

# BOTANICAL GARDENS in BUENOS AIRES

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RESIDENCE AND OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT



ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AVENUES

**D**RIVING out the beautiful avenue of Santa Fe, that practically begins at the Plaza San Martin, and after a due western extension of some 500 yards, bends to the north-west and follows roughly the course of the La Plata for a distance of three miles (40 squares), the entrance to the botanical garden of Buenos Aires is reached. Beyond this lies the Zoological garden, and still farther on the far-famed Park of Palermo. From both of these the botanical garden is distinct in spirit and style. It is the embodiment of a refined and artistic taste, a really marvelous blending of the beautiful and the useful.

In 1892 this land was granted to the director general of the public parks, M. Thays, for the establishment of the botanical garden and the garden was opened to the public in September, 1898. One must know something of the soil and the seasons here to understand how, even with a masterly hand at the helm, such marvels have been accomplished in so short a time.

Certain students of medicine and pharmacy from the National college, and other schools of the city, frequent the garden and spend hours in interesting study. Indeed, they have a rich field from which to glean, as there are, in what is called the School of Botany, over 4,000 species, all perfectly classified according to the system of De Candolle.

The garden contains about 20 acres of ground, half of which is level, the other half very uneven and ending on the northern side in steep banks that overlook the street, Las Heras. This street is named in honor of the hero whose ashes were recently brought home from Chile, and received with such pomp and ceremony by his appreciative countrymen.

The entire area is triangular in form and is divided into 14 different sections, each plainly marked and devoted to the flora of a distinct region. The three pronounced styles of gardening, which, in a comparatively small area might have produced an inharmonious effect, or at least a lack of unity, are so charmingly blended as to give, instead, the fine delight of variety. The Garden Louis XIV. is, of course, the most pretentious bit; the "finished coquette," some one calls it, with its statues and fountains and its well-trimmed borders of box. It must not be inferred that the French garden is superficial (except as this is the usual characteristic of gardens), for there is, both in this and in the Roman garden, a whole history written for those who know how to read it.

To one not bent on special study and whose knowledge of the art of gardening, past and present, is limited, and who prefers a quiet walk to dress parade, the English garden, as it is called, appeals most strongly.

Not only are the two Americas royally represented, but Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia as well. These sections are separated by beautiful walks with exquisite curves and turns; here a magnificent tree, there a flowering shrub, everything in accordance with an artistic taste.

In the South American section, particularly of the Argentine Republic, the collection is wonderfully complete, and exceedingly varied and interesting, from the Anthurium of the north to the Fagus Antarticus of the south. The tips, a species of acacia, is chief of the ornamental trees; when properly cared for, it grows into a beautiful, shapely tree. The leaf is much like that of the locust, and the blossoms, though of the same form as the locust, are a brilliant yellow instead of white. The fame of this tree has gone abroad. One of Rio Janeiro's most beautiful avenues is, in part, adorned by tips. France, too, now boasts some fine specimens. It grows in any soil, and its bark contains an insect poison that renders it invulnerable to these enemies.

The quebracho (ax-breaker) is a leguminous tree also, and is the most valuable and costly of the Argentine woods. Its color is a dark, rich red, and it is so hard and heavy that it seems like iron. It is much used for all kinds of posts, also in tanning, and is highly prized by shipbuilders, as the water does not injure it.



LILIES ON THE UPPER PARAGUAY



MEXICAN SECTION OF THE GARDEN



BOTANICAL SECTION



LOUIS XIV GARDEN

is cooked and served in many ways. The bark is made into casks and barrels. As the tree sometimes has a diameter of more than a meter, one length of bark serves for a cask.

The paradise tree and the ceiba are great favorites; the former, on account of its rich purple flowers, the latter on account of its brilliant red ones. This is said to have been the favorite tree of Rosas.

There is a beautiful large tree from Misiones, the celita tala, whose delicate leaves are very like smilax, just a shade darker and thicker. The really ugly tree of the garden is the palo borracho (drunken stick), with a snappy swelled trunk, covered with thorns, and having small, irregular branches. It is, however, very useful, as it furnishes a species of vegetable silk.

