

# The Wisconsin horticulturist...issued monthly, under the management of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, for the purpose of disseminating horticultural information. Vol. II, No. 3 May 1897

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VOL. II.

MAY 1897.

NO. 3.

# The Ulisconsin Morticulturist...

Assued Montbly,

Under the Management of the

Wisconsin

State Borticultural Society,

for the purpose of

Disseminating Borticultural Information.

& Subscription Price Fifty Cents Per Annum. &

#### The Wisconsin Borticulturist.

[Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Baraboo, Wis.]

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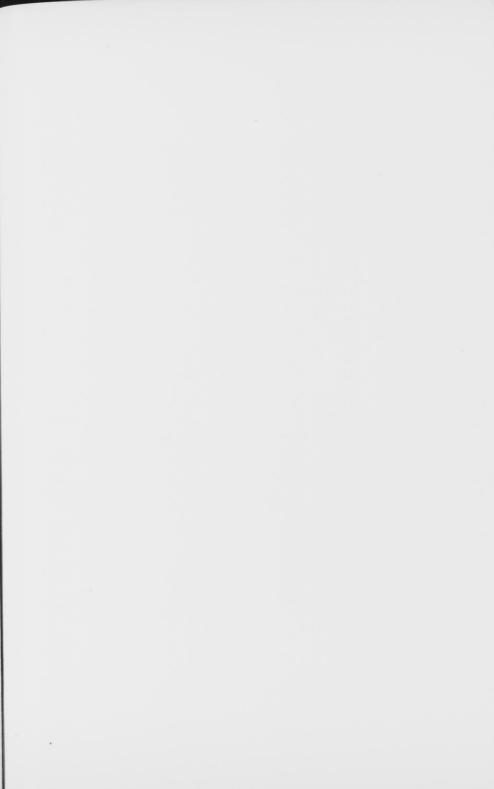
All matter for publication should be sent to the Editor,
MRS. FRANKLIN JOHNSON,

Baraboo, Wis.

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J. C. PLUMB.

## The Wisconsin Borticulturist.

VOL. II.

MAY.

NO. 3.

#### JOHN CALVIN PLUMB.

By W. J. Moyle.

The pleasing portrait on the opposite page is a familiar likeness of our friend, Mr. J. C. Plumb, as we often see him at our annual meetings, testing the merits of the many new seedling apples that are constantly coming up for recognition.

The writer had the pleasure recently of making this veteran horticulturist a visit at his home in Milton, Wisconsin, where we walked with him through his extensive gardens, orchards and arboretum.

Mr. Plumb is a native of Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Mass., where he was born in 1828, of a family whose lineage runs back to the Normans of the twelfth century.

His father Joab, born in the same county in 1776, was from early life a tree grower. His family of nine children, of whom J. C. was the youngest, were all interested in the art of horticulture at an early age, the five brothers all having had an interest in some nursery, at times, from 1838 to the present, in Massachusetts, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Chas. M. Plumb started the first nursery in Jefferson County, Wis., in 1840. In this J. C. Plumb became an active partner four years later, and has ever since pursued the business of tree-growing through all its vicissitudes, at Lake Mills, Madison and at Milton.

During all these years Mr. Plumb has been a careful

student of horticultural problems, and a contributor to our horticultural literature, as the thousands of published pages and columns witness. He may be said to be the father of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, having called its first meeting, was elected first secretary, and wrote the constitution first adopted.

He has now in charge the Horticultural History of our State in preparation for the Semi-centennial next year.

As a judge of Wisconsin apples, Mr. Plumb stands today in the front rank, as no one within our State is better informed on the nomenclature of Wisconsin fruits than he, nor more competent to pronounce on the value of a new fruit presented for consideration.

#### THE PLUMB'S CIDER APPLE.

One of Mr. Plumb's most important contributions to Wisconsin horticulture is not mentioned in the preceding sketch,—the "Plumb's Cider" apple.

This apple is one of several seedlings which the Plumb family brought from Ohio. This variety proving to be a fine apple they propagated it, and it has been grown extensively in Wisconsin and probably throughout the Northwest.

The fruit is always in demand, being handsomely colored, green brightly striped with red, and of good quality. In the estimation of the writer it has no superior as a pieapple, and when fully ripe is fair for eating. It is an autumn apple, but with us it keeps well until February.

The writer is not posted as to its adaptability to different localities, but from personal experience knows it to be a very valuable apple on the bluffs of Sauk County.

The original tree is still standing in Mr. Plumb's orchard at Milton, having borne hundreds of bushels of fruit, —a veritable Colonial Dame among trees.

-Editor.

#### RUSSIAN HORTICULTURE AS SEEN IN RUSSIA.

By. Prof. F. W. Taylor of Nebraska.

[Reported by the Stenographer.]

The Russian apples have been the cause of contention and trouble in this country, as well as of study, for twenty or thirty years, and what I say about them is based on observations I made there during a part of two summers, as well as upon the study of the fruits and trees as I have seen them in our country.

My State is Nebraska, so that what I say is more particularly applicable there and incidentally to whatever other territory has about the same conditions. The apple question has been a serious one by reason of the fact that in many parts of our country we are not able to find varieties hardy enough, that is, that will withstand certain conditions. The word "hardy" is often used in the sense of ability to withstand cold, and with a sort of understanding that if the tree withstands extreme cold it is all right; that, if the tree is grown somewhere and taken many hundred miles south of that locality in which it is grown, it will be undoubtedly a great success. I think that some of the trials and tribulations which we have met with in the growth of apples from Russia has been due to the fact that we have not given due weight to the other fact that apples, or any other fruit trees or trees of any kind, -taken from a certain latitude, south of that point, may just as likely prove tender, that is, unable to withstand the conditions, as if taken north; and that it may be just as likely that varieties that stand here, for instance, if taken five hundred miles south of here, will be as tender as if taken five hundred miles north. I do not think I need to speak at length about that; it is in a sense true, but I think that the investigations which have been made prove that we can take it as a fact that apples, or any other fruits which grow in a given locality, are not necessarily hardy all the way south of that locality. I think a part of the cause of the trouble we have had with the blight, with the Russian apples here, is perhaps due to the change of locality to the south where there are certain trying conditions, conditions which they do not have in their country.

