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Bechtel's Double-Flowered American Crab.
[PYRUS AUGUSTIFOLIA.]

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. IV.

DECEMBER.

NO. 10

BECHTEL'S DOUBLE-FLOWERING CRAB.

Wm. Toole.

We are pleased to learn that the readers of the Wisconsin Horticulturist are to have as a Christmas treat a colored plate of Bechtel's Double-flowering Crab.

This double form of our native species of apple was found in Illinois a few years ago and will be much planted as an ornamental tree, as soon as it is better known. Although it has been before the public but a few years it has given satisfaction wherever tried.

Samuel C. Moon says of it: "This new variety is a gem among hardy plants. The flowers are sometimes mistaken for small pink roses, and the perfume tends to increase rather than correct the delusion."

Being a variety of our native crab its hardiness is assured and its form is valuable so far as doubleness is desirable in flowers, but it should accompany rather than displace our best single varieties of this species.

Here in Central Wisconsin wild apple blossoms are much sought after in their season and have always been a prominent feature of our wild flower shows. There is much variety in depth of color and shading, on different trees, giving chance for exercising judgment in selection of young trees for ornamental planting.

The wild apples too are much sought after by some for mince pie fruit. There being so much variation in the wild state it is probable that improvement will be quite rapid.

Baraboo, Wis.

A FEW FOLIAGE PLANTS.

Frederic Cranefield.

People who really love plants are not content with flowering plants alone. It is commonly true, in fact, that the ones who are satisfied with flowering plants, are not true plant lovers. Geraniums, petunias, roses, pinks and primroses are all desirable, as well as hundreds of other flowering plants, but no collection is complete without a few fine foliage plants. The term "foliage plants" is synonymous with coleus in the minds of many, but I wish to use it here in its true sense as including any plant desirable for its foliage alone. The tropical beauty of the palm, the pandanus, the dracena and the croton is universally acknowledged. These, however, are all high priced plants and do not take kindly to the surroundings commonly available for "house plants." The following list includes a few plants that are comparatively inexpensive and will thrive with but common care. Many of them in fact will stand more abuse than the majority of flowering plants.

ASPARAGUS PLUMOSUS, incorrectly called Asparagus Fern, is fast superseding smilax and the up-to-date florist has included it in his list of staple plants. Its delicate, graceful, feathery foliage excites the admiration of all who see it. It is normally a climbing plant and if supported by string will grow several feet in height, but may easily be kept dwarf by cutting back. No other "green" is as beautiful nor as lasting as this for bouquets or any cut flower work. It keeps well for two weeks after being cut, if kept in water.

ASPARAGUS PLUMOSUS NANUS is a dwarf form and more desirable as a pot plant but difficult to obtain.

ASPARAGUS SPRENGERI is a drooping variety with less divided and wider, light green and glossy leaves. It is a most excellent basket plant. The drooping cylindrical branches attain a length of four to six feet in well grown

specimens. Either of the varieties of *Asparagus* may be grown from seed; the seeds resemble those of the garden asparagus, an allied species, and should be soaked in warm water before planting; like the garden form the plants require a very rich soil and an abundance of water. *A. Sprengeri* develops an immense root-system in a short time and would seem to require frequent re-potting, but will do fairly well for a year or two in a six inch pot, if given sufficient water and an occasional application of liquid manure.

ACUBA JAPONICA: A shrubby plant that grows to a height of 10 to 15 feet. The leaves are large, 3 to 4 inches, glossy, dark green, with large yellow spots, somewhat resembling in size and distribution those of the leopard plant.

Small plants are quite as handsome as those of larger size. It is a rapid growing, hardy plant and but little subject to attack by insects. It appreciates direct sunshine, but will grow well without it.

SANSEVIERA ZEYLANICA is a tough name for a tremendously tough plant. For people who want a plant that requires but little care, this is to be especially commended. It will grow in the bay window, in the cellar or in the attic. If watered regularly it thrives, but will do well if watered once a month. It seems to be totally insensible to sunshine or shade, heat or cold, insects or fungi. It has long, 2 to 3 feet, narrow leaves with sharp edges, thickened and nearly cylindrical at the base. The ground color is dark green, marked with vertical, wavy stripes of creamy white. A very conspicuous and accommodating plant. It is increased by means of the thickened root-stocks and old plants may be readily and safely divided.

The Umbrella plant is a well known and exceedingly common plant. It is rather coarse in general appearance but adds a finish to a collection of plants by its peculiar habit of growth. It is an "expansionist" of the worst type and its roots are soon crowded in the limited space of an or-

dinary flower pot. A good way to accommodate its greed for root room is to break off the bottom of the pot when well filled with roots and set it in a jardiniere filled with water.

The Sword Fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) is a trifle more exacting in its needs than any of the foregoing but is the fern best adapted for house culture. The narrow fronds, sword-shaped in outline, are mainly rigid and upright in their growth at first but with increasing age droop gracefully. Like other ferns, it is impatient of direct sunlight, a high temperature and a very dry atmosphere. It is only extremes of these, however, that will severely injure it. A new and improved form known as the Boston Fern has lighter colored and somewhat coarser foliage but is of more drooping habit, the fronds taking on the decumbent form from the first. It is also said to be much hardier than the type. It is claimed by the introducers to withstand much ill usage.



SAVE THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Don't! Don't substitute any new-fashioned fandango for the dear old-fashioned Christmas tree.

