

REPORT ON THE BOTANIC GARDEN FOR 1890.

At the time of the last Annual Report, I had the pleasure of announcing the institution of a Botanic Garden in the College grounds, a large part of which had been appropriated to this purpose. It was later found, however, that the demands for building space, consequent upon the Thomas Workman and W. C. McDonald endowments, necessitated the removal of the garden to another locality. At this juncture the University was fortunate in securing possession of a property comprising land and buildings, situated at the top of the Cote des Neiges hill, immediately outside the city limits. This property embraces about ten acres of good land, having upon it a fairly good orchard, dwelling house, stables, store and tool house and a conservatory. Possession was gained on the first of November, although we had occupied the conservatory for two months previously. Under the circumstances, it was not possible to do much beyond preparing the house for winter and getting in a supply of plants. With a few exceptions there were no plants in the conservatory, the stock for which was drawn from a variety of sources.

As far as possible, however, work, preparatory to the next season, was pushed actively forward. Half an acre of ground was broken for a nursery, one hundred and fifty feet of road and two hundred feet of paths constructed, and a large area marked off for paths and beds to be completed in the spring. The removal of dead trees, useless shrubs and other encumbrances also called for a large amount of labour.

The conservatory, as found, comprised two houses representing a total length of 163 feet, by 20 feet in width. The structure was in a much neglected state. In addition to closing numerous open joints, it was found necessary to double glaze the gable ends and side walls throughout. The larger house was divided by a partition, and a potting and tool house 12 x 18 feet was constructed. As now arranged, the conservatory comprises the following:—

The greenhouse, 55 feet long, 20 feet wide and 11.5 feet high at the ridge. In this the general work of propagation is carried on, and plants are grown in quantity for the use of the classes. The stove house, 60 feet long, 19 feet wide and 17 feet high at the ridge. In this are the collections of ferns, palms, cycads, century plants. The camellia house, 48 feet long, 19 feet wide and 17 feet high at the ridge. This contains the camellias and azaleas, and other plants requiring a comparatively low temperature.

The stock now in these houses was wholly obtained by donation and purchase, with the exception of a number of camellias and