My observation of the apples in Russia has been extended over territory from the Baltic Sea on the north to the Black Sea on the south, and from Warsaw on the west nearly to the Ural Mountains on the east. In Central Russia they grow some apples, and in South Central Russia a good many, but I find that they are on the quest, the same as we are here, for first class, long-keeping winter apples.

We have, with them, very much yet to desire on that point. They feel that they will never be satisfied until they have something much better than they have now, and so as we bring their fruits here as we have done, we should take them,—as I have frequently said in speaking to those interested in the subject,—simply as experiments, just as we take any other fruit.

Our own apples are the result of a long system of selection of those which have been believed to be the fittest, the hardiest, the best, for every one of our varieties is, of course, a seedling; so that our own apples are merely the result of a long series of selections in our own country, as the Russian apples are the result of a long series of selections in that country, under entirely different conditions. In the introduction of their trees we have no more right to insist that they are sure to meet our needs than to make the same claim when our own fruit is taken there.

I think I shall leave that subject with this little touch, because there was so much discussion along these lines which so many of you heard, that it will be better to drop that.

#### RUSSIAN APPLES IN MINNESOTA.

Prof. S. B. Green, of Minnesota.

[From the Stenographer's Report.]

Of course we all know that this Russian apple question has its supporters and opponents, and many bitter controversies have arisen, but my subject is not a discussion of the whole apple question in the Northwest, but the present status of Russian apples in Minnesota.

It seems to me one of the most important works of the Experiment Stations of this section is to sort out this great

list.

Some apples go under several separate names, and it seems almost foolish to make a report until they have come into bearing. I do not report upon any tree that I have not seen bearing for a considerable number of years.

First I will refer to the Duchess class of apples. Under that head we would include Boravinka, Green Glass, Sandy Glass, and a number of other varieties. For practical purposes they are Duchess. I do not know the difference between Boravinka and Green Glass. I have been told that the Boravinka is a little lighter, but I have not been able to make any distinction myself, although I have tried to do so for nine years. The Boravinka and Hibernal are very hardy. The fruit of this class of apples is sour, lacks richness and ripens along early in autumn, and if picked in good season keeps until the middle of January. This class is wonderfully hardy and I have no hesitancy in saying that I believe to-day it (the Hibernal?) is the safest apple for the farmers of Minnesota. It is a first-class apple. Tree is hardy and fruit produced of good size.

The next lot are summer apples. There are three summer apples, the 152 M, Briscapka, the 22 M, Blush Calville, and the Charlotenthaler. The Blush Calville is, I think, the best of these three. The Yellow Transparent would come in that class. The Briscapka is not so

good as the Yellow Transparent, but is later in season and is very good to be eaten out of the hand.

Now, then, comes the Anis class of apples. I am not going to refer to it. I will refer to the Anissim. I think there are several of them, of which some are larger than others.

The Repka Malenka I think very well indeed of. It is doing well in our State, and I have seen it in good condition as late as May and June. It is an apple of considerable freshness. I recommend to plant it; it has desirable eating qualities.

Another apple is the Charlamoff. It has proved hardier than the Duchess. It has a fine aroma, is highly colored, and in every way a desirable apple. One objection is that it does not hold the aroma for a long time. It keeps better than the Duchess but loses in quality by keeping. It is more hardy than the Duchess.

Referring to the Ostrakoff, a large green apple. It is a winter apple, but it blights very badly. The fruit is large and handsome, but I do not recommend it at all.

Another one I want to refer to is the Cross 14. The Baronish Brunette is about the same as the Cross 14. It is of valuable quality, a little too flat to have the best shape, but I think well of it. The tree is standing very well indeed.

Another apple I think well of is the Bolte. It is a yellow Autumn apple, tree hardy; fruit resembles somewhat the Yellow Transparent. Too shy a bearer for use.

Another apple is the Zusoff. This is a large dark red apple with green spots on it. It keeps well into the winter, but with us it has not done very well.

I am not going to say anything against Russian apples. What I have said to you has been principally in favor of about ten Russian apples.

Mr. Tuttle:—We received two apples from the department under the name of Zusoff. One is a large apple averaging nearly as large as Alexander. The other is about

the size of Fameuse and about equal in quality. It is a straight tree, heavy bearer.

Prof. Green:-A little inclined to overbear.

Mr. Tuttle:—I never saw any trouble with the tree in any respect. It never blighted.

Mr. Read:—I would like to ask Prof. Green a question. Does the Yellow Transparent blight?

Prof. Green:—Yes, it does. All yellow bark trees blight more than darker ones.

Mr. Plumb:—Why do you not mention the Longfield?
Prof. Green:—Because I forgot it. The Longfield is a wonderfully good tree.

Prof. Hartwell:-How does it ripen with you?

Prof. Green:—This year it ripened pretty well. It keeps until the first of January in my cellar.

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#### RUSSIAN APPLES IN WISCONSIN.

#### By A. G. Tuttle.

The earliest apple among the Russians—earlier than any American apple—is the Early Champagne. It ripens fully ten days earlier than the Transparent. Every orchard should contain a tree or two. The tree bears young; the fruit is good either for eating or cooking.

