

OBJECT LESSONS IN CITY PARKS.

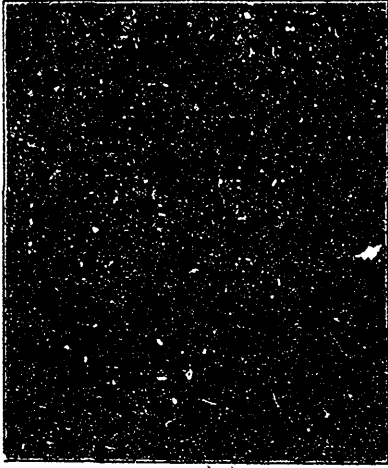


FIG. 1515.—

drinking fountain made as a natural spring are in the line of improvements that are permissible. Everything done to improve it shows as little as possible the effect of man's handiwork.

In grounds where the scenery is artificial, that made by man, another condition exists. Flower beds may abound; banks of flowering shrubs may fringe groups of ornamental trees; drinking fountains of artistic designs may be introduced, as may also a small lake or pond, fringed with ornamental grasses and filled with subtropical water plants. The lawn should be well clipped; the edges of the walks and drives properly edged, and everything here should show the careful attention of man. This picture is the opposite of the previous one. The careful performance of the work in the latter is as necessary as the rigid exclusion of it in the former. It is the proper understanding and carrying out of the details of these pictures that gives the park its character.

The picnic-grounds and play-grounds are localities that occupy a medium place between the two previously pic-

tured. There must be abundant shade and a fairly good lawn, also tables, seats and drinking fountains sufficient for the needs.

A year ago, our Park Board placed in the picnic-ground a number of wire baskets for refuse paper. They are about three feet high and twenty inches in diameter. On one side, they are concave, so they will fit against a tree to which they are locked by a chain. These baskets may not have been in proper keeping with good landscape effect, but they are far better than having the discharged lunch parcels scattered over the lawn. When I state that from six to eight cords of picnic refuse is gathered after a big picnic day, it can be seen that these baskets are very valuable in keeping the lawns free from unsightly litter.

Parks that attract large crowds must be well supplied with drinking fountains. These should be of such design as will harmonize with their surroundings. We are discarding the cast iron affairs and are using field stone.

The horse drinking fountains should be high enough so that the horse can drink without unchecking. It is unaccountable why this is not more often done.

In no one thing can parks be better object lessons in good taste than in the location and construction of its walks and drives. The principal ones must be of a nature that they are in good condition at all times to be in keeping with park surroundings; they should be of gravel or crushed stone. The latter, more commonly known as macadam roadways, is the kind that best fills the requirements, as it is comparatively free from mud in wet weather and the dust is kept to the minimum with a small amount of sprinkling during droughts.

In this day of good road agitation,