

The University Grounds

By LEROY ABRAMS

When alumni return in June they will be greeted by many new sights, and especially those who love gardens and shrubbery will rejoice in the improvement of the grounds. Mr. Abrams' article is interesting as it compares these new plans with the original scheme.

THE natural setting of our Alma Mater, the red-tiled roofs, and the long stretches of shaded corridors with their arched vistas, are in the background of every memory picture a Stanford man carries of the old farm and the friendships formed in college days. But not many of us realize the intelli-

plan the University buildings; and that these buildings should have a proper and harmonious setting, the leading landscape gardener, Frederick Law Olmstead, was asked to develop plans for a campus.

The work of Mr. Olmstead can best be told in his words and by his sketch here reproduced:*

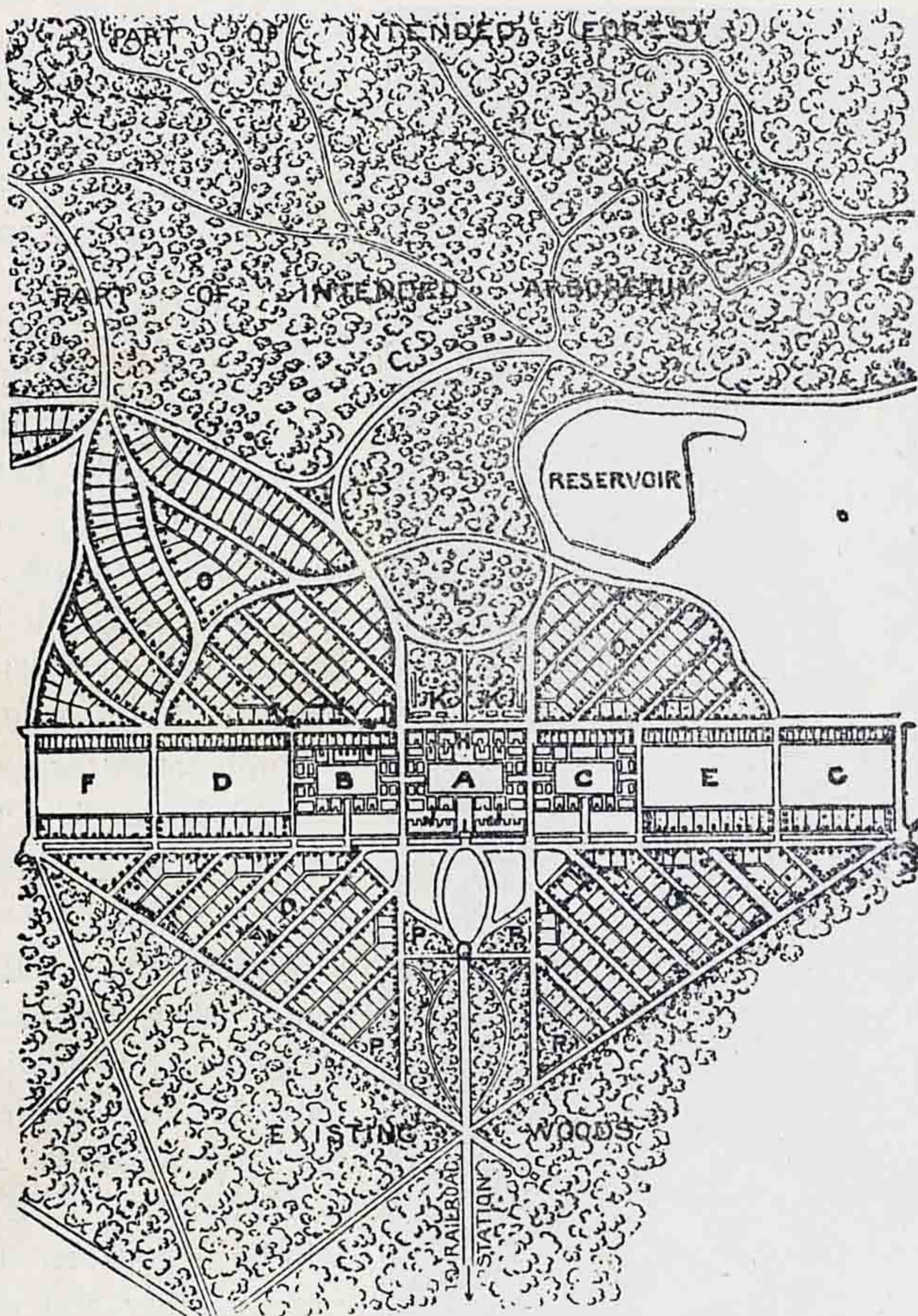


Fig. 79.—Plan of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University.

