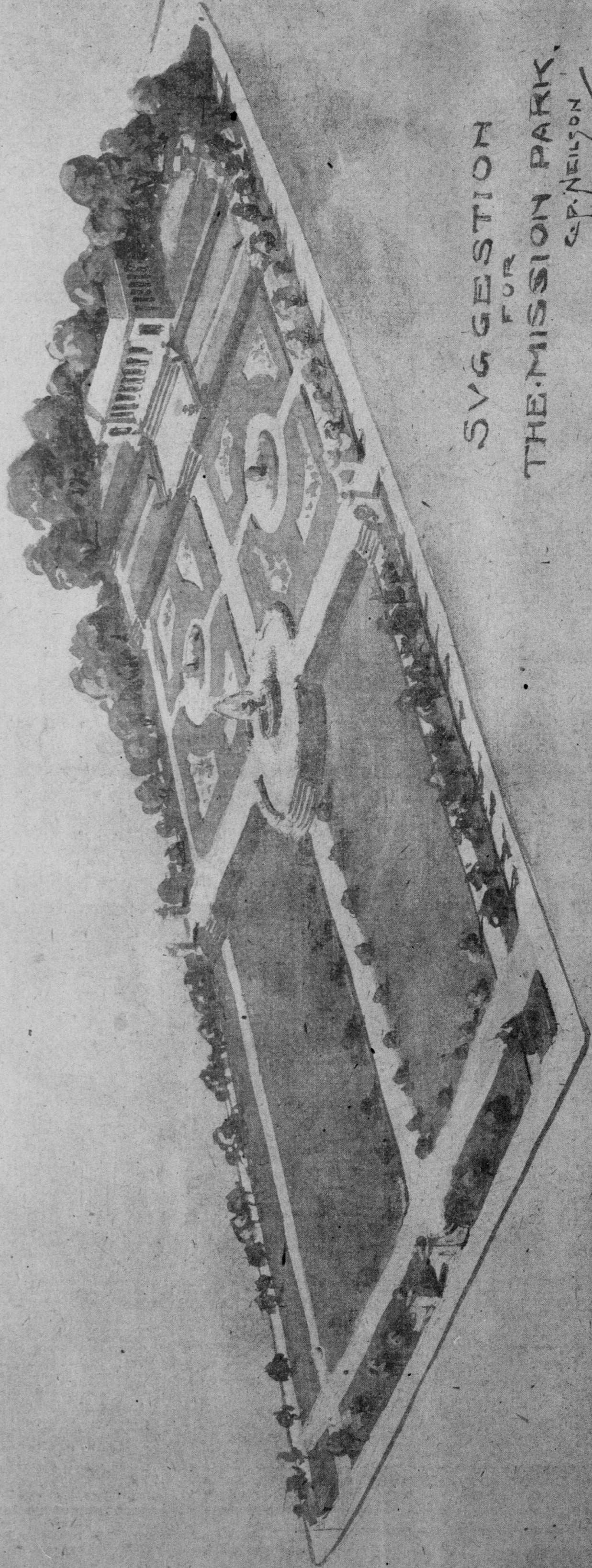


THE NEW MISSION PARK



SUGGESTION
FOR
THE MISSION PARK.
C. P. NELSON

THE people of that favored section of San Francisco out near the Mission Dolores have long clamored for a recreation ground, and at last their demands have been granted. The two blocks bounded by Dolores, Church, Eighteenth and Twentieth streets, where the Hebrew Cemetery formerly was, have passed into the possession of the city, and plans are rapidly being brought to a head for turning the barren lots into one of the most beautiful parks that now adorn San Francisco. Representative artists, landscape gardeners and architects have been asked for their ideas concerning the best decorative scheme for the proposed new park. In several instances the same idea was promulgated; that, in deference to the historic interest attached to that portion of the city by reason of the famous old Mission Dolores, the general scheme of adornment should be on the old mission plan. Following are the ideas in brief of those who were approached to give their sentiments:

BY JOHN McLAUREN.

