

WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

plow under, and as the field pea did not do well late in the season, he intended to plant some strong growing varieties of beans as an experiment this year.

Mr. Toole, of Baraboo, read a paper on "Horticulture in our Schools," which was followed with a discussion upon the subject, showing that many were in favor of teaching the primary principles of horticulture in our public schools.

Prof. L. H. Bailey said, "I do not believe we can teach agriculture and horticulture in the public schools any more than we can teach medicine or any other profession. But he believed in teaching the child to study nature. The ultimate object of education should be the student rather than his farming. There are two things in agricultural education, theories and practice; but we find that those who claim to be opposed to theories, are the ones most full of theories. To educate the boys on the farm, first have a good farm, and to make a good farm you must first reach the farmer. The one crop farm makes a one crop farmer, a grass farmer makes a grass man. Diversified farming develops the man in many ways."

[This idea was hardly in accord with the belief of many of his hearers, that the only men who succeed in life are those who concentrate their efforts along some special line or lines.—L. H. R.]

Pres. L. G. Kellogg in his annual address said that the planting of the trial station at Wausan was one of the best things the Society had ever done, and recommended the establishing of several more in different parts of the State.

The election of officers resulted in re-electing all of the old officers excepting the Vice-President. Pres., L. G. Kellogg, Ripon; Vice-Pres., Franklin Johnson, Baraboo; Sec., A. J. Phillips, West

Salem; Treas., R. J. Coe, Ft. Atkinson; Cor.-Sec., W. J. Moyle, Madison.

Prof Bailey spoke upon "Fruit Buds." He said pruning to shape is a matter of individual taste. Heavy pruning of the top of a plant always tends to a growth of wood. Winter pruning in the North-West permits the freezing and drying out of the sap of the tree. Heading in of strong growth tends to lateral and dormant buds, also tends to develop fruit bearing. Checking growth so long as the plant remains strong and healthy tends to fruitfulness. Pruning, however, is a secondary means for bringing fruit into bearing. Natural methods should first be used. If the tree is growing too rapidly, check its growth by withholding plant food from it, either by growing some crop about it that will tend to exhaust the fertility of the soil, or seed down to grass. When fruit bearing has once been reached, they should be kept bearing the same, as we keep a laying hen laying. A continuous amount of pruning every year should be given rather than a heavier pruning once in two or three years, as a severe pruning tends to upset the growth of a tree. Heavy bearing has the same effect as heavy pruning, it upsets the equilibrium. If they did not get in the habit of over-bearing, they would bear every year. If we are to make a tree bear every year, we must supply a greater food supply, or we must remove a part of the fruit. Removing the fruit affects chiefly the spur upon which it is. The same spur, however, does not as a rule bear every year, one spur bearing one year, and another the next. It would seem, therefore, that the removing of all fruits from some of the spurs would tend to better results in making them bearing spurs the next year.

It seems that it might be best to make a part of the trees bear their crop