Have a tree. Do have a tree for the sake of everybody. You will be repaid yourself. Can't you remember how you used to crowd around the door and see the light through the crack and the keyhole, and then when the tree was lit up and you all went in?

Why not let the children have the silly lasting joy of a Christmas tree, that will dazzle them, burn into their hearts and memory the gay festal side of the holiday season, make Christmas as no other day in the year?

Have a tree. It need cost but a trifle, or it may be gorgeous with all the wealth of trimmings that will make its concoction easy for you. If you can, buy its deckings.

HYGIENE IN THE HOME.

Mrs. Vie H. Campbell, Cor. Sec'y of Wis. State Horticultural Society.

Health is God's gift, his decree; it is the natural order of all life. Disease is the result of inharmonious conditions—the infraction of law, and to call it “a dispensation of providence,” or to say, “God's hand has been laid heavily upon us,” is nothing less than blasphemy. God's laws are fixed and inexorable and for every infringement we must suffer the penalty; this truth cannot be too strongly expressed and impressed upon the mind.

When we recognize the fact that it is ourselves and our ancestors who are responsible for our health and our ailments, we see the duty that devolves upon us to use every possible means to guard against the one and for the preservation of the other. The world has been slow to learn that a sound body is essential to a sound mind. We are proud of intellectual attainments, but when they are gained at the expense of the physical they are of little use to us.

Health makes labor a joy; it fills the heart with hope and buoyancy, and makes us kind and charitable, and we feel as Victor Hugo expressed it, “as if we had in our hearts all the birds' songs we have heard, and all the patches of blue sky which we catch glimpses of through the leaves of the trees.” Health is not only a blessing but it is a duty; a duty that we owe, not only to ourselves but to our descendants.

The home is one of the most important factors of the nation. So closely are the home life and the national life inter-blended and inter-woven that whatever effects the one effects the other in a corresponding degree. Therefore hygienic conditions in the home, or the lack of them, exert a wide influence. A knowledge of sanitary laws is easily acquired, and yet the majority are ignorant of them.

LOCATION. The selection of the location for a home is the first importance. Good drainage, free circulation of air and plenty of sunshine are the three principal requisites; the furnishings should always be secondary to these; where these exist doctors seldom enter. After you have selected your house let cleanliness be the next consideration, remembering that "cleanliness is akin to Godliness."

FURNISHING. Furnish it simply, yet tastefully; so simply that you will not be burdened by the care of its furnishings. Above all things do not be committed to your belongings! Thoreau says: "As long as possible live free and uncommitted." Keep every room in the house open; do not have any closed rooms for moths and microbes to occupy. Upholstered furniture is an abomination; carefully and cautiously avoid it for it often contains that "ye wot not of." It was the only kind that one could have a few years ago, but now better thinking and better views of living have evolved a better kind of furniture, of beautiful material, artistic in design, in which the wily moth can have no hiding place.

Watch carefully the kitchen and cellar; remember that refuse matter is continually subject to decomposition and furnishes a fertile field for the development of disease germs. Medical science has settled the fact, beyond dispute, that a large class of our most fatal epidemics are contracted from disease germs, or bacteria, and many of them originate about our dwellings. Burn every combustible waste in the kitchen stove. Have a drain properly constructed to carry to a distance all of the waste water. Careful attention to these little matters will save much trouble and sickness in the future.

SLEEPING ROOMS. Great care should be given to the selection of sleeping rooms and their furnishings. They should be well ventilated and roomy. "Bed rooms" we used to call them, and the name was no misnomer, for they were so small that there was scarcely more room than was need-

ed for the bed. Equal in importance to proper ventilation is a proper bed, and I am glad that Dame Fashion is bringing in a reign of metal bedsteads, simple and easy to be kept clean, to supplant the towering, monumental wooden affairs that have been in use so long. Eschew folding beds as you would any other great evil. They are remarkable as a piece of furniture, "fearfully and wonderfully made," but decidedly un-hygienic. The only kind I ever saw that I would tolerate, if I was obliged to have an extra bed that I had no room for, was a woven wire mattress, with folding legs, fastened to the wall in such a way that it could be put up when not in use, and concealed by a pretty curtain of cotton texture, but no bedding could be shut up with it.

BEDDING. Bedding should be of good material, suitable for the purpose it is designed for and well taken care of. The care is of the first and greatest importance. Personally, I do not like feather beds, but I believe that our ancestors, who considered them indispensable to good sleeping, took better care of them than we of a later generation do of our mattresses. To my notion a wool mattress, that can be taken apart and cleaned occasionally, is the ideal mattress. By this I mean the real wool, carefully washed and carded in "batts" for the purpose, not the so called "wool mattresses" that are made of cast-off clothing "schopped fine." Do not invest your money and your peace of mind in them, because if you do you will surely lose both. Be governed by your circumstances, and your inclination, as to whether you will have blankets or comfortables, but let the coverings be light, heavy ones are not healthful. There is no objection to comfortables if they are made of good, light material and are kept clean; they will require more care to keep them so than will blankets because blankets are more easily washed.

The best conditions are necessary for perfect sleep. Sleep is Nature's best restorer. Our bodies are very like a

run down watch at night and "sleep winds us up for the succeeding dawn;" it "knits up the raveled sleeve of care."

[To be concluded.]