Superintendent of Golden Gate Park. The park question is a very comprehensive and growing subject, and it is far too large, too important and too elaborate in detail to fully express its importance upon anything other than long and thoughtful study. I feel very reluctant to express myself offhand in this manner.

But certainly no other place in this beautiful State of California presents such inviting grounds to the outdoor enthusiast as this Mission Dolores.

For the same number of people he may plunge into miniature valleys and foothills and forget for the time being that there are such unpleasant and nerve-racking things as fin-

would undeniably make us a beautiful and distinguished metropolis, but now we are almost certain that we are to have them.

Not only are we certain of Twin Peaks, but another splendid hill has been added to our collection as well. Sometimes it is called Blue Mountain.

At any rate it is the wooded hill immediately north of the Affiliated College; and it possesses the proud distinction of being the highest point in the country with a magnificent view of the ocean, the surrounding cities and hills extending from Tamalpais to

we are almost certain that we are to have them.

Not only are we certain of Twin Peaks, but another splendid hill has been added to our collection as well. Sometimes it is called Blue Mountain.

At any rate it is the wooded hill immediately north of the Affiliated College; and it possesses the proud distinction of being the highest point in the country with a magnificent view of the ocean, the surrounding cities and hills extending from Tamalpais to

ance of existing parks until this was accomplished; employing in this way all available funds. Such a policy, if persistently pursued, would unquestionably result in the city owning parks in all localities, especially in the outlying districts, where present land

values are not excessive. These need not be acquired all at once, but could be purchased from time to time, rapidly if possible; if not rapidly, then

example, most of our large cities undoubtedly possess less park land than any of the larger European cities. But be that as it may, the broad fact is plain that cities with large park areas are distinguished cities.

perfect for its improvement and adornment and the general beauty of a city, but such plans apply more to the opening of proper circulating boulevards than to anything else. Our hills need no improvement or adornment. They are beautiful in themselves and more beautiful now than they ever will be, exactly as they must have been. Infinitely more beautiful years ago before the city was founded and before their defacement began. Nature unadorned is adorned the most. We should therefore exert our energies and reserve our meager resources for the purchase of additional land rather than exhaust ourselves upon more than the most urgent improvement of our present parks. The hilltop parks, if acquired, ought each and all be connected by parkways or paths.

Of course, it will be difficult to convince ourselves that it is our duty to provide so lavishly and so handsomely for posterity; it will be very difficult to convince ourselves that it is not our plain duty to expend upon ourselves and for our own immediate use and gratification all our resources in embellishing such parks as we already have. This we have been doing and will continue to do, but it is, however, very questionable whether we are not making a serious mistake in expending as much as we do upon the so-called beautification of our parks by the erection of useless monuments. We cannot be certain to-day that these monuments will be of any use to a city in the future. They are a waste of money and a waste of space.

Matteo Sandona, the young artist from Verona, who has been gaining local fame as a portrait painter, said: "My idea would be to have a park laid out on the rustic plan. Have a large rustic pavilion, where people may sit in comfort protected from the strong rays of the sun and wind. I think it would be well to have a rustic bridge crossing Nineteenth street. Have a playground for children on one side of the park, and have the other portion a garden spot. I do not believe in many trees, for they keep out the sun on bleak days. By all means these should be avoided."

Matteo Sandona, the young artist from Verona, who has been gaining local fame as a portrait painter, said: "My idea would be to have a park laid out on the rustic plan. Have a large rustic pavilion, where people may sit in comfort protected from the strong rays of the sun and wind. I think it would be well to have a rustic bridge crossing Nineteenth street. Have a playground for children on one side of the park, and have the other portion a garden spot. I do not believe in many trees, for they keep out the sun on bleak days. By all means these should be avoided."

Matteo Sandona, the young artist from Verona, who has been gaining local fame as a portrait painter, said: "My idea would be to have a park laid out on the rustic plan. Have a large rustic pavilion, where people may sit in comfort protected from the strong rays of the sun and wind. I think it would be well to have a rustic bridge crossing Nineteenth street. Have a playground for children on one side of the park, and have the other portion a garden spot. I do not believe in many trees, for they keep out the sun on bleak days. By all means these should be avoided."