

they come upwards. Now, the garden is to surround these structures. The structure itself obeys these hard and fast architectural and stringent laws; and the garden is of the freedom of nature, you see—but there must be something to make the transition from the one to the other. The consequence is that it is an absolutely necessary principle that some compromise must be made in the immediate neighborhood of your building; that is, that the elements of gardening—borders and walks and shrubbery and so on, in the immediate vicinity of the house—must conform to the laws of architecture, and must therefore take on a more or less formal element, but the further it recedes from that, the more freedom it can be given, until in the outskirts it is given most absolute freedom. And thus we get what I take to be the most perfect and reasonable adjustment of the two conditions. But nature being able to present us with such an immense variety—a variety which in the species and genera of plants which are now placed at our disposal by the discoveries of men in all the different parts of the world, and the enormous facilities for transportation which enable us to bring them from all corners of the world, and to understand their conditions, and so on—enables us in the same area, with a little care and adjustment, to produce all varieties and kinds of plants, or at least an immense range of them, taking your glass houses as well as your open-air gardens; and the consequence is that if you set out with the formal idea of gardening—such an idea as will put them all in one place, in one square—it is quite obvious that you cannot cultivate any more than are suited to that one spot. But, given the variety of soil and situation and plant, and so on, it does not follow that our gardens must be on the same principle or plan, but you may get in the same city an immense development of loveliness, as it were, and love of beauty, and understanding of nature. But when we come to our public parks—and here is where the difficulty comes in—the architectural element has vanished, unless, indeed, there are architectural structures in it; and the nonsensical element in most public parks is the fact that people insist on treating the flowers of the parks in precisely the same way as you would treat the beds nearest to the house, and these go in for top-airy work and all sorts of nick-nacks and a carpet garden such as finds extreme expression, and an immense waste of means and labor, to the utter vitiation of the public taste. Don't believe that when a man comes along and opens his mouth in wide astonishment at some latest production of carpet gardening, and some monstrosity that is causing nature to imitate some form of human device, that that man is being benefitted. Not at all. He is opening his mouth with the same sort of sentiment and feeling that a man has on looking at a two-headed calf or any other freak of nature. Here is something that excites curiosity, but is rather degrading than elevating; and that man is not helped in the slightest by what he sees there, to go forth and appreciate nature, but he is helped much in the opposite way, and he goes forth and he looks on nature outside and he says, "Oh, it's rough, it's miserable, it's not well kept, it's not well combed or curried," or something of that kind; and he goes back and gazes on that extreme formality and childish work. If, then, our civic gardeners and our municipal gardeners generally and others could be brought to see this difference, and the realm in which the two elements work, we might have much greater beauty in this country and in other countries than we have; and I believe the few suggestions I have made may not be out of place in that line. (Hearty applause.)

Mr. HUTT, of the O. A. C., Guelph: I am sorry I came in late, but I have enjoyed very much what I have heard of the address. There are a number of ideas brought out with great benefit in our city and town parks. I was pleased with the park in Kingston, where they have been letting nature have full swing, or assisting nature so as to produce a fine effect. Great good would result if farmers and fruit growers gave more attention to this subject. We cannot go into the country without seeing the great lack of attention paid to landscape gardening and the beautifying of our surroundings. No one has a better opportunity than a farmer to beautify his surroundings, as he has plenty of room for it. They often make the mistakes of having some fancy little flower beds instead of green sod or tastefully arranged trees, and the flower-beds are not seen much farther than the house windows. I was struck with the professor's idea of the conformity of the landscape immediately surrounding the buildings to the buildings themselves. We see

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