

number of places of amusement, coupled with the fact, that there is with us no Summer intermission, gives ample proof of the generosity of our people in sustaining so largely this source of relaxation, although it is but just to remark that the past year's theatrical experience has felt, as all other lines of business, the effects of "over production."

Public Squares.

There are twenty-two public parks, or squares, in this city, varying in size from two hundred feet to the great Ocean Park of one thousand and thirteen acres. Ocean, or Golden Gate Park, lies in the northwestern portion of the city, bordering on the ocean. It is fifty-six blocks long and nine blocks wide—or three miles long and a half mile wide. A beautiful avenue, or drive, about three-quarters of a mile long and one hundred yards wide, leads from the city proper to the park. There are seven lakelets in this park; also arbors, grottoes, mounds, rustic benches, etc., which gives it rather a picturesque and romantic appearance. Up to June 30, 1877, the Park Commissioners had received from all sources \$499,941.09, of which \$486,249.47 had been expended, leaving a cash balance of \$13,691.62. From June 30, 1877, to June 30, 1878, the receipts have been as follows: From taxes, \$34,763.38; from Police Court fines, \$200; from Pound fees, \$75; from appropriations by Act of Legislature, approved February 14, 1878, \$40,000; from sale of old sacks, \$144, making a total since their last report of \$75,182.38, with balance on hand at that date, \$13,691.62—\$88,874.

The amount expended during the past year, is \$57,210.38, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$31,663.62. Since its organization, the Board of Park Commissioners has disbursed \$543,459.85, all of which is represented by actual work performed on the grounds in its charge and for the purchase of material and merchandise employed in the work. The Legislature of 1876 authorized the Board of Supervisors to make annual appropriations of \$15,000 from the General Fund, and an annual tax levy of one and one-half cent. upon each one hundred dollars for its maintenance. Early in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, a special appropriation from the General Fund of \$10,000, and an additional levy of one per cent (making a total levy for Park purposes of two and one-half per cent.) was made by the Board of Supervisors. A subsequent order, however, revoked the direct appropriation and reduced the levy to two per cent. As a consequence, works of improvement during the year were discontinued and force employed only to the extent necessary for maintenance except in the case of the conservatory, built during the year, for which purpose the special appropriation of \$40,000 by the Legislature was made. The gross amount of expenditure above set forth includes the expenses for fencing Buena Vista and Mountain Lake parks, making large plantations in the former, and the expense of the preliminary topographical surveys for Golden Gate Park. Deducting these, and there remains actually expended upon the Park, in the six and one-half years since work was begun, \$495,879.74. Of this amount, about \$115,000 is chargeable to maintenance, \$14,000 to work horses, rolling stock, tools, etc., the remainder, \$366,879.74, being chargeable to direct improvement.

During the year ending June 30, 1878, the Park was visited by six hundred and sixty-five thousand three hundred and sixty one persons.

The length of roadway constructed is thirty-nine thousand seven hundred and eighty-four feet, representing an area of one million seven hundred and seventy-eight thousand seven hundred and ten square feet. About four miles of linear length of walks have been constructed, of which nearly three-fourths are completed, the remainder needing only the capping surface of screened rock with which all are finished. The only new work in roadway during the past year was the construction of an additional section of the "Southern Drive," by the expenditure of the "Bush" fund. This fund, amounting to \$6,348.09, was created by voluntary subscriptions of citizens of San Francisco, secured through the efforts of Mr. David Bush, during the months of January, February and March, 1878, and was placed in the hands of the Park Commissioners for the employment of laborers at one dollar per day, thereby relieving the then prevailing distress among the unemployed.

The number of trees and shrubs planted in the Park since the Spring of 1872, when this branch of improvement was begun, is one hundred and forty-two thousand. In the nursery, for future planting in the coming season, there are between fifteen and twenty thousand plants and trees. The reclamation of the lands bordering on the Great Highway from the continued drift of the shifting sands of the ocean, the solution of the problem for which the simple means adopted by the engineer in charge, amply furnished, continues to become more and more assured; the dune has steadily increased in height and its resisting power to the drifting force of the sands has become fully established.

The feature of the year, however, is found in the construction of the conservatory for the reception of the two conservatories presented to the Park Commissioners by a number of our prominent citizens during the year 1877. These conservatories were purchased from the estate of the late James Lick, Esq., by whom they were imported from France, and presented upon the condition that suitable buildings for their reception and care should be erected in Golden Gate Park within eighteen months from date of presentation. In pursuance of this condition, the Legislature of 1877-8 passed an enabling act, authorizing the appropriation of \$40,000, and the work was at once begun. The conservatory is located about one quarter of a mile from the entrance of the main park, and is built upon a plateau, partially artificial, lying to the right of,