The Wisconsin horticulturist. Vol. V, No. 11 January 1901

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society
[s.l.]: [s.n.], January 1901

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PURPLE-LEAVED BARBERRY. [BERBERIS PURPUREA]

An interesting and handsome shrub growing 4 to 6 feet high. Very effective in groups or masses or grown singly. Equally beautiful and attractive in its flowering season in spring or its berry-bearing season which lasts until late in autumn, also forms a very dense and pretty hedge.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. V. JANUARY. NO. 11

OFFICERS OF THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1900.

President, Franklin Johnson, Baraboo.
Vice-president, Dr. T. E. Loope, Eureka.
Secretary, John L. Herbst, Sparta.
Treasurer, R. J. Coe, Fort Atkinson.
Corresponding Secretary, Samuel H. Marshall, Madison.

THE NEW YEAR.

A small ship launched upon an unknown sea,
A small seed planted from an unknown tree,
Such is this strange New Year to you and me.
Whither the vessel goeth,
And how the seed upgroweth,
God only knoweth.

—Selected.

THE DWARF JUNEBERRY AS A HEDGE-PLANT.

Among the recollections of our childhood home nothing stands out more distinctly than the "shadberry bush" in the "old wood lot." A jaunt to the woods was an exquisite pleasure in the days when that bush was in blossom and a still greater delight when the beautiful flowers had developed into salmon colored, edible berries.

When introduced to the modern Juneberry we were rejoiced to recognize our old friend the "shadberry bush," and to learn that it had taken kindly to civilization and was as beautiful on the lawn as in the forest.

Today we chanced to take up an old copy of The Mayflower in which an Iowa correspondent recommends the Dwarf Juneberry as a hedge-plant, writing thus:

"The Juneberry is beautiful as a single specimen, but it is most effective when used as an ornamental hedge skirting a green lawn. As a dividing line between adjoining premises, it is most desirable, being wholly ornamental, with never a break to mar its beauty; beautiful in flower, in foliage, and in fruit. It is a very rapid grower, forming dense clumps of bushes, which do not grow much higher than a man's head, even in our rich soil, and may be kept clipped back if desired. It has been greatly improved, and the stock offered now has larger fruit, and is more dwarf than that of which I write, purchased fifteen years ago. But this is lovely enough to satisfy the most exacting.

In early spring, every stem and branch is a solid plume of lovely, creamy white flowers, before a leaf shows; later the leaves appear, small, glossy, green leaves, changing to bright tints in the fall. After the foliage, the fruit. Every bush, even the tiniest twig, is loaded every year until the hedge that formed a floral snow bank in the spring becomes a crimson cloud later on; bright scarlet at first, changing to deep crimson, and when fully ripe, a deep ma-

roon overspread by a bluish bloom; luscious to eat from the hand when coated and dripping with dew in the early morning. Our gay, whistling friend, the robin, will bear me out in this statement, for from early morn until dusk he swings on the slender branches, wholly ignoring the cherries abundant on both sides of the hedge, and fairly gorges himself with Juneberries, boldly disputing the ground with whoever is inclined to follow his example. Taste the chilled fruit crushed with sugar, having your eyes closed, and you will say 'Blackberries.' A little lemon juice added, and you will pronounce them delicious.

The place of all places for a Juneberry hedge is as a dividing line between lawns. Cutting the roots, in cultivating, causes new shoots; as they do not encroach upon the sod, they all go to render the hedge line denser and more beautiful. They are easily kept down by cutting off with the hoe, at first appearance, if they spring up where they are not wanted. Care in cultivating obviates this necessity."

SPRAYING PRIMULAS.

As to these plants not being able to endure water on the foliage, that is a delusion, water standing in the crowns is certainly injurious to them, but spraying often enough to keep the leaves free from dust, on a sunny day and not in a falling temperature (midforenoon preferably), is a benefit to the plants. Of two supposed evils, wetting the leaves, or leaving them dust covered, by all means choose the former.—Exchange.

Bertha: "Grandma, is oor teef good?" Grandma: "No, darling; I've got none now, unfortunately." Bertha: "Then I'll give oo my nuts to mind till I come back."

REPORT OF PROF. E. S. GOFF AS DELEGATE TO MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the President and Members of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society:

As delegate of our society, I attended the meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 5th and 6th, being present at five sessions, of which one was the annual banquet. The sessions, with the exception of the banquet, were held in the lecture rooms of the Plymouth Congregational church, corner 8th and Nicollet Avenue.

The weather during the meeting was very mild and the attendance averaged somewhat larger than is usual in the meetings of our own society. The earnestness and intelligence of the members was manifest in all their sessions, in the character of the papers and the discussions. Two features of their society might, it seems to me, be followed with profit in our own organization, viz., the Ladies' Auxiliary and the annual banquet. It cannot be denied that these features increase the interest and pleasure of the meetings and tend to promote concord, a provision which has sometimes been needed in our society.

