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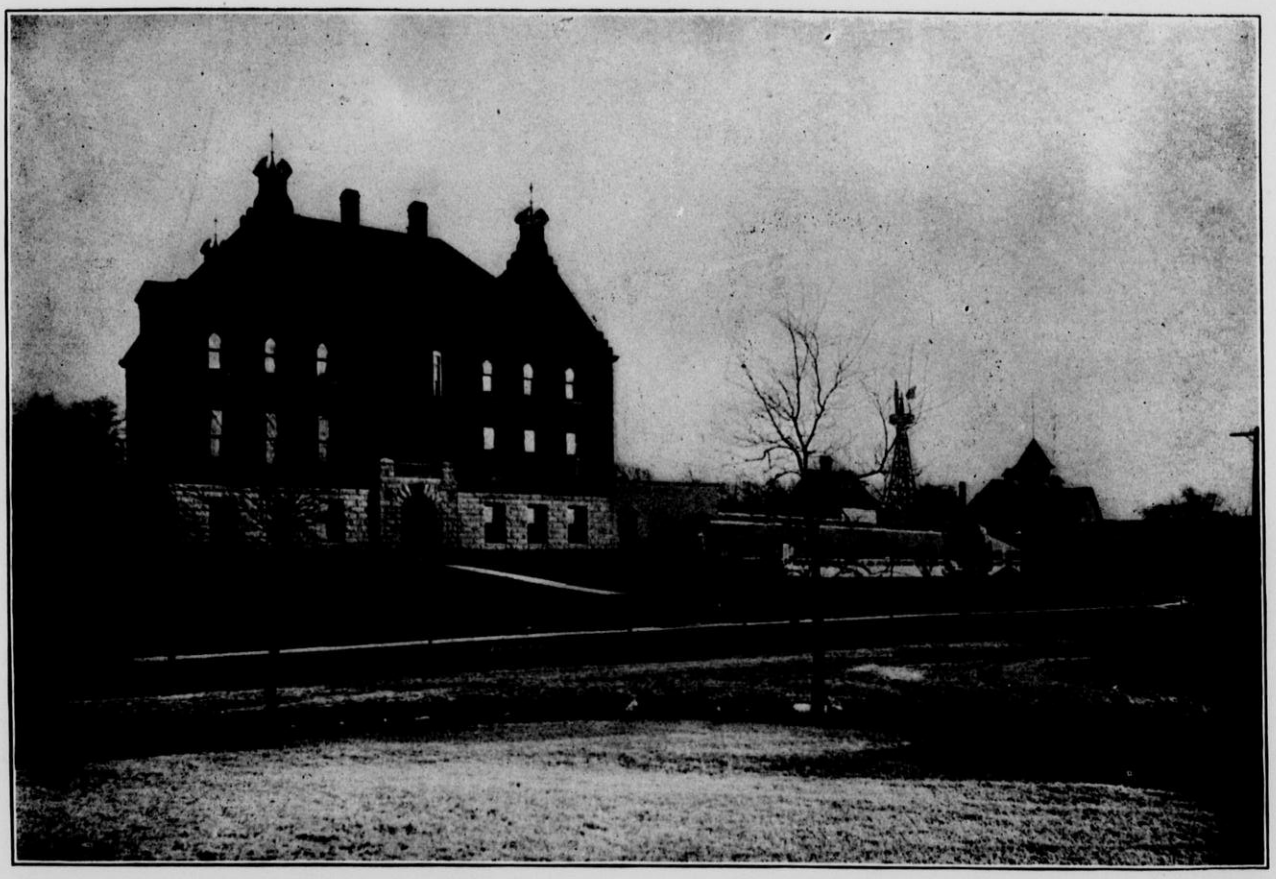

Horticultural Hall, Minnesota School of Agriculture.—Courtesy of Minnesota Horticulturist.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. V. MAY. NO. 3

OFFICERS OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1900.

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HORTICULTURAL HALL, STATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, ST. ANTHONY PARK, MINN.

This handsome structure, intended for the use of horticulture and botany at the Minnesota School of Agriculture and State Experiment Station, has just been completed and was occupied on Jan. 1, 1900.

The need for this building has been felt for some years, but it was only a year ago that the state legislature made the necessary appropriation for its construction. The building cost $32,000, and the balance of the $35,000 appropriated was spent in equipment.

Its location on the south slope of the hill upon and around which are grouped the various buildings of the school, gives a fine view from its front and makes it a conspicuous and pleasing object even from points some miles away.

It consists of the main building, an annex for a green-

house, laboratory, a machine shed, about 4,000 feet of glass, and a good nursery cellar. The main building is 50x80 feet, and three stories high. Since the heat for it comes entirely from a central main plant, there is no space used for a separate heating plant in the building. One-half the first floor is used for dress-making and sewing, and the other portion is used mainly for a class-room for mathematics and English. The main floor is used for a horticultural class-room, laboratories and offices. The third floor is used for botany and physics. The greenhouse laboratory is 26x50 feet, is one story in height, has a tiled floor, and is lighted from overhead. The machine shed is 20x80 feet. It is used for the exhibition of machinery which is sent to the Horticultural Division for study, and is in effect a machine museum. The nursery cellar is 20x50 feet, is well ventilated and nicely adapted for its purposes. There are two greenhouses, each of which is about 20x110 feet, divided into two parts, so that the temperature of each part can be controlled separately. The facilities in this building are such that we have now perhaps the best horticultural building to be found in this country.

