



# **The Wisconsin horticulturist. Vol. III, No. 12**

## **February 1899**

Wisconsin State Horticultural Society

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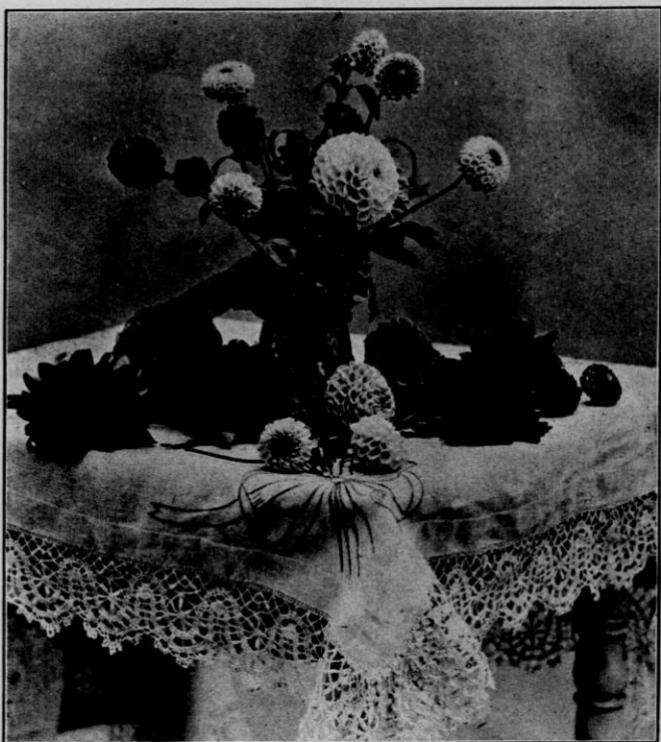
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DAHLIAS.—See page 23.

# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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VOL. III.

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## TESTED VARIETIES OF SMALL FRUITS.

We will give a report of how a few of the leading varieties of small fruits have done with us the past season. Our soil is a sandy loam with a clay subsoil and a northern slope. We give our soil and think that if all persons, in stating how varieties have done with them, would say what kind of soil they were grown on, such reports would be of more value than they generally are. For if we find varieties are doing well on soils similar to ours we can plant such with a reasonable hope of success.

In Strawberries, the *Warfield* still holds first place as a market berry, selling readily for canning when other varieties were a drug on the market. *Splendid* is the most productive staminate sort we have. The vine is healthy and vigorous and we like it best as a fertilizer for the Warfield, as they blossom and ripen about the same time. The fruit is lighter in color and not as pointed as Warfield.

*Crescent*. Some call us "old fogies" for still clinging to this variety; but we do not believe in discarding an old friend without cause, and the *Crescent* has *always* done well for us; as long as it continues to do so we shall plant it largely.

*Beder Wood* is, next to *Splendid*, the most productive staminate sort we have. We find it too soft for long shipment; the *earliest, productive* berry we have.

*Haverland* is very good for home use and near market but will not stand shipment. Is very productive and of fine quality.

These five were the best out of 25 varieties that we fruited last season.

Of *Raspberries*, the best blacks were *Kansas*, *Older* and

Gregg. Kansas easily took the lead in productiveness, quality, and standing up well in the market. The dealers who handled it say they have never seen its equal in this respect. So far it has been perfectly hardy with us without protection. Our first picking of Kansas was made with the second picking of Palmer.

The Older, while hardy, productive and a good home berry, is too soft for market.

Gregg still holds first place as a late variety.

Columbian, with us, is far ahead of Shaffer Colossal. It is stronger growing, hardier, healthier and more productive. Fruit is firmer and of better quality.

Cuthbert and Loudon are the only reds we are planting to amount to anything. The only fault we have to find with the Cuthbert is that the bush is not hardy.

The Loudon has been perfectly hardy so far, without winter protection. The berry is fully as large and is as productive as Cuthbert, and we believe in time it will supersede that variety.

Our most profitable *Currants* are Victoria, White Grape and Red Dutch. Somehow we cannot get our customers' taste educated up or down, as the case may be, to using the L. B. Holland. The Pomona did very well with us last season.

Downing is our best gooseberry.

J. M. EDWARDS & SON.

Fort Atkinson, Wis.

### PEARS IN RIPON.

EDITOR HORTICULTURIST:—

I am moved to tell you my experience with pears. Last year we fruited the Bessemianka, Autumn Bergamot and Winter Nellis on standard trees; and Clapp's Favorite, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Idaho, Duchesse, Anjou and Kieffer on

dwarf trees. They have all made a remarkable growth and free from blight.

The Russians set in 1892 are now from 15 to 20 ft. high and as healthy as can be. Autumn Bergamot is a medium-sized, yellowish, glossy fruit, ripening the last of August and of fairly good quality. The Bessemianka (?) is very satisfactory as a *tree*, but the fruit is *rather poor* in quality, of medium size, greenish yellow and rather rough skin,—ripens in September. As there has been much said about this variety I am led to think mine may not be true to name or it has been grossly overestimated. I would like to hear the experience of others with it.

Notwithstanding their rapid growth not a bud has been injured by cold. The dwarf trees were set in 1896.

We have now "on tap" the last of our Anjou and Duchesse, which were kept in cold storage until Christmas.

While journeying in the East for three months I saw nowhere so fine Duchesse, Anjou, and Kieffer as we raised here,—but it is well to go slow on pears.

Success to the Horticulturist.

W. T. INNIS.

Ripon, Wis., Jan. 26, 1899.

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#### GRAPEVINES.

By E. P. Powell.

1. Plant always on well-drained soil, clay subsoil, rows running north and south if possible. Buy two-year-old vines, and be careful to get of a reliable man. If not certain what you want, send for the catalogues of men who make grape-growing a specialty. Compare what they say and you will get well posted without serious danger of mistakes. For instance, you will find they will unitedly praise the Worden, the Brighton, and a few more. Go in for such sorts freely. Of new sorts believe next to nothing. When a grape has been planted for five or six years you can get

at the truth. When your vines come bury them in the ground until ready to plant, but better be ready to plant at once.