In the Tierra del Fuego section, or subsection, there is a most lovely araucaria, a fine dark green, except the tips of the branches, which are of a softer, lighter color. The leaves really seem a sort of developed thorn.

Of all the Argentine trees, the ombu is the most remarkable, with its thick, soft bark, its spongy wood, its dense foliage, and long clusters of white blossoms. It is of rapid growth and attains an enormous size. The soil here is too rich for it; so, in self-defense, its immense roots, after a few years, seek the surface. The older trees have numerous little tender branches that spring directly from the surface root and grow straight up through the thick branches, trying to reach the light. There is one in the garden, eight years old, with a height of 50 feet and a diameter of three. At about two feet above the ground the trunk divides into two smaller trunks, each sending off long, straight branches. Its roots are just beginning to appear. It is an ideal tree for a children's playground, with possibilities for climbing about and even for keeping house among its hospitable branches.

This manner of germination is a modern idea or a rediscovery of the process used by the Jesuits, the secret of which they carried away with them when expelled from their possessions in Paraguay. The mate consumed in the country costs \$4,000,000 annually, so it is well worth while to develop its cultivation. As, however, the Argentine Republic becomes Anglicized, it demands tea instead of mate, regardless of the advice of physicians, who claim that mate is the more wholesome beverage.

The collection of ferns is very large, from the innumerable varieties of the dainty maiden-hair to the tree fern.

The cactus in number and variety almost equals the fern. One very rare variety from the region of the Andes is always shown to visitors. It is particularly ugly, with its long, stiff stalks in spiny ridges.

Among the water lilies, the Victoria regia, with its enormous pads, is a great curiosity to foreigners, though it abounds in the northern provinces of the republic, and is called tripe by the Guarani Indians. It is also said to have a leaf so thick and strong that it will bear the weight of a baby several months old. There is only one large plant growing "al aire libre" in this garden, and it is the pride of the pond.

many kinds, with an occasional royal cedar towering above. Where a bit of the great Sahara is pointed out, it requires a stretch of the imagination to see more than the oases.

Australia is extensively represented. There are 60 different varieties of eucalyptus in this section and the saltshoes are no longer allowed in the main part of the garden; though the gardeners still seem proud of the ugly, scraggy bushes. They grow prodigiously in this soil, and thrive in any. The Australian variety has a thicker, more succulent leaf than the others.

Besides the sections mentioned, there is one for industrial and medicinal plants, the section of fruit trees, and still another section devoted to the various methods of reproduction, whether by seed, grafting, or budding.

There are also two conservatories. One of them is beautiful and almost new. The older one was awarded a premium in the Paris exposition of 1889, both for its artistic construction and for the excellent arrangement for heating and ventilating its three divisions, which are kept at a temperature of 25 deg., 18 deg., and 12 deg., respectively. The substantial building is an inheritance from the department of agriculture, which formerly occupied this plot of ground. It contains the residence of the director, various offices, and a small museum.

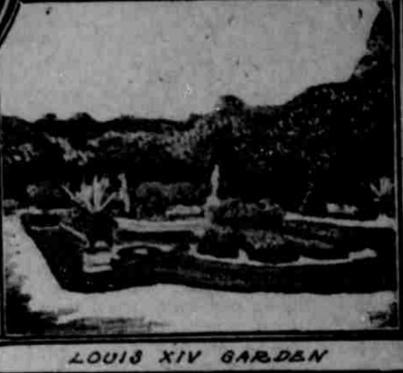
Agricultural explorers who have visited the most famous botanical gardens of both the Old and the New Worlds have written of this one in words of highest praise and appreciation.

Buenos Aires has reason to be proud of its botanical garden, not only because it is one of the richest and most varied in the world, but because of the persistent effort made here to cultivate to the utmost the plants and trees indigenous to the country.

### The Last Man Ashore.

It was now nearly half a minute past this big steamboat's sailing time and she hadn't started yet. Usually she got away on the stroke of the minute. The cause of the trouble was clear.

