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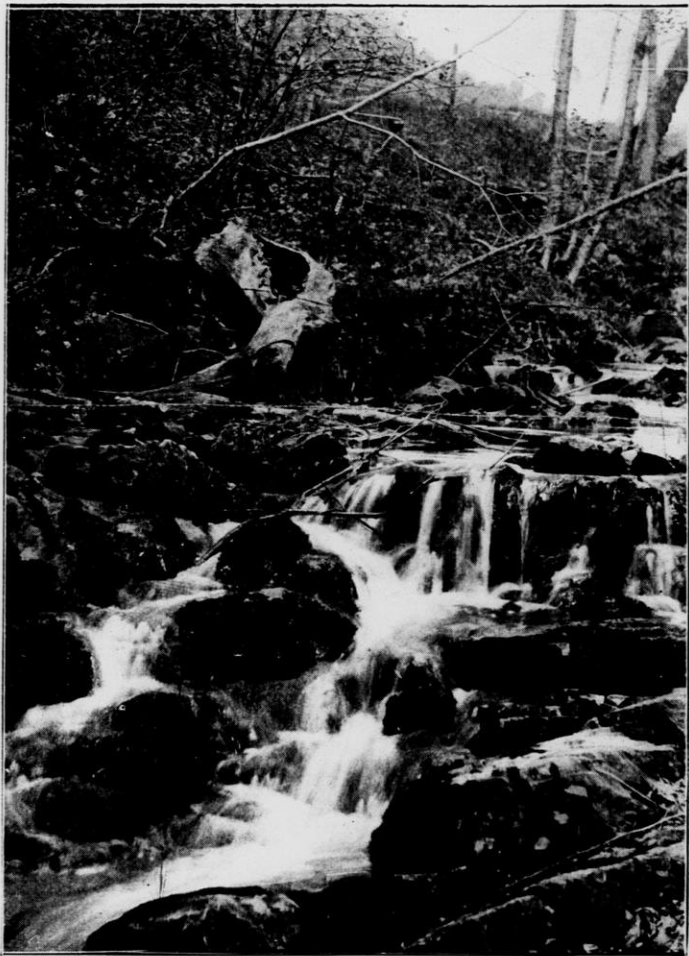
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Scene at Dorward's Gorge, Near Baraboo.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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NO. 12

RUDBECKIA, GOLDEN GLOW.

When we were in Massachusetts last August and September we noticed how largely the shrubberies and flower-borders were illuminated with the Rudbeckia Golden Glow. Yes, "illuminated" is the right word, as you will see when the planting of this Rudbeckia becomes general in Wisconsin.

The plant itself is not particularly beautiful; but the flowers!—I know of no other flower that seems to hold within its petals so much imprisoned sunshine. Nature apparently designed these flowers especially for brightening the "melancholy days" of autumn; you would not want them in midsummer,—they are too warm.

But when there comes a chilly, foggy August morning then put on your rain coat and rubbers and cut your Golden Glow without stint. Put vases of the flowers on the breakfast table, on the mantel, on the sideboard, wherever you can find a place; the sense of cheer and warmth is magical; you can almost warm your fingers in their glow.

Last August we attended an exhibition of Rudbeckia Golden Glow at Horticultural Hall in Boston. When one first entered the door the room seemed all ablaze.

In planning where to set our "Golden Glow" next spring we must bear in mind that the plant is a hardy per-

ennial and will require a permanent location. Also that it is a tall, strong-growing plant—six or seven feet high with dozens of shoots springing from the root—so each plant should be allowed about three feet of room. One or two plants are enough for an ordinary garden. If we want more we must put them off among our shrubbery or in a clump by themselves.

The Rudbeckia is a thirsty plant and must be placed where it can be freely watered in time of drought.

Baraboo, Wis.

M. C. C. J.

COMMERCIAL PLUM GROWING IN WISCONSIN.

By E. S. Goff, Horticulturist to Wisconsin Experiment Station.

Can the growing of plums for market be made profitable in Wisconsin? This is a practical question that should interest all our fruit growers. If it can be, many of us would doubtless take advantage of the fact, for reliable and profitable fruit crops are not so numerous in our state that we would not gladly welcome a new one.

If we attempt to analyze this question, it separates naturally into two other questions, viz., 1st,—Can we grow the fruit? and 2nd,—can we sell it after we have grown it, at profitable prices? Our experience at the Experiment Station enables me to answer these questions in a measure, while the experience of others furnishes additional evidence.

First:—Can we grow the fruit? The cultivated plums include a number of botanical species, which differ materially in hardiness and other qualities. The large blue or yellow plums that have been common in city fruit stands for half a century or more, belong to a species that was early imported from Europe and that is grown with more or less of success throughout the eastern, southern and

Pacific states. The flower-buds of this species are tender in Wisconsin, and while they often escape destruction in the southern and eastern portions of our state, they are not to be depended upon in any but the most favored locations. This European species, botanically known as *PRUNUS DOMESTICA* cannot therefore be commercially grown to any large extent in our state..

The more recently introduced Japanese plums, *PRUNUS TRIFLORA*, that are so rapidly flooding our markets with their showy but generally inferior fruit, are little if any more reliable in Wisconsin than the European species, and, at present at least, should not be planted commercially. The Wild Goose Plum, that is grown so successfully in southern Illinois and Missouri, and is so extensively shipped to the Chicago market in July, represents a third species known botanically as *PRUNUS HORTULANA*. This does not fruit well at Madison more than about one year in three, owing to the tenderness of its flower-buds. The Chicasa plums, *PRUNUS ANGUSTIFOLIA*, judging from the varieties we have grown at the Station, are more reliable than any I have yet mentioned, but these and also the Marianna plum, which represents still another species, were badly damaged the past winter. So far, then, all seems to be negative. And yet the largest crop of plums we have ever grown at Madison we harvested the past summer after the most disastrous winter we have ever known. This crop of plums all came from varieties of the northern native plum, *PRUNUS AMERICANA*. We have here a plum that is practically "iron-clad," that has not failed to give a crop of fruit since 1894, and of which the better varieties sell readily in our markets at paying prices. Here is a plum that can be grown, in its different varieties, on every farm in Wisconsin, and that, with proper culture, may be depended upon to produce a crop almost every year.

