

has it earned anything like the revenue it could have done had it been put into a condition sufficient to restore it to its former favour and reputation. I understand steps are being taken to have this bath put in order during the off season. I would strongly recommend that this be done without delay, and that prospecting operations be undertaken to secure for the Baths Nos. 2, 4, and 6, as well as the Cadman Baths (in times of great demand), an adequate supply of hot mineral water.

WORKS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

No. 2 Bath.—For the further convenience of bathers all the settees in the two lounge-rooms of this building have been freshly cushioned, the passage has been laid with linoleum, curtains have been hung in front of each dressing-box, and in front of the cold shower the floor has been cut and gratings inserted, all of which has tended to brighten this old building and make it more presentable, comfortable, and useful to bathers.

No. 6 Bath.—In this bath-house also the floor in front of the shower has been cut and a grating inserted.

THE GROUNDS.

Bowling-green.—This green has been relevelled, top-dressed, and sown with fresh seed, but owing to not getting in the seed in the autumn, and to imperfect drainage, the grass was too young to hold through the season. The green gave great satisfaction during the early part of the season, but during the latter part it became very bare of grass in patches and far too wet, the water not getting away as freely as it should after a heavy shower of rain. Immediately following a spell of rainy weather last November, a considerable landslip took place on the high bank at the south-eastern corner of the green, seriously damaging the bank and a portion of the iron fence. Estimates have been furnished for removal of slip, and it will be necessary to put the work in hand at an early date. A set of thirty-two lockers has been supplied in the bowling-pavilion for the convenience and use of season-ticket holders, and for the use of which a small annual charge is made.

Croquet-lawn and Grass Tennis-court.—At the frequent requests of tennis-players and convalescents for a grass court, the Department has laid down a beautiful grass tennis-court, capable of accommodating simultaneously two sets of players. In conjunction with this work, and to provide still further for the amusement of the public, the Department has made an ample croquet-lawn which, as a level playing-ground, will vie for superiority with almost any bowling-green. These works have been ably carried out under the supervision of the Department's Te Aroha head gardener, Mr. Dalton, at the moderate outlay of £90.

General.—The Domain grounds hitherto have had to rely largely upon unassisted nature for their beauty, and in consequence there has been a sad lack in variety of colour. In order to remedy this, a long flower-border has been made, running parallel with the street frontage of the Domain property, which will doubtless next season add much to the beauty of the already picturesque grounds, it being the object to make the surroundings of the Domain as pleasing to the eye as its waters are beneficial to the body. The terrace roadway has been still further levelled and given a good layer of sand. The grade of the slopes has been made slightly easier in order to facilitate mowing. At the north-east end of the terrace a good substantial gate has been placed opening on to Koromiko Street, capable of admitting vehicular traffic. When the Borough Council completes the formation and grading of Wilson Street, the terrace will form part of a very pretty circular drive through the grounds.

The track leading up to the top of Bald Spur, which was much overgrown, has been cleared and put into fair repair, thus adding largely to the enjoyment of visitors who climb the hill to view the beauties of the surrounding country.

REQUIREMENTS *re* STAFF.

The following have been added to the staff during the year: Head gardener, one male and one female bath-attendant. The head gardener has already shown his worth, and I have no doubt that the bath-attendants will in like manner justify their appointment. The staff is not yet up to full strength, as the following requirements still remain: One male and two female bath-attendants (permanent), one laundry-maid, one additional garden hand (permanent), and one qualified nurse. I respectfully submit that the surgical and medical work done during the past year more than warrants the appointment of the last-named official, and I feel sure that with her assistance the revenue earned under the heading "Out-patients' fees" would be very considerably increased.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

A number of the recommendations contained in last year's report have not yet been carried out. I will, therefore, recapitulate them:—

- (a.) Repairs to cold-water swimming-bath.
- (b.) Alterations to Domain office buildings.
- (c.) Improvements to No. 1 Ladies' Bath.
- (d.) Formation of a vapour bath.
- (e.) Painting existing buildings.
- (f.) Formation of douche baths.
- (g.) Formation of electric and Tallerman baths.
- (h.) Prospecting for hot mineral water.

In addition to the foregoing, I would strongly recommend the following as being necessary for the proper equipment of Te Aroha:—

(i.) *Springs Nos. 20 and 21.*—These springs are situated on the side of a hill in a somewhat loose marshy formation. The result is that in wet weather they are always flooded with surface-