The Ladies' Auxiliary is, as I understand it, partially independent of the state society. That is, it has its own officers and provides its own program, and at least one session of the meeting is given over entirely to it. It is certain that this session was a most profitable one. It did not adjourn until half past five and then there was much of interest that had to be cut off for lack of time.

The annual banquet was instituted this season. It was held at the elegant Guaranty Loan building and was in all respects an up-to-date affair. As is customary at such occasions, the toasts were intended rather to promote hilarity than progress in horticulture, but the comfort and kindly

feeling they engender is perhaps more valuable by way of variety than if the time had been devoted to serious work.

In the fruit room were exhibited 277 entries for premiums, besides a number that were not competitive. Of the entries for premiums J. A. Howard showed 43 and was awarded 20 first premiums, and the Jewell Nursery Co. showed 38 and received 17 first premiums. W. L. Parker, C. W. Sampson, H. H. Heins, Thomas Ridpath, Gust. Johnson, W. H. Perry, H. H. Pond and J. R. Cummings were also quite large exhibitors. There were apparently 9 entries for the $1000.00 prize seedling apple. There were 35 entries of grapes, 6 of honey and 6 of flowers. Of the 216 entries of apples 170 were from cold storage. The average quality of the apples shown was very fine. Numerous seedlings were shown, of which some appeared to have considerable merit. Mr. Lord showed 40 varieties of native plums and Mr. Cook of Windom showed 18 varieties.

To undertake an abstract of the papers and discussions would require too much space and it is hardly needed since many of us already have the Minnesota Horticulturist, in which they will all be printed. A very interesting part of the program was the illustrated lecture by Prof. Green in which he gave a rambling account of his journey through Germany, illustrating many of the commonplace and homely scenes of rural life in Germany, which were the more interesting because they have been so seldom portrayed.

The society made an excellent beginning in recognizing the valuable work accomplished by the late Peter M. Gideons by subscribing $225.00 to the fund for his family.

In conclusion, I feel almost compelled to add that if our society hopes to keep pace with that of Minnesota in progress and usefulness, we shall need to raise up a larger company of workers who are more anxious to contribute some benefit to the society than they are to reap some personal benefit from it.

E. S. Goff.

DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME.

Chas. L. Pearson.

The application of the above text to the work of the fruit grower is quite necessary to success,—more so than to the work of the man who grows ordinary field crops. Perhaps it is because the fruit grower farms more intensively, has a smaller acreage and looks for a larger money return per acre.

The man who grows corn and oats need not worry if they are planted a few days late. If weeds get started in the corn he can soon knock them out with his team and cultivator when he gets around to it. A few days delay in harvesting or preparing for market does not cause him to lose any sleep.

Sometimes these farmers will attempt fruit growing by the same easy going method but they soon get disgusted with the business. The man who grows good crops of fruit, generally has this pasted in his every day hat, "Do the right thing at the right time." If he grows strawberries he must prepare the ground very thoroughly when it is in proper condition to work. Setting the plants must not be long delayed. Cultivation must be done promptly, the runners trained and trimmed, the blossoms picked at the right time and the winter protection applied in season. The same promptness is necessary to success in all the different branches of fruit growing. A fruit grower must observe keenly, plan wisely and execute promptly.

Two neighbors were growing tomatoes for the canning factory. John set his plants at the usual time. Jim didn't get around to plant his until about ten days later. John kept his free from weeds; Jim said it didn't pay to hire and so he let the weeds get half as large as his tomatoes before he got around to tackle them. John sold the product of his acre for forty eight dollars; Jim got thirty dollars for his,—a difference of eighteen dollars in favor of doing the

right thing at the right time,—this tomato story is no dream but is taken from real life.

Many men embark in a new business when it is at high tide. When the boom is on they will start in; then the tide begins to ebb and they drift along. The boom falls and they quit the business. They didn't follow the teaching of our text. The right time to start in a new branch of farming is when the other fellows are going out. The best time to quit if quit you must, is at high tide; but it is said the quitter never makes a success of fruit growing because he does not do the right thing at the right time.

Brookside Farm, Baraboo.

HOW TO TEST THE VITALITY OF GARDEN SEEDS.

Bulletin No. 59 of the Kansas Experiment Station.

It is well known that the vitality of seed dimishes rapidly with age. Dealers sometimes keep seed over from one season to another, and, if the vitality is too low, may mix fresh seed with this. Low vitality may not be due to age, but to unfavorable conditions at time of harvesting or to immaturity. In any case it is well to determine the vitality before planting. While it requires some experience to determine the impurities in seeds, the farmer can at least test his seed for vitality.

A cheap and convenient form of apparatus for testing the vitality of seeds at home is the following: Choose two earthenware plates of the same size. Cut out two circular layers of flannel somewhat smaller than the plates. Between the two layers of flannel place 100 seeds of the variety to be tested. Moisten the flannel with all the water it will absorb. The two layers of flannel are placed in one plate and covered with the other and set in a warm place.