This brings us to the second question: Can we sell the fruit? I answer, yes. We have sold the fruit readily, and in considerable quantities, at prices varying from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel and occasionally at higher figures.

The market for this class of plums will undoubtedly improve as the best kinds, like the Surprise, Wyant and Ocheeda are more extensively grown, as the fruit is marketed in better shape, and as the people learn to distinguish between it and the stigmatized "wild plums." But we should remember that it is not the fruits that sell to the wealthy few at fancy prices that will ever yield us very large returns; it is rather those that we can sell at a small profit to the millions, at prices that they can afford to pay, that must yield us our fortune if we ever get it from fruit growing.

The Americana plum is exactly this fruit. We can depend upon it, for it is hardy and productive; we can grow it cheap, because we get a crop every year; we can sell almost unlimited quantities of it, because we can afford to sell it at prices that the people can afford to pay.

I do not wish to be called an enthusiast, and I certainly would not be held responsible for losses incurred through following my advice, and yet it is my conviction that the judicious planting and cultivation of the choicest Americana plums may be made profitable in Wisconsin, both as a home market fruit and for shipping. Please to note, however, that I use the word "judicious," which means "according to sound judgment."

I would not advise any one to undertake plum growing who is not willing to give careful attention to the selection of varieties, the culture of the trees and the marketing of the crop, and this will necessitate some experimenting, and in most cases some mistakes will be made. I would plant cautiously of varieties that yield large fruit of good quality, and of which the trees are productive. I would group

these trees with reference to their time of bloom so far as I could gain knowledge on this point; I would cultivate or mulch the trees well; I would protect them from the curculio by the jarring process until we find a better method; I would thin the fruit on over-bearing trees; I would pick the fruit when well-colored and a little hard; I would pack it artistically and conscientiously in rather small handled baskets, and would experiment considerably in selling it, using printed matter to call attention to the uses to which it is especially adapted. If we spend as much mental energy in our plum growing as we must in any other business to make it successful, I believe we shall be abundantly rewarded.

It would be easy to figure out very large profits by computing the possible yield per acre from the amount of fruit that certain trees in our experiment orchard have borne during the past five years, but such computations are always more or less delusive. The days of fabulous profits in fruit growing are probably over, and it is perhaps well that they are, for they always provoke imprudent investments that bring only disappointment in the end. What is vastly more important is to find and to grow those staple fruits that yield a living profit every year. The Americana plum is such a fruit whenever we choose to make it so by meeting Mother Nature half way.

TOP-WORKING TENDER VARIETIES OF APPLE ON HARDY STOCKS.

By A. G. Tuttle.

The first experiment in this vicinity in top-working hardy apple trees to save tender or half hardy varieties was made by N. C. Kirk of Devil's Lake soon after the hard winter of 1855. He hoped to save some favorite Ohio ap-

ples, the Rambo and Belmont, by top-working* them on Duchess. They did not live long enough to be of any value.

A neighbor thought he had too many Duchess in an orchard set for home use. Some thirty years ago he top-worked several of them with Pewaukee. The winter of 1884-5 made no distinction between those top-worked and root-grafted. They were alike destroyed by the extreme cold of that winter.

After the winter of 1872, when a large amount of nursery and orchard trees were root-killed, we top-worked several thousand trees on crab stocks, using Transcendent, Large Red and Large Yellow Siberian crabs. Nearly every variety of the apple put upon crab stocks was a failure; they made a good growth of 4 to 6 feet and then died. The Walbridge made a better union and I set 25 of them in my orchard. They have been gradually dying out for several years. Last winter the top-worked Walbridge were all killed but one. Those Walbridge root-grafted did not suffer any injury. After our experience in grafting upon crabs, when saving seed for planting we were careful not to save any where there was a mixture of crab-seed.

I do not know of a single tree living, top-worked upon the Large Red or Yellow Siberian, and we put in hundreds of them. If any one wishes to repeat the experience, I have plenty of the Yellow Siberian that I have no use for; bushels of them fall upon the ground and rot every year.

I do not feel the necessity of changing our mode of grafting or the stocks used, certainly not for crab roots.

The loss in my orchard last winter was not more than one tree in a hundred, and the trees never were in better condition than now, or gave promise of so large a crop.

My Russian apple orchard, set about 25 years ago with eighty varieties, not a tree was injured by the cold of last winter.

I have an orchard set six years ago with a dozen varieties of Russian apples. The ground was cultivated in corn and the trees went into the winter with the ground perfectly bare. This orchard, "FOR SOME REASON NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN," suffered not a trace of injury either in the root or top.

It may be that the trees, BEING ALL RUSSIANS, were hardy enough not to be injured by the cold of last winter.

Probably for the same reason, my son's nursery suffered very little injury.

Baraboo, Wis.



HYGIENE IN THE HOME—CONCLUDED.

Vie H. Campbell, Cor. Sec. Wisconsin State Horticultural Society.

The subject of healthful foods is so far reaching and deals with such diversity of circumstances, constitutions and conditions that I can only briefly touch upon some of the most important points. In the selection of foods the subject of healthful nutrition is the principal thing to be considered.