A: The central quadrangle, with buildings now partly under construction. **BC:** Sites for adjoining quadrangles, with proposed buildings. **DEFG:** Four blocks of land of form and extent corresponding to the above, to be held in reserve as sites for additional quadrangles and proposed buildings. **H:** Site for University Church. **I:** Site for Memorial Arch. **J:** Sites for University Libraries and Museums. **K:** Site for buildings of Industrial Department of the University, now partly under construction. **L:** Site for University Botanic Garden. **OOOO:** Four districts laid out in building lots suitable for detached dwellings and domestic gardens, with public ways giving direct communication between them and the University central buildings. **PPPP:** Sites for a Kinder Garten, a Primary School, an Advanced School and a School of Industry and Physical Training. **QR:** A direct Avenue between the central quadrangle and a proposed station of the Southern Pacific Railroad, with bordering groves and promenades. Space is allowed in the wheel way for a double track street railway.

gent thought and planning Senator Stanford and his advisers devoted to the building of the University. Believing as they did that beautiful surroundings and a wholesome environment were the first prerequisites to real education and character building, they retained the foremost American architects to

The ground covered by the upper portion of the sketch, and extending some miles beyond, is a part of the foothills of the coast range and is mainly rugged and semi-mountainous.

The remainder is a plain with a moderate inclination to the northeast. The central buildings of the University are to stand in the midst of the plain. This has been determined by the founders chiefly in order that no topographical difficulties need ever stand in the way of setting other buildings as they may, in the future, one after another, be found desirable, in eligible, orderly and symmetrical relation and connection with those earlier provided.

This point being fixed, the leading purpose of so much of the plan as is represented in the sketch is: First—to provide for convenient and economical use, by large numbers, of the means of research and instruction to be offered in the central buildings. Second—to provide, in the arrangements devised for this purpose, an outward character, suitable to the climate of the locality, that will serve to foster the growth of refined, but simple and inexpensive, tastes. Third—to favor the formation, in connection with the University, of a community, instructively representative of attractive and wholesome conditions of social and domestic life.