If the flannel is thin several pieces should be used in order to absorb sufficient water. Other kinds of absorbent cloth or blotting paper can be used, but thick flannel is rather more satisfactory. At the Kansas Experiment Station we have used damp sand for a seed-bed with good success. The dishes should be placed in a room which is kept warm at night, or at least where the temperature does not fall to freezing. The flannel should be kept moist by the addition of more water when necessary. Some seeds will commence to germinate by the third day. Each day an examination should be made, and those seeds which have germinated should be recorded and removed. For practical purposes, two weeks is a sufficient time for the test. The results obtained may be considered as representing the per cent of vitality under favorable conditions. The per cent germinating in the ground is likely to be less. In counting out the 100 seeds, care should be taken to discard poor or shriveled seeds and the seeds of weeds or other plants which may be present.

Grass seeds require as much as three weeks, and seeds of some trees a still longer time. Beet balls contain from 3 to 7 seeds. With very small seed, it may be necessary to provide for the circulation of air by placing small pieces of wood between the layers of cloth among the seeds. With most varieties of garden plants the majority of seeds should germinate within a few days after the first sprout appears. If the period of germination extends over a longer time, it shows that the vitality of the seed is low. Seeds of the carrot family and some melon seeds may not show as high results in the germinating dishes as they do in the ground. Below is given a list of common seeds, with the average number of years that they will retain their vitality (taken from Professor Bailey's Horticulturists' Rule Book).

Bean, 3	Cucumber, 10	Parsnip, 2	Tomato, 4
Beet, 6	Indian corn, 2	Pea, 3	Turnip, 5

Cabbage, 5	Lettuce, 5	Pumpkin, 4	Watermel-
Carrot, 5	Muskmelon, 5	Radish, 5	on, 6
Celery, 8	Onion, 2	Summer squash, 6	

A. S. HITCHCOCK.

Peter Henderson in his "Gardening for Profit," places the length of time which average seeds retain their vitality somewhat less than the above. He does not consider it safe to plant seed of Parsnips, Onions and Leeks when more than one year old.

Among those only safe for TWO years: Beans, Peas, Peppers, Carrot, Egg-plant, Okra, Salsify, Thyme, Sage and Rhubarb.

Those safe for THREE years: Asparagus, Endive, Lettuce, Parsley, Spinach and Radish.

Those safe for FOUR years: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Celery and Turnip.

Those ranging from five to ten years: Beet, Cucumber, Melon, Pumpkin, Squash and Tomato.

For the Wis. Horticulturist.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

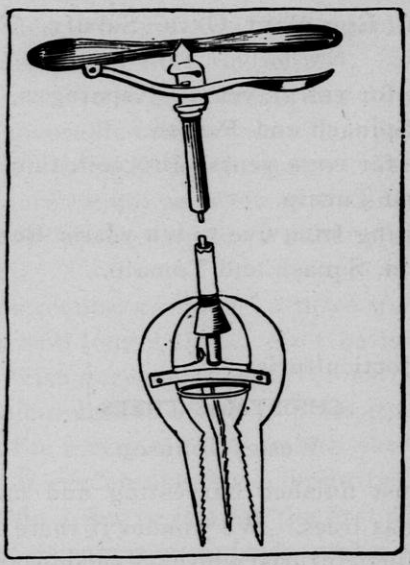
Wesley Johnson.

We have just finished harvesting and marketing our crop of Christmas trees. We wonder if there are not some readers of the Horticulturist who have swamp land that can be utilized to good advantage in this crop. Drained sufficiently to work well, fitted as for corn or potatoes, and planted to black spruce, four feet apart each way, and well cultivated the first two seasons, it will furnish a crop that will bring within five years, from $300 to $500 per acre, provided the owner has any faculty and facilities for marketing that sort of produce.

Alto, Kent Co., Mich.

PULLS UP THE ROOTS OF WEEDS.

Here is an implement that will be the means of destroying many an obstinate weed that persists in appearing year after year on the lawn, simply because the root has not been plucked up. There are numerous weeds that cannot be killed by cutting off the tops close to the ground, and the only way to exterminate them is to dig the root out. This is often not only a difficult task, but is liable to mar the appearance of the lawn by tearing the sod. With the intention of providing an implement which will take up the root



NEW WEED-EXTERMINATING IMPLEMENT.

with the least possible injury to the grass George F. Marchant of Chicago, Ill., has designed this implement, which has simplicity of construction and cheapness to recommend it. In operation the normally open prongs are forced down into the earth around the roots and the lever located underneath the handle is lifted by the hand. This raises a rod inside the tubular standard and forces a conical wedge to

spread the upper ends of the pivoted prongs apart, thus gripping the lower ends of the prongs on the roots and allowing it to be lifted out entire.—Patent Record.

AN INDIAN SCHOOL.

Interesting Letter From a Short Course Alumnus.

Pawhuska, Okla. Terr., Dec. 31, 1900.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist,
Baraboo, Wis.

Dear Editor:—Enclosed find fifty cents, one year's payment on my subscription to the Horticulturist. I am well pleased with the paper—many subjects of great importance are ably discussed through your columns. You invited me through your paper some time ago to write and tell your readers what I am doing at this place. Will write a synopsis of a long unwritten story,—describing my work.