The elementary substances which enter into the composition of our bodies are fourteen in number: oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, sulphur, phosphorus, silica, potassa, lime, magnesia and iron. They must be supplied by our food and drink and the air we breathe. Therefore it is important for us to understand what foods contain these elements, and in what proportion.

It is obvious that no arbitrary rules can be made, concerning the quality, quantity and kind of food, that shall apply to persons of all ages, temperaments and conditions of life. As regards quantity, nine-tenths of the people eat too much. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said: "If a man eats sparingly and drinks freely of water only, he is

almost certain of bringing no disease upon himself, and a moderate amount of food nourishes best."

Frances Willard said: "Plain living makes high thinking." Dr. Dio Lewis said: "All the strong men and all the active men whom I have known have been moderate eaters; the reason is, it takes a large amount of nerve force to digest food." Has not every one felt the forceful truth of this statement who has ever committed the sin of eating too hearty a dinner, in the lessened brain force and the aversion to active exertion that follows?

A good rule for the quantity of food one should take at a meal is to ascertain how much is required to repair the waste and nourish the body and never go beyond that amount.

Abstemious people are stronger, are much better fortified against disease, and are longer lived than those who indulge in hearty eating and drinking.

Fruits, cereals, vegetables and nuts contain all that is necessary for the food of man.

The weight of evidence with regard to the health, strength and power to endure hardships is all on the side of the laboring classes in the old world who eat no meat.

From the humanitarian standpoint there can be no question in the minds of thinking people as to the right of the case. One only needs to visit the stock yards and Packing Houses of our large cities to be convinced that it is not right to encourage a custom that makes the cruelty he sees practiced there necessary. I hope the day is not far distant when all people will obey that commandment which says, "Thou shalt not kill." When, "None shall spill the blood of life nor taste of flesh. Seeing that knowledge grows and life is one, and mercy cometh to the merciful,

“Was ever Tartar fierce and cruel
Upon the strength of water gruel,
But how restrain his rage and force
When first he kills then eats his horse?

I cannot leave this topic without saying something on that “vexed question” which it is said “a woman always talks about,” dress.

That style of dress is most to be desired that best protects the body and meets the requirements of the wearer; anything more than that is superfluous. Woman’s widened sphere of usefulness has partially changed her dress to meet its requirements, but not wholly so. I hope that the twentieth century woman will evolve a costume that will give her the freedom of action that a man’s dress gives to him. Half of the ills that women are heir to are caused by wearing unsuitable clothing. Dr. Harriet N. Austin says: “Women have not been accustomed to consider comfort. Being taught that raiment is more than the body it is a matter of course that they should fit their bodies into their raiment, however much it cramps them; and getting used to cramping they do not much mind it. I am well aware that most women would not at all understand what I mean about the discomforts and the injuriousness of their clothing. They think they are comfortable, and great pity it is that they do think so, for this is evidence that they have deadened their sensibilities. They little know the outrages they commit on their organisms.”

I never met a woman who would admit that she wore her clothing too tight, and the query naturally arises in my mind, does tight clothing tend to make women untruthful?

The Hygienic home will be the true home from whose portals its sons and daughters will go forth equipped for the battle of life with all of its uncertainties and its responsibilities. The saving influences which are to redeem

and purify the world are in the homes. As "out of the heart are the issues of life," so out of the homes are the issues of the nation, and their ever widening power for good shall ultimately fill the whole earth and speed the coming of right and justice and truth. Let us do all in our power to bring about that time.

[Part first of the above article was published in the December number of the Horticulturist.]

AN APPLE FARM IN GHENT, N. Y.

Mr. G. T. Powell's farm contains 104 acres, 70 of which are devoted to fruit. About 20 acres are in apples—about 750 trees. The earlier set trees are 33 feet apart, the later 40; and were he to do the work to-day, he would set them 50 feet apart—a conclusion with which I heartily agree. Setting at such a distance becomes specially advantageous when spraying machinery is to be used between the trees.

A visit to the orchard was very gratifying. The trees showed evidences of systematic pruning, mostly done when it could be done with a pocket knife. They were headed low, spreading out widely, and were very handsome. The foliage was bright and healthy; and the fruit a vision of loveliness. Just think of it! In these days of gnarled, wormy and scabby apples, here was an orchard where the reverse conditions prevailed. The trees were not overloaded, and the fruit was simply superb.

"Well, Mr. Powell," said I, "this is a magnificent showing. Will you tell us how you have brought it about?"

"With pleasure," he replied. "It is a question of spraying. I spray the trees first about the first of April, before the buds open, with a solution of potash and whale-oil soap. My idea in this is to secure a clean, healthy condition for the wood and bark. It seems to brighten up the wood and destroys moss. I use it again as the buds open, when it

heads off the ravages of the aphid. About the 25th of April, just as the buds are opening, I spray with the sulphate of copper solution, to destroy the apple-scab fungus. I use the solution quite strong—one pound of the sulphate to fifteen gallons of water. After the blossoms drop, about May 20th, I use the carbonate of copper and carbonate of ammonia solution for spraying.”

“How do you prepare this?”

“I take three ounces of carbonate of copper and one pound of carbonate of ammonia with two quarts of hot water. When dissolved I add fifty gallons of water. I also spray with arsenical solutions, to destroy the codling moth. I have, since beginning, sprayed the trees about every twelve days, and I shall spray them once more. I have used the same preparation on my grape-vines.”

“What fertilizers do you use in your orchard, if any?”

“I give them a generous feeding. I top-dress them with stable manure every year, and at times use largely of commercial fertilizers. I have used Coe’s, also the Stockbridge and others, and have also bought Canada hard-wood ashes. I have no doubt that they have been profitable for me.”

“Tell us how and where you market your apples.”