Up the gangplank which had been held that half minute for him came a man, a tolerably big and stalwart sort of man, who had not heard or had not heeded the warning given



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five minutes before in every part of the boat for all to go ashore that were going. But at last up the gangplank he came, a solitary figure in the plank's wide, long space, and with all the passengers lining that side of the boat looking down upon him with interest, while forward, with his hand on a bell pull at the side of the deck, stood the captain, ready to give the signal in the engine room the instant that man stepped off the gangplank and the plank was hauled ashore.

And so that last man to go ashore passed up the gangplank, not looking up, but not hurrying, walking calmly, while everybody on the boat looked down, and while at the same time there stood at either side of the plank and with their hands resting upon the top rails six stalwart and able-bodied longshoremen, ready to lift the plank and surge it shoreward about as soon as this gentleman stepped off it, which they did. They let him get about a foot clear of it and then they lifted it, and with the first surge they gave it brought up against his heels.

"Whereupon the last man ashore turned with fire in his eye and with an evident desire to lick somebody, and he was an able-looking man. Undoubtedly he could have licked somebody, perhaps two, but the briefest reflection told him that he could not get away with the 12 longshoremen that he now saw smiling at him, whereupon again he turned, now smiling himself, and started on, while in the meantime the instant the gangplank was cleared the captain on the boat had yanked that bell pull and the last lines had been cast off, and now the boat too, though fully 40 seconds late, was at last on her way.

## DAVE FEAT OF A POSTAL CLERK

SAVES MAIL FROM BURNING  
THEN TAKES CHANCE  
LIFE WITH LEAP.

### STORY OF HIS EXPERIENCE

Gathers Letters and Registers  
ter into Pouch, Tames Train  
Out of Car and Jumps into  
Flames of Wreckage.

Washington.—Railway mail clerks frequently experience danger in the line of their duties, but few have had thrilling accounts of such danger as that given in an official report to the postoffice department by John H. McCroskey, a railway mail clerk on the Washington, Orville & Spokane road.

On the morning of August 31 the train of which his car was a part fell into a burning bridge about two miles south of Dart Hiding, Wash. The train was destroyed by fire, but through McCroskey's heroic efforts the mail was saved. Following is his own story of his experience, as given to Gen. Supt. Alexander Graham of the railway mail service:

"I had no warning of the approaching accident until the engineer applied the emergency brakes, just before the engine plunged through the burning bridge. The mail car followed the engine, striking on the engine tank, sliding up over the tank, crushing the cab and stopping on top of its back. The jar threw me backward over the paper rack, wrenching my back. I regained my feet in a few seconds and went to the door to find that the mail car was about 10 feet above the creek and on fire.

"Just then some part of the engine exploded, blowing fire, gas and steam in every direction, and making escape for me impossible at that time. I returned to the letter car and gathered up what letters and registers I could find, placed the letters in a pouch and threw them out of the car. The registers and date, pad and type I put in my handbag and threw that into the creek.

"I saw it was up to me to make my escape as best I could without aid, for the car was a mass of flames, and



"I at Last Took a Chance for Myself and Jumped."

the heat was so intense no one could get near enough to the burning wreckage to be of any assistance to me. I then tried to climb out on the left side of the car, but the flames drove me back into the car. I then went to the door on the right side of the car, and on looking down, when I could see through the smoke, flames and steam, could see nothing but wreckage and a mass of flames on the rocks 40 feet below, into which I at last took a chance and jumped. I tried to leap clear of the wreck, but that was impossible and I slipped among the burning timbers of the bridge that had been knocked down as the engine crashed through the bridge. I was rescued from further danger by a special agent of the Great Northern Railroad Company. My back, neck and shoulders were severely wrenched and my right knee was bruised and sprained by the jump from the car to the burning wreckage in the creek."

### Wife Protects an Umpire.

Cushing, Okla.—Umpire Ed Hale was chased from Cushing park by an infuriated mob of baseball fans, but after following him to the Merchants' hotel, a mile away, the mob abandoned the effort to assault him, but not until Hale had cried for protection from behind his wife's skirts in the hotel, and three policemen with revolvers drawn had pushed the mob back. Hale escaped from the hotel and left town.

Hale was charged by the Cushing fans with giving unfair decisions in a game between Cushing and Cleveland. The crowd became angered and 15 of them, lunging into the field, brought up the game and chasing Hale.