

SHY WILD FLOWERS TO BE GIVEN HOSPICE

Section of Glenwood Park Has Been Set Aside for Use of Such Native Species as Are of Special Botanical Interest to Naturalists and Students.

Minneapolis youngsters are not to be allowed to grow up in total ignorance of the habits and customs of the dainty lady slipper, the shy fringed orchid, or the equally elusive wild calla. Representatives of these first families of Minnesota are to be induced to return to the city, to forget the past when a former generation of children treated them without mercy, and to find a home once more in the city. A certain portion of Minneapolis is to be reserved especially for them and, moreover, they are to live under police protection and the gray-coated park guardian will have something to say to anyone who attempts to infringe upon the freedom.

There was a time, and not so long ago, that some Minneapolis families could pluck these rare wild flowers almost from their back doors, but when too many people took a hand in the culling and the plucking became a massacre, the plants grew discouraged and disappeared. Every year they moved farther and farther from the city, until now anyone who wants to meet them in their own homes has to journey to Minnetonka or White Bear or some other secluded place to find them. The students of botany in the high schools and university grumbled at the time and distance and expressed a willingness to confine their study of these exclusive and retiring families to their text books. With noble self-sacrifice they were willing to deny themselves the privilege of hunting specimens.

For Student Benefit.

It was primarily for the students that the teachers of botany asked the park board to set aside a portion of Glenwood park for the exclusive use of such native wild flowers as like to live with their feet in the water, for the district is somewhat swampy. The lady slipper, pink and yellow, the wild calla, fringed orchid, sundew, pitcher plants, and other varieties which used to be as much at home in Minneapolis as the ever-present dandelion, are to be brought back and coaxed to find the new location satisfactory. The sundew and pitcher plants are insectivorous and several other members of a family which dines off small live things will be induced to join the colony.

Owner of Idea.

The idea of this native flower garden was first suggested by Miss Eloise Butler, a botany teacher of the Central high school. It was enthusiastically

taken up by the other teachers of the subject and the park board met them fully half way. Superintendent Wirth with Miss Butler and the other teachers spent the morning yesterday looking over the swamp section, planning foot-paths and stepping-stones, so that the garden might be visited without danger of a mud bath.

Work will begin at once. Indeed, some of the plants have already been transplanted, but wild flowers are shy things and the new botanical garden will not be at its best for a season or more. The public will be at liberty to enjoy this garden, which will supplement the text books for students, who will find a visit to Glenwood park a part of their regular work in botany, but the park policeman will "get you" if you attempt to carry away so much as a leaf.