Next in season comes the family of Transparents, including White and Yellow, Red Duck and Charlotenthaler. These are too well known to need description. All are more or less subject to blight.

About the same in season is Lowland Raspberry. For quality it has no rival either east or west, as an early apple. The tree is free from blight, perfect in form—a first-class nursery tree.

An apple of the same season came to me from the department as German Calville. It is undoubtedly the same as that described by Prof. Green as Blush Calville. It is as large as Duchess, better in quality than Transparent. Tree an upright grower, entirely free from blight. It bore heavily last season. If it proves a good bearer, it will be a valuable addition to our early apples.

Apples of the Duchess family that I have fruited are the Arabian, Glass Green, Anisette and White Krim. They are so nearly like Duchess as hardly to be distinguishable by the best judges.

The Duchess has been one of our best market apples. Almost any good, hardy tree would be better to plant for market than Duchess, as in bearing season the market will be overstocked with the fruit, as it was last season.

Charlamoff follows the Duchess in season; is a better apple and tree hardier.

Beautiful Arcade is a first quality sweet apple. Tree productive and perfectly hardy.

Heidorn's Streaked is another sweet apple, a little later in ripening. Tree and fruit of value.

The Barloff is a sweet apple of excellent quality; tree subject to blight.

The Longfield is one of the most valuable Russian apples. I have fruited it for more than twenty years and it has proved hardier than Duchess, unequaled as a bearer; quality good, keeps into early winter.

Antonovka is one of the most profitable trees to plant. It is the leading apple of Russia. Four years ago I shipped the fruit to Duluth and it netted \$1.12 per bushel. It is a prodigious, biennial bearer and for quality will fill the place of the Greening.

Hibernal is one of the hardiest trees. Fruit keeps into December; an annual bearer and a first class cooking apple.

Cross apple—A late fall apple, dark red striped, quality better than most American apples of its season. Scions of this apple were sent me by Mr. Gibb after his return from Russia. The tree is free from blight and in all respects a model tree.

Zusoff Winter—I received two trees from the department under this name. One is an upright grower and rather

a shy bearer; fruit very large. This is the same as described by Prof. Green. The other is a dark red apple about the size of the Fameuse and its equal in quality. Fruit always fair, tree spreading and very productive.

Repka Malenka—This is the latest keeper among the Russians. At this time, April, it is in good condition and will be in better eating condition a month or two later. Quality far better than Romanite, Ben Davis or Willow Twig.

I found nothing among the Anis family to recommend for market purposes. The trees are perfectly hardy.

It has been claimed by many that there was nothing among the Russians of good quality or that would keep through the winter.

This tirade against Russian apples is the result either of ignorance or dishonesty and has been carried on generally by those who have some pet seedling to urge upon the market at fancy prices.

There are at least a dozen more Russians of value that will find their way to the front in due time by their merits.

It is said that in southeastern Iowa Russian apples are of no value to plant. Very likely where the Jonathan and apples of that class of hardiness can be grown, they have not much use for Russian apples; but in many portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota and throughout the great prairie region of the northwest, where not an apple that originated on this continent can be grown, Russian apples are the only hope of success.

Baraboo, Apr. 29, 1897.

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The Campbell system of soil culture has been tried at several points in North Dakota, Nebraska and other States with satisfactory results.

A good cook is one who can make stewed prunes and English currants taste as if she had washed them before cooking them.

#### EVERGREEN TREES FOR WISCONSIN.

By J. C. Plumb.

Editor Wisconsin Horticulturist:-

With the return of abundant rainfall, may we not expect an increase in the planting of evergreens for both ornament and shelter. True it is that for the last three years it has greatly troubled experienced planters to get this class of trees through the first year, while so many thousands, with years of growth, have in Southern Wisconsin been dried out by being robbed by such deciduous trees as the Soft Maple and European Larch, where at all crowded, and in other cases by grass roots and tramping of the soil.

So we have learned the lesson that evergreens must have room to feed in good soil, and plenty of moisture reserved for them. So we say to every farmer, don't fail to set evergreens, and that where they can have possession for the next half century at least.

As to varieties, we put them in the following order for general farm planting:

White Pine (P. Americana), American Arbor Vitae or White Cedar, Scotch and Austrian Pines, Balsam Fir and White Spruce. For single trees for lawns we would add the Dwarf Mountain Pine (P. Montana), and the Hemlock, with the Colorado Blue Spruce. For a novelty we would plant the Swedish Juniper and the Arbor Vitae Pyramidalis, for though not quite hardy enough for all locations, they are well worth the little sunshade needed in winter to preserve their beautiful foliage. Of all the evergreen class, the Dwarf Mountain Pine is the most tenacious of life, and will thrive where very few trees, if any, will live, on bleak

spots and poor soils. It has been neglected too long in our State, probably on account of its very slow growth.

#### TRIMMING EVERGREENS.

It is a popular error, that Evergreens will not be improved at planting time by cutting back, as we do deciduous trees, or that the leader should never be broken. In more than thirty years of nursery practice, we have cut back evergreens, both at transplanting and in all stages of growth up to thirty feet, with decidedly good results. And now is the best time for this work. With the Evergreen hedge, we always trim to a line, and that severely, immediately after planting, in May, and the annual trimming should be done at the same time thereafter.

Where Evergreens are crowding for want of room to spread, they should be cut back and "shortened in" to renew them, or be cut out entirely. This cutting back is here done with entire success on trees thirty feet high, cutting back about one-third of top all around. If in good soil the tree will renew its beauty the first year. A good way of dwarfing all the Conifers, is to snap off the young shoots while tender, with knife or stick. Don't be afraid to cut back your Evergreens, and remember, that the only feasible or beautiful form for Evergreen tree or hedge is that which Nature gave it, the conic or pyramidal form. There is neither beauty, economy nor permanency in a flat-topped, perpendicular-sided hedge or tree in this climate.