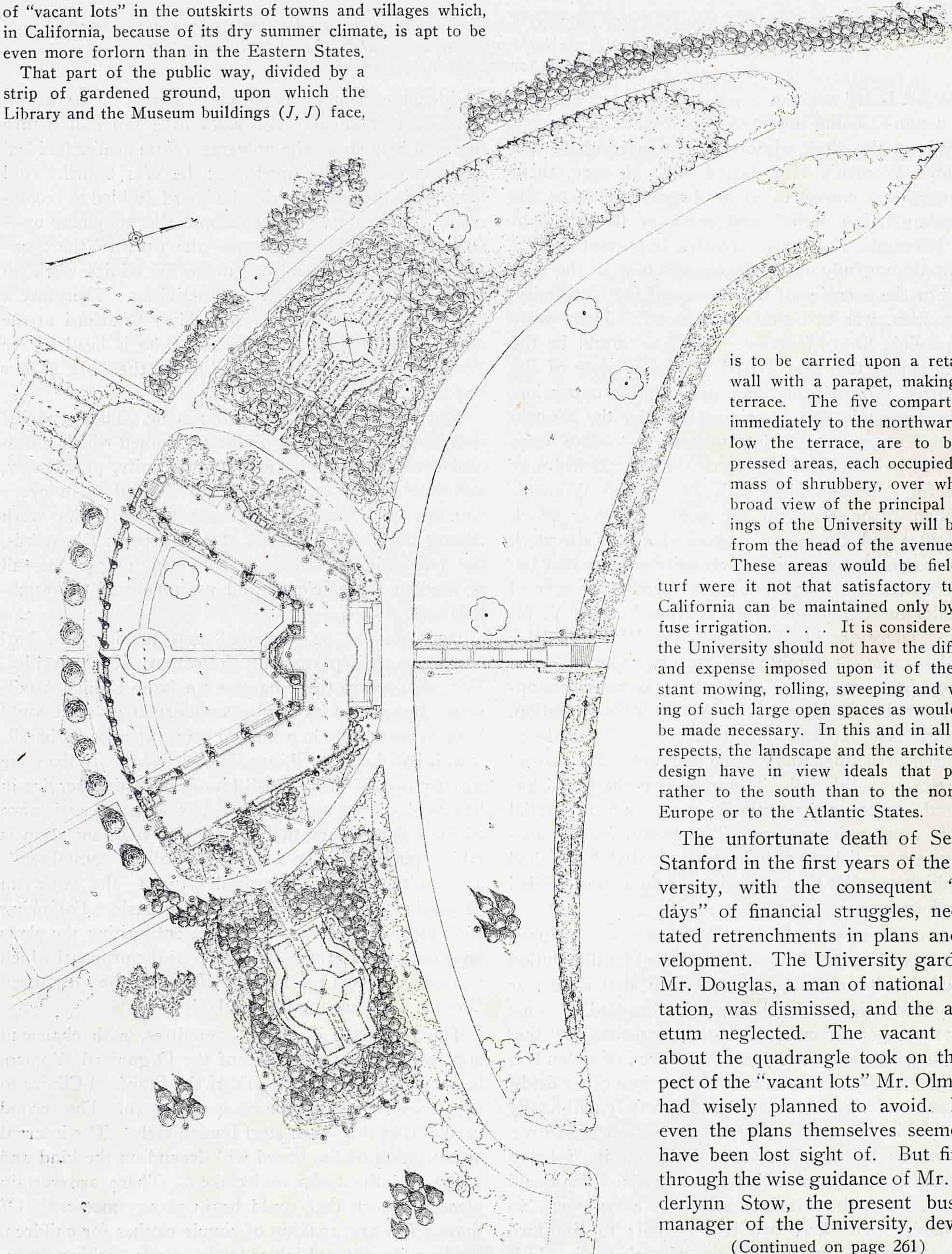
The four sides of the central quadrangle are to be formed by a continuous arcade of stone, eighteen feet in height, twenty feet in depth and 1,700 feet in length. Opening from the arcade are to be a series of structures for class-rooms, lecture-rooms, draughting-rooms and rooms for scientific investigation and instruction. Each of these is to be one high and airy story, and in all desirable cases to be provided with special arrangements for light and ventilation above as well as on its four sides. Of several reasons for limiting these structures to one story, the principal is, that in a building of two or more stories the necessity of providing on the lower for any cross partitions, or for the support of any considerable weight in the superstructures, has everywhere in older institutions been found to stand in the way of desirable revisions of interior plans. It is considered that anything thus likely to hinder the ready adoption in the future of new inventions or methods and conveniences for liberal education should be avoided.

The public streets are to have borders ten feet in breadth, planted with shade trees. These borders are to be graded and planted at once, and all land within the limits of the plan not to be presently occupied for some one of the purposes above stated is, as soon as practicable, to be closely planted. The plantations are to be afterwards thinned before they become crowded, and clearings are to be made among them, as, from time to time, space is wanted for buildings. Building sites not expected to be very soon occupied by buildings are also intended to be inclosed with hedges. By these two expedients

* From *Garden and Forest*, December 19, 1888.

it is hoped that the immediate surroundings of the University may be prevented from taking on at any point the usual aspect of "vacant lots" in the outskirts of towns and villages which, in California, because of its dry summer climate, is apt to be even more forlorn than in the Eastern States.

That part of the public way, divided by a strip of gardened ground, upon which the Library and the Museum buildings (J, J) face,



is to be carried upon a retaining wall with a parapet, making it a terrace. The five compartments immediately to the northward, below the terrace, are to be depressed areas, each occupied by a mass of shrubbery, over which a broad view of the principal buildings of the University will be had from the head of the avenue (Q).

These areas would be fields of turf were it not that satisfactory turf in California can be maintained only by profuse irrigation. . . . It is considered that the University should not have the difficulty and expense imposed upon it of the constant mowing, rolling, sweeping and watering of such large open spaces as would thus be made necessary. In this and in all other respects, the landscape and the architectural design have in view ideals that pertain rather to the south than to the north of Europe or to the Atlantic States.

