Col. A. H. Eastman, of Green Bay, and John Platten, of Fort Howard, were enrolled as members of the society.
Adjourned to the first Friday in April.
M. P. LINDSLEY, Secretary pro tem.

TRANSPANTING FRUIT TREES.

BY J. W. ARNDT, ESQ.

The first essential in tree-planting is the location and preparation of the soil. An apple tree will grow almost anywhere, and in almost any soil, with the proper care and attention.

The land should be well and deeply drained, so that no water remains about the roots or on the surface, thoroughly worked and cultivated to the depth of at least fifteen inches or more.

The best results perhaps obtained are on elevations, with a light sandy loam, with lime stone or gravel subsoil, protected if possible, from the south-west and north winds. Yet I am of the opinion that clay loam, or even clay, if well and properly prepared, will give equally good results, and perhaps produce a more durable and lasting tree.

A soil that is rich enough to raise good corn, is sufficient for the apple. For the first three or four years a too rapid growth does not conduce to its early bearing or durability.

We cannot always choose, but yet must have the apple. So bring your land to the best condition possible and go ahead. Bear in mind, that on any and every soil there must be deep and thorough cultivation, so that the roots of the young and growing tree may spread and permeate the whole soil in search of its natural food, carrying to its head the healthy sap, ramifying and vivifying the whole superstructure, until there is produced one of the most beautiful things in nature, an apple tree loaded with its rich and luscious fruit. It is
the Eureka of your toil, the reward of your patience and the justification of your faith.

The next step to be taken is to procure the tree. Do not plant an inferior or imperfect tree if you can help it. If you have had no experience yourself, the nursery man will tell you what kinds will suit your locality best. They are, I believe, generally honest, whatever the peddlers may be.

The tree should be grown as near the same parallel as possible. Choose the stocky with well grown heads, well developed roots—fibrous roots and many of them; it should be from four to six feet high, two or three years old, healthy and sound in all its parts. It is not the largest tree that is the best.

Here I wish to make a point. Take three trees, two, three and four years old, plant at the same time, in the same soil, and give them the same care.

The four year old may have the first apples, but the other will have the first barrel of apples. This is a fact attested by all the best nurseriesmen and fruit growers.

The simple reason is, that the difficulty and danger of transplanting increases with the age of plant and tree.

In raising a young tree from the nursery rows, we get all, or most all the small fibrous roots; they start from or near the collar of the tree, while in older or larger trees they grow from or near the extremities, which are cut and destroyed in lifting them from the rows.

Hence, while the young or small tree has all its appendages necessary for its growth unimpaired, the other one has been deprived of them, and two or three years must intervene before it regains its original vigor, if it ever does.

It will always show the marks of its mutilation by flat places on the side whence the roots were cut, the circulation becomes uneven, more on one side than the other, the evaporation is greater than the supply from the roots, the wood contracts—the whole structure is disorganized and decay follows.
While your large tree that was so fine above ground is now a wreck—a home for the grubs, a failure and disappointment, your small tree, scarce as high as your shoulder nor larger than your finger, has thrown out its vigorous arms to the sunlight, wooing and gathering the gases that nourish, distilling and elaborating the sap as it is pumped from the roots which now spread in all directions, searching for the food necessary for this fruit producing machine. Thus it grows on in its youthful vigor, spreading farther its well formed head, and sending its roots far and near, until in due time behold that thing of beauty—a bearing tree, strong—vigorously healthy.

We have prepared the soil, procured the tree; let us plant it.

As it takes two to make a bargain, so it takes two to set a tree. The best time to set in our climate, is in the spring as soon as the ground is settled and dry enough to handle without balling or sticking to the hand. Never plant a tree in the mud. Choose a cloudy but dry day, keep the roots carefully covered from the sun and wind; twenty minutes exposure will do more harm than you can correct in a year.

Persons purchasing trees are not careful enough. They throw them into their wagons without sufficient protection from bruising and breaking; expose them to the sun for several hours, and when they get home, neglect them for the next day or two, or until they get time or inclination to set them. The deed is done, the murder is committed, notwithstanding the caution of the nurseryman.

Before you set the tree, cut with a sharp, keen knife all those roots that are bruised or injured; cut smooth and at an angle.

Have a bucket of water, and soak one tree while you are setting another.