Green Hill Nursery, Milton, Wis.

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The strawberry, when transplanted, is the most liable of fruits to failure. It is in full leaf, and is apt to be set too deep, and the crown will rot; or not being planted deep enough, the earth settles away, leaving the upper part of the root exposed, causing the plant to dry and perish.

#### WHY SHOULD EVERYBODY GROW FLOWERS?

By Mrs. J. M. Smith.

Perhaps scarcely two people would give the same answer to this question. If I should try to tell why I would have flowers, I should have to go back at least seventy years. The memories that reach back very near to my babyhood are mixed with the flowers that grew around the simple home where I was born. Roses and hollyhocks, marigolds and Johnny-jump-ups, as we lovingly called them, with a few other simple garden flowers, were a source of never failing delight to us little people. Then there were a great variety of wild flowers growing in the woods with which a large part of the country was covered at that time, and among them we had our special favorites. Later on we had a greater variety of roses and other things, though the roses were always our favorites. We enjoyed them while fresh and when they began to fade we gathered the leaves and sprinkled them among our clothing and enjoyed their perfume until the roses came again.

I think all parents should strive to fill children's hearts with pleasant memories. They will prove a golden treasury for them to draw upon when the cares and burdens of life bear heavily upon them; and the love of flowers acquired in early years will have a softening and sweetening power over their lives. Give the children a garden all their own and let them plant and care for it. You will be surprised to see how soon they will learn to distinguish the different varieties as soon as they show their tiny leaves above the soil and how eagerly they will watch for the first bud and opening flower.

I well remember the first time I took my little daughter into the woods. She was very little over two years old at the time. I gathered for her a bunch of wild flowers, and placing them in her lap, sat down to enjoy a book which I had brought along. She sat very quietly for some time, and when I looked at her again she was carefully picking them up one by one and raising them to her lips, and then as care-

fully laying them over on the other side of her lap. It was only a baby's way of showing her love for them. My own hands were too full and busy in those days to give much time to the cultivation of flowers. A few roses and other perennials were about all I could have; but as soon as she was old enough to help, we added to our collection, year by year, and very much enjoyed the planting and cultivation of them. She has now seven children of her own and her love for flowers seems to be reproduced and intensified in all of the children who are old enough to show their likings in such things; and I have no doubt but their love for and the care of them will help to develop their moral and spiritual natures. So I would say to all who have the care of children, teach them to love the beautiful things in nature and to look up through these things to God who created them for our pleasure, as well as the grain, fruit and vegetables, which are necessary to our purely physical needs.

And just here let me say to the fathers and brothers, do not grudge the mothers and sisters plenty of room for their flowers; and see to it that the space allowed them for this purpose is carefully protected from the danger of being spoiled by marauding pigs and poultry. I could tell you of a hard-working farmer's wife, who said she always wanted a bed of bright portulacas near her kitchen door, where she could see it whenever she passed out or in, as the sight of them rested her when she was tired. Then she had what she called her "glory bed," which consisted of a square bed with a clump of sweet peas in the middle, surrounded by a border of mignonette, which combined were the very essence of sweetness.

Perhaps some of you may say this is all nonsense, but let me impress upon your minds this fact: There is no danger of either your wives or your children stirring up too many pleasant memories to cheer them during the dark days of sorrow which are sure to come some time to all.

If you do your part to help them, kindly and without grudging, your own sleep will be sweeter from the consciousness that you have done what you could to cheer and

brighten their lives. I have now in mind an old couple, both near seventy, if they have not passed that age, who are both very fond of flowers. They have reared a large family of children, and have always been earnest workers. Their children have been carefully educated, and several of them have been successful teachers for years. The wife once said to me, when we were speaking of such things, "I had always plenty of work to do, but then I must have a few pots of plants in winter, and I never missed the time I gave to them. Sometimes if I had too much to do, and there was danger of their freezing, my husband would carry them in, or cover them up, and never thought it too much trouble." They have come very near the end of their journey now, but they are still tender lovers. Who will dare say that the love of the flowers that they loved and tended together, has not helped to keep their hearts warm and tender to each other?

God pity the old couples that grow away from each other as they near the setting sun of their lives; as old hearts even more than young ones need pleasant words, and those tender attentions which help to soften and lighten the burdens of declining years.

Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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#### THE JAPANESE MORNING GLORY.

The seed of the Japanese Morning Glory can now be obtained at such reasonable prices that probably most of us will give it a trial this summer. A friend of mine grew some last year, and vouches for their superiority over the common morning glory.

We can get some timely cultural hints from the following, which we copy from The Farmer's Home:

The Japanese do not like training the Japanese morning glory or convolvulus on poles or trellis work ten or fifteen feet high as in America, but have them in pots where

they can place them on a level with their eyes as they sit on their heels on the ground. They, therefore, constantly nip off the terminals, and will only have two or three flowers at a time to each pot, and from first to last, perhaps not more than twenty. In order to have the flowers six inches, or nearly so, in diameter, they should be pinched back, especially at the foot in the side branches near the ground. If quantity is preferred to size this is unnecessary. The ground should be richly and well manured in order to have the best.

One is constantly meeting with surprises. New colors and varieties every year from the previous season's seeds. Not infrequently double ones, but no seeds from these have been known to materialize. They occasionally degenerate, and sometimes there are flowers of the most ordinary appearance from the same root as the most beautiful pure white large crimped flower one could imagine.

Each color and variety has its peculiar leaf, and many are beautifully dashed with silver. There is a total dissimilarity in many leaves and few have the heart shape.