“My early apples are all sold in the Eastern markets—Springfield or Boston, sometimes other cities. You see we are picking Astrachans now. We pick the ripest, red-cheeked ones first, going over the trees again and again as the fruit ripens. Twenty Ounce Apples I ship mostly to Europe—to Glasgow, Liverpool or London. These I ship in August to special customers, and find it profitable. The freight varies from 75 cents to \$1.25 per barrel, averaging about one dollar. My Greenings, Baldwins and Russets also go to Europe. My Northern Spys, Pound Sweets and Lady Sweets I put in cold storage and hold for late city markets.

"Do you make more than one grade of fruit?"

"Yes, all are carefully assorted and graded. I never ship poor fruit with my name on it—I let the culls go as such and sell them for what they are worth. No part of our work pays better than sorting the fruit and rejecting unsound or defective apples."—Rural New Yorker.



THE TOWNSEND PLUM.

By A. G. Tuttle.

About forty years ago Mr. Holt, father of Mrs. Geo. Townsend, grew, on his farm in Sauk county, from a seed of the Lombard a plum which he propagated for his own pleasure. I visited his place and saw the trees, many of them breaking down with the load of fruit.

He marketed a large quantity of fruit alternate years, always selling it at four dollars a bushel.

His plums were not stung by the curculio; he told me he knew a remedy for that. His trees were not set in orchard rows, but grew in a thicket.

Some sixteen years ago Mr. Townsend began propagating this plum for his own planting. For several years he has been growing large crops alternate years. I saw the trees with their enormous crop in the fall of '98. I visited his orchard last spring expecting to see every tree dead. Excepting one old tree they were all in fine condition and made a healthy growth last summer.

I have found the trees on several different soils and locations. They all report the trees as having borne heavy crops the fall of '98 and being in good condition last spring.

I found one of the trees in an orchard on the Baraboo bluffs last spring; it showed no injury. The tree was heavily loaded with fruit the fall before. A Lombard tree in the same orchard was killed to the ground. The tree goes by the name of Townsend Plum.

MY PANSIES.

Mrs. Addie N. Wolcott.

If the floral goddess has a gift in her keeping which will bring pleasure to a greater number of people than a packet of pansy seed I never have known of it.

Last spring Mr. Toole sent me among other seeds a trade packet of mixed pansy seeds. As early as I dared they were sown in boxes on the porch and the directions in the catalogue for cultivating pansies were faithfully followed; that is, as faithfully as a busy farmer's wife with an hundred little chicks clamoring for feed and care, and twenty young turkeys threatening to turn up their toes at the least sign of neglect, could expect to follow directions.

To be sure the bed was not spaded as well or enriched as it should have been; contrary to directions it was south of the house and unshaded.

The plants were very large before they were transplanted and seldom was the earth stirred around them. The hens offered to keep it stirred up thoroughly but I firmly opposed their efforts. The weeds were all destroyed and the plants thoroughly watered. In fact the family thought I meant to drown the poor pansies. But they enjoyed the showering and late in July rewarded me for my care with a small bouquet of lovely blossoms. All through August they bloomed freely, there were pansies for the table and nearly every week a generous platterful went to brighten the desk of our tired city librarian. Many a handful was carried as a loving token of remembrance of some silent sleeper in God's Acre, lovely reminders of the beauty "Beyond the Gates." At fair time a splendid platterful took first premium, and a lady who judged the flowers at the State Fair was pleased to say my pansies were as fine as Mr. Toole's, not the exhibit but just the pansies as to size. Wasn't that encouraging? But of course Mr. Toole was the one to thank for the result.

Well, those pansies just bloomed after that, probably it was on account of the cool days and nights of September and October, and not the praise they got. Whatever the cause might have been we had bouquets of them for all the rooms. We used them to deck the table for a bride, and gave them to our friends. The more we cut them the more they blossomed. It hardly seemed possible for one small bed to yield so many flowers.

In November I sent a box of the cheery blossoms to the pastor's wife at the Indian Mission. Soon I received a letter from there saying, "We enjoyed the pansies so much we kept them for some days, then made a wreath of them to put on a young man's coffin; his mother was greatly pleased. Any little attention gratifies these people so much for they have SO LITTLE to make life pleasant."

As I read the pathetic words a picture of the dreary waste of sand and weeds where the boy was laid came to my mind, and I was glad my pansies did a little to brighten the desolate scene.

The last of November the last plateful was cut and that they might do the greatest good to the greatest number, were taken to the public library, where they were greatly admired on account of their size and variety and the lateness of the season. One lady asked if they were grown under glass. That little packet of seeds gave pleasure to a great many people. But I know I could do better another year for there was many a mistake in their culture last year.

Appleton, Wis.



Mr. Johnson:—"I notice, Jasper, that you have the rheumatism as bad as ever. Don't you ever take anything for it?" Jasper:—"Deed I does, Sah. I takes crutches, mostly."—Boston Courier.

BEAUTIFYING COUNTRY SCHOOL GROUNDS.

[Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the State Horticultural Society.]

I shall offer no argument in favor of decorative planting on our school grounds. If you think the play grounds may be encroached upon, that indifference cannot be overcome, or that there may not be sufficient benefit resulting, these reasons will probably have more force with you than anything I can say in favor of the elevating influence of beautiful surroundings. Whatever arguments can be advanced in favor of improving our home surroundings can apply with equal force to the care of our school grounds.

If not properly enclosed our school grounds should be provided with a neat fence, and wire netting is the best material.

Next, we should see that trees are planted, but not too many. Better begin with a few, that future pupils may share in the pleasure of planting, and make sure the scholars have reason to feel that they may take part in whatever is done. I have in mind a school district where the school board decided to set out some shade trees, and the scholars expected that Arbor Day exercises would be more than usually full that year, but the board hired some men to do the work at another time, and the pupils were left to feel that it was no concern of theirs.