2. To prepare the soil plow deeply, and manure richly from the barnyard with old manure. I do not like half-decayed manure about the roots of anything. It breeds fungus that attacks the roots. It kills pears, and diseases grapes. If you have ashes use them very freely; and if the soil is heavy, cart on and plow in all the anthracite coal ashes you can get.

3. Plant vines in rows that stand eight feet apart, and vines eight feet apart in the rows. See that the holes are large and the roots well spread, and the dirt firmed down *tight*. Don't dig holes any faster than you plant, and don't carry a large lot of vines about loose to be dried up. Keep what you do carry wrapped in a wet carpet or sacking. Fill the holes with rich soil but *not* with manure. Old bones? Yes, if you choose; but there is a deal of nonsense about such doings. When the hole is nearly full pour in a pailful of water, unless it be a wet day. If possible, don't set on a wet day, when the soil is sticky.

4. When you set, cut back the vine to two buds. When these start one will be weaker than the other. After they have grown till you can judge which is best cut off the weakest. Tie the strongest to a cedar post. Tie frequently as growth continues. In the fall cut off, leaving four buds or about that, and cover for winter. The first year no matter how hardy the variety the vines should be covered; as they are small it will make little trouble. In the spring uncover and this year let two of the four buds grow. In the fall cut off one of these to two or three buds for next year's growth and leave the other four to six feet long to bear. The general rule is to increase the number of bearing canes as the vines grow older.—The Independent:



Good roads won't come to us for the mere thinking about them. It takes work—more work and less talk.

## MISTAKES IN FRUIT GROWING.

By Franklin Johnson.

[Paper read at Annual Meeting in Madison.]

There is a certain class of mistakes that are like the grip, of which some one has said: "Everybody is liable to have it once, and may have it twice, but the man is a fool who has it the third time."

One common yet disastrous mistake is to buy plants where they can be bought the cheapest. This is a subject that we who have plants to sell feel delicate about mentioning. We know that our motive in speaking may be misunderstood, and for this reason we often make the mistake of holding our peace when we should speak right out. A "pretty good" plant is like a "pretty good" egg. It is worthless. Only *very good* plants are worth transplanting. We wish to commend the stand taken by the Western Fruit Grower, of St. Joseph, Mo. This paper claims to have refused numerous ads. of persons who wished to sell strawberry plants at \$1.50 a thousand. The paper took the position that the price was evidence that the plants were to be dug from fruiting plantations, and to protect their readers they refused to advertise these degenerate plants.

One prominent horticulturist preaches about "Potency of Pollen" until we are reminded of "the voice of the harpers a harping upon their harps." Our Michigan friend, however, is doing a good work. There is no danger of having the lesson drilled into us too often, to choose only the best for propagation.

It is a great mistake to neglect preparation of soil that is to be planted with fruit. Not only do better results follow from carefully prepared soil, but the results are obtained with less expense. The work of preparation can be done largely with horse power which is comparatively cheap. To neglect this work of preparation entails a great deal of hand labor which is expensive.

It is a mistake to think you are saving time when you are not doing your work well.

It is a mistake to think you are smart enough to go it alone. You are far more likely to succeed if you confer with others who are working along similar lines. Moral, Join a local horticultural society if you have to form one in order to do it, and form one even if you can have but two members.

It is a mistake to attempt to raise fruit without one or more horticultural papers or magazines.

And lastly, It is a mistake for a reader or writer to estimate the horticultural value of a paper by its circulation. I would rather have the privilege of this little talk with you than to have the privilege of speaking to you fruit men and to a thousand others with you, *if* two-thirds of the added audience were made up of men whose special interest was along other lines, say that of dairying or stock growing. There is a positive disadvantage to both speaker and hearer in the simple presence of those not specially interested. The same principle holds with writer and reader. The paper that follows a special line acquires a special circulation and its position gives it a force out of all proportion to its circulation, as compared with the general paper.

Baraboo, Wis.

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#### MISTAKES AND FAILURES IN FRUIT GROWING.

F. C. Edwards.

[Paper read at Annual Meeting.]

The first mistake I could mention is the one of Adam and Eve eating, not raising, the forbidden fruit, as this changed the whole plan of production. Since that date, disease, drouth, insects and weeds have made the sweat drop freely from the brow of man. Life, from beginning to end, is a ceaseless record of mistakes and failures. The idea that fruit culture is all profit and sunshine is as far from truth as the east is from the west, and this is true al-

so of any other occupation. It is a snare and a delusion for a person discussing the fruit question or any subject, not to put in the good and the evil, the pleasant and the unpleasant items in fair proportions and not lead the innocent into hard places. But we will now discuss the *dark* side of the business.

As a rule our papers are apt to *smooth over* the rough places. Failures occur with the merchant, stock raiser and grain raiser, as well as with the fruit grower, and sometimes they are very sweeping ones. During the dry seasons of the last eight or ten years, failure, to a large extent, has been the rule, the last two years on prices and the remainder of the time on account of light yield, making margins too small for a living profit. The means of support directly from fruit in this series of years has been very meager indeed, and many have gone back to general farming, in part or wholly, to get a living, and many more will be compelled to follow very soon or go to the poorhouse. Some of the causes that have made this the case are as follows: The planting heavily by beginners with no knowledge of fruits or markets. My counsel would be to start at the bottom instead of tumbling from the top. Another mistake is the planting of too many varieties, as the market calls for a fruit of a fixed type. I am perfectly safe in saying there will be planted next spring in Wisconsin seventy-five varieties of apples, fifteen varieties of cherries, twenty varieties of pears, and twenty-five varieties of plums, when we know there is not one in six of these sorts adapted to our climate. And I am sure it costs our state more money each year than it does to run all our farm institutes, and this is a very low estimate.

Another mistake is the purchasing of nursery stock from irresponsible parties that promise everything, and do nothing according to contract.