#### THE CURRANT WORM.

It is time to be on the alert for the currant worm. The worm, its origin, its ravages, and the remedy, are described in a bulletin issued by the Indiana Experiment Station, as follows: "The currant worm, or, more properly, the gooseberry saw fly, was introduced into this country from Europe about the year 1857, coming, as did the imported cabbage butterfly, by way of Canada. It is probable, however, that it was landed at other points along our eastern coast. Like most of our imported insects, it spread very rapidly, until now it covers the greater portion of the United States.

This fly belongs to the order Hymenoptera, which includes the bees, wasps and ants. It is known to entomologists as a kind of connecting link between this order and

the Lepidoptera, to which belong the moths and butterflies. The adults make their appearance soon after the leaves of the currant and gooseberry bushes come forth. The female lays her eggs along the principal veins on the under side of the leaf. These hatch in about ten days, and the young larvæ may be detected by the minute holes which they have eaten through the leaves. As they approach maturity they become ravenous eaters, soon stripping the bushes of their foliage. They then seek for a secluded place in which to pupate, and in about four or five weeks the second brood makes its appearance and the same process is gone through as before.

Remedy.—The most successful remedy yet discovered for this insect is white hellebore. Dust a little of the powder over the infested bushes while they are damp, either early in the morning or just after a shower. If this is done promptly, before the worms have spread all over the bushes, one or two applications will usually be sufficient."

Many growers prefer to use the white hellebore as a spray instead of dusting the dry powder directly onto the bushes.

The formula is one ounce of white hellebore to two gallons of water. Mix the hellebore into a paste by gradually stirring into it a small quantity of water; when the paste is perfectly smooth, gradually add the remainder of the water, stir well and immediately apply to the bushes with a spray pump. A watering pot will answer, if you have only a few bushes.

The first application should be made about the fifteenth of May and a second one two weeks later, if needed.

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A corn oil plant has been erected in connection with the Monarch Distillery of Peoria, Ill., and commenced operations the first day of the year at a capacity of 3,000 bushels per day. The Monarch plant is somewhat of an experiment, in which an entirely new process of manufacturing corn oil is being developed. If it is as successful as the managers of the company hope several additional plants will be established.

#### THE SAN JOSE SCALE IN ILLINOIS.

The Horticultural Visitor is our authority for the statement that we print below, which shows that the "pernicious scale" has invidiously crept into the premises of our "next door neighbor," Illinois:

We are sorry to learn from J. W. Stanton, of Richview, Illinois, that he has found it necessary to cut down and burn up 150 pear trees, set out five years, and bought of a well-known nursery in New Jersey. They were badly infested with the San Jose scale, and he says a fine lot of Yellow Transparent apple trees in rows adjoining are also badly covered with same scale. This is about as bad a thing as could happen, and this scale is reported from several other points, all stock having it originally coming from the East; it was brought there from California. The probabilities are the State will have to take this matter in charge, and laws bearing on the same should be enacted by the Legislature. We understand the scale must be fought in the Winter, but the surest method is to burn up the infested stock.

I see by an item in The Horticulturist for March, that I am called on to report on the behavior of the new Japan Seedling Plums, Splendor and Gold. I will say that I obtained of Stark Brothers of Louisiana, Mo., two trees of the Gold, two years ago (I have never had Splendor). Gold has now stood here two years, made good growth, and does not show the least sign of damage from cold. The very tip buds are bright and green. The coldest here was

twenty-eight degrees below zero.

A. N. SEYMOUR.

Mazomanie, Wis.

No great man ever had time to play checkers in the middle of the day. —Atchison Globe.

#### THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN.

The roots of currants and gooseberries of bearing age, should not be disturbed by cultivation or hoeing until after fruiting season. Apply a mulch of coarse manure or straw, thick enough to prevent the growth of the weeds, in and about the hills and rows.

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Look for the currant borer at this time. When the leaves start, affected canes commence to wither and die. Cut out the affected canes below the black center and burn at once.

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All newly set plants should be thoroughly cultivated. Weeds must not be allowed to grow for they consume valuable plant food and the moisture so necessary to the young plant.

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Frequent surface cultivation makes the natural food of the plant more available, prevents escape of moisture and holds water in store for summer use.

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The root is the foundation of the plant; it should be stimulated to early and continuous growth by the best care in the beginning.

3

If plants have failed to grow, set new ones in their places at once; one can not afford to have missing hills.

38

Blackberry and raspberry bushes should be trimmed severely. Cut back at least one-third or one-half; severe pruning increases the size and quantity of the fruit.

Picking, packing and marketing are important factors in growing fruit for profit.

.

The grower should understand that choice berries are always in demand and the market is never overstocked.

That it costs just as much to raise poor berries as good ones.

That it costs more to pick and pack poor berries; that freight and express charges are just as high on poor berries; hence there is profit only in growing the best for market.

.2

Berry boxes and cases should be made before the season begins. Clean, well made packages neatly stenciled on the side with name and residence soon become your "trade mark;" let it also be a guarantee of good berries honestly packed.

Never allow stems, leaves, dirt, imperfect or unripe berries in the box. Always have a uniform quality throughout and the boxes well filled.

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For long shipment pick every day, and before the fruit is too ripe. Never offer poor berries for sale and never use a dirty box or a poor case.

3

If it becomes necessary to sell poor berries send to a good commission house but never place your name on the case.

3

Let markets be as near as possible and to regular customers. If you would have good markets and good prices always deal honestly with your customers.

#### GRAPE GROWING.

#### By J. S. McGowan.

The subject of grape growing is as varied as are the localities in which the grape is grown.