We now have room to take care of the large number of students which seek admittance to the classes here. This term the classes in horticulture numbered 118 students in one class and 60 in the other. The special feature which the new building will give us and which we hope to develop is what is known as "greenhouse laboratory work," and this is well provided for; and we think that with the increased attention that will be given to it, it will become a very important feature of the school work. This work consists in practice by the students of seed sowing, transplanting, the growing of plants by cuttings and grafting, the packing of nursery stock, pollination, testing of seeds, the making of Bordeaux mixture and grafting wax, and similar horticultural operations.—The Minnesota Horticulturist.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

We advise potting young chrysanthemums, when received from the florist, in small pots, and shifting to larger ones as soon as the roots have filled the soil. But, as a general thing, this advice is only half taken. The amateur takes the first half, but neglects to give the shift advised when it is needed, and the consequence is the plants become root-bound and receive a check from which they seldom fully recover. My experience with the chrysanthemum has convinced me that three things are to be guarded against if one would grow this plant well: NEVER ALLOW THE PLANTS TO BECOME ROOT-BOUND; NEVER LET THEM DRY OUT AT THE ROOTS; AND NEVER LET THEM SUFFER FOR FOOD. Any one of these will result in poor plants. If you would have a steady development of them from spring to fall, they must be shifted to allow for root growth; they must be always watered well, and they must have plenty of rich food. These attentions given, anyone can grow them, and grow them well.—Eben E. Rexford, in Vick's Magazine for May.

ROSE SLUGS AND ROSE BUGS.

The Rose slugs bothered me four years ago, but I got white hellebore, made a wash of it in the proportion of one ounce of hellebore to two gallons of water, syringed my bushes just as the leaves were coming out, and then sprinkled some of the dry powder over them. Believe I did it twice the first year, but only once the next, and last year, merely went out one morning after a heavy dew, and sprinkled them with dry powder (I use an old pepper box for sprinkling). I have not seen a slug since I first used the hellebore. The Rose bugs are a nuisance, but as they pay no attention to washes of any kind, or anything but my fingers, I use the latter to put them in their place, which is not on my roses. S. M. BARBER.

Foxboro', Mass.

WHALE OIL SOAP.

I have found this soap to be a most effectual destroyer of worms and insects on plants and in the earth. For slugs on rosebushes, and all the numerous enemies of the Rose, it is certain death.

The plants should be showered with a weak solution. That which falls upon the ground will be useful in enriching the soil and killing whatever worms may be there.

The soap should be prepared for use by dissolving a small bit of the same in a quart or two of boiling water, then adding as much cold soft water as necessary. If a leaf will turn brown in the liquid, it shows it to be too strong.

N. S.

[Editor's Note.—The formula for Whale Oil Soap solution is two pounds of soap to fifteen gallons of water.]

GARDEN THOUGHTS.

Arbor day teaches, for one thing, that it is better to plant and care for a tree than to destroy it. A much needed lesson.

In the best flower cultivation a narrow rake is used in place of a hoe for keeping weeds down. That is, the surface is so frequently stirred as to give the weed no chance. Rake tillage is delightful. It not only tends to good appearance of the beds, but it permits plant growth and also soil moisture, by preventing rapid evaporation.—From Vick's Magazine for May.

SYRINGA JAPONICA.

Prof. Green of the Minnesota Experiment Station reports that at the Station (St. Anthony's Park, Minn.) this beautiful Japan lilac is hardy. It came through the severe winter of 1898-99 unharmed. Its loose, graceful panicles of creamy-white flowers are sometimes more than a foot long. Unfortunately it is slow about coming into flower; those who plant it must wait patiently.

THE SURPRISE PLUM.

In the paper on "Orcharding" which Mr. S. H. Marshall read at the winter meeting, he spoke of the Surprise plum, which he saw in fruit last Fall at the Minnesota Experiment Station: "It is without doubt the greatest domestic plum I have seen yet, so far ahead of the others that there is no comparison. The tree seems vigorous and tough, while the fruit is abundant, of good flavor, very large, splendid color, flesh firm and pit small, in fact almost an ideal plum."

SOME THINGS LEARNED IN FORTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE AS AN ORCHARDIST IN WISCONSIN.

A. G. Tuttle, Baraboo, Wis.

That the extreme and long continued cold of some of our winters and the excessive heat of the summer sun, with a dry atmosphere, are the main causes of injury.

That the best grounds for orchard planting are the elevated, well drained clay lands.

That we should plant nothing less hardy than the Duchess of Oldenburg.

That trees should be trained with bodies from four to six feet according as their manner of growth is upright or spreading.

That the bodies of the trees should be protected from the summer sun.

That the orchard should be cultivated in some hoed crop; neither merchantable fruit nor healthy trees can be grown with trees only in the sod.

That it is necessary to wage continued war against insect enemies, and that they are more destructive in sodded than in cultivated ground.

BLACKBERRY CULTIVATION.

In the cultivation of the blackberry, surface tillage should be begun early in the spring if we preserve the water. If plowed early, a spring toothed cultivator should be run through the plants every week, especially after a rain, before the soil bakes. After the crop is harvested one cultivation is given to loosen up the ground, which has been tramped down by the pickers; say, about the middle or last of August. Frequent light cultivations are the best, because the weeds never get a chance to grow, and little hoeing is necessary. If a patch becomes foul with thistles or other weeds it is best to mow it over, plow it up thoroughly and crop with corn for a season. Suckers will come up among the corn stalks and along the rows, and the next year the planting will be completely renewed. Stable manure is the popular fertilizer, although if the tillage is good, nitrogen will scarcely be needed, so that potash and phosphoric acid can be applied.

Yields and profits.—The year after the planting the yield should pay the cost up to that time, the third year should give a large crop, and since there seems to be no limit of the profitable age of a blackerry plantation, every good year should give a good crop thereafter. Of course, a plantation will not endure when the land becomes hard and foul or the plants full of dead and diseased wood. A crop of 200 bushels an acre year after year is possible unless unfavorable seasons intervene. With good varieties well cared for, the blackberry is one of the most profitable of small fruits, but the golden harvest only comes to those who work for it and think while they work.—Cornell Bulletin, No. 99.

A young man doesn't have to attend an agricultural school to sow wild oats.—Philadelphia Record.

FEED THE BERRY PLANTS.