Another mistake, very poor care given to the old orchards to prolong their lives and increase their productivity. Many times an old horse with good feeding and care

doubles his labors in the world. Our veteran fruit growers, under good appreciation of their labors, are more apt to leave a richer legacy for our present and future study. Another mistake is not protecting the stem of our fruit trees till they are eight or ten years of age. Use rye straw cut green and placed around the tree in an upright position, tying on with wool twine and replacing every two years; this is the cheapest insurance in the world. Another item, not spraying the fruit trees before and after they blossom, with a cheap and effective solution.

Another great mistake, not subscribing for the Wisconsin Horticulturist, which is made up of Wisconsin thought and experience.

*Small fruit mistakes*,—Do not let strawberry plants in the matted row system form plants closer than six inches to their nearest neighbor and then they won't quarrel over the soil. Not renewing the strawberry beds every two years at least, on other soil. Not planting the rows of our raspberry and blackberry fields seven to eight feet apart and not renewing the raspberry beds every five or six years.

Not pruning our new raspberry and blackberry bushes to 18 to 24 inches height in June. Not pruning our currant and gooseberry bushes, leaving five or six canes of the old wood and a spreading open top, removing all the new canes each year except one or two to take the place of an old veteran. Not planting grapes on well drained soil, with plenty of manure and cultivation first year. Not pruning the hills in the fall, causing a great waste of vitality by bleeding, and not giving partial protection by covering.

But one of the greatest errors of all is failing to give *persistent and thorough cultivation* of all fruit trees, plants and vines till Aug. 1st to 10th, *and not later* (except strawberries), so that all wood will ripen and harden and *store up material* all through the *plant or tree* life to withstand our severe winters. If this method was used it would save at least \$10,000 each year in losses by winter killing and fruit production in our state. The mistakes and failures in fruit

growing in detail would fill a large book. I have mentioned a few and leave the remainder to the other speakers.

Fort Atkinson, Wis.

#### MISTAKES AND FAILURES.

Dr. T. E. Loope.

[Paper read at Annual Meeting.]

If I commence to talk of the failures we have made I am afraid I shall not know where to begin nor when I have finished.

Since the year '93 we have had many failures. In that year we failed of a crop, or almost any part of a crop, on forty acres of as fine plants as I ever saw, through freezing of plants and fruit. In fact, it has been a failure ever since on that ground.

In '96 we had 36,000 yearling trees killed by winter and drouth. Our blackberries have not given a full crop in four years and the old plantations are doomed to be uprooted as worthless. In fact, we have had the usual lot of horticulturists, if I may judge by what I have observed. By this I mean those who have relied on crops of fruit and not on plant sales.

However, "hope springs eternal" in the horticultural breast, and we struggle on, with that "beautiful island of Sometime" just below the horizon. We'll reach it "by and by."

If faith in the great beyond could be as firm and fixed in people as the horticultural faith is, what a congregation of happy people we should make. There are some doubting Thomases to give us a jolt occasionally and make things unpleasant.

In the horticultural business, as in all other pursuits of scientific investigation, it is the inquiring mind that paves the way to results. The whys and wherefores are always

to be thoroughly considered, and although in many cases the secrets of nature baffle our mortal ken, yet we must continue to explore as far as the limits of human understanding permit.

The little child in the song illustrates the lesson although the hidden forces of nature refuse to be laid bare to our view:

“What makes the grass grow, sister?

What makes the flowers bloom?

Who taught the golden sunbeam

To dance about the room?

“Who made our God in heaven,

And how did he get there?

Did he have wings like angels,

Or did he climb a stair?”

Paraphrasing these lines, we can apply our questions in a horticultural sense:

Why don't the Borer's eggs, brother,

As large as hen's eggs be?

Why don't he lay the small eggs

On oak or linden tree?

Why does the scab come, brother,

On apples we want to eat?

Why don't it stay on our neighbor's

And leave ours fair and neat?

Why is the fruit tree agent

Allowed to roam the land?

Why can't he go to heaven

And with the angels stand?

What will the good Lord do, brother,

To the man who “substitutes” trees?

Will he be hung on a Russian crab

To dangle in the breeze?

Where will the “new seedling” fiend go, brother,

If he sells at a dollar a tree?

Will he go down to the bad place, brother—  
Barnes, Babcock, Kellogg, Philips, or may-  
hap me?

Eureka, Wis.

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#### EARLY PLOWING FOR STRAWBERRIES.

The ground for strawberries is often left until planting time before plowing, and breaks up in clods, occasioning much labor in preparation with harrow and roller. Although it may be possible to put such a soil into fairly good condition for planting, the water which has been lost can not be restored, and weeks may elapse before sufficient rain falls to keep the plants alive. It has been shown that more than 1500 barrels of water, per acre, may escape from unplowed ground in one week, in excess of the quantity which will pass off from an equal area which has been plowed early and harrowed at frequent intervals. Moreover, the ground which has been plowed late will continue to dry out during the season at a rate in excess of the early plowed. This shows plainly that early plowing and frequent harrowing are essential, in order to retain the soil moisture, even though planting may be delayed. The difference between fall and late spring plowing is still greater than between early and late plowing, especially as affecting the capacity of the soil to retain moisture during the season. The best preparation for a strawberry bed is fall plowing, where the soil will admit, and if not then as early in the spring as the ground is fit to work.

The prevention of escape of moisture from the soil during the growing season is also important, and this can be accomplished very largely, by frequent cultivation, especially after every rain. It is quite as important to stir the soil after light showers as after heavy rains. Retaining of moisture by mulching during the fruiting season is no doubt a more practicable method than cultivation.—*Farmer's Home.*

## AN OLD WISCONSIN ORCHARD.

B. R. Bones, Racine, Wis.

On Apr. 28, 1845, amongst the stumps in the clearing, my father planted the orchard. They were Wisconsin grown trees and it involved a hundred-mile round trip to get them here.

He brought them on horseback from Bell's Nursery on Gardner's Prairie, fifty trees, of which there were eight Pennock, five Fameuse, five Seek-no-further, five Dumallow, five Yellow Harvest, five Golden Russet, three Baldwin, three Yellow Newtown Pippin and others.

Twenty-seven of these trees are still living. The Fameuse yielded me more than \$70 the past season and have not failed of a paying crop three times in half a century and several times their product has sold for more than \$100 per year.