The roadside planting of trees should be far enough from the fence to insure the walking public full right to a wayside path between the trees and the fence.

Our hot, dry summers, and cold, dry winters, have sadly limited our choice of trees for this purpose, but we have the White Elm and Basswood, and perhaps can safely use the Norway Maple. On the grounds our planting must be limited by the needs of the pupils for recreation, and this varies in different districts and communities, but is never so great in country districts as with village or city schools.

Trees for planting on the grounds may be more for ornament than for shade and we may choose from the following: Wild Bird Cherry, Red Elm, Hackberry, White Birch, Tamarack, Mountain Ash, White Oak, Box Elder, Willow and the Evergreens. Of the Evergreens, give preference first to our natives, and if the grounds are to be seen from a distance, someone in years to come will be glad if White Pine has been one of the trees chosen to mark the growth of the coming century.

Once our young people have become interested, they will wish for flowers, and for these we depend on shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and annuals. Our choice of flowering plants should be decided by the time when we can have them in bloom, for we need this beauty most while school is in session, either before or after the long summer vacation, for, in farming communities, very few will visit the district school grounds in the summer time.

Our shrubs should be planted in groups because appearing better if so disposed, and occupying less space than otherwise. Of kinds we may plant the several varieties of Philadelphias or Mock Orange, Flowering Currant, the Spireas,—always including Spirea Van Houttei—Flowering Almond, Bush Honeysuckle, native Crab Apple, Thorn Apple, Redberried Elder, Snow Ball and High Bush Cranberry, as well as other native Viburnums.

School is out before the roses are generally in bloom, but Rosa Rugosa is so hearty a grower, with such a beautiful show of fruit in the fall, we should have it in any extensive planting.

For beauty of autumn fruit, we should plant the Burning Bush, *EUONYMUS ATROPURPUREUS*, also the Barberry, and if there is room for climbers, the climbing Bittersweet, and native Clematis are beautiful in fruit late enough to be desirable. Clematis Paniculata will be scarcely out of

bloom when the fall term commences, and for the same reason *Hydrangea Paniculata* deserves planting.

Among perennials we have for early flowering, the Columbines, including the common kinds, our native *Aquilegia Canadensis*, and the beautiful California species, Perennial Candytuft and Alyssum, the Pyrethrums, Perennial Larkspurs, Bleeding Heart, the Iris in variety, Hardy Pinks, Lily of the Valley, and by all means a group of Pæonies. The Pæonies should be by themselves for good effect. The foliage is stately and beautiful after the flowers are gone and they are among the most enduring perennials we have. Our perennials also should be grouped together for good effect and convenience. All of our flower beds must be out of the way, for until they have grown in favor, they will by some be barely tolerated. After our shrubs have become well established, they may be used as a nursery for some of our early blooming native plants, and in their shade may be successfully grown, Blood Root, Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches, Shooting Star, the Wood Phlox, Trillium, Wood Sorrel, or Oxalis and the Violets, with such ferns as the Lady Fern, Maiden's Hair and the Ostrich Fern.

Some of the annuals may be had in flower before school closes, if started early, and to head the list, plant the pansy just as early as anything can be safely planted out of doors. If the plants can be had, do not wait to see them in bloom, for the earlier they can be planted, the better. Petunias, Phlox, Alyssum, and Stocks, can be had early, but they, with Verbenas, Asters, Mignonette, Pinks and a variety of annuals, will have their chief value in late summer flowering, the seeds having been planted late in May to give young plants for the late flowering. Any of these can be planted where the early bulbs have been, so with the succession, a small space can yield a maximum of display.

Spring flowering bulbs are here mentioned last, but

they may easily become the most important section of spring flowering plants for the school year. Planted early in October, as soon as autumn frosts have shorn the summer annuals of their beauty, they need only protection from being tramped on through the winter and they will greet us with early spring flowers. Tulips, Hyacinths and some of the Narcissus, with Crocus, and Snowdrops for edging, give a wonderful variety of beauty.

I have said nothing about a grass plat, but hope there may be room for such, if only to show how pretty it may be in the spring all spangled with flowers of Snowdrops and Crocus which have been planted in the sod in the fall.

Little can be said here about cultural directions because it would take too much time to tell how best to grow all of the things mentioned, and it is not to be expected that everything here recommended will be planted in any one school yard; neither is the list supposed to be complete, but whoever has experience with what is offered here will know enough to add to it without outside help.

As to who shall make a beginning where this kind of work has not been done before, I cannot say. I have often been asked to make out lists of plants suitable for school ground planting, mostly by teachers I think, but in a small way it would be possible for most anyone interested in the district to make a beginning, at first, maybe, with some of our native shrubs and plants, or perhaps those outbuildings are so situated that decency would suggest an evergreen screen. Possibly the place looks so bare and forsaken, that a few trees are needed more than anything else. Although few may enjoy such flowers as may be on the grounds in the summer, still what is growing must have a little care for the future. Planting is not all, and do not plant more than will likely be taken care of.

BEST LIST OF SMALL FRUITS FOR THE WISCONSIN FAMILY GARDEN.

By A. J. Edwards, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

[Paper read at the Winter Meeting in Madison.]

This might be given in a few words by saying, "Plant the varieties you like and that do best in your locality."

This list as I understand it, is for those who would have a good supply of fresh fruit throughout the season and enough preserved for the winter months.

Now there are, comparatively speaking, but few of the people in this state that know very much about our society or the lists that it recommends, and I am afraid if they did it might be confusing. In our '98 report we recommended twenty varieties of strawberries alone. In my opinion this is double the number it ought to be. Now the question with these people is how am I to know what varieties are best for ME to plant.