One of the main reasons we have poor small berries is because we do not supply sufficient plant food. There may be plenty of plant food in the soil but some of it is leached down out of reach and some of it is unavailable early in the season. The plant stores up nourishment the preceding season to do some of the early spring developing, but there should be quite a large surplus supply of available plant food within easy reach of the plant while it is growing and maturing its crop of fruit, if we want extra berries, and only such will make us a profit. I find it profitable to broadcast early in the spring, when the growth has fairly started about 400 pounds per acre of the following mixture: 80 pounds Nitrate Soda, 200 pounds Sulphate Potash and 100 pounds Super phosphate.

The nitrate of soda is immediately available and will force the plant growth and make a good foliage which is necessary to elaborate the fruit later.

The super phosphate and potash will help to develop a high colored, solid fruit. I prefer to use the high grade potash and super phosphate, as in that form it is more readily available. Of course if we neglected the plants last season and they are poor and weak, not much can be expected at best but I can always very readily grow extra plants by the use of stable manure on a good one year clover sod and superior tillage but to grow choice fruit I can very profitably use chemicals. I often see growers use fertilizers unwisely. They often apply a very heavy quantity at planting time with a large per cent. of nitrogen and grow a lusty crop of vines, but when fruiting time comes there is not enough plant food available to mature the crop and what looks very promising at blooming time often results in a very inferior crop of fruit, much of it never coming to maturity. A good heavy mulch to preserve the moisture is also of great importance as the plant cannot take its food unless it has plenty of water to take it in.—L. W. Lighty, in the Strawberry Culturist.

DEATH TO THE CURRANT WORM.

In the beautiful "long ago" everybody could have currants, even the idle and the improvident. Our forefathers had planted the bushes and their descendants had only to gather the fruit. If there were any currant worms in those days, the early bird must have caught them.

But in these modern times "eternal vigilance" is the price of currants. No sooner has the young leaf unfolded than the green aphis or plant louse begins to suck its juices. A few days later the leaves are attacked by another enemy, the currant worm. Be on the alert for this worm,—a week's negligence may cause the loss of your entire crop of currants.

The worm is very small at first and is always found on the under side of the leaf, his earliest onslaught being on leaves near the ground. THE TIME TO KILL HIM IS IN HIS BABYHOOD. If the worms are allowed to reach maturity the attempt to rid the bushes of them is almost a hopeless task. Their growth is very rapid, hence delay is dangerous.

When the first tiny worms appear—which will be about the fifteenth of May, or a day or two earlier—apply white hellebore powder to the bushes.

If you have merely a few bushes in the garden the powder may be applied dry, using an old tin box with a perforated cover. Apply when the bushes are wet with dew, and be sure to reach the under side of the leaves. Prof. Goff, Horticulturist at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, in his book, "Principles of Plant Culture," says the hellebore powder will adhere to the foliage better if diluted with once or twice its bulk of flour.

Where there are many bushes the hellebore is best applied as a spray. The formula is one pound of the powder to one barrel of water, or one ounce to two gallons of water. Mix the hellebore into a paste by gradually stirring

into it a small quantity of water; when the paste is perfectly smooth gradually add the remainder of the water, stir well and immediately apply to the bushes with a spray pump. Be sure that the spray reaches the under side of the leaves. Do not mix more than you can use at once.

If you have but few bushes a watering can will answer in lieu of a spray pump.

See that your hellebore is fresh; it loses strength with age. To quote again from "Principles of Plant Culture:" "If fresh and pure the powder will produce a tingling sensation when applied to the nostrils."

M. C. C. J.

THE MARGARET STRAWBERRY.

"Big berries when well nursed" seems to be the record of this variety. It is said to have produced, under high culture, berries as large as a good-sized lemon.

We have not fruited it yet, but the plants which we have raised are large and vigorous.

M. Crawford of Ohio says of this variety:

"It is a good, healthy grower and a great bearer. Its season is medium to very late, and its vigor is such that the last berries are usually brought to perfection, and plenty of strong runners produced at the same time. The fruit is usually conical, sometimes rather long, but not misshapen; color, dark glossy red, not inclined to have white tips; flesh firm and of excellent flavor. The Margaret took the first prize at the Boston Strawberry show. Mr. E. C. Davis, of Massachusetts, considers it the finest variety in the world. It is especially adapted to high culture, but has not generally proven of wonderful merit under ordinary culture."

THE SAMPLE is a new and much lauded berry. It is imperfect flowering, is said to be similar to Bubach in quality and firmness, but darker in color; is especially recommended for canning.

AMATEUR MELON CULTURE.

Years ago the writer, when but a lad scarce in his teens, used to take delight in growing delicious melons for the family's use. My father's farm, which was composed of various kinds of soil, had some ten acres of sandy chestnut land. This was kept very rich by frequent applications of good manure, so that splendid crops of every sort could be raised on it. A little patch was set aside each year for popcorn and melons, and by careful cultivation and keeping the bugs off, we could raise a fine lot of them.

A few years later my father sold the old farm, and purchased another near Auburn, N. Y. This farm was composed of rich clay loam, and we looked in vain for even a small piece of warm sand for our melon patch; after a few unsuccessful attempts to grow the melons on the loamy soil, we gave up in despair. But my liking for the delicious vine fruit never grew less; and finally, when I had a farm and children of my own, the thought suggested itself—why not remove some earth and substitute rich sand for the melon hill?

Two years ago I tried this as an experiment, and from a little patch of ground, one rod wide by two rods long, was raised more melons than the family could eat during their season. We gave melons to our friends, and the boys came "a-cooning" and helped us to eat a few of them; and just before the hard frost came, the children went out and filled an average sized democrat wagon-box one melon deep, and put them in the cellar. We had melons to eat at intervals as they ripened (for some were yet unripe) until Christmas, when the last one was eaten. The past year was our second of experimenting in melon growing. We did not water them, as we had done the year before, with liquid manure, and as the year was dry our melons were smaller, but they were none the less sweet, and we had more than we could eat, and put enough in the cellar to

last until Thanksgiving. Last year we put rotted manure in the hill, but this dried out and was an injury to the vines.