I am employed here at the Osage Indian Boarding School in the capacity of Industrial Teacher. My duties are the looking after of 50 of the largest boys in the school. I am held responsible for their actions and the disciplining of them, together with the detailing to work which I oversee, and instruct them in. In connection with the school there is a garden and orchard both of which are in my charge. The orchard consists of 55 old and deformed peach trees and 46 bearing apple trees. In regard to varieties the most of the peach and apple trees are seedlings. The orchard has evidently needed care for many years. The estimated number of peaches yielded this past season was 135 bushels and of apples 178 bushels. We are making arrangements to set out a new orchard next spring.

We have 4 acres of black loamy soil for a garden. The only fault that I have with the soil is that it will grow the

most weeds (if allowed to) of any soil I know anything about. We had almost an ideal garden last spring. The season was very favorable and "the boys" took great interest in keeping up the appearance of the garden. Seventeen of our largest boys were given each a square of land in the garden, 20x15 ft., with enough seed to plant it. Their individual gardens were in connection with class lectures and exercises along the lines of Principles of Plant Culture (Prof. Goff's Book), conducted by myself. Each boy had charge of his own garden and it was worked along the lines taught in class exercises. Each Indian boy became very much attached to his little garden, all the time aiming to grow as much as could be grown on the land. We agreed to allow them to sell half they raised on their patch; perhaps this is why they took the interest they did. Whatever was the cause, it was a successful experiment for the results were excellent.

In connection with my teaching in the Industrial line I have organized a society in the school and drill them on conducting meetings and elections, also debating and discussing such topics as will assist in civilizing them. I find this an interesting work. Am proud of my Indian boys and I feel that from what information they get in these exercises they can "Make two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

Will close by wishing The Wisconsin Horticulturist and its readers a Happy New Year.

Very respectfully,

R. C. PRESTON.

Jack Bass would raise garden sass,
His wife raised chickens;
Betwixt the two, ere they got through,
They simply raised the dickens.—Indianapolis Journal.

IOWA'S HARDY LIST.

Secretary Green's investigations conducted the past year indicate that the following apple varieties are iron clads for the whole state of Iowa: Duchess, Whitney, Longfield, Tetofsky, Yellow Transparent, N. W. Greening, Patten's Greening, Wealthy, Plumb Cider, Red Astrachan, Wolf River, Hibernal, Haas, Malinda. One of these is an Iowa seedling, one from Minnesota, two from Wisconsin, one from Illinois, four from various parts of the eastern United States and five from Russia.

Of course there are other varieties that might safely be added, but trial has not been general enough to warrant a place in this list.—The Fruitman.

At least two of the above list are not iron clad in some parts of Wisconsin—Tetofsky and Haas.

A COSTLY COMMA.

It seems that some twenty years or so ago, when the United States, by its Congress, was making a tariff bill, one of the sections enumerated what articles should be admitted free of duty. Among the many articles specified were "all foreign fruit-plants," etc., meaning plants imported for transplanting, propagating, or experiment. The engrossing clerk, in copying the bill, accidentally changed the hyphen in the compound word, "fruit-plants," to a comma, making it read, "all foreign fruit, plants," etc. As the result of this simple mistake, for a year, or until Congress could remedy the blunder, all the oranges, lemons, bananas, grapes, and other fruits were admitted free of duty.

This little mistake, which anyone would be liable to make, yet which could have been avoided by carefulness, cost the government not less than $2,000,000. A pretty costly comma, that.—Endeavor Epitome.

IOWA ECHOES.

The Fruitman lists the following among "points emphasized" at the Iowa State Meeting:

The winter apple Malinda is growing in favor at the north.

New York Pippin is a synonym for Ben Davis.

Thin crop by pruning trees.

At expense of $100 a cold storage room can be made that will keep Duchess until November.

Cold storage improves the Wealthy.

Native groves will produce at least 20 cords of wood in 20 years.

Loudon is the best red raspberry.

The American plums are best for the masses.

To secure pollination top work a few branches of all pistillate plums with Wyant.

Ten orchards are dying from neglect for every new one planted.

Coal smoke is bad for evergreens therefore they die in large towns.

Climate is practically unchanging. Small variations prove nothing.

One of the great national demands of the future is forestry.

The home surroundings show the character of the man.

Many of our fine roses have names that would insult a sunflower.

The successes now attained in crossing apples point to a wonderful future.

Brown: "I understand that Senator Green wanted you to act as his private secretary." Simmons: "He did; but I wouldn't accept the position, because I should have to sign everything Green, per Simmons."—Providence Journal.

NOTES FROM SOME OF THE STATE MEETINGS.

Badge Books were a unique feature of the Minnesota meeting. The badges worn by the members were numbered. In the badge books were printed these numbers and the names of the wearers; so by noticing the number on a man's badge you could refer to your book and find his name. In this way many pleasant acquaintances were formed without the formality of an introduction.

In Prof. Goff's interesting report of the Minnesota meeting he mentions another special feature, the banquet. The tickets to the banquet were sold at fifty cents each.