Of the Pennock, five are still living. I have just taken the girth of one of them; it lacks only two inches of being seven feet and would make a cord and a half of wood. These trees yielded me over \$60 worth last fall, great, glossy apples, so grand to look at. I always sell them before they get the nail holes under the skin.

The Baldwin and Yellow Harvest trees long ago succumbed to the winters. The Golden Russet split down at the forks some years since, through the old-fashioned pruning of the head, putting the strain all at one point.

The Seek-no-further still live, but are old snags, though they gave me seven barrels of beautiful fruit the past season.

In 1846 one of the Yellow Harvest trees bore an apple. It was my discovery. I was five years old and had to contract to keep "hands off" until the apple fell and then I was to have half. I kept my contract, but Oh! how slowly that apple grew and how many barefoot tracks there were in the sand around that tree, that was finally swayed over by the weight of that great yellow ball. At last it lay in the

sand, after a thunder shower, no "golden apple of the Hesperides" ever so beautiful. Its luster, in memory, is not dimmed after a lapse of fifty years. It was the first apple that I ever saw growing.

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### BOYHOOD'S HAPPY DAYS.

I'd like to be a boy again, without a woe or care, with freckles scattered on my face, and hayseed in my hair. I'd like to rise at four o'clock and do a hundred chores, and saw the wood and feed the hogs and lock the stable doors; and herd the hens and watch the bees and take the mules to drink; and teach the turkeys how to swim so that they wouldn't sink; and milk about a hundred cows and bring the wood to burn; and stand out in the sun all day and churn and churn and churn; and wear my brother's cast-off clothes and walk four miles to school and get a licking every day for breaking some old rule, and then get home again at night and do the chores some more, and milk the cows and feed the hogs and curry mules galore; and then crawl wearily up stairs to seek my little bed, and hear dad say: "That worthless boy! He isn't worth his bread!" I'd like to be a boy again—a boy has so much fun! His life is just a round of mirth from rise to set of sun.—Oak Park (Ill.) Star.

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### HOW TO REMEDY DAMAGE DONE BY RABBITS.

In the spring we find a good many of our young trees girdled by rodents, and this could have been prevented by placing wire screening about them. To remedy the matter after it is done, cut small twigs from the tree, about six inches long, sharpen them at both ends, and insert above and below the hurt in cuts made with a sharp knife; then cover the whole with grafting wax. The sap will go up these scions, and the healing of the wound will be perfect.

—Ex.

### A LAND OF PROMISE.

The phrase "A Land of Promise," probably very nearly describes the capabilities of the island of Cuba. With a length of 775 miles, almost the distance from New York to Chicago, a width varying from 30 to 160 miles, and an area about equal to that of Pennsylvania, Cuba, in the words of United States Consul Hyatt, of Santiago De Cuba, "stands in a geographical position which, with her productive soil, mineral wealth and climatic conditions, should entitle her to rank among the foremost countries of the world. That she does not occupy anything like this position is no inherent fault of the island itself, but rather of conditions growing out of the lack of a stable and just government and of a contented people. When the first essential is obtained, it is the opinion of those acquainted with the island and its possibilities, Cuba will rapidly proceed to occupy its deserved position. Although discovered and settled more than fifty years before the United States, Cuba has still 13,000,000 acres of primeval forests where the woodman's ax has never been heard."

### MANY GREENHOUSES ENRICHED.

As a result of the recent sale of Japanese plants imported by Yemanaka & Co., of this city, many of the private greenhouses of Boston and its vicinity will be enriched. There has been no such sale of Japanese plants in this city before, and the total sum realized will amount to several thousand dollars. At the closing sale on Saturday the gem of the whole collection was sold to Mrs. John L. Gardner. It was the largest and best Chabo hiba in the collection, and was trained by that master in cedar training, the late Kaneto, of Tokio. The tree is 3 feet 6 inches high and the extreme width of the branches is 4 feet 5 inches. It is about 300 years old, and after some spirited bidding it was sold for \$280. Mrs. Gardner secured the largest number of

plants of any individual purchaser, and will make a feature of her new Japanese garden. The plants require considerable care, although most of them need not be watered more than once a week.—Boston Transcript.

## HOUSEHOLD PAGE.

### SALSIFY.

Few people know the value of salsify, more commonly known as, "vegetable oyster," for food. It is easily grown and cared for and should have a place in every garden. It is one of our finest vegetables and is cooked in a variety of ways. Most people who grow it make a soup of it, a few fry it as they fry parsnips, but it is the nicest when scalloped. Prepared in this way it is much better than scalloped oysters and much more healthful. The oyster is one of the lowest forms of life, and one of the filthiest.

Salsify roots can be dug in the fall and put in sand in the cellar for winter use; they can also be left in the ground, like parsnips, for spring use.

Scalloped salsify is prepared as follows:

### SCALLOPED SALSIFY.

Carefully clean half a dozen medium sized roots of salsify by scraping them, never peel salsify. Slice across the root in slices one-fourth of an inch thick, into salt water, letting them remain in the salted water half an hour; then put them in boiling water and boil until tender. Butter a pudding dish, put in the dish a layer of rolled crackers, do not roll too finely; then the salsify, adding salt, pepper if liked, and butter; then a layer of rolled cracker on the top and put bits of butter on top the cracker; pour over the top one cup of milk, or a sufficient quantity to moisten the crackers; cover the dish and put in the oven to bake; after it has baked twenty minutes remove the cover and allow it to brown on top for ten minutes. You can then send to

the table "a dish fit for a king." Salsify requires more salt than most vegetables.

Such vegetables as salsify, parsnips and carrots are easily grown. They form very healthful articles of diet. They help to give a variety and are much better for us than so much meat as is found on the tables of most of people today. Parsnips are delicious boiled and mashed, then add a little cream and serve hot. We think this is the nicest way to serve them.

VIE H. CAMPBELL, Corresponding Secretary,  
Wisconsin State Horticultural Society.