The coming year we are to try a little different method. We will get our sand (we draw a wagon-load from a sandy locality some three miles away) early, and thoroughly mix some refuse from beneath the horse stable through the sand a few weeks previous to planting, using care not to get too much of the ammoniated refuse from beneath the stable in our melon-hill soil. Melon roots need a loose, sandy soil that will not become baked and hard. The earth about the hill should be frequently stirred with the hoe or manure fork and the cultivator kept at work among them to assist in retaining moisture. Then water at night occasionally during very dry weather. We dig a hole large enough to hold 8 or 10 quarts and fill with sand. We make the hill in which the melons are planted level with the ground about it. We soak our melon seed one night in warm water, and this starts them, so that should the ground and weather become cold and wet, the seeds will not fail to vegetate. Otherwise they often rot, unless the soil is warm and moist. Old seed will grow when thus soaked.

I would say, in conclusion, that the sand should be from the surface and not from a sand pit; and the richer the sand, the better and larger the melons.—Country Gentleman.

SOIL FOR CAULIFLOWER.

A deep, moist, clay soil is the best for cauliflower, although good crops can be grown on any good garden soil, says Vick's. I cover the ground two or three inches deep with stable manure, and plow it in. Then harrow and furrow two and one-half feet apart. If I have well rotted manure, I scatter it in the furrow, and mix it with the soil with the cultivator; or, if the manure is not at hand, I set

the plants and in a few days apply around them a little commercial fertilizer that is rich in nitrogen. Vegetables of which the leaves or stalks are the edible parts need plenty of nitrogen in an available form. The plants are transplanted at different times from May until June. Cauliflower plants from the hotbed should not be set too early, unless they are well hardened, for they are more easily injured by frosts than cabbages. I do the most of the cultivation with the wheel hoe and horse cultivator.

To insure success in a dry season, one must have some means of irrigation. I have now irrigating works in my market garden, so that I may be prepared for drouths when they come. The plants should not stop growing at any time, hence the importance of irrigating them during a drouth.

OUR PARIS EXHIBIT.

The exhibit of United States Division of Forestry for the Paris Exposition is now complete and on the way to Paris. It will be one of the most novel of the Government exhibits and will be wholly distinct from the commercial features of lumbering to be shown in another department.

The display will be in the form of a hall or pagoda, the walls of which consist of large transparencies illustrating American forest conditions. These walls will be double and illuminated by interior electric lights. The pictures range in size from 3 by 5 feet to 4 by 6 feet. There will be two transparencies 6 by 10 feet portraying groves of Red Fir and California Big trees, two of the most impressive American trees.

A point will be made of the relation of forestry to agriculture, and such subjects as protective forests, the use of trees in preserving water supply, the management of woodlands, etc., are fully illustrated. The extent of the timber resources of the United States will be shown by pictures from all important lumber regions. The distribution of

forests will be shown by maps. Twenty of the most important American woods will be represented by sections of trees.

VEGETABLES IN EDUCATION.

City boys and girls who never have seen growing cabbages, pumpkins, corn, potatoes, spinach and other garden produce soon may have an opportunity to supply the deficiency in their education. The School Teachers' Club asked the West Park Board to set aside three or four acres in one of the parks where vegetables may be raised by the school children. Frank E. Tremain is at the head of the movement. The teachers think this will be a great advantage for young children, who think that grasshoppers make grass and that butterflies make butter. There are many children, they say, who believe that potatoes grow on bushes and who do not know whether watermelons come from the water works or grow on trees. Yet these same children can find the common denominator of things and recite the multiplication table up to seven times seven.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

APPLE BARRELS.

Cooperage houses say that there is so much uncertainty about this trade that they never know how to prepare for it. Storms may come, and cut down what promised to be a large crop. Made-up barrels are hard to store, and expensive to ship any great distance; the sizes vary also. At one time small barrels were used for apples in New York State, but by a recent law, they must be of the same size as flour barrels. If many barrels are needed, the cheapest way is to get the shooks from some large dealer in cooperage stock, and have a local cooper put them together. This makes a big saving in freight. It would not pay, however, for a farmer to try to put up the barrels himself, unless he had learned the trade.—Exchange.

POULTRY RAISING TAUGHT IN COLLEGE.

At the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Kingston a special course in poultry culture began on January 9 and continued for four weeks.

Nearly forty applications for enrollment for the course were received, but, owing to limited accommodations, the class had to be kept down to about twenty in number. Several who could not take this course enrolled their names for the next one in 1900.

It is a curious fact that even poultry raising has been thought worthy of a special course in an agricultural college.—Scientific American.

POISON IN WILD CHERRY LEAVES.

Instances having been brought to the notice of the directors of the New Hampshire College Agricultural Experiment Station of cattle presumably fatally poisoned by prussic acid from eating wild cherry leaves, the subject has been investigated by Fred W. Morse and Charles D. Howard. Five species of wild cherry grow in New Hampshire, of which the red cherry and the horse plum are not regarded as dangerous, and the dwarf cherry has not been examined, but is strongly suspected. The wild black cherry is the most noxious species, and the chokecherry is not far behind it. The poisonous principle in these cherries is hydrocyanic or prussic acid, which, however, does not exist in the leaves as such, but is derived from the amygdalin they contain. The popular opinion that only the wilted leaves are specially dangerous is not borne out. The authors found both wilted and fresh leaves poisonous, and the dried leaves worthy to be regarded with suspicion. Vigorous, succulent leaves from young shoots, which are the ones most likely to be eaten by cattle, are far more poisonous than the leaves from a mature tree or stunted shrub. The

largest amounts of prussic acid were derived from leaves wilted in bright sunlight to about seventy-five per cent. their original weight, or till they began to appear slightly limp and lose their gloss. Leaves wilted in the dark were much less dangerous.—Popular Science Monthly.

ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON OF THE BEE.

