and Austrian Pines has also joined the new horticultural features with the old and at the same time provided an efficient shelter belt. Plants which have become established in the garden include *Lysichitum americanum,* one of the North American Skunk Cabbages, which has large buttercup yellow spathes in early April, followed by large leaves during the summer months. The rock garden is constructed in millstone grit and the introduction of water has been accomplished to create a most natural effect. The garden also features a fine background display of Rhododendrons and in the woodland setting surrounding the rock garden is a varied collection of dwarf shrubs, Heaths, ground cover plants, Primulas and Meconopsis. The Whirlow Brook residence was formerly occupied by Sir Walter Benton Jones, the renowned Sheffield Industrialist, and is now a first class restaurant which is open for service throughout the year during park hours, and is a favourite spot for weekend wedding receptions.

A further gift, on lands adjoining Whirlow Brook Park, is **(9) Whinfell Quarry Gardens,** which were presented in 1968 by James Neill Holdings Limited, as a memorial to Sir Frederick Neill, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., who lived at Whinfell for thirty-one years and was the first High Sheriff of Hallmashire. This garden was constructed at the turn of the century in the remains of a disused quarry. The Scots Pines, Spruce, Birch, Elm and Beech, planted for shelter at that time, have now become well established and by their considerable growth have accentuated the apparent depth of the quarry and at the same

time provided invaluable shelter. Bankings of Rhododendrons are relieved by well sited specimens of Weeping Beech, Western Hemlock, Deodars, Cedars and Japanese Maples, apart from a recently introduced collection of over 200 species and cultivars of trees, shrubs and alpines. The Chilean Rhubarb *(Gunnera manicata)* is a feature of two ponds, and many plants, borderline in the district, can grow most happily at Whinfell. A visit during April-June will be rewarding if the most colourful spectacle is the aim, but there is something of interest in flower, fruit, berry and foliage throughout the year. To visit the gardens either enter by the gate adjoining Fenny Lane, adjacent to the Brookside Cottages at the main entrance to Whirlow Brook Park, or enter from the Round Walk path across the link path which starts at the end of the lower lake.

Walk through Whirlow Brook Park to Whirlow Bridge. Cross the main road. The route now enters **(10) Ryecroft Glen** and continues parallel with **(11) Whirlow Playing Fields,** with facilities for cricket and football. Proceed down the Glen and through the western sector of **(12) Ecclesall Woods,** which extend to 123·5 ha. The woodland was formerly owned by The Earl Fitzwilliam and was officially opened as a public open space by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary on the 23rd August 1928. A temporary amphitheatre was formed in the woods and a band concert and children's choir performance were arranged for this special occasion. Among the trees and undergrowth of Ecclesall Woods, near to Abbey Lane, stands a link with the city's

past—a gravestone erected in memory of one of the early charcoal makers. A single slab of stone, about 3 feet high, it is protected by iron railings and on the stone is cut "In memory of George Yardley, wood collier, he was burnt to death in his Cabbin on this place, 11th October, 1786." The inscription is followed by four names—William Brooke, salesman; David Glossop, Gamekeeper; Thomas Smith, besom-maker; and Samuel Brookshaw, Innkeeper. Yardley, apparently, was a wood collier, a charcoal maker. He was one of the men, usually from the east end of Sheffield who bought wood, made charcoal from it and sold it to the steelworks. The sticks were built into a long stack, circular in form and narrowing at the top. They were covered with grass sods and slowly burned. One of the most important factors was the timing. The fires were lit on Sunday to enable the wood to be converted into charcoal by the following Friday or Saturday when the men could be sure of payment from the steelworks. Charcoal burners could be found in Ecclesall Woods in the early years of this century and their cabins remained intact until comparatively recently. The four men who caused the stone to be raised have been identified—Brookshaw, the innkeeper, kept the Rising Sun; Brooke, the salesman, it is believed, sold the wood to the burners; the gamekeeper would know Yardley from his patrols in the area; and the besom-maker made his long brooms near the cabin.

