

and about fifteen feet above, the level of the main drive. An adequate conception of its magnificent character may be obtained from the following figures :

It is built, judging from superficial appearance, almost entirely of glass, is three hundred and fifty feet in length, the main building being fifty-six feet square and surmounted by a dome, rising fifty-six feet high in the clear, inside measurement, the inside space being unbroken by any trusses or girders, the roof being supported and sustained entirely by its connection with the external walls. In this splendid dome the bright glare of the continuous crystal is relieved by two lines of glass in variegated colors, one at the spring of the arch and the other at the summit of the arch. The remaining portions of the building average thirty-five feet in width ; the east and west ends being extended in their fronts, which face the south, to a line parallel with the main or central building. In front of the main building is a reception room, twenty by twenty feet, through which visitors will enter. In the center of the reception room is a small pool from the middle of which rises a tasty and unique fountain, the design showing a swan surrounded by magnolias, upholding a bowl in which a mermaid rises, holding on her shoulders a seashell in which the fountain plays. The east extension is used as the aquatic house. Here, in the front, is located the fernery, in the shape of a Grecian cross, from which the water passes to the main pool in the rear of it, which is a trifle lower in height, and thirty feet in diameter. This will be the home of the Victoria Water Lily, a tropical flower whose exuberant growth produces leaves five and six feet in length, each of which is capable of upholding a child on the water. The temperature of this pool will be maintained at eighty degrees Fahrenheit. The heating apparatus is located in the basement of the office, which is situated directly in the rear of the main building. The pipes for communicating the heat to the main building are over four thousand feet in length. On the east of the office and in the rear of the east wing is located a smaller glass house, fifty by twelve feet, containing two propagating beds. Similarly located, in rear of west wing, is another structure, twenty-five by thirty-five feet, containing two nursery beds.

The whole building required in its construction twenty-six thousand square feet of glass, weighing twenty-five tons, and two tons of putty. It is a marvel of architectural beauty, surpassing in this respect any similar construction in the United States, and is only equalled in size by the Government Conservatory in the Horticultural Gardens at Washington. The contractors were Messrs. Lord and Burnham, of Irvington, N. Y., who make a specialty of works of this class. This being the largest work they have ever executed, they have given personal supervision to all its details, and its completion has justly created for them, as well as for the reputation of San Francisco's greatest park, a monument of never failing beauty ; a testimonial to the one of superior skill and genius, and to the management of the other a full comprehension of the æsthetic tastes of our people.

No further work upon the parks of the city has been done during the year save simple maintenance, except in the case of Pioneer Park, where the road leading to its summit has been completed.

In addition to Golden Gate Park, we have Pioneer Park, on the crest of Telegraph Hill, which embraces six fifty-vara lots, donated for the purpose by several liberal citizens ; Buena Vista Park, bounded by Haight, Fell and Broderick Streets, containing thirty-six acres ; Mountain Lake Public Square, in the Presidio Reservation, and eighteen additional reserved blocks or squares in different sections of the city, most of which have been more or less improved. Portsmouth Square, opposite the old City Hall, is noted as being the place where the United States flag was raised over our newly acquired territory from Mexico on the 8th day of July, 1847.

WOODWARD'S GARDENS.—These gardens, although a private collection and improvement, are justly regarded as one of the principal attractions of the city. They are located on the block bounded by Mission, Thirteenth, Valencia and Fourteenth Streets, are finely improved ; and contain valuable and extensive collections of natural and antique curiosities, wild animals, fossils and paintings.

PROMENADES.—Upon Montgomery Street are located a large number of the most fashionable retail houses—three of the leading hotels are on this street, with a few squares, and four others are within "bell boy" distance. Some of the most elegant and substantial buildings are also found on this street.

California Street intersects Montgomery at the business center, thus affording the spectator a "map of busy life, its fluctuations and its vast concerns." The block bounded by California, Montgomery, Pine and Sanson Streets, with the sides of streets opposite the same, represents the financial heart of the city, where, in its fierce pulsations, fortunes are made and lost in a few short hours ; the small speculator, a millionaire, and the millionaire, tempting the goddess of fortune once too often, becomes a wreck upon the commercial strand.

Kearny Street runs from Market to the top of Telegraph Hill, and is our fashionable promenade, though few promenades its entire length and height. Market Street continues in its progress as a contestant for the seat of the retail trade, and bids fair in time to become the Broadway of San Francisco. Upon these two streets may be seen people of every nationality and from every clime. This would be a peculiarity in any other city less cosmopolitan than San Francisco ; but we are accustomed to new faces, new things and new ideas. In short, ours is