They read the horticultural departments in their papers and nearly every writer recommends a different list and advises them to send direct to some nursery and get what they want. Well they send to the nurseries they see advertised for their catalogues and read the descriptions of the different varieties. In most of them they find nearly all are the best (and this may be true in certain localities and under favorable conditions). Also that the newer the sort the more space is given to it and the better it is (so says the introducer). As I look at it, unless one has a special liking for this kind of work and time and money to use in experimenting with these new things, the less they have to do with them the better off they are.

They would much better plant those varieties that have been thoroughly tested and not found wanting. Take the farmer, for instance; he cares very little for the name, what he wants is some variety or varieties that when he

plants and cares for them he can be reasonably sure of getting a crop of fruit. I believe the pushing of new, untried sorts onto the people and the disappointments that often follow retard rather than advance the time when they shall grow their own fruit. I do not wish to be understood as opposing the introduction of new fruits. On the contrary I say let them come, but let them be well tested and culled before recommending them for general planting. Some of the older varieties, like Crescent and Warfield Strawberries, with a good fertilizer, are worth more in the average family garden than hundreds of the varieties that have been introduced since they were.

The list I would recommend is as follows: Strawberries, pistillate sorts, Warfield, Crescent and Haverland; staminate sorts, Lovett, Splendid and Bederwood, Brandywine for late.

Black Raspberries, Palmer for early, Ohio or Older for medium, Gregg for late.

Red Raspberry, Loudon.

Purple Raspberries, Columbian.

Currants, White Grape, Red Dutch and Victoria.

Gooseberries, Downing.

Blackberries, I would not advise planting unless one can afford to take the chances of a crop, which, with the care usually given are very slim. If I were to plant at all would use Snyder and Briton.

Grapes, Moore's Early, Worden, Concord, Brighton, Delaware, Agawam, Niagara and Moore's Diamond.

“My good woman,” said the clergyman to the sorely tried matron, “did you ever try heaping coals of fire on your husband's head?” “No, your riverence, but Oi've thrown a lighted lamp at him once or twice.”

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

From Hon. A. L. Kreutzer, Wausau, Wis.

Hon. A. J. Philips,

Dear Sir:—I have just returned from attending court at Eagle River, and find that it would be simply impossible for me to attend the meeting of the horticultural society tomorrow. I feel very sorry because I had been counting on meeting the members of the society and getting a great deal of good from the meeting. Mrs. Kreutzer and myself expect to go south on Thursday for about a month, and that also interfered with my meeting with you this year.

The subject upon which I was to speak before the convention, of course, is of no considerable importance, and for that reason, I am sure that I am the loser for not being able to attend. At any rate, having only recently become a member of your society, I doubted somewhat the advisability of my taking part in the meeting, and my native modesty whispered to me that my proper place would be on the back seats, and there in silence, listen to the past masters of horticulture, and learn the a, b, c's of this most important industry. I think your idea is a good one, however, to push the young recruits to the front, where they can see the enemy and incidentally get used to the smell of powder.

Up to last June, when I came into possession of what is known as the Single farm, upon which is located your trial orchard, I had taken very little interest in horticulture or the cultivation of fruit-trees. As a lawyer, I have had many opportunities to observe that our farmers in Marathon county were not successful in their endeavors to raise fruit-trees. Every year, during the last eight or ten years, my firm received a large number of collections from eastern tree-nurseries, against farmers in this community, and these farmers, when notified, all had the same reason to give why payment was refused. It seems the agents of

these companies, in making sale of trees, always guaranteed to replace any trees that failed to grow, and, as they usually all died, and the agents failed to make good their promises, I did not blame the farmers very much for refusing to pay the claims. I came to the conclusion that the northern part of the state was not adapted to fruit-raising, and dismissed the subject from my mind. In fact, I knew so little about the different varieties of apples, that I had to depend upon the local merchant to pick out the variety that was best suited for home consumption.

I always observed that the top layer in the barrels were fine apples, but as you got nearer to the center, they seemed to decrease in size, and until they were not fit to eat. I concluded that it was one of the unwritten laws among horticulturists to pack apples in that way, and that it was on the same principle that farmers pile cordwood BARK DOWN. This custom, it seemed to me, was strictly observed by all horticulturists.

After I had purchased the farm and taken an inventory and looked over the orchard, I concluded I wanted to know something more about trees, and began to study the subject a little, and after Mr. Philips paid me a visit, and I had drunken from that fountain of knowledge, and visited trees with him, a new light seemed to dawn on me, and I became deeply impressed with the wisdom of the society in establishing trial orchards throughout the state for the purpose of educating our farmers in the art of fruit-raising. When I think now of the many thousands of dollars that have been spent by the farmers in Marathon county, with fruit-trees, and nothing to show for it, all because they did not know what to plant, how to cultivate, or what is adapted to the soil, I concluded that I could afford to spend some time, with profit, in attending your meetings and learning something about this worthy and far-reaching industry.

I have had a great many inquiries during the last six

months from farmers throughout Marathon county, why it is that the trees in that orchard grow so nicely, while most all of the trees planted by the farmers have died. I endeavored to explain to them, from my meagre knowledge of the subject, some of the reasons, and I am satisfied that the enterprising tree-agent will have more trouble to obtain orders for trees next year than he ever did before. I think the farmers are waking up to the fact that something is radically wrong, and that in the future before purchasing any more trees, they will know where they are from, and whether they are adapted to the soil in this part of the state. These trial orchards are certainly object lessons and will save the farmers in the communities where the trial orchards are thousands of dollars annually.

