

Sylvan Retreat from Bustle Of the City

OASIS AT SUNNYBANK SITUATED at Sunnybank, nine miles from Brisbane, and set amidst delightful sylvan surroundings, is The Oasis, a new retreat from the hurry and bustle of the city, and the home of Mrs. Mabel Pottinger and family.

FOR a period of 12 months, Mrs. Pottinger's two sons, Norman and Louis, have devoted their full time and labour to make the retreat attractive to visitors and tourists, and to say merely that they have achieved their objective would fall very far short of a true appreciation of their efforts. Beautiful lawns attractively laid out, with here and there beds of gaily coloured blooms, greet the visitor on entering the grounds from the road, whilst tall date palms lend a tropical touch.

PASSING through the fernery at the rear of the residence one comes to the swimming pool, a concrete bath none Help measuring 50 feet by 20 feet and varying in depth from two feet at the shallow end to seven feet under the springboard. Verdant lawns and flower beds surround the pool, and crazy coloured pavements and short concrete pillars provide the right atmosphere for a dip in the crystal-clear water. Incidentally the water for the pool comes from a sub-artesian bore sunk to a depth of 80 feet and reaches the bath per medium of an electrically operated pump. The same pump supplies the water for the garden pools and domestic purposes, whilst about 2,000 feet of piping irrigates the four acres of flower garden adjoining the pleasure rendezvous. A 200-candlepower lamp illuminates the pool for night bathing, and the dark green foliage of an adjoining orange grove contrasts strikingly with the dazzling whiteness of the concrete work.

Rustic Motif in Fernery THE fernery, in which are situated tea tables and chairs of rustic design, measures 100 feet square and has a nicely gravelled floor. The walls are of ti-tree saplings arranged in rustic design, and every conceivable fern, staghorn, and elkhorn combine to create an atmosphere of cool repose. Here in the fernery is a quaint little rock fishpond covered with water lilies and harbouring small ornamental fish of all the colours of the rainbow. At the rear entrance to the fernery is another pond, oval in shape, with flowering waterlilies covering its entire surface.

The garden is a paradise for birds and, in addition to those confined in the spacious aviaries, finches and other gaily plumaged small birds flit about the trees and shrubs, making the whole garden merry with their twitterings.

Coming to the aviaries themselves, the rustic motif is here again featured in their construction and multicoloured parrots and love birds disport themselves on the various perches and swings provided for their sport.

A pair of English pheasants, the male bird proudly displaying his beautiful tail, watch the antics of the parrots from the ground, whilst a Fijian parrot with a bright yellow bill seems to have many friends in this country.

Bright Flower Beds THE flower beds surrounding the aviaries are bright, with marigolds, carnations, zinnias, petunias and other blooms of beautiful and contrasting shades, a dwarf lantana hedge forming an attractive border for the beds themselves.

Perhaps the most novel feature in this garden of novelties is a beautiful waterlily pool with a small fountain at either end, spanned by an artistically constructed rustic bridge, and bordered by profuse blooms of a variety of flowers. The bridge makes a truly delightful picture with the two running

fountains, and the overflow from the pond empties into another pond where a variety of waterfowl will shortly disport themselves.

A hedge of bougainvillea completely surrounds the house and grounds and helps The Oasis to live up to the name chosen for it by its enterprising proprietress.