#### RELIEF FOR PNEUMONIA.

Take six to ten onions, according to size, and chop fine, put in a large spider over a hot fire; then add about the same quantity of rye meal, and vinegar enough to make a thick paste. In the meanwhile stir it thoroughly, letting it simmer five or ten minutes. Then put it in a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply it to the chest as hot as the patient can bear. When this gets cool apply another, and thus continue by reheating the poultices, and in a few hours the patient will be out of danger. This simple remedy has never failed in this too-often fatal malady. Usually three or four applications will be sufficient, but continue always until perspiration starts freely from the chest. This simple remedy, says the New England Grocer, was formulated many years ago by one of the best physicians New England has ever known. He never lost a patient by this disease, and won his renown by saving persons by simple remedies after the best medical talent had pronounced their cases hopeless. Personally we know of three persons who were saved by the remedy last winter in Boston after their physicians had given them up to die, and if a record was made of all similar cases during the last six years it would fill a good-sized volume.—The World's Progress.

## OHIO STATE HORTICULTURAL MEETING.

From the Farmers' Review Special Report of the annual meeting of the Ohio Society we glean a few suggestions:

"Prof. Green recommended using an excess of lime in making Bordeaux mixture, as he considered it much better to do so than to use the test so as to not use an excess. The extra lime never does any harm and he considers it an advantage in several ways. He also reported that they found that even in a wet season they were able to save 500 barrels of water per acre by cultivating after each rain, no matter how slight it may be, as against cultivation simply to kill weeds. A cultivator is a better tool to irrigate with than a sprinkling cart.

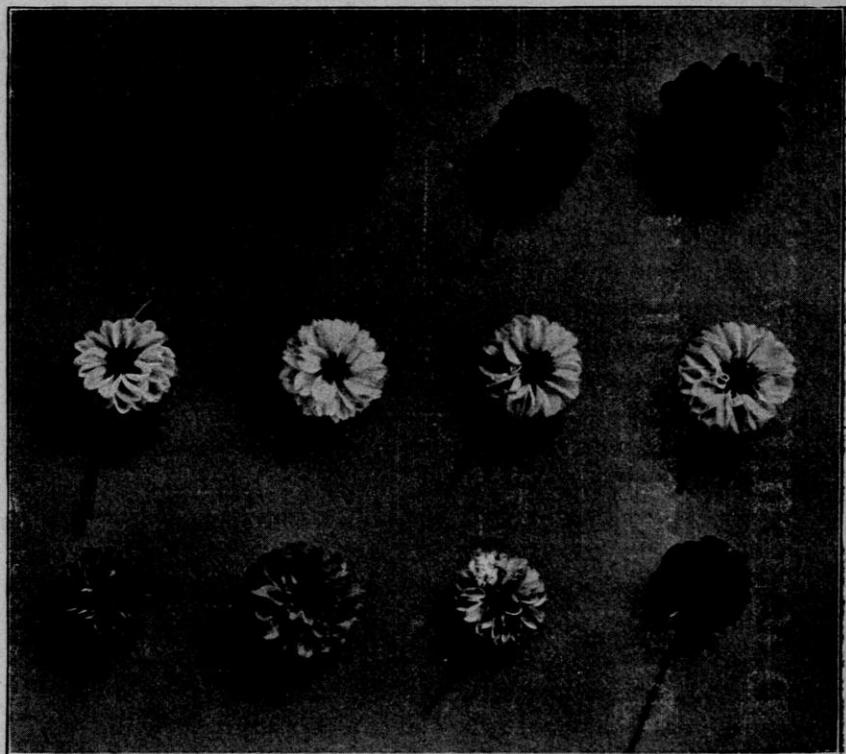
J. H. Hale said: "Thinning of fruit is important and the apple grower must thin his fruit. We hear of the off year in apples, but I contend that the only trouble is that they are being grown by an "off" man, one who is off his base as an apple grower.

The profitable growing of apples must depend upon the thinning of the fruit.

Careful grading of fruit is another essential of success. If fruit is going into cold storage it should go there at once, as soon as picked, do not let it set around in the air for several days."

Prof. W. J. Green gave his experience with Jadoo, muck and compost for greenhouse use. He said that he thought that plants will grow about as well in Jadoo as in compost, but as we can get compost much cheaper, therefore, I have no use for it. As to the Jadoo liquid it is not as valuable in chemicals as is the leachings from the barnyard.

Jadoo is the equal of compost, but not the equal of muck. We prefer muck with a little bone meal added to anything we have ever tried. I don't want to condemn Jadoo, for if any one wants to pay ten times what he ought to for a thing, he has a perfect right to do so.



**NEW SEEDLING DAHLIAS, ORIGINATED AT GRAND RAPIDS, WIS.**

## THE DAHLIA.

Fashion in flowers changes as in everything else, and this old-time favorite of the garden has again come to the front as the most popular of flowers. When one looks over a large collection of two or three hundred different named varieties he does not wonder that they are favorites but rather wonders that they have not always been so.

There are four generally recognized types, the Single, Show and Fancy, or large flowered, Pompons, or small flowered, and the newer class called Cactus Dahlias. These last are also subdivided into two types, one with loose waving petals sometimes called Chrysanthemum flowered and another type known as Decorative. The Single class is also subdivided into a dwarf type only eighteen inches high, of which Little Dorothy is the best. There is also a single cactus type noted for its very large petals, and the ordinary single type.

The Show and Fancy class comprise a great variety of large flowered sorts; the dwarf ones are also known as bedders and those with solid colors as Show, and variegated or mixed colors as Fancy. A new type called Aster flowered is the latest sensation; the plate accompanying this shows twelve varieties of this excellent new type.

The description of this new class is as follows: Flowers not as large as the Show type, petals, however, are longer and often rolled or folded, sometimes cut, serrated or fringed, inner petals often curled and twisted; always shows a small yellow center, blossom very graceful, usually on long stems and unequalled for cut flowers.