A correspondent of the Boston Transcript writes to that paper as follows: "For some fifty years I have used with unfailing success the juice of the common plantain as an antidote not only for bee poison, but also for the poison of wasps, hornets and spiders. Roll the leaves in the palm of the hand until they are well bruised, then rub well on the bite. The relief is practically immediate. I was once stung by a wasp while reading the church service. During the singing of the first hymn I stepped out into the church yard, secured and applied the plantain, and returned, healed, before the hymn was concluded. I should perhaps say that in bad cases I have bruised the plantain and bound it upon the place stung. The remedy has never to my knowledge failed."

THE CENSUS ENUMERATOR—GET READY FOR HIM.

Some fine day next June, when you are terribly busy and hardly know which way to turn, the census man will drive up and confront you with about two pages of questions to which you will be obliged to give pretty accurate answers. Will it not save you both a lot of valuable time and vexation, if you are ready for him when he comes? He will want to know about everything connected with your farm and home. Who owns it. Its value, and what crops it grows—their amount and value. The number of acres in each crop; the number harvested last year; the amount produced and value of each. A list of animals kept, with

value of each; how many are pure bred. The total amount of milk, cream and butter produced in 1899; the value of that consumed on the farm and likewise that sent to market. The number of fowls kept, value of eggs and poultry consumed and sold, and so with every other production of the place whether used or sold.

Think over these things in advance and put your figures where you can get them without delay when this day of reckoning comes.

THE GOVERNMENT WHITEWASH.

In your annual "fixing up," painting fences, chicken houses, and the like, this recipe may be of use. The enduring whitewash used in all departments of the United States government where such a preparation is needed is thus made:

"Take a half bushel of unslaked lime, slack it with boiling water, cover during the process to keep in steam, strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of salt, previously dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot; half a pound Spanish whiting and one pound of glue, previously dissolved by soaking in cold water, and then hanging over in a small pot hung in a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir well and let it stand a few days covered from dirt. It should be applied hot, for which purpose it can be kept in a portable furnace.

The east end of the President's house in Washington is embellished by this brilliant whitewash, and it is used by the government to whitewash lighthouses. A pint of this mixture, if properly applied, will cover a square yard, and will be almost as serviceable as paint for wood, brick or stone, and is much cheaper than the cheapest paint.

BROOKSIDE BERRY FARM.

The past winter has done good work on our old raspberry and blackberry plantations. The bushes are all dead, so now we have a good excuse to clear the field and improve the landscape. One of our strawberry beds was filled with red clover. The winter killed the clover and left the strawberries; now the berries can feast on the nitrogen which the clover caught and left in the ground.

We are setting a good many Warfield, Crescent and Haverland this year, for the reason that there is more money in growing them than in growing the pollen bearing varieties exclusively. The staminates will produce a few good pickings, but they haven't the stick-to-it-iveness of the pistillates mentioned above. The April number of the Farm Journal says:

"Remember that the staminate varieties are worst injured by the strawberry weevil, and therefore plant only enough of them to fertilize the other rows."

If you haven't seen the weevil, pull the blossom apart and examine closely. They are lively LITTLE fellows and can generally be found in the staminates. When they are very numerous their presence results in knotty, deformed berries. For pollenizers we use Beder Wood, Splendid, Clyde, and are testing many others.

Our orchard has wintered well and promises a jolly lot of apples. We have BOUGHT Ben Davis apples by mistake and decline to grow them to SELL under the name of apples. Yes, they look like apples and so does butterine look like butter and tastes like it, too,—but Ben tastes like cork.

CHAS. L. PEARSON.

Baraboo, Wis.

A little city girl had never before seen an ox with its large, well-formed horns. "Oh, mamma!" she exclaimed, with wide-open eyes, "just see that animal's handle bars."

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR HISTORY OF HORTICULTURE.

Editor of Wisconsin Horticulturist:—It is possible that contributors who should have written for this number are all busy with nursery stock or planting the ground, so I may slip in a word or two about our proposed History.

I suppose the old trait of human nature will continue to be revealed, as long as human beings exist. We think we will do a certain thing, then we don't do it, or by careless indifference we shirk responsibility. Now, I shall find no fault because postal cards already addressed and prepaid addressed envelopes in which to send replies to a few simple questions, are not returned, because that is human nature; we never expect more than half to be returned.

Well, the returned envelopes, with contents, give us a wide range of interesting history in Wisconsin Horticulture, besides many amusing incidents. I hear of one orchard planted by the Indians many years ago and some of the trees alive today; we must know more about it.

A friend gave a sick woman an apple about fifty years ago; she planted the seeds and one tree from those seeds is hale and healthy today. I would like to see some of these relics.

A number of biographical sketches have been sent in, but some are tardy. The committee need them, as well as history of the local societies. Members of local societies, please appoint some one to write a sketch of your society and send it along.

I wonder if village or town people appreciate the advantage of a nursery, or green house, where they can get trees, plants, flowers and shrubs at first cost, fresh and reliable. Some do, I know, but then there are others who like to patronize the stranger tree peddler because things "dear bought and far fetched" are better, you know. This was quite plain to me a few days ago, for on my way down town I noticed some new stuff being put out and when I

was curious to know where it came from and what it cost, the lady kindly informed me that Catalpas and Box Elder cost 40 cts. each and two-year-old grape roots the same price. Well, we have a small nursery here now which sells good two-year-old grape roots at 15 cts. each. QUERY, do the people read the papers or do local nurserymen advertise in the home paper as much as they should?

The nurseryman should know something besides making a tree or plant grow,—he should have skill and taste in selecting trees and shrubs for his own grounds. People must have object lessons, and who will set the pace if the nurseryman can't do it? To tell how to do a thing is not doing it. A good many trees have been set on the streets this spring, mostly elms, and as usual four trees to a four rod front. But it is of no use to offer advice when old trees are near by, with interlocking branches or lop-sided tops.

I have a poem in my scrap book, entitled "Too Mooch Apples." Here are four lines, and who can tell me the author? No name is signed to it.