A TEMPERANCE SERMON.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew says: Twenty-five years ago I knew every man, woman, and child in Peekskill, and it has been a study with me to mark the boys who started in every grade of life with myself to see what has become of them. I was up last fall and began to count them over, and it was an instructive exhibit. Some of them became clerks, merchants, manufacturers, lawyers and doctors. It is remarkable that every one of those that drank are dead; not one living of my age. Barring a few who were taken off by sickness, every one that proved a wreck and wrecked his family did it from rum and no other cause. Of those who were church-going people, who were steady, industrious, and hard-working men, who were frugal and thrifty, every single one of them, without an exception, owns the house in which he lives, and has something laid by, the interest on which, with the house, would carry him through many a rainy day. When a man becomes debased with gambling, rum or drink, he doesn't care; all his finer feelings are crowded out.—Ex.

The largest history ever published is "The War of the Rebellion," issued by the United States in 120 octavo volumes of 1000 pages each, with a gigantic atlas in thirty pages. The books occupy thirty feet of shelf room and weigh one-quarter of a ton.

A friend should be like a mustard plaster—warm you up and draw you out!—Rural New Yorker.

REPORT OF DELEGATE TO THE MEETING OF THE NORTH-EASTERN IOWA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A. J. Philips, Secretary of Wis. State Horticultural Society.

The annual meeting of the Northeastern Iowa Horticultural Society was held at Cresco, Nov. 28, 29 and 30. Besides President Gardner and Secretary True of the Society there was a fair attendance of horticulturists from other parts of the State, likewise Dartt and Fryer of Minnesota.

Mr. Burnap of the second district reported first, Mr. Mitchell of the first district and Mr. Ferris of the third followed. The reports were very similar, all reporting the loss of trees and plants where snow was lacking. Mr. Reeves of Waverly makes a report of his nursery and locality very similar to Mr. Coe's report, at our summer meeting, of the losses at Fort Atkinson.

The same conditions prevail here as in our State. Not a man under thirty here to take part in the meeting, and only one under forty, and he from Minnesota (not Dartt), although at the entertainment Wednesday evening three quite young men took part. The first, the County Attorney, spoke in glowing terms of the elevating influences of foot-ball playing. The second, a young minister, gave a good talk on many things that if practiced would result in a better citizenship. The third recited a poem in the Spanish language; I could not tell whether he was praising American horticulture or Spanish fighting. As usual the music was fine, the audience large and the other features good.

The general routine of the meeting was a fair sample of perhaps nearly one hundred meetings I have attended within the past twenty-five years. Some spoke of new seedlings that they think worthy. Of apples, the Ben Davis and Walbridge were abused perhaps the worst of any, while both varieties had a few warm supporters. The Rus-

sians had to take their usual scoring, some reporting a total loss, the Veronish for winter and Longfield for late fall being the two best spoken of.

The usual questions about top-grafting were propounded and the summing up showed the Virginia crab to be the best stock to work all varieties on, though there is a manifest desire for something better and less liable to blight.

Reports on small fruits vary but little from ours, light crops and low prices being the rule. Columbian and Loudon raspberries both have friends here and Older is well spoken of. Beder Wood, Warfield and Enhance seem to be the leading strawberries.

Tree agents and home grown trees were handled about as we in Wisconsin handle them, and ways to teach the people were discussed, as has been done for years, while no doubt the same processes of swindling will be practiced for the next year as have been for the past twenty years. As usual the men who need the instruction were absent and, as many of them do not read the reports, they will never hear of it. The best way to reach them was discussed. One man advocated holding meetings in every school district under the direction of the County Superintendent, but as the average Superintendent in our State considers he is doing all now that he is paid for, the plan hardly seems feasible. This subject was left about as it was found, except that Mr. Van Houten said he thought they were gaining a little in that direction.

The secretary of the Iowa State Society was present. He is preparing some valuable maps, showing temperature, elevation and soils in different parts of the State. He receives \$800 per year and has his office at Des Moines, the capital of the State.

The citizens of the beautiful little city of Cresco entertained the visitors and did what they could to make the meeting a success.

Mr. W. A. Burnap of Clear Lake will be their delegate to our annual meeting. Mr. G. H. Van Houten, Secretary of the Iowa State Agricultural Society, added much to the interest of the meeting by his interesting and timely talks.

Brother Dartt as usual advocated his pet theory of Girdling and in his good-natured way listened to his expected roasting; his only reply was, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."



A SIMPLE METHOD OF KILLING APPLE BORERS.

W. H. Guilford of Iowa.

To the Wisconsin Horticulturist:—I have "stole awhile away" from the vexations of a horticultural meeting—taking advantage of a protracted controversy between your A. J. Philips and the pronounced "girdling" authority, E. H. S. Dartt, of Minnesota—to send you a little item along the lines of usefulness.

Of course you are aware that the bore—r not only afflicts horticultural societies, which would be of little consequence, but there are other species, known as the flat-headed and round-headed borers that play havoc with our young and old trees of apple, plum, cherry, peach, &c.

To cut the career of the latter species short just poke out a little of the borings, following the course of the entrance for an inch, and poke in a couple of good strong sulphur and phosphorus matches, good loud ones, stop up the entrance with a little clay or putty, enough to shut off air. The moisture of the tree sets the fumes of phosphorus free and as Mr. Borer must breathe, he must breathe the fumes and die.

We have practiced this method for six years and find it effectual, simple and perfect. Call it the "Guilford meth-

od" if you choose, but caution your readers to report results to you!

Cresco, Iowa, Nov. 29.