## CULTURE.

The culture of dahlias is simple. Put in a warm place in soil, sand, or sawdust for a few days before ready to set in ground, to start the eyes, then they can be divided if more than one eye starts. It is best to leave but one stalk for each hill planted; then when they have come up, cut out the top above the second pair of leaves, this will cause the

plant to branch out close to the ground and will make a strong, bushy plant that will require no staking. In case one of the branches should seem likely to outgrow the others and become too tall, nip its top out above its second pair of leaves; this will aid in making an evenly balanced bush and you will get many more blooms than if you grow them tall and tie to stakes. Any good garden soil well manured with rotten manure will grow nice dahlias, if well provided with moisture. They require a large amount of moisture and where one does not have success with them it can usually be attributed to a lack of sufficient moisture. Do not plant too early for fear of late frosts and keep thoroughly cultivated and free from weeds during the season. A heavy mulch of strawy manure would be an advantage in retaining moisture the latter part of the season.

After plants are killed in the fall, take up on a bright, sunny day and let dry in the sun, then store in cellar upon shelves, where they can be kept dry. If put in cellar too damp or piled up in large piles they are liable to decay. Among the best varieties we would recommend the following: *Pompons*: Snowclad, Little Beatrice, Red Piper, Day-break, Vivid, Dr. Webb, Little Valentine, and Beauty Inconstant. *Show and Fancy*: King of Dwarfs, John Sladden, A. D. Lavoni, Miss Florence Shearer, Density, Phiton, Miss Dodd, Miss Browning, American Flag, Zephyr, Frank Smith and Mrs. Dexter make up a dozen of choice sorts. *Cactus*: Nymphæa, Marchioness of Bute, Clifford W. Benton, Mrs. E. C. Monroe, Black Prince, Zulu, Lyndhurst, Bronze Cactus, Unique, Orange King, Iridescent, Henry Patrick, Amphion, Oban, Maid of Kent, Xanthia and William Miller are among the best. The cactus class as a rule have shorter stems than the older types and do not bloom quite as early, but their beauty is so great that they ought to be included in every collection. John Downie, Painted Lady and Kate are very free blooming single varieties, but they are not as useful for cut flowers as the double sorts are. Every one should have a few of each class so as

to make a good assortment. Dahlias can be grown very easily from the seed, and if started early in the house will bloom well the first year. They should be grown very much as you would grow a tomato plant in the house, only the tops should be nipped out to make them branch the same as when growing from the tubers. All new varieties are produced by growing from seed.

L. H. READ.

Grand Rapids, Wis.



#### THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM.

This is an outdoor school of arboriculture, "a vast museum of trees and shrubs," located in Jamaica Plain, an outlying ward of Boston. It comprises two hundred and twenty-two acres of land, a large part of which has already been planted with trees and shrubs arranged by botanical species and classes. Besides these planted trees there has been left standing a bit of the forest primeval, centuries old, known as "the hemlock woods."

The land occupied by the Arboretum belongs to the city of Boston but has been leased to Harvard University for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. The Boston city government constructs all roads and paths and cares for them, while the University has charge of the remaining portion. Prof. Charles S. Sargent, of the chair of arboriculture at Harvard University, is director of the Arboretum. It is intended that it shall eventually contain "every species and variety of tree and shrub that will flourish in this climate."

It is named for the late James Arnold of New Bedford, Mass., who bequeathed one hundred thousand dollars to Harvard University for the founding of an Arboretum.



Farmer—"What are you doing in my apple tree?"

Thief—"Excuse me—I just fell off a balloon."—Ex.

## THE REPKA MALENKA APPLE.

A. Clark Tuttle, Baraboo, Wis.

Twenty-five to fifty years ago the "Little Red Romanite" was called the "Money apple" in the state of New York. It was a very poor apple to eat or cook, very small in size, quality nearly as luscious as a cork.

What gave it the title of "Money apple?" First and foremost, *it kept*. It was a sound apple after all others were gone. It retailed at three for a nickel and even two for a nickel in some places. That meant from \$13 to \$18 per barrel and a groceryman could pay \$5 per barrel and realize a large profit. Extensive orchards were planted almost exclusively to this apple.

We have an apple among the new Russians that will "double discount" the Romanite in every point. It is the Repka Malenka, which is twice the size of the Little Romanite and keeps far better. We exhibited the same identical plate at two consecutive State Fairs in Wisconsin. The second year they were shriveled a little but no signs of decay. It bears enormously alternate years. Its greatest fault is a liability to be small from overbearing, but this can be obviated largely by shaking off half the fruit when size of a hazelnut as they do in Oregon.

The color at picking time is a deep green with dull red stripes, but if properly picked and barreled will open in June in perfect condition, with vivid carmine stripes on a light yellow ground.

The tree is one of the finest growers in the nursery that I have ever tried; upright, with smooth, straight trunks, vigorous and healthy in leaf and branch. Nearly all make first-class five to seven feet trees, no blight to speak of, as free from it as any known apple. It is hardy as the Duchess.

It is said that the money is in the earliest and latest varieties. The Repka Malenka is certainly the latter extreme. This variety is fast becoming popular in Wisconsin and

Minnesota. The last season it attracted attention and inquiries for the trees are coming in daily. The stock in the market is very limited. I do not know of any at wholesale. If you are offered the Repka Malenka trees by strange tree-peddlers, it would be well to mistrust their being true to name.

Minnesota people grafted largely on crab-stock (top-working). It tended to make the fruit small and therefore this variety acquired a reputation of being too small and was discarded, but now is being sought for and planted largely. When on its own roots, as it will be if grafted so that the scion roots, I am sure it will improve in size and quality.

Is it not policy to plant some of the Russian varieties that *have proved hardy* while *waiting* for the "coming seedling" that up to this time lacks in hardiness?

There are a few good American apples. There are a few good Russian apples. The latter can be grown in this climate, the former cannot. The reputations of these Russians are getting better each year; as they come into bearing they are becoming known. When known they are called for, and in spite of those few nurserymen and professional horticulturists who have cried down the Russian apples at every opportunity, they are becoming popular. If you wish to plant varieties that will survive the hardest Wisconsin winters, these Russians are the *only ones*. We are having some climate at this writing that may aid in deciding this question of adaptability. Long protracted, heavy freezing with but little snow.



"Which do you love most, your papa or your mamma?" Little Charlie: "I love papa most." Charlie's mother: "Why, Charlie, I am surprised at you; I thought you loved me most." Charlie: "I cannot help it mamma; we men have to hold together."—Rural New Yorker.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT MADISON, WIS., FEB. 6-10, 1899.