Twenty feet is judged the best distance to set with us; 100 to the acre.
Line and stake so as to have your trees in straight rows, both for the beauty of the thing and its convenience.

At the point where the tree is to set, remove the earth for a space (not a hole) large enough to admit the roots; six or eight inches deep at its outer edge, and a little higher in the middle, so that the roots may incline from it.

Let one hold the tree in its proper position, while the other carefully spreads out its roots, lightly filling in the dirt with his hands, raising the roots and fibres to their natural position, as the filling progresses.

Do not get in a hurry and dump in a whole shovel full of dirt at a time. Do it slowly and do it well. Let the fine dirt fill all the space not occupied by the roots—fill up to the collar. Apply a little water, sufficient to settle the dirt compactly around the roots. Do not jerk and work the tree that breaks the fibres.

Now fill in the soil an inch or two above the collar, gently pressing it down. Let this extend three or four feet from and around the tree, inclining sufficiently to carry off the water.

Use no manure, but mulch heavily with partly decayed straw or litter of any kind that will retain the moisture. Throw a little dirt upon it to keep it in its place.

On this, much of your future success may depend. Never remove the mulch, but increase it from year to year. It will not only retain the necessary moisture and keep the soil in good order, but will generally supply enough food for the young tree until it begins to bear.

Now trim the tree—it may take you all summer to do it. First, remove all broken or injured limbs. Cut out the central upper limb. See that your tree is in balance by cutting off the point of a limb here and there. If you leave more on one side than on the other, let it be on the south side.

Three or four limbs are enough for the head. Let the first limb be about four feet from the ground; the others should
have abundance of room to grow without crowding. Avoid crotches, as they split and make a bad wound, disfigure the tree and eventually destroy it.

Watch the tree during its growth. It will want something done to it every little while, a bud to be pinched, a sprout to be cut, or the point of some limb to be stopped that is getting ahead of the others.

If the tree should show any signs of failing, from drought, or excessive heat, causing a too great evaporation, bind the trunk with a straw rope and frequently wet it, or set up a thin board on the south and west, secured with a wire and don’t forget the water; wet the whole tree. I think we should do this in all cases; it protects the trunk from the drying southwest wind which is very trying to young trees. The same directions transplanting for an apple tree will apply to all others, the same law that governs the one, governs the others.

A deep and thorough preparation and cultivation for the soil: The choice of strong, healthy trees, of hardy varieties, careful and judicious planting, and the arrest of a too rapid evaporation from the tree while growing, will generally insure success in planting any and all trees.

In the selection of varieties you will have to depend upon the nurseryman, or the experience of your neighbors, which is perhaps better. Above all do not forget to use good common sense; it is the foundation of all practical success.

Thus step by step, little by little, you will get complete control, and instead of a sickly, lop-sided, ungainly tree, you will have a beautiful, well balanced one. It requires care and attention; care at the right time to grow a tree, shrub or plant with success. The directions are few and easily followed.

It will not take you as long to plant a tree as it has taken me to tell you. Do your part well and faithfully, and I assure
you nature will do hers. Violate her laws and sooner or later she will be revenged.

An apple tree is not a thing of to-day or to-morrow—of this year, or the next. It will live on long after you have passed away, and your children and your children's children will pluck and eat of its fruit, remembering and blessing the hand that planted it. No gorgeous tomb may enclose your remains, nor stately column mark the spot, no costly marble record your deeds, yet there stands that graceful tree, a living monument, a growing record.

I say to you plant the apple tree, plant it for pleasure, plant it for profit. It is the rich man's necessity, the poor man's luxury; plant it in the garden, plant it in the field, on the hillside and on the level. Plant it to-day, that while yet in the full vigor of manhood you may enjoy it. It will add much to the comfort of your declining years, be a solace to you in your old age, and when you are called from this to another world, leave a rich inheritance, a lasting memento to your children. Do this, for more than this you cannot do.

Published by request of the Brown County Horticultural Society.

SONG OF THE APPLE SEED.

BY TAG.

Within this shell of bronze I hold
O, maiden sweet and fair!
Gems costlier than pearls and gold
And perfumes rich and rare;
But hide me in the loosened mould
And nourish me with care,
Give me to feel the breath of spring,
And summer dews and air;
And sapphire shoot and emerald blade
Shall hence anon appear
And lengthened sprig and sturdy stem
Arise and flourish there;