BATTERY TO FIGHT THE BUGS.

[From The Patent Record, Baltimore, Md.]

The battery shown herewith is the invention of Ezra F. Landis, of La Salle, N. Y., and is designed for the purpose of making war against the bugs of the hothouse and the truck patch, and it is so arranged that as the operator moves from place to place he carries his entire plant with him without the bother of transporting each part separately. The spraying compound is carried in a receptacle like a knapsack, while a tank of compressed air, by which the



Battery for the Gardener.

spraying is effected, is similarly disposed of on the gardener's breast. The air supply is constantly replenished by

means of a pump fastened to the lower part of the man's leg, the piston of the pump being at the bottom, and every step he takes forces additional air into the tank. In this way one man can do the work of two, as so much time is saved that is otherwise lost in the transportation of the different pieces of apparatus required and in keeping the air tank filled.

APPLES IN THE ODD YEAR.

By James F. C. Hyde.

A farmer in South Hadley, Mass., has managed to have a good yield of apples on the odd year for thirty years past. He has secured a PERMANENT change of the bearing year, and has done it by attention to three points: (1) He grafted some of his trees with grafts from trees already bearing the odd year. (2) He has picked off the blossoms from young trees on the even years—whenever they did blossom—a no very difficult job when the trees are small. (3) He has manured his orchards regularly on the EVEN year, that they might have strength to set the buds well for the next year. By attention to these three points, he has had quite regularly a full crop on the odd years, and secured substantial profits thereby: For instance, this last fall he had for sale 550 barrels of apples, some of which he sold for \$3, some for \$2.50 a barrel, besides the many of inferior quality which accompany such a quantity of first quality. He has not to ponder the question: "Is farming profitable?"—Exchange.

Mother: "There, now, be a nice little boy and kiss the lady, Johnny." Johnny: "I ain't a kissing bug that kisses everything that comes along."

FRUIT NOTES FROM STURGEON BAY.

A. L. Hatch.

Red Jacket gooseberry is inferior in quality to Downing. When canned it is tough, leathery and of poor flavor.

Versailles currants were injured so much last winter in our nurseries and on our fruit farm that we have dug up and burned several thousand plants. Victoria, White Grape and Prince Albert are all right.

Yellow Egg and Quackenbos plums bore a few plums this season, but most European sorts bore none.

Foliage of Japan plums Abundance and Burbank was excellent until the very last of the season, while all European kinds suffered very much from shot-hole fungus and pear slugs; trees were entirely bare of leaves in September. Here is a big problem for Experiment Stations: Why, how and under what conditions will a variety resist fungus attacks? Why are some kinds immune? What management is necessary to make foliage resistant to fungus attacks?

How are Garfield, Gana and Salome apples behaving in Wisconsin nurseries and orchards? Shall we plant more Northwestern Greening? Is the Wolf River worthy of further planting?

OLD FRIENDS AMONG THE STRAWBERRIES.

Old friends that are true, are dearest to us, and live longest in our memories. This is as true of plants as of human beings or animals that have become endeared to us by long association. The Thanksgiving season is a time for pleasant retrospection and we naturally look back and mentally note those things given us by our kind Heavenly Father that have contributed to our comfort and happiness.

To the true horticulturist, I think the ripe golden fruits and beautiful berries will be prominent in his mind while

he recounts his mercies; and as he sits around the festive board with his friends, to partake of the national bird, which is the center of attraction on such occasions, the bill of fare would not be complete without the cranberry sauce and a good saucerful of canned Warfield strawberries.

It is not alone for their material value that we prize our friends but for their personal worth as companions. To a person who loved fruits like our departed brother, F. W. Loudon, they had a personality and it was but the natural thing to do, when he originated the Jessie strawberry, to name it after a beloved daughter, for was it not the true child of his care?

Among the pleasant recollections of my childhood were the wild strawberries that grew upon the old farm in Vermont where I spent so many happy days before coming to Wisconsin. It was love at first sight, but it has been constant and has grown stronger through all the years that have intervened since then, as I have come to know some of the many excellent varieties that have originated from that old berry.

As I remember the wild berries there were two distinct types. One kind was round or conical, corresponding somewhat to the Wilson or Lenig's White of a later day, though of course much smaller and quite acid unless very ripe. The other kind grew upright like Indian wigwams (we boys called them Indian berries) and were very sweet and finely flavored. The berries were long and would slip from the stems like raspberries.

When I came to Wisconsin to make my home I found my old friends, the two distinct types of wild strawberries, were here also, and the old friendship was renewed and enlarged to take in the new varieties it has been my good fortune to know.

The first improved variety that I planted was LENIG'S WHITE. Plant, vigorous, healthy and a strong staminate variety; no buttons or imperfect berries on it or any other plant within reach of its pollen. Berries were sweet and finely flavored. One box left in a room over night would fill the room with fragrance like a bouquet of June roses. I have named its good qualities, but it had to go. As the other varieties came in to competition for favor, it was found too small, too poor a keeper and its season too short, ripening its crop of berries in two weeks.

The next acquaintances I made in strawberries were WILSON, CRESCENT, SHARPLESS and MANCHESTER. Wilson and Crescent did not stay long with me. It was not because they were not good strawberries for they were, and many other planters made a success with them, but I had Sharpless and Manchester at that time growing in the same lot and the last two varieties soon became the favorites.