The unfortunate death of Senator Stanford in the first years of the University, with the consequent "dark days" of financial struggles, necessitated retrenchments in plans and development. The University gardener, Mr. Douglas, a man of national reputation, was dismissed, and the arboretum neglected. The vacant areas about the quadrangle took on the aspect of the "vacant lots" Mr. Olmstead had wisely planned to avoid. Later even the plans themselves seemed to have been lost sight of. But finally, through the wise guidance of Mr. Vanderlynn Stow, the present business manager of the University, develop-

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MR. McLAREN'S PLAN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HILL

Where Rose and Bulb Gardens, Lawns and Shrubs will be started this Spring. The gardened court at the rear of the house overlooks Lagunita.

THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

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ment of the University grounds was seriously undertaken; and in 1916 the Board of Trustees, at the recommendation of President Wilbur, voted to develop the arboretum as originally planned. The Department of Botany was asked to cooperate with the landscape architect in furthering the scientific usefulness of the plantings.

Mr. John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park, was selected by Mr. Stow and the Board of Trustees as consulting landscape architect. No better man could have been found than Mr. McLaren, and Stanford will always owe a debt of gratitude to him, for he is giving the best possible service, and giving it gratuitously. Those of us interested in the scientific aspects of the arboretum are especially gratified over his selection, for Mr. McLaren has built up on a former sand waste the Golden Gate Park, not only one of the most beautiful parks of the world, but also the largest collection of evergreen trees and shrubs ever assembled.

Among the first steps that have been taken under the proposed plans, is the setting aside of the Lagunita tract, including the lake and the President's hill, as a part of the permanent parking system. This, it will be seen by the sketch, is following out the original Olmstead plan. A new reservoir is to be constructed near Searsville Lake, which will furnish many times the water now available. This should make it possible to keep Lagunita filled the year around, something very much needed for the summer quarter.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONOR McLAREN

On January 21st the Stanford Board of Trustees were hosts at a dinner at the Pacific Union Club in honor of Mr. John McLaren. This event was arranged as an expression of their appreciation of his services in helping to carry out the newly developed plans for improving the University grounds.

At Mr. Newhall's request, Mr. McLaren gave a brief account of his landscape gardening work in California. This began about 1874 when he laid out the avenues and directed the planting of trees on the bare hills which have since become the city of Burlingame. In the early days of Stanford he was consulted by Mr. Olmstead in drawing up the original ground plans pictured on a preceding page.

In 1876 he assumed the responsibilities of superintendent of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, a position he has held from then to the present day. His achievements there, as well as in planning and maintaining the wonderful gardens of the 1915 Exposition, are too well known to all lovers of the beauties of flowers and trees to need further description.

HERBERT HOOVER RECEIVES NEW HONORS

Among Americans honored by France, Herbert Hoover has been promoted to the rank of commander in the Legion of Honor. Another recent appreciation of his services to humanity is described in the following quotation from the *Engineering and Mining Journal* of January 18, 1919:

"Almost coincident with the news that Herbert C. Hoover has assumed the direction of the distribution of food supplies to the neutral and enemy people of Europe, comes the announcement that American engineers have recognized the services rendered to humanity by their fellow-engineer by making him the first recipient of the Washington Award.

"Two years ago, John W. Alvord, of Chicago, made a gift to the Western Society of Engineers to establish a prize which is to be given annually to some engineer, 'on account of accomplishments which have preëminently promoted the happiness, comfort, and well-being of humanity.' 'Almost all engineers serve the public directly or indirectly,' said Mr. Alvord, 'and it is one of the most important duties of engineering societies to point out to their membership and to the public such instances of engineering and administrative skill as seem to have unusual merit, in order that honor may be properly accorded where it is due.' The award of this prize is made by a board of seventeen engineers, of whom nine are chosen by the Western Society of Engineers and two by each of the four national societies.

"In the whole history of engineering one will search in vain to find a man who has rendered a greater service than has Herbert C. Hoover."

THOMAS WELTON STANFORD'S WILL

The University has received between \$500,000 and \$600,000 from the estate of the late Thomas Welton Stanford. An extract from the will follows:

". . . . As a special endowment of the said University and as a permanent fund which shall forever be kept intact, but the net income thereof shall be applied by the said University trustees wholly and exclusively to the following purpose: that is to say, the promotion of such education, learning, and general knowledge as may more directly assist or conduce to the general advancement or development of psychical or psychological science study or research; and I declare that the manner or mode of application to such purpose as aforesaid shall be such in all respects as the said University trustees, without requiring . . . instructions of a sectarian character or otherwise contravening any of the trusts of the said University, shall in their absolute and unfettered discretion from time to time determine."