To keep up the price in the future we must confine ourselves to quality rather than quantity. Heretofore we have not produced the fine bunches that would command the good price, but have let the vine set its fruit as chance might be, thus growing a large product, ill-formed and of inferior quality, with no attractiveness, which has a great tendency to command but a fourth class price.

Nice fine bunches, well grown, done up in neat packages of from five to ten pounds, still command good prices.

I find another fault and that is hurrying grapes to market as soon as they are barely colored, thus destroying the taste for good well-ripened fruit.

Now to grow fine, properly-ripened grapes, we shall have to give more attention to the preparation of the soil and particularly the condition of the subsoil; if heavy clay it should be broken up to the depth of two feet or more. Where the whole site is underlaid with rotten limestone so much the better.

As to color of soil, a gray soil is best; it heats slower and retains its heat longer than a black soil, thus avoiding the many drawbacks attending the growing of fruit on black soil, such as blight, sun-scald, mildew, etc.

By removal from one place to another the growth of every plant and young tree receives a check. How this check can be obviated and reduced is a matter to be considered by every practical horticulturist.

All out-of-door trees and vines had better be planted as soon after the fall of leaves as convenient. In every case give the site of the tree or vine thorough preparation in depth and fertility. A good preparation for fertility is leaf mould, ashes, lime, and muck out of a sink-hole in the woods, worked up until they are well-rotted.

Another important point: during the flowering week

the vines that are slow to accept their own pollen should be well watched; for if there is a hot sunshine, or if it is windy or very rainy, the vines should be shaded or sheltered so as to protect their pollen from loss. Neglect of this is the cause very often why some of our best plums fail to set their fruit well.

Grape-growing in the United States has now got to a place where we may consider the grape one of the foremost crops of the land, a crop which commands the cash, whether it be sixteen to one, or some other equitable return.

Now let me say a word to the patriarchs of the dibble and the spade: don't do so much, but do it better, and the prices will be more remunerative.

To my fellow amateurs let me say: study closely the different kinds of horticultural pursuits you may become engaged in, so as to learn the character and habits and wants of the different kinds of plant-life. Never cut a branch or twig off any vine or tree without first having an object or purpose in view.

Janesville, Wis.

#### A MENACE TO GRAPE GROWING.

Editor of Wisconsin Horticulturist:

In response to your request for an article on the culture of the grape, I will say that there is now a matter of great importance for all grape growers in this State to look into.

Last Spring I noticed that some of my vines were dying and on examination found that they were being killed by a bug that is a borer. It enters the vine near the bud and goes through the vine to the main stalk, eating out the pith of the vine, killing all the previous year's growth. It does not seem to work in the new canes that are bearing the fruit, but in the previous year's growth.

Description:—Color black; body about three-eighths of an inch long, with wings; head round and hard, size of a No. 4 shot. I have not been able to destroy these bugs with Paris Green or Bordeaux mixture.

They make their nest in the vine and hatch their young some time in June or July.

I have examined all the grape vines in the vicinity of my farm in Merrimac and have found more or less of these bugs in every vineyard that I examined.

I would like to hear through the Horticulturist from some grower of more experience, about this matter.

JOHN B. RISLEY.

Prairie du Sac, Wis.

32.

#### THINNING FRUIT.

Patrick Barry, in his annual message to the Western New York Horticultural Society, remarks at some length upon the value of thinning fruit on the tree. We gather as follows from his statements:

I think the time has come when this operation can no longer be profitably neglected. Fruit is becoming so abundant that a common or inferior quality will not sell, or, at any rate, will not command a paying price. When one-half or three-fourths of the apple crop is fit only for the cider-mill or evaporator, and will not sell for more than five or ten cents per bushel, the orchard becomes a very poor investment. The time has come when fine fruits only will pay; the growing of poor fruits is already overdone; the growing of fine fruits will, I am pretty sure, never be overdone.

Let me then urge upon orchardists the necessity of thinning as well as of good culture. But when we advise thinning, we are promptly told it will not pay; the labor costs too much; it is not practicable on a large scale, etc., etc. The fact seems to be overlooked that it is no more labor to thin the fruits than it is to gather a crop of poor, unmarketable fruits. Thinning at the proper time not only enables the tree to bring the remaining crop to perfection, but gives a quality of fruit that will find ready sale and a fair price any season, and besides, it saves the tree from exhaustion.—Michigan Report.

#### A PAGE FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

I suppose most of you boys—and girls!—are longing to "shoulder arms" and help plucky little Greece in her fight for liberty.

The writer, though not a boy or a man or a girl, sym-

pathizes with you in that wish!

Perhaps while the martial spirit is upon us and we tread the streets with a soldierly bearing, it might be well to turn our military fervor to some practical use.

We might play that the weeds in our gardens and upon our lawns are the Turks, then charge valiantly upon them and fight gallantly for the beauty of our homes,—"Strike! till the last armed foe expires!"

And be sure that the foe really has expired. Some weeds, purslain for instance, appear to be mortally wounded, then suddenly revive and grow with new vigor. Better bury the fallen foe or carry them from the field.

Here's to a glorious victory for you and for the Greeks!

×

Being farmers' sons and daughters, of course you will like to know about the origin of Agricultural Colleges.

In many of these colleges you will find a bust, in marble or bronze, of a noble man, Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who is called the "Father of the Agricultural Colleges." This title was given to him because when a member of the House of Representatives he introduced the bill creating the system of State agricultural colleges on land grant endowments. President Buchanan vetoed the bill, but when Mr. Lincoln became President he signed it, and to-day every State in the Union may have one of these colleges, with an annual revenue of \$22000 from land grants.

On the fourteenth of April, Senator Morrill's eightyseventh birthday was celebrated at his home in Washington by a birthday party at which the President of the United States was one of the guests.

