the campus.

Students use the arboretum for nature study, botanical and geological field trips, and for recreation. During the spring months for the past three years, a weekly mimeographed Nature Trail Bulletin has been published by the Department of Botany of the College. A student going over the nature trail takes a copy from a bulletin box at the entrance of the trail and finds numbered paragraphs calling attention to objects of natural history interest for the week, the numbers corresponding to numbered stakes along the trail. The average number of such bulletins used each week has been 340.

The primary purpose of the College in administering the Arboretum is to develop a demonstration and testing ground for materials of landscape gardening that may prove useful in making more beautiful the home surroundings, highways, parks and streets of villages and cities in the Northwest. The climate of this section precludes the use of about two-thirds of the materials used in landscaping in the section from Ohio to New York. Failures with nursery stock from Eastern or Southern sources have discouraged many ambitious amateurs in

home ground improvement and an adequate arboretum for working out the problems of the Northwest has hitherto not been available. In the plantings an effort is being made to demonstrate also the art of landscaping by building unit pictures to show effects that may be obtained by different combinations of species. The Carleton Department of Art gives a course in the Art of Gardening and it is expected that this department will expand this phase of its work as the available demonstration material is developed in the Arboretum. It is believed to be within the province of the work of a liberal arts college to develop in the student an appreciative understanding of the basic principles of beauty in his environment, and to contribute to the larger community in which it is situated the means of achieving more beautiful surroundings.

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In addition, there are ~~these~~ secondary uses of the Arboretum.
It provides an outdoor laboratory for field work in ~~biology~~ the various
Biological sciences and for nature study. It serves as a bird
~~sanctuary~~ and wild life sanctuary. The city uses it as a public park.
Students use it for recreation in walking, ~~and~~ riding, ~~and~~ ~~skating~~ ~~skating~~ ~~skating~~ ~~skating~~ ~~skating~~
and picnicking