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BOTANIC GARDENS IN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION¹

By C. STUART GAGER

DIRECTOR, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

ONE could hardly expect to find an intellectual climate more salubrious for discussing things botanical and horticultural than that of the environs of Swarthmore. It is located in the only state of our union that has any reference to plant life in its name.

Whether it was something in the name, "Penn's Woods," or something in the blood of the early settlers—or a combination of both—I am unable to say, but the fact remains that botanic gardens and arboreta just naturally came into being in this region like mushrooms after a rain, springing up here and there over a period of some 200 years.

The Rosierucians apparently came first with their medicinal plant garden on the banks of the Wissa-

hickon in the very first years of the eighteenth century. Then came, in succession, the botanic garden of Christopher Witt in Germantown, in 1708; Bartram's famous garden in 1728; Humphrey Marshall's garden at West Bradford in 1773; John Evans's arboretum, near Bryn Mawr, in 1828; the Painter Arboretum, established by Minshall Painter and his brother about 1835; William Darlington's arboretum, laid out as part of the public park at Westchester, about 1850; the old botanic garden of the University of Pennsylvania, initiated by Professor McFarland in 1892; and then the Arthur Hoyt Scott Foundation here at Swarthmore, beginning in 1928 and antedating by four years the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, which is the youngest offspring of botanical interest in this region.

¹ Founder's Day address, delivered at Swarthmore College on October 31, 1936.

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