I desire, at this time, to extend an invitation to your society to meet at Wausau next year. I am sure the meeting will do much good where the people of the county can meet the members of the society, and obtain a little practical knowledge in the art of planting and cultivating fruit-trees.

Thanking you for your courtesy in offering me an opportunity to address the members of the society, and hoping that I may have the pleasure of meeting with you next year, I am,

Most respectfully yours,

A. L. KREUTZER.

Aunt Hetty:—"Here's an article on 'Meteorology in the Philippines.' What does that mean?" Uncle Hiram:—"I dunno what it means, but it shows how we're civiliz'in' them when they've got things like that out there."—Puck.

HOW TO KEEP THE BOYS ON THE FARM.

By Willard Abbott, a Student in the College of Agriculture.

[Read at the Winter Meeting of the State Horticultural Society.]

One of the questions which we frequently hear discussed, at the present time, is, "How to keep the boys on the farm." Nothing is said about keeping the girls there, because it is generally understood that if you can keep the boy on the farm he will see that the girl stays, so all that we have to do is to solve the first problem and we have them both.

I believe that the best way to make a boy content on the farm, is to make him interested in his work. The man who loves his work is the man who is going to succeed.

But you say, "How are you going to make a boy interested in farming, when he doesn't like the work?" Before answering this question, let us see why it is that he doesn't like the work. I believe that the principal reason is that he does not understand what he is doing. He simply does the routine work of a farm, year in and year out, because his father did it that way. He is sent to the field to hoe, or cultivate a crop, and he thinks this is done only to kill the weeds.

He does not know that every time he stirs the soil, he makes the conditions more favorable for the formation of plant food, and that he is developing a mulch that will conserve the soil moisture. He does not know that the soil grains on which he is walking, were at one time solid rocks. Neither does he know that by far the greater part of the plant comes from the air, and not from the soil.

Did he know some of these things, and many more which I might mention, he would have something with which to occupy his mind, besides wondering, "What weeds were made for anyway," and, "How long will it take to

finish this piece?" I well remember that these were the thoughts which were the most prominent in my mind, when I would start in to rid a few acres of raspberries, or a patch of strawberries of their weeds, on a hot summer's day.

I longed for the time when I could leave the farm and its hoeing, for some other occupation which I then fancied I would much prefer. And when asked by some inquiring friend, if I intended being a farmer when a man, the answer was invariably, and emphatically, NO.

Now the question is, where shall the farmer boy receive this instruction? I say that the place, and the proper place, is the public schools. I believe that it should be a branch of study, just as arithmetic, or any of the other branches now taught. Nor should it be confined to the soil alone, but should include the products of the soil, and domestic animals.

Let the young minds grow up with the idea that farming is a science, and requires brains as well as muscle. That it is not simply a means of earning a living which people follow who do not know enough to enter one of the professions, or otherwise support themselves. A man can apply more scientific knowledge to farming, than to any other occupation of which I know. I am glad to learn that the state of Wisconsin is taking the initial steps toward introducing the study of the principles of agriculture into her public schools. And while we are waiting for this to be done, the young men who are leaving, or have left the schools, are amply provided for by the Short Course in Agriculture, which is within the reach of all. It was this same Short Course which makes me say, "Yes, I am going to be a farmer," just as quickly as I once said, "No."

I was induced to come by others who had been here, and am glad that I came. To be sure a young man can not learn all that there is to be learned about the different branches of agriculture, in seven months, but it will interest him in his work. It will make him more observing,

more thoughtful. And he will have acquired a thirst for more knowledge along the same lines. He will no longer pass the long articles in the farm papers over, as dry and uninteresting, but will read them with interest. And he won't have to skip over some of the terms used, as so much Latin, as I used to do. It is said that we can not come in contact with a person, no matter for how short a time, without some kind of an impression being left,—that we will in some way be affected by the meeting.

What then must be the effect on a young man, of months of daily contact with such men as our corps of instructors is composed of,—men who are second to none in their respective lines of work. For it is well known that the Wisconsin College of Agriculture has at the head of each of its departments, the best men to be found. Even if the student took nothing away but these influences he would have been fully repaid for coming.

Now I think I have said enough to convince you, that a little learning along the lines of agriculture is one of the best ways to induce your boys to stay on the farm.

If you wish for additional evidence, trace the doings of the members of a graduate class or of all the classes who have completed the course here, and see what per cent have left farming for any other occupation, unless for some higher station in life. You will find the larger number working their own, or their parents' farms, and the remainder laboring for others at good wages. And they are all helping to raise the occupation of the tiller of the soil, from near the bottom of the list of the occupations of man, where the educated classes have considered was its place, to the top of the list, where it rightfully belongs.

In these crude and broken sentences, I have tried to show what I believe to be true; that ignorance of the principles which underlie the occupation of farming, is driving

more young men into the already over crowded cities, than any other one factor. And in conclusion I would say, do what you can to further the cause of agricultural education.



THE WINTER MEETING OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Except that no children were present and that the "husbands and brothers" largely outnumbered the "wives and sisters," this annual meeting of the horticulturists was like a family reunion. How cordial was the shake of the hand—such as brother gives to brother, and "Glad to see you!" was written on every face.

The attendance this winter was larger than last, although we missed the cheery presence and wise counsel of some that usually meet with us, J. S. Stickney, Jonathan Periam, A. G. Tuttle, J. F. Case, Mr. Dartt, L. H. Read, W. J. Moyle, vice-president Babcock and others.