Those of you who are in the "Constitution class" will

be interested to learn that Senator Morrill has been a member of Congress longer than any other person ever has been,—twelve years a representative and thirty years a senator, forty-two years in all. And he has just been elected to another term in the Senate!

#### ABOUT PRIMROSES.

By Wm. Toole.

Those who have been so fortunate as to have possessed plants of the Chinese primrose through the winter, may incline to let them continue blooming through the summer and thus lose them before fall. Some say throw them away and start with new plants, but if they are properly cared for they may do good service again next winter with a chance of being better than before. Better remove all flower stems from the plants, as well as all decayed or fading leaves, shake away the soil and after removing some of the older roots repot in smaller size than before, using a good share of woods earth, that is, the loose, fibrous, half-decayed vegetable earth and soil, found just under the surface leaves. If no sand is present in the leaf mold then some should be mixed with it. After repotting keep plants in shade, where there is good light without sunshine. Be careful to not over-water through the summer, yet do not forget them. The latter part of summer the plants will begin to grow and should be shifted to larger pots and planted deep enough to correct the tendency of old plants to get above the roots and topple over. Primula Obconica may be treated in the same way a little later in the season. Bring in doors in the fall early enough to guard against sudden changes of temperature, and avoid the same changes in the house, preventing either too much fire-heat or too much sunshine from injuring.

Seed should be sown from early in May to early in July,

using a good share of woods earth as before recommended. Use a shallow wooden box to hold the earth and press down smooth and firm before sowing. Better sow the seeds in rows, that you may know where to look for the tiny plants when coming up. Cover with the least amount of soil possible so that the seeds are out of sight, and shade with paper which does not touch the soil. If you have no rubber sprinkler the watering may be done by shaking a fine spray from a brush dipped in water. Don't keep too wet and never let the surface dry.

After plants are up give more light but no sunshine and still be careful about dryness. As soon as the third leaf appears transplant to fresh soil and look out for damping off, which soon will not be likely to occur if plants are not too crowded. When one to two inches high they may be planted in two inch pots, and transferred to four inch as soon as large enough. The more thrifty plants of the first sowing will need five inch pots and be in bloom before Christmas. Water on the foliage does not injure them as some claim, unless it lies for some time in the crown of the plant, which will cause rotting of the center in close damp weather.

2

Did friend Stickney say what he meant regarding the European Mountain Ash? So far as I know that is the only one our Society ever recommended or is worthy of culture in Wisconsin, being longer-lived and of much larger growth on the lawn.

The Norway Maple has not proved fully hardy away from the lake region of Wisconsin but it is a beautiful tree where it does well.

J. C. PLUMB.

. 12

"There is a charming elasticity about Miss Dolly Flitters." "Yes. She is a maiden of seventeen springs, you know." —Exchange.

#### NEW VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES.

Failing to receive a specially prepared report on new varieties from a Wisconsin grower, we append the valuable Bulletin of the Ohio Experiment Station:

- 1. Aroma (perfect)—A vigorous, moderately prolific variety of large size and good quality. Excellent for home use, but too soft and not productive enough for market.
- 2. Annie Laurie (perfect)—An amateur variety, of large size and good quality, but not prolific.
- 3. Brandywine (perfect)—A late variety, which seems to be superior to the Gandy, but is not quite up to the standard as regards productiveness. It is desirable for home use and in some cases will prove valuable for market.
- 4. Bisel (imperfect)—A new variety of considerable promise for market. It is not large but maintains a uniform size throughout the season.
- 5. Carrie (imperfect)—A seedling of the Haverland, which it resembles greatly, and seems to be an improvement as regards color and firmness.
- 6. Eleanor (perfect)—A much lauded variety, but has shown no special merit here. The berries are well colored but are deficient in size.
- 7. Hall's Favorite (perfect)—A vigorous and prolific variety of considerable promise. Berries medium to large, highly colored and quite firm. Will no doubt prove to be valuable as a pollenizer and profitable for market.
- 8. Jerry Rusk (perfect)—Plants vigorous and prolific. The berries are uniformly large, highly colored and glossy. This variety has been tested one season only, but it appears to be uncommonly promising, both for market and home use.
- 9. Luther (perfect)—A very promising early sort. Not very firm and does not hold up in size as well as some, but yields heavily from the first picking, hence may prove profitable for market, and is desirable for home use because of its excellent quality.
- 10. Lovett (perfect)—This is now recognized as one of the most reliable of the perfect flowering sorts, yielding heavily of medium to large berries. At present it takes the lead as a pollenizer.

11. Marshall (perfect)—This is essentially an amateur variety, because of its beauty and quality. For home use it is excellent, but yields too sparingly to prove profitable for the market grower.

12. Mary (imperfect)—Berries large, but produced too sparingly for market purposes, and too acid for home use.

It has shown little merit here.

13. Margaret (perfect)—Berries large, beautiful and of excellent quality. Whether it is sufficiently prolific for market purposes remains to be determined, but it will certainly please amateurs.

14. Splendid (perfect)—A large, showy variety, of good quality, sufficiently firm and prolific for market. The berries retain their size well to the end of the season, and

present a fine appearance in the baskets.

15. Staples (perfect)—A very prolific mid-season variety, dark red, firm. A suitable companion for the Warfield, and requires the same treatment as regards keeping the plants well thinned in the rows.

