

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 the 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 thirty-five tons, and three 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, 1846.

**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.

**CENTRAL GARDENS,** located at the junction of Point Lobos and Central avenues, will be, when completed, one of the most attractive places of resort in the city. The grounds will be laid out in a tasty and ornamental manner, and planted with shrubbery, flowers, etc., of the choicest and most varied kinds. It will contain fountains, aviaries, conservatories, menageries, fish ponds, etc. There will be erected a capacious amphitheater for the purpose of balloon ascensions; also a pavilion, which will accommodate over five thousand persons. The site will command a fine view of the bay and surrounding country.

### Public Schools.

The free public schools of San Francisco are the pride of the citizens, and their efficiency attract many families to reside in the city in order that their children may reap the advantages they offer. The first English school was established in April, 1847, with about thirty pupils, taught by a Mr. Marston, who is therefore the pioneer teacher of the city. Late in the same year the citizens organized a public school, and erected a building on the southwest corner of the Plaza, now Portsmouth Square. In April, 1849, the Common Council established a public school, and John C. Pelton and wife were employed as teachers, and this was the beginning of the system which has continued to the present time. During the fiscal year 1878-79 there were 60 schools, employing 696 teachers, and having an enrolled attendance of 38,129 pupils, of whom 19,926 were boys and 18,203 girls. By the report of the School Census Marshal, June 30, 1879, the number of youth in the city under seventeen years of age is 88,104, being an increase for the year of 7,816. The number between five and seventeen who are entitled to draw school money is 62,105, an increase of 6,206 for the year. The number attending private and church schools only during the year (not including Chinese) was 7,224, an increase during the year of 673. The number between five and seventeen years of age (not including Chinese) who have not attended school at any time during the year was 19,389, an increase over the preceding year of 3,168. The last exhibit—of children not attending any school—is worthy of note. The enrollment at the different schools was as follows: High schools—Boys, 350; girls, 901; total, 1,251. Grammar schools, including some primary grades—Boys, 6,999; girls, 7,246; total, 14,246. Primary schools, including some grammar grades—Boys, 10,743; girls, 9,807; total, 20,550. Evening schools—Boys, 1,834; girls, 249; total, 2,083. The financial condition of the Department is represented as follows: The State and city tax for school purposes in the year 1878-79 was 16 cents on each \$100. The total income, including cash on hand at the beginning of the year, was \$856,107 52, a decrease from the previous year of \$161,102 31. The expenditures were \$876,489 14; less than