Now the four varieties named have held the field in popular estimation as long as any of the newer varieties are likely to do, and as they all possessed some fine qualities worth remembering I will name them, as they impressed themselves upon me. It seems to me that we must have some standard by which all new comers must be measured. It does not signify that we have made progress by saying that the new variety is an improvement over some other variety, for the variety named for comparison (while having many good qualities) may be lacking in some one or more points that are necessary in the makeup of the ideal berry.

In quality I place SHARPLESS at the head. For a good luscious berry it is unapproachable.

Crescent will give us the true type of color, which is not only pleasing to the eye but will hold its shade and not fade too quickly.

Wilson furnishes a standard for firmness and Manchester that of constancy or reliability.

Clyde I think furnishes us with perhaps as good a standard for size as any we know, for though Gandy, Wm. Belt, Bubach or Sharpless may give larger specimens of berry at times, still I think for regularity for the whole fruiting season Clyde would be the favorite.

Going back to the time I was growing Wilson I remember certain characteristics of that wonderful strawberry, that have made a lasting impression on my mind. It started out so promising in the spring, being one of the first to blossom, and generally passed safely through that trying season of frost and pollenization, with its immense crop of berries well fertilized and perfect in plant and berry up to fruiting time, then there would come four or six days without rain and the drying up process would commence. I have stood by at such a time and looked upon a strong Wilson plant surrounded by 100 or more berries of various sizes drying up as they ripened until the smaller berries were but little else than a small mass of seeds, with just enough pulp to maintain the form of the berry that had been so promising. While looking upon the vigorous plant and drying berries the plant seemed to say to me, "Don't you see what I would do for you if you would give me plenty of water? But if you expect me to die bringing out these berries, you will be mistaken, for I won't do that; I shall preserve my health first and do what I can after that is attended to in giving you all the fruit I can."

Passing from the side of the Wilson plant I stand by the side of the Manchester and listen to her wants. Here a new scene is presented. In place of an upright vigorous plant I behold a prostrate plant, fairly wilting and in a feeble voice she speaks to me, "Give me a good drink; don't you see I am likely to die in bringing these berries to perfection?" A closer look at the Manchester fruit reveals a berry that has been well nursed notwithstanding the drouth

and though smaller in size than under normal conditions, there is not that scrawny and pitiable look that denotes the starved individual.

These old friends among the strawberries, how much they have ministered to our comfort and how many happy hours we have spent trying in our feeble way to know their needs, and minister to their wants, and how in spite of frost, drouth and blight they have rewarded us by their rich harvests of crimson fruit. As the new comers in the strawberry line press upon us for consideration we sometimes think we could be content with the old varieties if the new "fair charmers" would stay away.

H. E. MCGREGOR.

Appleton, Wis.

BROOKSIDE BERRY FARM.

I received a letter from the editor yesterday and before opening it thought—"Well, here's a please remit," for conscience whispered that I ought to receive something of the kind from that source; but after reading the message I was confronted with a still greater responsibility, for this is what it said, "Will you kindly write something for the Wisconsin Horticulturist?"

I enjoy reading the letters in the Horticulturist but do not like to attempt writing for the entertainment or instruction of the reader because there are others who can do better work in that line; and if the editor kindly decides to consign this to oblivion in that basket under the desk all will be well.

Commercial horticulture is the line along which my experience runs, in other words, I began growing berries for the money that I supposed was in it and had no pension nor legacy with which to foot the bills. Neither have I had sufficient diplomacy to get appointed path master nor found

any other royal road to wealth, but am not yet "The man with the hoe," not yet "dead to rapture and despair," for "next year" we're going to get there!

We (the whole family) thought it would be nice and up-to-date to have the farm named. It took us longer to find a suitable appellation than it did to name the twins, but we finally settled on "Brookside" as being the most appropriate and—would you believe it—the brook went dry the next year! We still stick to the name, like the old darkey who said to his son, "You lyin' niggah, I'm glad I named you George Washin'ton cause folks will think dahs sum trufe in you."

Well, we had the fruit fever and for several years grew berries almost exclusively for we had it bad. We listened to the gospel of fruit growing as proclaimed by Thayer, Johnson, Coe, Kellogg, Edwards, et al., and went into it with all the zeal and enthusiasm of a new convert. Mr. Edwards told us that "while we could not hope to become millionaires we would be sure of a good salary in fruit growing." I find that after the salary has sifted down through frost, drouth, insects and commission men it is hardly large enough to be known by such a dignified name.

We continue to grow a few acres of berries at Brookside and perhaps in another number I will tell you something about how we make the business profitable.

CHAS. L. PEARSON.

Baraboo, Nov. 25, '99.

[We hope Mr. Pearson will not forget that promise.—
Editor.]



An old farmer said the best preparation for strawberries was peas, and more than that they could not be successfully grown without peas. When questioned what variety he used, he said "Three P's, pluck, push and perseverance."

A CORRECTION.

ED. HORTICULTURIST:—

In Mr. Sherman's report on nurseries it should have read "Geo. J. Kellogg and Sons," as the sons are doing the work while I do the play.

Our losses last winter were 75,000 apple trees instead of less than 25,000, but the boys are fully replenished with northern grown trees for spring sales which they are carrying through the winter in their new tree cellar, with a large stock of grapevines, roses, etc. Their large stock of gooseberries and currants were uninjured and their large acreage of strawberries was covered the 1st of November.

And while last winter's losses were heavy their efforts have been redoubled and they are in the business to stay.

GEO. J. KELLOGG.