- 16. Tennessee Prolific (perfect)—Another excellent, pollen bearing sort, suitable for near market. It is especially adapted to plant with the Greenville, being of about the same size and color, and ripening at the same time.
- 17. Timbrell (imperfect)—Although very late and of excellent quality, this variety has proved unsatisfactory, both on account of small yield and poor color. It cannot be recommended for market nor is it as desirable as many others for home use.
- 18. Wm. Belt (perfect)—One of the most promising of the pollen bearing sorts, suitable either for home use or market. The plants have shown some tendency to rust, but thus far the disease appears to have done but little injury to the fruit. The berries are large, and produced in considerable abundance, and are quite firm, of good color and of excellent quality. It is deserving of general trial.

The most desirable varieties that have been tested fully are the Warfield, Haverland, Greenville, Bubach, Crescent,

Lovett and Enhance.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We tender our sympathy to Mr. Kellogg, of Janesville, who mourns the death of his wife. Mrs. Kellogg, whose obituary is given on another page, was a member, with her husband, of the State Horticultural Society.

3

We have the privilege this month of welcoming to our pages a beautiful contribution from Mrs. Smith, of Green Bay, widow of our revered former president, J. M. Smith.

3

Permit us to just hint at something which you have doubtless already discovered for yourself—that the May number of the Horticulturist is a treasure-trove. There is the life-like portrait of Mr. Plumb—isn't it fine? Notice also the timely article written by Mr. Plumb on Evergreens for Wisconsin. Another article to be treasured for reference is the valuable paper on Russian Apples by our honored ex-president, A. G. Tuttle. Mr. Tuttle's paper is the outgrowth of more than thirty years of study and experience. He is acknowledged a leading authority on Russian apples in the United States.

3

Regarding the call for "bits of experience" along the line of spraying, we have received a response from only one person,—and he never sprayed.

38

Our "premium" for getting subscribers to the Wisconsin Horticulturist has come,—a package of extra large, fine

gladiolus bulbs. They are well worth trying for. Who else is going to win some?

We hope you will shower new subscriptions upon us in this beautiful month of May, as the fruit-trees shower blossoms upon the earth. Snow us under!

. 12

Look for the next number of the Horticulturist early in June,—early enough to furnish you with the program for the Summer Meeting.

Please send articles for publication in the June number so they will reach the editor about May 20th.

×

Just as we go to press we are in receipt of the following letter:

"The article written in the April number of the Wisconsin Horticulturist in regard to the Sparta strawberry was evidently written by one who has never tested the variety. The impression is made that the Sparta does not do well on heavy soils, yet Mr. Crawford of Ohio speaks well of it. Mr. Crawford's soil is of the heavy type, similar to our southern Wisconsin soil. The Sparta was tried upon heavy and light soils and did well upon both of them.

Yours truly,

J. L. HERBST,

Originator of Sparta."

3

Read the following note from Secretary Philips:

Members who have suggestions as to time, topics and place for summer meeting, please write to me, soon.

A. J. PHILIPS,

Secretary.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

Mrs. Emily Lewis Kellogg, wife of Geo. J. Kellogg, of Janesville, Wis., died at her home, on Easter morning, April 18, 1897.

She leaves an aged mother, besides her husband, two sons and two daughters, all of whom were present when she died.

The funeral services, held at the home on April 20, were conducted by Rev. Thomas Potter, of Allen's Grove, under whose ministration she united with the M. E. Church in 1859, and to whom she was much attached. Mr. Potter was assisted by Rev. M. L. Norris of Rock River Conference, both speaking words of Christian comfort and hope to the bereaved ones. She was borne to her last resting place by her two sons, her son-in-law and an older son of Mr. Kellogg.

Those present at the funeral from a distance, were H. C. McPherson of Minneapolis, the son-in-law, O. G. Kellogg of Ravinia, Ill., Rev. M. L. Norris and wife of Sandwich, Ill., D. J. Pickard and wife, Ravenswood, Ill., E. H. Kellogg and daughter, Hyde Park, Ill., Mrs. M. G. Has-

sam, Lake Mills, Wis.

Mrs. Kellogg was born in Minetto, Oswego Co., N. Y., Oct. 8, 1834. She removed with her parents to Whitewater, Wis., in 1855, and from thence to Lake Mills in 1857. She was united in marriage, Nov. 5, 1861, to Mr. Geo. J. Kellogg, of Janesville, Wis., where she has since resided. On the seventh of last December she had a severe attack of pneumonia, which was followed by nervous prostration and a complication of ailments, to which she finally yielded up her precious life. Her family did not give up hope of her recovery until twenty-four hours before her death.

Mrs. Kellogg was of most kindly disposition, hopeful, cheerful, happy,—the sunlight of her home, and withal a mother, in the highest and best sense. She was a social favorite. A large circle of friends will miss her cordial greetings and generous hospitality, and some needy ones will no

longer receive her charities so quietly bestowed.

Hers has been an active life; along with its activities has come growth in Christian character, womanly and beautiful.

As her ashes mingle with the dust of Oak Hill cemetery, her memory will linger in the hearts of her friends until they too join "the innumerable caravan that moves to the pale realms of shade."

ROBT. FARGO.

Lake Mills, Wis.

#### WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

#### \* \* \*

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#### ATTENTION!

With the subscription price of the Wisconsin Horticulturist reduced from \$1.00 to 50 cts. we ought to double our

subscriptions during the year.

As an incentive to get our friends to do a little missionary work all new subscribers will be entitled to either one of the following premiums by mail: Three grapevines, 1 Worden, 1 Massasoit, 1 Diamond, or six extra large gladiolus bulbs; these are Wisconsin grown and are exceptionally fine; many choice named varieties are included in the mixture.

For every club of five the getter-up will be entitled to

ten of these beautiful bulbs.

Show the magazine to your neighbor and get him to subscribe. Tell him that the premiums which are offered are alone worth the price of the publication.

Every reader—"this means you"—should get in at least one new subscriber.

.4

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WILLIAM TOOLE, Baraboo, Wis.

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