

RIDES, DRIVES, AND PLEASURE RESORTS.

The smooth macadamized streets within the limits of the city afford many miles of pleasant driving, and if there were no other resort, Oakland would be unusually attractive. There is a net-work of well made roads through the Oakland Valley centering at Berkeley. The Telegraph and San Pablo Avenues are the great drive-ways to the north of the city, and from them radiate numerous roads that lead into the hills. A fashionable and beautiful drive is that leading to Piedmont Springs, five miles from Oakland. From the Piedmont Springs Hotel, which offers every attraction for the comfort and enjoyment of its patrons, "perhaps the finest and most complete view of the Bay and its surroundings is obtained, while the "Bushy Dell" hard by, a ravine filled with a luxuriant growth of shrubbery and trees, is a most delightful and romantic spot, with excellent made walks running through it. In this dell the Sulphur Springs are situated, the waters of which are strongly impregnated with sulphur, magnesia and iron. They have medicinal properties of great value. No place of resort can be more favorably recommended to the notice of our Eastern visitors, while the city man out of health will find them very conveniently situated." From Piedmont there are good roads running through the mountains, and there is a labyrinth of pleasant drives. The mountain scenery is very fine, and it is difficult to realize that so great a change can be found in a half hour's ride from Oakland.

The drive-way on the eastern bank of Lake Merritt is also a fashionable resort. The system of roads in Brooklyn is quite complete, and the visitor can follow any road that he may observe without danger of being led into an unpleasant or dangerous locality. The most important place of public resort, especially on Sundays, is Badger's Central Park, (in Brooklyn) where there are highly ornamented grounds, a large pavilion for dancing, and all of the attractions ordinarily found at public gardens. That the excellent roads in and around Oakland are appreciated by visitors, is attested by the fact that Oakland has six large livery stables, all of them doing a prosperous business.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.

The buildings erected in Oakland during the year ending June 30th, 1872, have been numerous and costly. One firm of contractors, for instance, Messrs. Power & Ough, have transacted business to the amount of \$120,000. We will enumerate only some of the more important improvements. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is described elsewhere. The High School building is at the corner of Market and West Twelfth streets: The main building is 75x80 feet square, and the extreme depth, including projections for stairs, is 108 feet and the extreme width is 84 feet. The whole is surmounted by a curved French roof, the deck of which is surrounded by an iron railing. The elevation of the main building is 57 feet, and the railing of the tower is just 100 feet