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FALL REPORT OF THE TRIAL ORCHARD.

A. J. Philips, Secretary Wis. State Horticultural Society.

The week ending Nov. 4th I spent, for the most part, at Wausau. I paid each tree in the orchard a special visit, said a kind word for each graft I put in last spring and noted all places where grafts ought to be inserted next spring. To me there is satisfaction and pleasure in these interviews; you can comment on their behavior and they, mute things, can not dispute what you may say.

The growth of the trees since my last report is all, or even more, than I expected after the cold of last winter. I find the row of Newell trees have so far recovered that six only will have to be replaced. Trees with an abundance of fibrous roots do not seem to grow any faster here than those with three or four clean main roots and the two year old trees set are rapidly gaining on those that were four years old when set. In order to plant our plat out square I planted some cherry trees in one corner where the land

was low and wet. There I lost ten trees, more than the loss in the rest of the orchard. I will replant them next spring (if I have charge) and will raise the ground for each tree and report results later on.

I find the Kaump apple stood the winter here better than it did in my own orchard or even better than it did in Northeastern Iowa. The Avista grows fine here and so far is entirely free from blight.

The first three years I planted some 120 Virginia crab trees for top grafting; twenty of these have entirely new tops, seventy have partially new tops; the balance are nearly all ready for grafting in the spring of 1900, for which I have the cions already cut. While they may be no better I prefer to cut them on the ground where they are to grow, as the wood there is well ripened. One Duchess, two N. W. Greening, two Longfield, six Newell, one Repka, three Dominion, two Eureka, one Malinda, ten Early Richmond, and one Hawkeye Plum, in all twenty-nine trees to replace next spring. The Windorf, a local seedling of Marathon County, I am testing here and at home. It is a promising tree and fine fruit. At Mr. Barnes' request I took five trees from his place and planted them this fall to test the practicability of fall planting in that soil and climate.

I find the new owner of the farm, Hon. A. L. Kreutzer, is very much interested in the orchard and is anxious that we hold our next summer's meeting at Wausau, and promises—not only to our members but to the visitors from Marathon County—a free entertainment at the orchard. He has already become a Life member of the State Society.

As I am receiving numerous letters this fall inquiring about new seedlings I am testing at home, I will endeavor in a few weeks to answer them and also others who are inquiring about top grafting apple trees. Mr. Patten, of Iowa, whom I recently visited, has some very fine work in this line and some interesting experiments in crossing seed-

ling apples to produce something of value to the North West.

OMRO CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW AND FAIR.

Mrs. J. D. Treleven, Secretary of Omro Horticultural Society.

Our Chrysanthemum Show and Fair opened Nov. 22 and was held three days. This was rather later than usual, but as the weather has been so mild the delay was agreeable to the farmers, for their fall work was completed and they had time to take more interest in the Fair.

There were about 250 entries. The display of fruit was small, it not being a fruit year, and the chrysanthemums were not quite up to last year, owing, I think, to the extremely cold September we had; but in grains, vegetables, plants and decorative art, it far exceeded previous years.

The weather proved all we could ask for, the attendance was good, the unusual interest taken by those outside the Horticultural Society was more than has been shown heretofore and we can proudly say that it has been a success in every way.

We are very thankful for the interest taken in our Show by J. C. Vaughan of Chicago, Alexander Klokner of Milwaukee, Isaac Miles, J. S. Wood and Mrs. E. P. Sawyer of Oshkosh, who were very kind in sending us cut flowers; their encouraging words also were appreciated.

We had a nice delegation of visitors from Appleton and would have been pleased to have had the pleasure of entertaining a goodly number of the State Horticultural members, but were disappointed in that.

Omro, Wis.

“Do you think Congressman Roberts is guilty of bigamy, Aunt Melissa?” “Bigamy? He’s guilty of trigonometry.”—Chicago Record.

THE HUCKLEBERRY.

Sometime somebody will make money growing the delicious huckleberry. It is a product of considerable commercial importance. In the height of the season New York takes 2,000 bushels a day and the receipts at Chicago and other large cities are large. Wisconsin markets from \$60,000 to \$80,000 worth a year. But the wild berry is becoming scarcer and in time will cease to exist. The huckleberry and blueberry are exceedingly shy in habit, and there is some difficulty in domesticating them, but enough has been done in that direction to show that it is possible. If small bushes are removed from high ground, with a ball of earth attached to each, in the early spring, and planted closely together in soil in which there is plenty of sand and loam, the chances are that they will grow and produce for many years. Cultivation will probably greatly enlarge the fruit, and whoever can establish a huckleberry patch will find more profit in it than was ever made from the blackberry or is now being made from the strawberry. On some farms there are unused swamps that might be profitably utilized in growing certain varieties of the huckleberry such as the Canadian.—Agricultural Epitomist.

A French naturalist asserts that if the world should become birdless man would not inhabit it after nine years' time, in spite of all the sprays and poisons that could be manufactured for the destruction of insects. The bugs and slugs would simply eat up our orchards and crops.—Philadelphia Record.

“Too close together” is the crying evil with all our fruits. This is especially true with strawberries, as well as the bush fruits. They must have room to expose their buds to sunshine and currents of air.

A TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY.

From an Old Magazine.

One Christmas time in Washington, when Abraham Lincoln was our President, and the weather was unusually bitter and inclement, the Virginia hills white with snow, there was great suffering among the soldiers encamped across the Potomac. Their winter quarters were bleak and cheerless, the ground frozen and their shelter scanty.