Prof. Hansen stated that the small Siberian crab, Pyrus baccata, is used over a large share of Russia as a stock upon which to graft apples to insure loss from root-killing. They are grafted at the collar. President Pendergast thinks that the small yellow Siberian crab is the hardiest tree known.

The Rockford plum was stricken from the list of recommended fruits; so were Shaffer, Souhegan and Palmer raspberries. The high-bush cranberry was added to the list.

At the Missouri meeting Mr. Widman gave an instructive illustrated lecture on Birds.

At this meeting 490 plates of apples were on exhibition, besides other fruits.

Several had experimented with the Stringfellow method of root pruning but did not meet with success. Trees died.

Bitter rot is the worst foe which orchardists in Missouri and Illinois had to contend with last year. It attacks the

apple when about time for it to ripen. In many instances nearly the entire crop was destroyed by this disease.

THE CULTURE OF AMERICAN GINSENG.

Some Accurate Information Regarding This Valuable Plant.

Harlan P. Kelsey.

The subject of growing Ginseng has recently received so much attention from the agricultural press of the country and from circulars and pamphlets sent broadcast throughout the country by dealers, that hundreds of people are being induced to try its culture.

Many of the articles are written by people who have no personal knowledge of the best way to grow it or of the profits to be derived thereby. Others are written by dealers who have seeds and plants to sell, and in both instances as a rule the information is second hand and unreliable. The most extravagant figures are given showing enormous yields produced on a given acreage and Monte Cristo fortunes to be made out of a paltry investment while one loafs in the back yard watching the gold dollars sprouting.

Certain dealers have sent out figures informing the public that $5 invested in their seeds and plants will show a value of $44,340 the fifteenth year.

A million dollar bed in twelve years from a $1000 investment is advertised on another page. A value WHICH CANNOT BE OBTAINED except perhaps in small quantities is placed on the seeds and young plants and the ratio of increase and loss is given very accurately and more extravagantly ON PAPER. Can any of these versatile writers please inform us how many turnips can be grown on a $5 investment in twelve years, the price the roots and seeds will

bring each year and how rich a man will be at the end of that period? Certainly not and information pretending to figure it out would be absolute nonsense.

An article on Ginseng entitled "Valuable Farm Land" appeared in the St. Louis Republic a short time ago and was extensively copied by other papers in the South and Southwest. Among other wild statements the writer said that seeds bring five cents each (another writer says there is unlimited demand at twenty-five cents each) and yearling roots twenty cents each; that the eighth year an acre should produce 3,120,000 seeds which sell at five cents each giving an annual income to the fortunate grower of $100,000 from the seeds alone. He further states: "Say that a full crop of seed from one acre is available for planting. That will be 3,120,000 seed. Allow for the loss and failure to generate or 1,120,000 seed. This will leave 2,000,000 seed that are practically sure to generate and create 2,000,000 roots. In eighteen months these roots will be ready for the market and can be sold direct to consumers, the present price being 20 cents each or a total of $400,000 from the Ginseng crop in eighteen months. This crop of 2,000,000 roots would require a space of approximately forty acres. One acre should produce 52,000 roots, which at the market price of 20 cents each, should, after eighteen months, bring a return of $10,400."

Could anything be more baldly ridiculous. Let us suppose that only 1000 gardeners had the above success as to yield. This would mean over three billion seeds put on the market each year, which at five cents each would require $150,000,000 annually to pay for them, not to mention the value of the roots.

Suppose further that the ratio of increase both in yield of crops and number of growers continued the same for twenty-five years there would not be money enough in the world to buy a single year's crop. China, the source of de-

mand for Ginseng, would have used all her wealth in its purchase long before the period of twenty-five years had elapsed. Notwithstanding these air castles there is an enormous profit in growing the plant, but it depends on the individual grower as in any other crop. The right conditions for its culture must be supplied, either naturally or artificially, and intelligent cultivation given. There will probably always be a good demand for the root at high prices, and it is an article commanding cash at all times.

These conditions for growing are readily found in nearly all the States of the Union or can be produced at reasonable cost of labor and material. They may be stated in a few words: A rich, deep, well-drained, and moist soil, containing abundant decayed vegetable matter and not too heavy or clayey. Humus or vegetable mold, obtained by using decayed forest leaves, is extremely beneficial, as is also thoroughly rotted compost. Shade sufficient to keep off the direct rays of the sun is almost necessary, particularly in sections where the heat is excessive. Add to this careful cultivation and you have the secret, if there really be any, of growing Ginseng successfully. Lath covers are perhaps the best artificial shade and apple trees have been found good to keep the ground protected from the sun. At maturity the roots must be carefully and properly prepared for market, and the extra care taken to produce a fine article, clean, well graded and perfectly dry is more than repaid by the much higher price such roots will bring.

The writer who has had many years of experience growing this root will be glad to give fuller information as to the best modes to be used in its cultivation, but would warn the reader against the wildly extravagant articles that appear from time to time and which will damage rather than help an industry that really does promise most unusual returns for the labor and expense necessary to cultivate it successfully.

