In the Gardens of Nippon

Where every tree and shrub and flower has an especial significance. The story of an Oriental garden is a more complex matter than the interpretation of an opera or a painting, for it derives its theme from legend and from myth.

Showing part of a private garden, its natural, irregular shaped lagoon and the little peninsula adding much to the beauty of the landscape. The stone lantern, white in color, is symbolic of purity, while the pergola in the distance represents originality.

Spring in Japan is advanced and the children are already enjoying the out-of-door life. The white blossoms on the opposite bank are plum blossoms in full bloom. They begin to flower in January, under the snow, and are the pioneers of the "Flowery Kingdom." In the background are pine trees, signifying an everlasting life and growth. Both pines and plum blossoms are used in all New Year and wedding ceremonies.

Cultivated peonies blooming in wonderful splendor and profusion in the month of November. It is not unusual to find peonies sixteen inches in diameter in Japan. The light roof above them, made of straw, is for protection against the frost.

Geisha, or dancing girls, dressed in their finery, on the way to the tea house. The rustic gate through which they are passing is of a type very common in Japan.

The maids and waitresses of the tea house. No Japanese estate is complete without a tea house, and always an effort is made to build these along the most informal lines. Note the rude stone steps and flowered embankment.

The famous wistaria in season, at Kameido-Tenjin, Tokio. Tea parties under the long and beautifully clustered tassels are very fashionable among the society ladies of Nippon.

A pretty spot on a lagoon containing lilies. In the distance are seen pine trees and cameria, while Japanese iris skirts the water's edge.