We were glad to see B. F. Adams again; he was kept away by sickness last year. Geo. J. Kellogg was in his accustomed place, so were Secretary A. J. Philips and B. S. Hoxie. J. L. Herbst was present and Will Hanchett, M. S. Kellogg, D. C. Converse, F. C. Edwards, A. J. Edwards, Mr. Coe, Mrs. Coe, Miss Sara Coe, Miss Leila Johnson, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Finkle, Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Loudon, Wm. Toole, Hon. Chas. Hirschinger, Prof. Goff, Irving Smith, Mr. Hatch, Dr. Loope, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Chapel, Mr. Ames, Hon. S. M. Owen and wife of Minneapolis, Mr. Osborne of La Crosse, Mr. Jewett, Mr. Kluck of Illinois—but we must not take up more space with names, though we have not mentioned half.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society sent as its delegate Mr. Frank Yahnke of Winona.

The delegate from Northeastern Iowa was Mr. A. E.

Bents of Cresco, Iowa, a practical nurseryman and fruit-grower.

The Northern Illinois Society sent us no delegate. Wasn't that just the least bit unneighborly, sister Illinois, when we sent you our best?

The president of our society, in his address, recommended that we exchange delegates with Michigan, hereafter, and that, being ourselves a State Society, we send delegates next winter to the State Societies of Iowa and Illinois, as well as Minnesota.

The report of Secretary Philips was of great interest and value. It gave a history of the State Horticultural Society from its organization until the first printed volume of its Transactions was issued. Mr. Philips, in this carefully compiled paper, has added an important contribution to the historical literature of the state.

The attendance, or rather, lack of attendance, at the Forestry session was very disappointing. The subject is one of national importance, men of culture had been secured to give addresses and the Senate Chamber ought to have been filled with an attentive audience. The address of Hon. S. M. Owen of Minneapolis, editor of Farm, Stock and Home, deserved a large and appreciative hearing. He made a special study of the Forestry question while traveling in Europe. Switzerland, by means of wise and well-executed laws, has a larger area of forest to-day than it had fifty years ago, yet it has used all the wood it needed and has exported some.

We have learned to look forward to the "Short Course"

evening with anticipations of a good time. This year was no exception, although the entertainment was somewhat curtailed by the accident which befell Mrs. Kronkheit, a student from Nebraska, an elocutionist, who was to have given a selection.

The quartette was enthusiastically encored, and the papers by Willard Abbott and W. H. Hanchett were thoughtful and manly productions, a credit to the College of Agriculture. We give Mr. Abbott's paper in full in this number of the Horticulturist. Mr. Bell of Maryland gave an interesting account of horticulture in that state.

The most impressive session which the State Horticultural Society has ever held was the Memorial Service Wednesday evening, arranged by Secretary Philips.

On the wall behind the speaker's desk were enlarged pictures, wreathed with laurel, of four prominent horticulturists who have died since our last meeting, J. C. Plumb, F. W. Loudon, M. A. Thayer, Peter M. Gideon.

Prof. Goff of the University of Wisconsin paid a beautiful tribute to Mr. Loudon, as a man of innate refinement, gentleness and dignity, and a painstaking originator of new fruits. He suggested that those who are reaping an income from the sale of the Loudon raspberry contribute a small per cent of this income to erect a monument to its originator.

Mr. Geo. J. Kellogg of Janesville, as a neighbor of Mr. Loudon spoke especially of his horticultural work, dwelling upon the rigor with which he judged his many seedlings, discarding all which did not measure up to his high standard of excellence. He threw away seedlings which would have made a fortune for a man of less lofty ideas.

President Whitford, of Milton College, spoke eloquently of Mr. Plumb as a Christian gentleman and citizen. "To be in his presence was to feel at once that you must be nobler."

Mr. Yahnke moved the audience to tears by his tender portrayal of Mr. Plumb's kindness to him while he was in his employ soon after leaving the "fatherland." He took him to church on Sunday, invited him into the parlor with his own children on Sunday afternoon—in short, he "undertook to make of me a Christian American citizen." "My family, although they had never seen Mr. Plumb, bowed their heads in grief when they heard that he was dead."

Mr. Hoxie spoke of Mr. Thayer's untiring energy, of the marked ability with which he filled the office of president of our State Horticultural Society and of his immeasurable service to the cause of horticulture in Wisconsin, in fact in the whole country, for "Thayer's Bulletins" were an authority everywhere. Mr. Owen paid a personal tribute to Mr. Thayer as a man, and Secretary Philips read a kindly letter from Senator Spooner.

Both Mr. Owen and Secretary Philips spoke of Mr. Gideon, dwelling upon his firm adherence to what he thought was right, and acknowledging the debt of gratitude which the Northwest owes the originator of the Wealthy apple.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, Franklin Johnson, Baraboo.

Vice-president, Dr. T. E. Loope, Eureka.

Secretary, J. L. Herbst, Sparta.

Treasurer, R. J. Coe, Fort Atkinson.

Corresponding Secretary, S. H. Marshall, Madison.

We will defer naming the committees until our next issue, as one or two members of the Executive Committee have not yet signified their acceptance.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

A sentence was inadvertently omitted from A. G. Tuttle's paper on Top-working. The trees in the orchard which he mentions as having withstood the severe winter, were grafted upon stocks grown from Russian apple seed, hence were all Russian, root and top.

Half of this number of the Horticulturist was in type before we returned from Madison. As a consequence space was lacking for all the good things you wanted "printed right away." Dr. Loope's humorous "lines" are among the left-overs for which we must wait until next month.

A new American girl will be introduced to the public in the pages of the March Ladies' Home Journal. She will owe her creation to Howard Chandler Christy, the young artist who has recently won great distinction for his most interesting portrayals of American womanhood. The first drawing will show the "American Girl at Church," and subsequent ones will picture her as a bride, at college, at sports, on the farm, in society, as a daughter, and as a mother. There will be eight page-pictures in all.

The Christy Girl bids fair to be as popular as the "Gibson Girl."

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