Tremont Building, Boston.

PROFESSOR FORBES' REPORT OF NURSERY INSPECTION IN ILLINOIS.

It appears from the report that there are 245 commercial nurseries in Illinois, and that all of these were inspected at a cost of $5.77 each in 1898, and for the second year $3.74.

The San Jose scale has been detected in forty-four different localities (at ten of which, however, it has since been exterminated), five of these being in the northern, nineteen in the central, and twenty in the southern section of the State. In the effort to bring the scale at these points under control of owners of infested premises 115 orchards were given an insecticide treatment, either by fumigation or an insecticide spray.

In a general statement concerning the effects of the law, Professor Forbes says:

"As a result of the annual inspection of nursery stock, followed, as it has been, by critical observations from this office in all cases requiring them, a rapid improvement in the condition of Illinois nurseries is manifest, especially in those parts of the State where the same region was covered both years by the same inspector. Insects found too generally prevalent on the first inspection have largely disappeared from nurseries, old and worthless stock has been cleared out and destroyed, and evidences of greater care in management are generally noticeable.

The most serious cases of scale encountered were at Sparta in Randolph county; Richview in Washington county; and Cartersville, Williamson county. In all, 123 farms are infested near Sparta, 47 near Richview, and 27 at Cartersville. The total number of trees treated with gaseous or fluid insecticides was 13,863, of which 6,954 were sprayed and 6,909 fumigated. Of these 3,866 were located near Sparta, 5,528 at Richview, and 2,961 at Cartersville, and the

remainder at Albion and Monticello. About 800 trees were destroyed as worthless.—Our Horticultural Visitor.

SOUTHEASTERN IOWA MEETING.

To the Wisconsin Horticulturist:

The Southeastern Iowa Society met as per program at Muscatine Nov. 20. The first session was largely taken up with a paper by Samuel Rowe, who from experience advocates grass in the orchard. There were many pros and cons on the subject but was heartily endorsed by such veterans as Mr. Lothrop of Iowa City. The eminent horticulturists that have for years been eloquent for clean cultivation are slow to comprehend the terrible lessons of February, 1899. During the discussions of the entire meeting a hardy root was lost sight of, notwithstanding root killing prevailed throughout the district. It seems that the stock on hand must be unloaded before we talk of safety for the future.

Snap shots by Mr. Langham of Cedar Rapids was a combination of wit, sarcasm and plain facts for the consideration of the State Society, whose actions seem to say to a select few, "To thee be the honor, the glory and the ducats." In the discussion Mr. Branson explained that the management of the State Society was controlled by those who years ago paid five dollars for life memberships and are no longer a source of revenue to the society as compared with those who have annually paid their one dollar.

The meeting was regaled by many long, extemporaneous speeches that if embodied in the report will be good reading on rainy days, when not too sleepy!

Mr. Patten's paper, "The Future of Horticulture in the Mississippi Valley," embellished the horizon of the future

with pyramids of beautiful pomology and bouquets of lovely flora.

Mr. F. O. Harrington gave us a paper that is an encyclopedia of information in handling the tree from nursery to orchard. In the discussion the tree peddler got a terrible laceration. He was on a back seat and smiled in eloquent silence.

Mr. Blodget's paper was "Peaches for Profit." He prefaced the article by "now don't consider me plum crazy." Oh no, just peaches on the brain!

Your Kellogg has told us that "anything can be proved at a Horticultural meeting," and that is about what we did. Yet, withal, the meeting was good and useful. Many of us met as strangers and part as warm and lasting friends—to meet, when? where?

Kindly yours,

W. H. GUILFORD.

PRUNING.

From Our Horticultural Visitor.

The "don'ts" on pruning are multifarious and sometimes nonsensical. We have don't prune in winter; don't prune heavy; don't prune up; don't prune down, etc., and there are even those who say don't prune at all.

The orchardist who doesn't prune at all generally does not believe in spraying or cultivation. He believes that nature can take sufficient care of the tree and if failure is the result, which is usually the case, he says fruit-growing doesn't pay.

One man may obtain satisfactory results by his methods and conclude they are correct, without considering whether better results might not have been obtained by other methods. I regard pruning as a necessary evil. A

tree with a thick matted head cannot produce fine fruit, no more than a hill of corn containing six or eight stalks can produce fine ears.

I have pruned at all seasons of the year, but now think the best time is as close up to the time the buds begin to slip as is possible to accomplish the amount of pruning to be done. I don't like to take out limbs over an inch in diameter, but if there are larger limbs that ride other limbs or that are choking the head I take them out. If the cut is properly made—smooth and parallel to the collar of the limb—and at the right time, just before growth begins in the spring, nature will take care of the healing and it is not necessary to paint or wax the wound.

Water sprouts I take out during the summer, leaving one occasionally to balance a limb or fill up a gap.

The best tools I have found for pruning are the pruning shears with handles about two feet long, a long-handled lever pruner for water-sprouts too high to reach with the short one and a small fine-toothed saw.

The experience and direction of others in pruning are helpful to the learner but the successful pruner must prune with his brains. A. D. McCALLEN.