"Little Tad" went often with his father, when important business called Mr. Lincoln to camp, or field, and nothing escaped the boy's sharp eyes.

Tad received Christmas gifts from the East and the West. Among the most dear and precious was a large and elegant book of travel, full of illustrations new and rare, sent him by a Boston firm.

Leaning on his father's knee with the big book spread out before them by the glowing fire of the pretty red room, one hundred enthusiastic questions asked, and so tenderly answered by the devoted father, Tad sprang to his feet suddenly and said, "Father! don't you remember how lonesome and homesick those soldier boys looked over in camp the other day? I'm going to send them this bea-u-tiful book!"

"But, my son, you enjoy it very much yourself," answered his father.

Tad looked at his book, stroked caressingly the big dark hand as it rested on his young shoulder, hesitated a moment, and then tossing back his hair, said, "Father—we have such good times here, and—they—don't."

The great sad-eyed man held his little son closer, and with tears said, "My boy, send all the books you can find; and tomorrow have the steward pack you a box of all the good things to eat in this house. It's a little late, but no matter; say it's from Tad."

The next day his mother was "let into the secret;" Tad stayed home from school; Albert, the faithful colored coach-

man, did the marking as his young master directed; drove the last nails, and with the family team the box was taken to the express office, Tad sitting in state beside the driver, with his feet on his precious gifts. He bowed right and left to boys on the avenue, while many a smile crept over the Adams Express Company as they read on three sides:

"To Camp D, etc., from Tad Lincoln."

That night he said to his father, "I guess they won't be lonesome now, father, and I'm glad we did it."

HOW TO LOOK AT A GIFT.

Patty had received a doll's trunk at Christmas; and as Prue seemed to wish for one, the grandmamma, who acted as "fairy godmother" to the children, gave her one for her birthday.

It happened to be a little smaller than Patty's; and Patty liked nothing better than to call Prue's attention to the fact.

Prue bore it very well; but finally, when Patty said with a pitying air, "Prue, I'm so used to my big trunk that when I look at yours it looks so small to me!" Prue turned in fierce and virtuous indignation:

"Well, I don't care, Patty, you're not a bit nice! It isn't the smallness you ought to look at when anybody gives you anything—it's the kindness!"

A gentleman going into his stable found his little son astride of one of the horses, with a slate and pencil in his hand. "Why, Harry," he exclaimed, "what are you doing?" "Writing a composition," was the reply. "Why don't you write it in the library?" "Because, the teacher told me to write a composition on a horse."

THE HOME.

Geo. J. Kellogg.

THE HOME,—blessed type of heaven, where love reigns supreme, where each anticipates the wants of the other, where each prefers the other's good, where sympathy takes away the sorrow that must come in affliction, for sickness, sorrow and death are unavoidable in this world of desolation and anguish. Blessed is the home where these trials are long delayed. Blessed is the mother that is not overburdened with household cares, that can direct the youthful mind in the way of giving comfort and happiness; blessed is the father whose home coming brings joy and rejoicing; blessed is the home where the children vie with each other in cheerful willing labor to lighten the parents' cares.

Oh how many homes there are of sorrow, want and wretchedness, where parents do not honor their children and children do not honor their parents, where strife, selfishness and deception are the rule, where the mother toils early and late, where the father spends his hard earned money for that which is a curse. Pity the children who come to such a place. It is not a home.

Mother: "What grieves you, Willie?" Willie: "I asked pa if he could spell hippopotamus." Mother: "And what did he do?" Willie (sobbing): "He thought hard a minnit an' then got furious an' said he'd spank me if I bothered him again when he was readin'."—Credit Lost.

The elm tree is full grown at the age of 150, ash at 100 and the oak at 200 years. The growth of an elm is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per annum; that of an oak less than 1 foot.

CANDY FOR CHRISTMAS.

Look up your Wisconsin Horticulturist for December, 1898, and you will find full directions for making several kinds of candy. Below are some additional rules.

MOLASSES CANDY.

From Ripley's Sweet Sixteen.

1 cup molasses, 2 cups sugar, 1 tablespoonful vinegar, a little vanilla, small piece of butter. Boil ten minutes, then cool enough to pull. Pull!!

PEANUT CANDY.

1 cup white sugar, 1 cup peanuts (chopped). Put the sugar into a smoking hot frying-pan, no water. Stir and stir until the sugar is dissolved, add the peanuts and turn immediately into a buttered tin. Cut into squares.

SOME HOMELY HINTS.

Sometimes very simple and homely little contrivances help the housekeeper most in the daily routine. A foot-cleaner or "mat," that can be shaken and dried as often as needful, is made by wrapping a board some two feet long by a foot wide with liberal thicknesses of old bagging. The lap should not be sewed—two or three pins will hold it in place. Have one of these not only for the back door, but for the cellar and shed doors.

There is nothing novel in the use of moistened corn meal in sweeping, but those who have never tried it will find that it robs sweeping-day of its worst terrors. It not only keeps down the dust, but freshens and brightens the carpet.

Various little brooms and brushes are sold to clean sinks, but I know of none as convenient as a stout, pointed corn-cob. It fits into the corners, absorbs grease, scours ef-

fectively, and best of all, can be put into the kitchen stove and replaced by a new one every morning if necessary. A corn-cob also does good service in cleaning the said stove in case of a spill, and if previously wet with kerosene, will start the fire in the morning without trouble or danger. Keep half a dozen, point downward, in an old dish for this purpose.—Country Gentleman.

