panies this report. The whole expense of planting and care-taking of the Arboretum is to be defrayed by the college from the income of a fund already devoted to the purpose, while the outlay of the city will be limited to the cost of constructing the drives and their future care as may be authorized by the City Council from time to time. This rare opportunity for securing the enjoyment of a park, unique in its character as a scientific collection of all trees and shrubs which are hardy in the New England climate, and unsurpassed in its natural beauties, deserves the most earnest consideration. It is believed that no such comprehensive plan for an Arboretum exists in this country, and none more so in Europe.

The area of lands it is proposed the city should buy for entrances, etc., amounts to 29.16 acres, the assessed valuation of which, as near as can be ascertained, is $20,276.

The following communication has been received from the Director of the Arboretum:

To the Board of Park Commissioners, City of Boston:

Dear Sirs,—In compliance with your request, I briefly characterize the scheme of the Arboretum.

Its functions and relations to the public may best be considered under four heads:

First. As a museum of living plants, in which every tree and shrub capable of withstanding the climate of Massachusetts is to find its appropriate place; this collection being supplemented by an herbarium, and various special collections, illustrative of trees, their products and uses.

Second. As a scientific station for investigation into the characters, growth, economic and ornamental properties of trees; into the relations of forests to climate and the flow of rivers, and into the best methods of forest reproduction and management.

Third. As a school of forestry and arboriculture, in which special students may, when the demand for such instruction is felt, acquire the knowledge and training necessary to fit them for the care and increase of our forests.

Fourth. As a local educational establishment, capable, through "object teaching," of very considerable influence in increasing among the people of Boston and its neighborhood that knowledge which it is the duty of the Arboretum to disseminate.

It is only in its capacity of public educator that the Arboretum need now be discussed; for it is in this one direction alone that its relations with the City of Boston can affect its
usefulness. As a museum and scientific station its future is already provided for.

Left to itself, the Arboretum can never hope to open its collections to the public, except in a limited and unsatisfactory manner. Its income will never be large enough to fully carry out the scientific provisions of Mr. Arnold's bequest; and it will be impossible either to build or maintain carriage-drives for the public convenience. Whatever action is taken by the City of Boston, the public will not be excluded from the Arboretum; but the difference between driving through a broken piece of ground, a hundred acres in extent, over a well-graded road, and entering it on foot by the few service paths necessary to the maintenance of the collections, will be so great that it is probable few persons, with the exception of specialists, will ever avail themselves of this privilege; and the usefulness of the Arboretum as a local educator will of necessity be greatly curtailed.

Should your recommendations be adopted, it is proposed to group the trees in their natural sequence along the principal drive. Each species, represented, if possible, by half-a-dozen specimens, will be planted in immediate connection with its varieties, making with its allies, native and foreign, loose generic groups in which each individual will find sufficient space for full development, and through which the visitor can freely pass. Each of these groups will rest on the main avenue, so that a visitor driving through the Arboretum will be able to obtain a general idea of the arborescent vegetation of the north temperate zone without even leaving his carriage. It is hoped that such an arrangement, while avoiding the stiff and formal lines of the conventional botanic garden, will facilitate the comprehensive study of the collections, both in their scientific and picturesque aspects.

Mr. Olmsted's plan indicates branch drives leading to points from which extended views may be obtained; and which will carry the visitor through a special department of forestry land, some twenty to thirty acres in extent, which is to be devoted to experimental forestry, illustrating the best methods of planting and managing New England woodlands.

Yours very truly,

C. S. SARGENT,

Director.