In 1929 the Parks Committee agreed that an area of 17 ha at Ecclesall Woods be reserved as a Bird Sanctuary and with the aid of local

eminent ornithologists during the intervening years the Bird Sanctuary was formed and maintained and surveys of the bird species, both resident and migrant, have been submitted to the Recreation Committee for information. It is interesting to note in a report submitted just prior to the formation of the sanctuary that 41 species were breeding in the area of which 30 were resident and remained throughout the year, and the remaining 11 were summer migrants. The latest report of the sanctuary, which also includes the nearby Beauchief Dam, records 61 species. The management of the bird sanctuary is being undertaken in conjunction with the assistance of the Sorby Natural History Society, the Sheffield Museums Department and the Sheffield Conservation Committee.

The Woods contain a wealth of wild flowers and during the recent survey 56 varieties were noted. In springtime the woodland is carpeted in bluebells. Hardwoods predominate, including Oak, Hollies, Birch, Elms and the are some fine specimens of Common Beech and Sweet Chestnut.

Continue through the Woods to Abbeydale Road South. On reaching this point a short diversion to see the **(13) Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet** may prove worthwhile. This comprises an 18th century scythe works and workmen's cottages, which have been restored to form a Museum of Sheffield industry under the control of Sheffield Libraries and Arts Committee. The site is probably unique in that it is possible to trace the manufacture of a steel edge-tool from the raw materials to the finished product. Also

preserved here is an early furnace for producing steel in crucibles of the type developed by Benjamin Huntsman about 1742; the invention of such a furnace laid the foundations for the production of high quality steel for which Sheffield is world-famous. The restoration work to the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet has been carried out by the Council for the Conservation of Sheffield Antiquities, in liaison with Sheffield City Council, and assisted to an appreciable extent by funds resulting from a public appeal; the work was completed during 1969. **(14) Millhouses Park** (on Abbeydale Road South, close to Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet) may also be considered worthy of a visit. This park 12·5 ha in extent, was acquired in 1909, part of the site being presented to the city by the Earl Fitzwilliam. Recreation facilities include 2 bowling greens, 9 tennis courts (one marked out for basket ball), a children's paddling stream, boating lake and playground, an open air swimming pool, a cricket ground (used by Millhouses Cricket Club), a putting green, and a park cafe. For children and young people this is one of the most popular of the city's parks. Hutcliffe Wood and Ecclesall Wood form a delightful surround.

Returning from Millhouses Park to the route of the Round Walk, continue along Abbeydale Road South. passing the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, **(15) Beauchief Garden** will be noticed. This small garden with stone-flagged paths, spilling troughs, step-ways, flower beds and rockeries has floral interest at all seasons.

Proceed along Abbeydale Road South until Twentywell Lane is reached on the left. Turn up this Lane and take the footpath on the left immediately above the railway bridge. This is the entrance to **(16) Ladies Spring Wood**—area 13·7 ha—acquired by the Corporation in 1931. The Nature Conservancy declared Ladies Spring Wood in 1954 as an area of special scientific interest for natural history. This wood is an extremely well-preserved example of a natural Pennine oakwood on slopes with acid soils but with an alluvial valley bottom giving a much richer vegetation type, making it highly valued for the teaching of ecology. Walk through the wood, skirting Beauchief Golf Course, to Beauchief Abbey Drive. A few yards to the right is the site of the Recreation

Department's recently developed tree and shrub nursery which supplies a considerable quantity of the planting material for city landscaping. This is not open to the public. Turn left down Beauchief Abbey Drive to **(17) Beauchief Abbey.** The Abbey is scheduled as a ancient monument and, together with the grounds, was presented to the city in 1931 by Messrs. F. & F. M. Crawshaw; it is controlled by the City Council (Estates) with the help of the Beauchief Abbey Committee. Founded by Robert Fitz-Ranouldh, Lord of Alfreton, Norton and Marneham, between 1172 and 1176, Beauchief Abbey was dedicated to Saint Thomas à Beckett and opened for the reception of an Abbot and Canons about 1183. The tower of the Abbey as it now stands is part of the western tower of the original building. At one time the Abbey covered 0·4 ha of ground and its