"Ich coom to dis country ven fruit trees was nix,
Ven sheep and horse sorrel and likewise ze thicks
Of ze pie-plant vas all vat we had for to stew,
To make apple sauces for me and mine frow."

The poet recites that apples were soon so plenty in "Visconse" that Hans could not even give away his apples.

B. S. HOXIE.

Evansville, Wis.

TEACHER:—"Willy, please give me a sentence in which the verbs 'to set' and 'to sit' are used correctly." Willy (after a brief deliberation): "The United States is a country on which the sun never sets, and on which no other country ever sits."—Puck.

as silk and it has just the right amount of clear acid that will take any flavor kindly that the cook may require.

Next to McMahan we preferred the Orange Winter, or Newell, as it is now called. The sauce from it is soft, light and good, but not quite so smooth and fine as McMahan. Since nine tenths of our apples are used for cooking this is an important factor in determining their value.

Yours cordially,

A. L. HATCH.

THE TRIAL ORCHARD.

J. L. Herbst and L. G. Kellogg, who were appointed to succeed A. J. Philips as superintendents of the Trial Orchard at Wausau for the current year, have returned from their inspection of the orchard and report the orchard to be in the best of condition. A few trees show some effects of the severe winter of 1898-99 but are recovering. Most of the trees made a splendid growth last year, and with the exception of a few, the top-worked trees have done all that could be expected. But ten apple trees were found to be dead and only three plum and two cherry. These were replaced. All trees were gone over and trimmed where needed and more scions placed in all the trees used for top working. Many of the plum trees are in bloom and give promise of quite a little fruit.

The ground is clean, having been plowed one way and will be plowed the other way as soon as possible and all trees will be spaded about and a few mulched as an experiment. The ground about the trees will not be put into crops, but kept cultivated until July and then sown to some cover crop.

Mr. A. L. Kreutzer takes much interest in the work and derives much pleasure from it. He spent one day with

us, watching us in our work and very anxious to learn all the details of the work. He is doing all in his power to make our summer meeting with the people of Wausau one of the most pleasant and profitable in the history of the society.

J. L. HERBST.

EARLY SPRING NOTES FROM McCONNELL, ILLINOIS.

Editor Horticulturist:

Being interested in reading about other places and hearing how prospects and times are, I will try to send a few notes from here.

As the season was very late we did not get into the fields until April 5, then we had fine cool weather until April 11 and 12, when it snowed as fast as I ever saw it snow, until the ground was covered to the depth of seven or eight inches. This was followed by fair, warm weather, and today (May 7) we are as far along as in early springs.

Apple trees, notwithstanding they have suffered more from sun-scald than before for years, are blossoming better than they have before since the '80's. The young trees, three or four or five years old are not as full of bloom as the old trees. Plums blossomed very full. Cherries will have only about 5 per cent of a crop, having not yet recovered from the winter of '98-99. Currants are 50 per cent; gooseberries about 25 per cent. Raspberries and blackberries were frozen down as badly as they were a year ago, the Loudon raspberry a great deal worse. Strawberries will be a light crop. We had two weeks last winter that were nearly as bad as the winter preceding,—very cold and no snow. Clover is nearly all winter killed; winter wheat the same. Rye, timothy, and June grass were revived by the late snow, so that they are apparently in better condition than usual.

Cattle are on grass early, oats very green; corn is being planted, times are good, prospect of crops good.

Yours truly,

N. A. KLUCK.

McConnell, Ill., May 7.

CATALOGUING FRUITS.

Editor Horticulturist:

Among the many things that the State Horticultural Society undertakes none are of more importance to the general public than its cataloguing of fruits, etc. Formerly these were published in our Reports as recommended lists for general and special planting. Under the new plan the fruits are catalogued to show their qualities, etc., as they appear under culture in Wisconsin. Secretary Philips made a start in our Annual Reports by cataloguing the apple and I hope Secretary Herbst will follow in our next Report with all the other fruits. Not only will this method relieve our Society of the responsibility of recommending and the constant changing necessary to meet changed conditions, but it will be a far more satisfactory guide to new planters. Every tree, plant, flower or fruit worthy of general culture in any part of our state should be catalogued and its various features of hardiness, quality, etc., be designated so any one can easily learn its probable value for culture.

Yours cordially,

A. L. HATCH.

SOME BROWN COUNTY NOTES.

Weather has been exceedingly dry this season. Small seeds are very slow coming up and in many cases have not nearly all started. We are having a thunder shower this

evening which will do much to start seeds not now dead from the hot dry weather. Grass is drying up without starting a seed stalk.

Strawberry plants are doing nicely, and promise a fair crop. Currants are also doing well. There have been but few worms this season, as yet, probably because of very cool weather during the last half of April and the first half of May. Raspberries killed considerably last winter. The onion maggot is beginning operations at this early stage in the growth of the plants.

Out of ten or twelve Wragg cherry trees set one year ago, three were set in the orchard where grass is allowed to grow and are doing well, while the others which were set in a row at one side are nearly all injured and some entirely dead.

IRVING C. SMITH.

Green Bay, Wis., May 27.

REPORT ON SMALL FRUIT FROM BADGER STATE FARM, SPARTA, WIS.

Strawberries show some damage to roots by winter, especially on plats not having natural drainage, Gandy and Haverland showing most damage. Warfield damaged but slightly and Enhance wholly uninjured.

All varieties of raspberries on our grounds, including Cuthbert, Marlboro, Miller and Loudon of the red varieties, and Gregg, Cumberland and Munger of the black caps, wintered well and are very promising, where winter protection was given.

A plat of one acre of Loudon, however, left unprotected was killed to the ground.

Loudon with us has shown itself more subject to fungus diseases than other varieties and we consider it of small

value under ordinary field cultivation and conditions, but have no doubt it will respond to high culture and its fine flavor and appearance would make it a desirable variety for the amateur.