## Officers for 1899.

President, Franklin Johnson .....	Baraboo
Vice President, O. W. Babcock .....	Omro
Secretary, A. J. Philips .....	West Salem
Treasurer, R. J. Coe .....	Fort Atkinson
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Vie H. Campbell, Evansville	

## Executive Committee.

## Ex Officio, President, Secretary and Treasurer.

1st Cong. Dist., Geo. J. Kellogg .....	Janesville
2d " " Prof. E. S. Goff .....	Madison
3d " " Wm. Toole .....	Baraboo
4th " " A. M. Johnson .....	North Greenfield
5th " " J. S. Stickney .....	Wauwatosa
6th " " L. F. Laiten .....	Omro
7th " " L. K. Jewett .....	Sparta
8th " " C. A. Abbott .....	Appleton
9th " " To be supplied.	
10th " " Assemblyman Eagan .....	Superior

This Annual Meeting was one of the best in the annals of the society. To be sure the temperature at Madison would have done credit to the North Pole—33 degrees below zero—but there was no frigidity, or even lukewarmness, among the horticulturists. The discussions waxed warm, very warm, but friends who clashed swords in the convention clasped hands as cordially as ever in the corridors.

The apple men were jubilant over the cold weather. At last the longed-for "test winter" had come, which would cause the "unadapted" varieties to succumb to the protracted cold and establish "the survival of the fittest."

The berry men looked anxious, but hopefully said, "Fruit will be fruit next year and if we have any berries they will bring good prices."

Perhaps the happiest men in the convention were those

who own great fields of currants. For currants never freeze to death, and if the people cannot get other fruit they will buy currants.

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There were fewer visitors from other states than usual, doubtless because of the extreme cold. But we had with us Prof. Hansen, of the South Dakota Agricultural College, ex-President J. M. Underwood and Mrs. Underwood, of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, Mr. Guilford, of Iowa, Mr. Kluck, of Illinois, and Mr. Thurston, of the Farmers' Review.

We missed the graceful tact and wise counsel of Jonathan Periam, of Chicago, and the ready wit of our rhyming friend, Mr. Dartt, of Minnesota. Both these gentlemen were in the clutches of la grippe, but sent messages of greeting.

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Tuesday morning was devoted to reports of the Omaha Exhibit and the Trial Orchard at Wausau. All were enthusiastic over Wisconsin's fine display of fruit at Omaha. Later the Convention tendered a vote of thanks to A. L. Hatch who, with his daughter, set up the exhibit in attractive shape and took care of it for several weeks, and to whom its success was largely attributable.

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One thought suggested by the Reports of Local Societies was that in those societies which are strongest the social feature is made very prominent. They have occasional picnic dinners at the homes of the members to which entire families come, father, mother and children.

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Before your apple trees begin to bow their heads beneath their weight of ripening fruit you shall hear how six Wisconsin orchardists handle and market the apple crop. At present we will merely throw out this hint—Prof. Goff buys material for his barrels in the winter, has it shipped "in the flat," and made up on his premises, at quite a saving in cost.

Tuesday evening the President of the Wisconsin Forestry Association, B. S. Hoxie, read an important paper on the "Preservation of the Wood Lot." The Secretary of the Association, Ernest Bruncken, of Milwaukee, outlined the Forestry Bill now before the Legislature.

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At the Wednesday evening session in the Assembly Chamber, Dr. Loope, of Eureka, read a spicy paper, ending with some horticultural verses. As he turned to leave the platform Secretary Philips called for a song, a call so heartily seconded by the audience that the Doctor good naturedly responded with the "Song of the Frog."

The paper on Town and Country Improvement by Mrs. Underwood, of Lake City, Minn., was listened to with deep attention. In a future issue we hope to give a synopsis of this valuable paper, especially its pat and practical list of "Don'ts."

We were so completely engrossed in listening to Prof. Hansen's account of his trip to Russia, Turkestan, China and Siberia, that at its close we were aghast to find we had forgotten to take a single note. But the talk will be published in full in the next Annual Report, a rare treat to which we can look forward.

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The entertainment Thursday evening in the Senate Chamber was given by the Short Course Students of the College of Agriculture, and was worth a trip to Madison to hear. Very pleasing features were the singing by Short Course students under the leadership of Mr. Moyle, and the music by the Mandolin Club. "The Old Oaken Bucket," by the Short Course Quartette touched the hearts of the audience.

Charles Whitmore, a Short Course alumnus, gave an address, setting forth a noble ideal, on "The Young Farmer and What He Should Attain to Be."

Mr. Maxon's declamation was fine and so was Miss

Whitmore's spirited description of the Destruction of the Albemarle. Miss Whitmore responded pleasingly to an enthusiastic encore.

State Superintendent Harvey's address was especially for the young farmers. He said improved conditions in farming have been brought about by three classes of *thinkers*. In every community there are certain men who are the leaders. These are the *thinkers*. Other men benefit by their thinking. Progress comes through these leaders of thought. He urged the young men to repay their educational debt to the state by good citizenship and good work in the community in which they live.

A. L. Hatch, of Ithaca, addressed the young men on "Business Fruit Culture in Wisconsin," an address full of excellent points, and ending with the assurance that "Wisconsin is a very poor place to move away from."

At the suggestion of Mr. Philips, approved enthusiastically by the audience, Mr. J. M. Underwood, of Minnesota, entertained the students with the "Cork Leg" and other comic songs.

In closing we wish to compliment the souvenir program of the Short Course Alumni, a pretty booklet with red cover, containing the names, residence and occupation of all the alumni.



Few people realize what rapid strides fruit growing has made in Richland county in a few years past. It is easily within the memory of men yet young when orchards were few and many of the trees in those "frozen out" every winter or two. And now thousands of bushels of apples are raised and shipped each year and peaches and pears are also being grown on not a few farms. Speaking of the apple exhibit at the Omaha exposition, Mr. Hatch, superintendent of the Wisconsin section, says Richland county's exhibit takes a back seat for none.—Richland County Paper.