TEACHING SPRAYING AT FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

At a recent farmers' institute held in Illinois, Professor Blair of the State Agricultural College gave a demonstration on spraying. This is the best way to stir up an interest in spraying. Farmers will read about spraying and will let it go to another time. But an actual demonstration stirs them to activity. The precedent that has been established should be followed extensively. It is probable that the makers of spraying apparatus would be willing to send their sprayers to any meeting where it was possible to make a demonstration of actual work.—Farmers' Review.

ADVANTAGES OF COUNTRY LIFE.

There has, for many years, been a very marked tendency on the part of our population, particularly among the young men, to flock to the cities, expecting there to find immediate and remunerative employment and that chance for wealth and fame for which every young man hopes. The disappointments are, as may be expected, very numerous; in fact, it may be said that not one youth in a dozen realizes his expectation, and a very large proportion are grievously disappointed in the hopes they had formed of the recognition of their talent. There is also a proportion, by no means small in numbers, who drift into bad company, contract evil habits and wind up what might be promising careers in the slums, jails and penitentiaries. Even those who seek honest employment find it often very difficult to obtain and are frequently compelled to work hard, many hours a day, for a mere pittance.

The country offers to every young man a good livelihood, but while farmers find it difficult to obtain men to do their work, the cities are crowded with young men who are over-worked and underpaid. The bustle and rush of city life has blinded the eyes of people to the fact that in the country lies the hope of the nation, and in the city is found the principal menace to its future. If ever our liberties are overthrown, the work will be done, not in the country, but in the city; if ever it becomes necessary to fight for the heritage of our fathers, the country will furnish more than its quota of freedom's defenders.—Exchange.

Little Margaret was out riding with her father one afternoon, when they chanced to meet a donkey. As they drove by she looked up and said: "Papa, didn't that horse's ears know enough to stop growing when they'd got long enough?"—Judge.

STICK TO THE FARM, YOUNG MAN.

Instead of rushing to the cities, young men will best subserve their own interests by remaining on the farm. The young farmer is his own master. He can work when he likes, rest when he is tired, and go fishing when he pleases. He is not insulted by the gratuitous insolence of a floor-walker, is not subjected to the offensive espionage of a professional spy; he is not ordered about by a profane boss. He works for himself, and whether he makes little or much, it is his own, and he can do with it what he pleases. The country is the place for the young man, and the sooner the young men of our nation learn to appreciate the fact, the better will become the industrial and moral tone of the nation.—St. Louis Christian Advocate.

GIRDLING GRAPES.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society discussed the subject at one of their meetings, and E. W. Wood, in his report, says:

"Among the commercial growers, the practice of girdling the vine is increasing—some asserting that if they could not thus secure the earlier ripening and larger bunches of more attractive appearance, they would give up the cultivation of this fruit on account of the competition and low prices prevailing when the crop matures naturally and grapes are sent to this market in large quantities from locations outside the state.

Girdling is not adapted to varieties having compact bunches, like Moore's Early and Delaware, as the increased size of the berries causes cracking and decay, but the value of the Concord and Worden, the two kinds of dark grapes most widely cultivated, may be increased by the operation."

POISONOUS PLANTS.

When we take into consideration the poisonous qualities of the vegetables and plants with which we are surrounded, we are led to wonder how it is that children and heedless persons go about and escape with their lives. Little children especially who have the habit of putting so many things into their mouths ought to be carefully watched.

It will surprise many persons to be told that old potatoes which have sprouted contain a definitely recognized poison known as solanine. New potatoes, which are so eagerly sought after early in the season, would be poisonous if eaten raw. The heat of cooking destroys their toxic qualities. The root of the common kidney bean is a most powerful narcotic. The jimsonweed is dangerous to life. The bark of the common elder is a deadly poison, which fact was never suspected until five boys near Tarrytown, N. Y., chewed the stalks, supposing they were sassafras. They all died within a few hours.

The bulb of the narcissus is a deadly poison. A small bit chewed may cause death, while to chew the leaves is to put oneself in danger of the most violent attacks of vomiting. Yew-berries are deadly; peach-pits and cherry kernels contain prussic acid, and any quantity of them eaten may prove fatal. Wild parsnip has many ills laid at its door.

Who knows how many children die of diseases induced by eating some familiar plant.—Exchange.

Little Edith had been to church for the first time and on her return her grandma asked her how she liked it. "I didn't like the organ very well," was the reply. "Why not?" asked the old lady. "'Cause," answered Edith, "there wasn't any monkey with it."—Evening Telegram.

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

BAKED BANANAS.

South Americans say baked bananas are an excellent substitute for meat. They travel, fish and hunt solely upon a banana diet. For those weary of meat or unable to eat it (during the warm weather nearly all of us would gladly do without it) it would be well to try the baked banana. Each end should be cut off, the jackets being left on, after the fruit is washed. From twenty to thirty minutes are needed for baking. They are placed upon the table and one served to each person, instead of his usual piece of roast or fowl. They should then be slit lengthwise and buttered, the butter greatly improves the flavor.—The Household.