Blackberries, including Briton, Taylor, Snyder and Eldorado wintered well and promise an average crop. Briton still holds first place as a market berry. Taylor has proven itself hardy and prolific with us. We are watching Eldorado with considerable interest, for if it proves to be worthy of the praise bestowed upon it by some fruit growers it will be a valuable addition to the fruit gardens of western Wisconsin.

GEO. HANCHETT & SON.

A FEW WORDS FROM F. C. EDWARDS.

Our spring was a very busy one in getting the nursery goods to our customers. As the season opened late we put on a force of 20 to 25 hands and tended strictly to business; closed packing and delivering May 10th. Customers report stock sent out as starting to grow all right this year. But we need rain very much indeed. We have had no rain to wet the soil over one inch since April 10th.

We have to report all yearling apple trees root killed this last winter. This makes the crop of four years in apple killed, and still Bro. Kellogg of Ripon says he believes in Wisconsin grown trees for Wisconsin. I admire such sturdy characters and I judge Bro. K., when he takes hold of the plow handles, never looks back.

Ft. Atkinson, Wis.

A little girl drew a dog and cat on her slate, and said to her mother, "A cat oughtn't to have but four legs, but I drew her with six, so she could run away from the dog."

AN ORCHARD STRICKEN BY HAIL.

Editor Horticulturist:

On May 13 we had another of those wood and railsplitter hailstorms, similar to that we had Aug. 10, 1899. My trees, plum and apple, about 400 in all, are a total wreck. It is enough to subdue the courage for fruit growing in the Red River valley for a long time.

These same trees suffered terribly from last year's cataract of hail, but they put on a new growth and blossomed late in the fall. Even those that bore fruit blossomed again. The larger trees did not suffer as badly as the younger ones. I painted the trees after the storm last August, but it was of little avail, as the wounds opened up when the new growth set in, and the wood is now split open and dried through. Last winter without snow and a dry spring with hot winds have helped to dry out the trees badly and weaken them. Now another good whipping seems to have killed everything. Even currants and the sand cherries are gone, and the black willows are dead in trunk and branch.

Strawberries at my place are not worth the ground they stand on, though I had a good crop last year. The same is true of raspberries and all fruits. OLE J. HAGEN.

Hendrum, Norman Co., Minn.

GIRDLING.

Ha! Ha! Calling them fools wakes them up. Professor Goff does not see how we can decide how many degrees of cold a tree can endure by running a knife or saw around the branches or trunk of it. We cannot decide that, nor is it essential that we should. The winter of '98-99 gave additional proof that degrees of cold have little to do with the

killing of trees, for many well known tender varieties passed through that very cold winter without injury. The condition of the tree when the cold strikes it and the conditions that follow are VERY ESSENTIAL.

The principle of life in plants and animals is similar. Live forever, Canada thistles, quack grass and a great lot of other nasty weeds are very hard to kill. A little rap will knock over the rabbit, while the dog and some men are very tough and persist in living when they ought to die. For these nuisances I recommend girdling by the spiral method, put a tight compress about the neck! We give the tree a shock by girdling, just to find out which it most resembles in hardiness, the rabbit or the dog and tough man.

It is said that the good die young. In proof of the truthfulness of this saying I note that the meanest crab apple tree is likely to live longer than the tree that bears the largest and most delicious apples. I am 75 now and my chances seem good for five or ten years more—am doing more business now than ever before. Draw your own conclusions.

E. H. S. DARTT.

SUMMER MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TO BE HELD AT WAUSAU, JUNE 20-21, 1900.

Headquarters at Hotel Bellis, where rates have been secured. The meetings on Wednesday will be held in the Court House, on Thursday at the Trial Orchard on the grounds of Hon. A. L. Kreutzer, where a picnic dinner will be served.

PROGRAM.

The following program will be followed as nearly as possible. The ladies' papers, one by Charles Ramsdell, of the Stout Manual school of Menomonee, and several musical numbers by the high school orchestra, will be the features of the evening session.

Wednesday Morning, June 20th.

9 a. m.—Call to order by the president, after which one hour will be spent meeting friends and becoming acquainted with those in attendance.

10 a. m.—Address of Welcome—Hon. Neal Brown, responded to by Franklin Johnson, Baraboo.

Announcement of committees, followed by any business concerning the welfare of the society. Applications for new Trial Orchard to be presented.

"Small Fruits for Home Garden,"—W. H. Hanchett, Sparta.

"Vegetables for Home Garden,"—Charles W. Cheney, Madison.

"Flowers for the Home Garden,"—Irving C. Smith, Green Bay.

"Hardy Perennials,"—Mrs. J. J. Ihrig, Oshkosh.

Wednesday Afternoon, 1:30 P. M.

"Tree Fruits,"—Charles Hirschinger, Baraboo.

"How to Plant a Fruit Tree,"—A. L. Hatch, Sturgeon Bay.

"Mission of Trial Orchards,"—A. J. Philips, West Salem.

"Is the Wausau Orchard a Safe Guide for Northern Wisconsin Planters?"—L. G. Kellogg, Ripon.

Report of Committees.

Wednesday Evening, 7:30 P. M.

This session will be interspersed with music.

"Horticultural Incidents from Early Settlers,"—B. S. Hoxie, Evansville.

"Home Adornment,"—Mrs. A. D. Barnes, Waupaca.

"Influence of Trees and Flowers,"—Miss Rosalia Bohrer, Wausau.

"Planning and Planting Home Grounds,"—Charles Ramsdell, Menomonee.

The foregoing papers and talks are all expected to be short, so as to give ample time for discussion.

Thursday.

This will be "Trial Orchard Day," and a picnic dinner will be held at the farm of A. L. Kreutzer, on which is located the orchard.

9:00 a. m.—Call to order—Discussion of any unfinished business.

10:00 a. m.—Drive to Trial Orchard.

11:00 a. m.—Call to order.

Address by A. L. Kreutzer, Wausau.

"What Horticulture can do for Northern Wisconsin," —T. E. Loope, Eureka.

1:30 p. m.—Inspection of Orchard.

PREMIUM LIST.