## REPORT OF OMAHA EXHIBITION.

By A. L. Hatch.

On the evening of the 25th of last August I received notice at my home in Sturgeon Bay that I was appointed by the Executive Committee of the Horticultural Society to go to Omaha and install a fruit exhibit from this state. I was also informed that I was expected to collect this fruit throughout the state as I thought best, and as a starter I was to go to Madison so I could accompany Prof. Goff on the evening of the 26th to Richland county and secure what we could of fruit at Ithaca.

While I felt duly grateful for the confidence the committee felt in my ability to do this work acceptably, I was not sure but the board of strategy had counted too much upon my generalship in sending me five hundred miles from my base of supplies. However, on the next evening, with my daughter Bernice to assist me, we started and were very much disappointed in not having Prof. Goff's company to Richland county.

At Ithaca I started the work of collecting and packing, securing six barrels in all, of about 50 varieties, which gave us a splendid send-off from the first.

On arrival in Omaha September 1st, we at once began the preparation for our exhibit. By the time we had tables ready our fruit came. We ultimately had tables and shelving aggregating 220 feet surface, upon which we soon had one hundred varieties of apples besides several varieties of plums, pears and peaches. We were fortunate in borrowing 140 plates from the Nebraska folks, from whom we received many courtesies. By purchase we obtained a lot more plates to fill our tables and as we soon had a generous supply of fruit we filled our tables as full as possible. We also added about fifty glass stands that we could place among the plates of apples, which as they stood above them added very much to the room and were utilized for grapes, plums, peaches and the smaller apples.

The following states had fruit shows also in the Horti-

cultural building: California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa and Illinois. The apple crop seemed to be very short west of the Mississippi river and as our state had a full crop we were able to secure fine, perfect fruit, that made our exhibit take the lead from the time it was installed, which it easily maintained as long as I staid with it, until September 26th, at which time Mr. Wm. Toole, of Baraboo, took charge.

To fill our tables it required about ten barrels of fruit and at the time we left we had the tables as full as possible and about eight barrels in store to use later on.

As the only method of securing the necessary fruit was by correspondence I had a few hundred circular letters printed and upon appealing to the members of our society in Wisconsin we were able to secure all the fruit we could use. In order to bring my report within the limit prescribed by the Secretary I would say that my financial report was sent to President Kellogg. (Exhibit No. 1 herewith submitted, marked Credentials, consists of instructions, etc. No. 2, letters showing what was sent by different persons to the Exposition while I was there. Two envelopes marked A and B. No. 3, items that may be useful to editor of magazine. No. 4, letters worth preserving commenting on the Exhibition, etc.)

At Omaha we received courtesies from all officials and exhibitors with whom we had dealings. Our thanks are due to those who sent the fruit from Wisconsin, especially to Mr. Toole and the Omro society, and to the officers of this society for their cordial support.

Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

(Balance of report was verbal.)



With regard to Mr. Hatch's financial statement, we understand that the entire cost of our Exhibit at Omaha, including all incidental expenses and the price paid for space and shelving, was \$813.31.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Secretary Philips says, "If the trees all freeze the *cows* will not." His six cows made forty-four pounds of butter during the week of the Convention, cold as it was. A pretty good dairy record for a horticulturist.

Some thirty varieties of seedling apples competed for first honors at the Convention. Mr. Guilford of Iowa, aided and abetted by two or three of the Wisconsin veterans, wrestled for hours—in fact, I think it was two days—with the problem which was the best; but finally awarded the first premium to A. G. Tuttle, on a beautiful red seedling not yet named.

A flash light photograph of the Convention was taken Wednesday night in the Assembly Chamber, just to see if we are as good looking as the Minnesota folks. Their picture forms a very pleasing frontispiece for the February number of the Minnesota Horticulturist.

Mr. J. B. Risley of Merrimac, Wis.—not a nurseryman, but one of the most careful and successful fruit-growers we know—mentions Bisel and Barton's Eclipse among his favorite strawberries; also Lovett and the old reliable late berry, Windsor Chief. He does not want Marshall.

Prof. Hansen, in his report of the Russian Nomenclature Commission, gives the following two lists of tested Russian apples:

## A WISCONSIN LIST.

A. G. Tuttle named the following as the best six of those he has tested, the varieties being in the order of their value: Longfield (a great annual bearer), Anisim, Antonovka, Beautiful Arcade (for sweet), Lowland Raspberry (for best early quality), Repka Malenka (for late keeping).

## A MINNESOTA LIST.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society varies this list. At their December meeting only three varieties were recommended for general cultivation, Duchess, Hibernal and Charlamoff, with Anisim, Longfield, Christmas, Yellow Sweet, Cross and Repka Malenka for further trial.

## READ THIS!

## THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST FOR 1899.

From every part of the State, at our meeting in Madison, came words of congratulation and commendation for the magazine. But better than this was the pile of letters we found on reaching home, containing money for subscriptions for another year.

We offer the paper this year for *forty cents, without any premium*; or for fifty cents, with your choice of the following premiums:

Six fine Gladiolus Bulbs;

Twelve choice Strawberry Plants;

Three Grapevines.

The *Pictures* we publish are alone worth many times the price of the magazine. We have a fine cut of Prof. Goff in process of preparation for the March issue.

The *Household Page* will contain tested recipes of practical value, as well as health hints and other suggestions which the ladies of the family cannot afford to miss.

The new volume begins with March.

Send us postage stamps or money order for a year's subscription, *before you forget*.

We promise that you shall not regret it. Address:

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST,

Baraboo, Wis.



One of the neatest catalogues we have received this year is the "Guide to Pansy Culture," issued by the pansy specialist, William Toole, of Baraboo. We have become acquainted with the good quality of Mr. Toole's plants and seeds by several years of personal experience. We notice that Mr. Toole advertises The Wisconsin Horticulturist and offers it at club rates to his patrons.

Have you noticed Vick's "Golden Wedding" catalogue? It is the most artistic production in the catalogue line which we have ever seen—worthy a place among costly illustrated books upon the parlor table.

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Note—Frontispiece of Dec. issue of this Journal illustrates our "NEW PROCESS" plates.