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS.

The careful head of a certain family has a novel plan for speedy relief in case of emergency. In the storeroom hung a huge card with the title "Accidents!" It hung upon the wall like a map. At the top was printed in big letters what to do and how to do it.

At the bottom was the name and address of several good doctors to be called in if the case warranted it. Between followed a list of accidents or diseases that are suddenly developed and common among children and what to do for them.

The first on the list was "BITES," in plain, large letters to the left of the card. Below this and to the right were written in a plain, large hand the remedies.

Then followed the other things written in the same way, so that the list of ailments and accidents stood out clear and plain and could be read at a glance. Among them were broken limbs, bruises, burns, fainting, convulsions, croup, cuts, fits, falls, nose bleeding, poisons, scalds, sprains, substances in the eye, nose, etc.

Beside the card hung a big box fastened to the wall, containing all the remedies needed—bandages, linen thread, cord, needle and thread, pins, court plaster, absorbent cotton and lint.

MINNESOTA HORTICULTURAL CONVENTION.

As we write the Minnesota Horticultural Society is holding its Annual Meeting in the Court House at Minneapolis.

The program is so varied and of such general interest that it cannot fail to attract good audiences.

We notice that on one half day the interest centers around trees and shrubs; another session is chiefly taken up with five-minute papers on flowers; the cultivation of vegetables engrosses the attention on another half-day. The remaining time, aside from routine business, is given up to fruit and forestry.

One afternoon's session was held at the State Experiment Station at St. Anthony Park.

From the Minneapolis Times we clip an outline of one or two of the papers read: "The first of the five-minute papers was presented by Wyman Elliot of this city, on the 'Best Varieties of Trees for Street Planting.' In speaking of trees for street planting, he placed first and foremost the elm in all varieties, which, he said, were rampant growers, were graceful in form, being symmetrical and straight. He described all varieties of the elm in detail, commenting upon their adaptability for ornamental street planting. He also advocated all varieties of the maple, which he thought about as handsome as any street tree that could be planted. He called attention to the white and gray or blue ash as being a popular shade tree, on account of the symmetrical round tops, which, if properly cared for, spread beautifully and are fast growers. He was not in favor of the box elder, however, although he thought it a fast grower. The objection was that, after the first ten years, the tree is liable to die gradually off."

"'Locating Shrubs on the Grounds for Effect' was the contribution of F. A. Nutter of Minneapolis. The old-fashioned idea of the symmetrical setting out of shrubs, he said,

was supplanted by the idea that they should be sprinkled about the lawn as though a man had taken a handful of potatoes and throwing them into the air had planted a shrub wherever one happened to light. This, however, gives a dotty appearance and spoils those beautiful spaces of open lawn. A happy medium should be struck; the shrubs should fringe the lawn to enhance and beautify it, with here and there one set out indiscriminately. Trailing vines improve the appearance of shrubbery."

The secretary of the society, A. W. Latham, read an excellent paper in favor of the Wealthy apple.

Before the Convention closes a memorial service will be held in honor of Peter M. Gideon, the originator of the Wealthy apple.

We notice that the names of several ladies appear upon the program.



EDITORIAL NOTES.

"Thy own wish wish I thee in every place,—
 The Christmas joy, the song, the feast, the cheer!
 Thine be the light of love in every face
 That looks on thee, to bless thy coming year."

Are you at your wits' end to know what to get your wife and grown-up daughter for Christmas? Why not give them a year's subscription to the Ladies' Home Journal of Philadelphia? Mothers and daughters both like that, and one dollar buys it.

If you overhear a neighbor's wife wondering what to get for "him," kindly suggest the Wisconsin Horticulturist.

We shall have a "green Christmas" this year unless there comes a change of temperature 'twixt now and Christmas day.

Pansies in profusion, fresh from the field, graced our Thanksgiving dinner-table. They were from Mr. William Toole, the pansy specialist, and were as large and richly-colored as the flowers on display at the fall fairs.

Several clusters of large, ripe strawberries from the fields of William Rounds of Baraboo also decorated our table on Thanksgiving day.

Hon. Chas. Hirschinger is now occupying his handsome new residence in the city of Baraboo.

J. O. Spring, of Reedsburg, a horticulturist and a reader of the Horticulturist, celebrated his Silver Wedding anniversary a week or two ago.

We have read with great interest a recent Bulletin from the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station,—“The Origin and Early Development of the Flowers in the Cherry, Plum, Apple and Pear,”—by Prof. Goff. Illustrations show the different stages of bud development. It is such painstaking and scholarly investigation as this that gives prestige to the Horticultural Department of our University.

H. E. McGregor of Appleton writes, “My son and myself are interested in the welfare and success of the Horticulturist and you can safely count on us for any aid we can give you in making that paper an ornament to the State and to the Society it so ably represents.”

Vick's Magazine came out in a new dress in November and in approved magazine size, much more convenient for the reader than the old form. It has for a frontispiece an elegant colored plate of European and Japan plums, while photogravures are scattered throughout its pages.

READ THIS!—Fifty cents will pay for the Wisconsin Horticulturist from now until March 1, 1901. Will not each reader try to secure one new subscriber? Send forty cents to us and keep ten cents to pay for postage and trouble. Address The Wisconsin Horticulturist, Baraboo, Wis.

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