It is hoped that the following premiums may bring out a fine show of flowers to beautify and decorate the room.

PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

	1st	2d
Best collection House Plants, not less than ten varieties	$3.00	$2.00
Best collection of native ferns and wild plants	2.00	1.00
Best show of moss roses	1.00	.50
Best collection of roses in variety	2.00	1.00
Best table bouquet of roses	1.00	.50
Best bouquet of roses	1.00	.50
Best bouquet of white roses	1.00	.50
Best hanging basket with plants in variety	1.00	.50
Best collection of foliage plants	2.00	1.00
Best show of pansies	2.00	1.00
Best floral design	2.00	1.00
Best show of cut flowers in variety	2.00	1.00
Best collection of fuchsias	1.00	.50
Best bouquet of wild flowers to be gathered and placed on the president's table by boy or girl under 15	1.00	.50

STRAWBERRIES.

	1st	2d	3d
Best display strawberries, not less than ten varieties	$3.00	$2.00	$1.00

	1st	2d
Best new seedling strawberry, provided it has never been previously exhibited for premium by the originatior	2.00	1.00

Best quart strawberries for general cultivation or best quart of early berries or best quart of late berries or best 3 varieties for the farmer, 1st $1; 2d 50c.

Best quart Warfield, Jessie, Haverland, Bubach, Van Deman, Enhance, Crescent, Wood, Earle, Wilson, Michel, Gandy, Sparta, Glen Mary, Clyde, 1st $1; 2d 50c.

VEGETABLES.

	1st	2d
Best exhibit garden vegetables	$3.00	$2.00
Best peck of peas	1.00	.50
Best half doz. heads of lettuce	1.00	.50
Best half doz. bunches radishes	1.00	.50
Best half doz. bunches onions	1.00	.50
Best half doz. bunches beets	1.00	.50
Best half doz. bunches asparagus	1.00	.50
Best six stalks pie plant	1.00	.50

The Society offers a special premium of $2 and an honorary membership of one year to the pupil of any public or graded school who writes the best report of the meeting, the decision to be made by Mrs. Franklin Johnson.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

*No entry fee will be required, but all persons entitled to premiums must become members of the Society before receiving the award made by the committee.

No inferior fruit collection, or specimens, shall be entitled to premiums. All fruit exhibited must have been grown by the exhibitor or some member of the family.

All local societies are invited to send delegates. The expenses of same will be paid by State Society, providing said Society did not have the expenses of a delegate paid at our last winter's meeting. All delegates are invited to take part in the discussions.

All exhibits must be in place previous to 11 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, June 20, and all fruits, plants and flowers, must be labeled with name of variety, and name of exhibitor, with postoffice address. Cards will be furnished for this purpose which must be filled out by the exhibitor.

All entries for premiums must be mailed or handed in to the Secretary previous to 11 o'clock a. m., June 20.

J. L. HERBST, Secretary.

*This rule does not apply to the premiums offered for the best bouquet of wild flowers for the President's table.

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

CHERRIES IN TAPIOCA.

Soak 1 cup of tapioca over night in 5 cups of cold water. In the morning cook until clear, then add 1 heaping cup of sugar and a little salt and let cook until the sugar is dissolved. Then stir in 2 large cups of stoned cherries. Serve ice cold with whipped cream or plain cream and sugar.

A subscriber from Reedsburg, Wis., sends the following two recipes:

JAM CAKE.

4 eggs; 1½ cups sugar; ¾ cup butter; 1 cup jam or jelly, any kind; 1 teaspoonful soda in ⅔ cup sour milk; 1 teaspoonful cinnamon and 1 of cloves; ½ nutmeg grated; 2 and ⅓ cups flour and a teaspoon of baking powder. Bake in layers and spread frosting between.

COOKIES.

2 cups sugar; 1 cup butter; 3 eggs; 1 table spoon sweet cream; 1 teaspoon soda and 1 of cream tartar. Flavor with vanilla.

FRUIT PROSPECT IN DUBUQUE, IOWA.

Plums will be a good crop; cherries about ⅓; apples are set full but I fear that root injury of the past two winters is the cause of so much bloom. Red raspberries are a failure; we mowed off and burned two acres of Turner. There will be some Gregg; Older on young plantations is good. Kansas is killed badly. Conrath has come through about No. 1. Grapes none; all vines planted a year ago are dead; we have replanted again. Strawberries will be good where protected. The leading variety here is Bederwood though many experienced growers hold to Crescent.

W. H. GUILFORD.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

How to go to Wausau:—From Madison, Janesville, Ft. Atkinson and vicinity, take the Northwestern train which leaves Jefferson Junction at 2:15 p. m. This makes close connections and is due in Wausau at 9:37 p. m. From Baraboo and vicinity take the train which goes west at 3:05 in "the early morning," go on to Merrillan, where you can make close connections, reaching Wausau at 10 a. m.

Prof. Henry, Director of the Wisconsin Experiment Station and Dean of the College of Agriculture, is off on a European tour.

Prof. Goff, head of the Department of Horticulture, has also gone to Europe.

B. G. Ueffing of Otsego reports the Ohio raspberrry as coming through last winter better than Gregg, Palmer or Nemaha.

The circulation of The Ladies' Home Journal has been increasing of late at the rate of 36,000 copies per month. The monthly issue now exceeds 900,000. The influence of this magazine in the family is good, and we are glad that it goes into so many homes.

Frank Stark of Randolph graduated from the Modern Classical Course of the Randolph High School, June 8. Congratulations!

R. J. Coe's daughter, Miss Gertrude Zella Coe, was among the "sweet girl graduates" of the Fort Atkinson High School, class of 1900. Miss Coe was Salutatorian and also class poet.

Attention! You can have the Wisconsin Horticulturist from now until March 1, 1901, for 25 cents. You will find in it information and suggestions worth many times that sum, whether you cultivate a fruit farm or only a flower-bed and a garden. Give it a trial. Send 25 cts.—to The Wisconsin Horticulturist, Baraboo, Wis.