TO REMOVE A POSTAGE STAMP FROM AN ENVELOPE.

"I fancy you will think my item is economical with a vengeance," said Becky Sharpe, "for I am going to tell you how to save a postage stamp that has been placed on the wrong envelope. Tear out the corner of the envelope, stamp and all, place in a little warm water, and, when sufficiently soaked, remove it from the paper, moisten it a little, rub it on the flap of the envelope you are about to seal, and place it in the upper right hand corner. If carefully done, no one will ever know that it was not put there in the first place."

FRIED PARSNIPS.

Clean with a vegetable brush and scrape. Boil gently for forty minutes, or until tender but not broken. When cold cut into slices one-third of an inch thick. Season with salt and pepper. Have equal parts of dripping and butter hot in a frying pan; lay in enough slices to cover the bottom of the pan. Fry brown on both sides. Serve hot.

REPORT OF THE WISCONSIN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

We have been much interested in the last annual report of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association which came to our desk several weeks ago.

It contains the proceedings, papers, addresses and discussions at the convention held in Watertown last winter, to which is added a very useful and complete index, thereby more than doubling the value of such a book.

The association was organized in 1872, being the second oldest in the United States, and the present is its 28th annual report. Including the index there are 222 pages and every page has something on it which cannot fail to be of interest to dairymen. It could not well be otherwise when such men as ex-Gov. Hoard, H. C. Adams, C. P. Goodrich, Profs. Henry, Haecker (of Minnesota), Farrington, Woll, Carlyle and others were on the program, names too well known in dairy circles to make extended comment necessary. The association was also exceptionally fortunate in the new names added to its list of speakers. Especially worthy of mention are the papers by Mrs. Adda F. Howie, a successful dairy woman of Elm Grove (near Milwaukee) on Developing the Dairy Cow; by E. C. Bennet, of Iowa, on Watering the Dairy Cow, and Will Thomas, of Sheboygan Falls, on Organizing Dairy Boards of Trade.

A copy of the report will be sent to each member of the association, who has paid the annual membership fee of one dollar, and to others who may care enough for it to send ten cents to the Secretary (G. W. Burchard, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin) to cover postage and cost of wrapping.

Humor is like a healing to the wounds of life; wit, the surgeon's knife that would pare to the bone if essential, while sarcasm is the caustic which may eradicate an evil but leaves a scar behind.

GOVERNMENT BULLETINS OF VALUE TO MOTHERS.

Many valuable pamphlets which would be of great use to the house mother may be obtained free on application to the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Some of these are The Nutritive Value and Cost of Foods; Souring of Milk and Other Changes in Milk Products; Meats: Composition and Cooking; Milk as Food; Fish as Food; Sugar as Food; Bread and Bread Making; Household Insects, in which much useful information is given as to their extermination. Besides these there are special treatises on Bee Keeping; Mushroom Growing; Poultry Raising; Butter Making; Asparagus Culture, and other subjects interesting to women who live in the country, to be had for the asking. —January Ladies' Home Journal.

CATALOGUES AND REPORTS RECEIVED.

Catalogue of John Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis.

Catalogue of Farquhar's Seeds, R. & J. Farquhar & Co., Boston, Mass.

Catalogue of Railroad View Fruit Plant Farms, O. A. E. Baldwin, Bridgman, Mich.

Small Fruit Plants, A. R. Weston, Bridgman, Mich.

Strawberry Plants and Seed Potatoes, Flansburgh and Peirson, Leslie, Mich.

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Irrigation in New Jersey, which is Bulletin No. 87 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Those who work solve labor problems that would paralyze a philosopher.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

To all the readers of The Wisconsin Horticulturist a Happy New Year.

The "coming century" has come. We are the twentieth century people. We can no longer make twentieth century prophecies; we must now make twentieth century history.

We finished the "copy" for the January Horticulturist before starting to the Annual Meeting. When we return from Oshkosh the magazine will be ready for mailing.

The February Horticulturist will be the Convention number.

Strawberries from Florida and California are beginning to appear in the New York market, seventy-five cents per quart.

Another graduate of our Agricultural College is teaching an Indian School in Washington, Mr. Jensen. We hope to hear from him soon.

Now is the time to renew your subscription to The Wisconsin Horticulturist. Many have already renewed. Notice our clubbing rates with the Weekly Wisconsin and The Orange Judd Farmer.

To those who prefer our old premiums also hold good —your choice between a dozen fine strawberry plants or 6 select gladiolus bulbs.

The strawberry plants and bulbs sent out last year were very satisfactory. We received gratifying letters of commendation and thanks.

Don't fail to read the letter in this number from R. C. Preston, a teacher in an Osage Agency Indian School. Mr. Preston is a graduate of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

The ladies of Minnesota are endeavoring to induce the U. S. Government to reserve a large tract of land at the head waters of the Mississippi river as a great National Park. It includes a forest reserve of native pine.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson strongly endorses the bill known as the Grout bill, which seeks to prevent the coloring of oleomargarine in imitation of butter.