

WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE above Society held its annual winter meeting in the State House at Madison, Feb.

1 to 4. The attendance was fair and the exhibits of fine quality. The apple crop of the State being quite light the past season, the display was not large, being only 95 plates. One of the features of the exhibit was a potato show, in which there were 204 plates and baskets, 158 of which were from the Riverdale Seed Farm, Grand Rapids, Wis., and included a collection of 70 plates of one year old seedlings, the first ever shown. The same parties also made an exhibit of 87 varieties of beans in glass bottles, showing the results of several wonderful crosses and hybridizations. Visitors and delegates were present from Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

Mr. Stickney, the largest currant grower in the State, said that he had eight acres of Fays, but had dug them all up but one acre. They required very high culture and too much petting. He considered Long Bunch Holland and Prince Albert the two best for profit. White Grape the best white currant, and he recommended it highly for home use. Wilder quite promising. North Star is a strong thrifty grower, but thought it only little superior to Red Dutch.

Mr. Harding, reporting for trial station under his charge, said that varieties of apples top worked on Whitney are blighting quite badly. Virginia is considered the best stock for top working the tenderer varieties upon.

O. M. Lard, of Minnesota, read a paper on "The Plum as a Fruit for the People of the North-West." Mr. Lard is a plum specialist, and the sample jars of canned plums he had with him showed that he was quite successful in

growing them. He named De Soto, Rollingsstone and Cheney as the three best American plums; would set 8 x 16 ft., mixing different kinds, so that they would cross fertilize. After thirty years experience, he is convinced that too much good culture cannot be given. Barn-yard manure and ashes are the best fertilizers.

Mr. Ferris, of Iowa, recommended grafting plums upon the Sand cherry, saying that they would bear much quicker and would produce abundantly.

Geo. J. Kellogg said the Miner was of no value unless other varieties were planted with it.

Clarence Wedge, of Minnesota, said that he planted Hawkeye with the Miner, and they fruited all right.

A. L. Hatch opened a discussion on the most economical method to restore exhausted fertility to worn out orchard lands. He thought that a liberal supply of barn-yard manure and wood ashes was the best thing to apply. L. H. Read spoke of the increasing use of Cow peas in orchards through the States of Illinois and Missouri, and also believed that they were adapted to more northern States, especially upon sandy soils. There has been a constant assertion by many that they were not adapted to the north, but we are finding out that this is false. Having tested them in a small way in central Wisconsin the past year, are convinced they are the greatest crop for green manuring that we can grow.

Mr. Stickney said that he had tested several varieties of the Cow pea, and they made a good growth, but required the entire season. He wanted something that he could use, say the last of June, after taking off an early crop, that would then make a growth sufficient to