The following resolution by A. J. Phillips was adopted:

Resolved, That the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society recognizes the valuable service rendered the general interests of agriculture by the State Agricultural Society, and kindred organizations and we hereby pledge them our hearty support and co-operation in their work of educating the rural classes and building up the material interests of the state.

A motion to adjourn until to-morrow afternoon at 2 o’clock, to meet then in assembly chamber was now carried.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

THURSDAY, February 4th, 1886.

The joint meeting was called to order by President Arnold of the Agricultural Society, who called President Smith of the Horticultural Society to the chair.

Mr. B. S. Hoxie read a paper on

THE WHY AND WHAT TO BUILD, OR, OUR HOUSE AND HOME.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—In presenting this subject for your consideration at our present meeting, I shall do so from a practical standpoint. Our worthy professors and eminent farmers, and dairymen, bring from their store-house of knowledge, facts in science and of their practice on the farm or elsewhere. And so, as professor of Jackplane science, I hope to be of some help to at least a few of my hearers. Every age past supposed that they were living in just the best time; and so they were; for mainly each age and each decade have been an improve-
ment on the past. And each in their turn have copied, found fault or criticised their predecessors. So it has come about that we, whether rightfully or not, claim our superiority over all preceding, whether in art or science. For whichever way we turn or in whatever department we direct our attention, we discover bungling methods and weak results. In some branches of architectural science and in masonry perhaps, I should make an exception. For nothing has yet excelled in strength and solidity the famous aqueducts of Rome or the beautiful temples of Greece. But the appliances of art and mechanics to accomplish these results are ours to criticise, however much we may admire the finished work.

For as we look over the history of the past in the development of architecture we must attribute to Greece the highest attainment of art, progressive, useful and ornamental for their time. And their great superiority in this respect is traced to the same cause that constituted their pre-eminence in everything else, viz.: a deep investigation into first principles. It was, therefore, a rule with them that no public building should be constructed without the superintendence of a master mind. Hence, every structure of this kind must be beautiful in design, harmonious in its parts and adaptability to its uses. They had three essential and distinct qualities in architecture, which every student of that art must conform to, viz.: strength, grace and richness, or beauty. And it was almost a criminal offence to erect any building that was ugly in design or proportion. So to Greece, perhaps, we are indebted for more than we are willing to give credit for in our arrogance. Yet, for all this, I think we of the present are developing more of strength and beauty of design with practical utility of purpose in our homes than at any previous time. And if we could in some way inculcate that honesty of endeavor which the Grecians possessed in erecting our public buildings, there would be less of such disasters as that which befell our state capitol a year ago. Building in all ages of civilized man has been both an art and a science. Therefore, the why, the what and the how of our house and our home is the subject to which
I wish to call your attention. I suppose it is true that we as Americans more generally possess our own homes than any other people, and I wish it was more generally true that we build those homes, our houses, for ourselves and our children, instead of so often for strangers and their children.

"For if I build the house it will help sell the place," is too often our undertakings. And so the house is not our home, though we stay in it for years; often our children are born and die there, and every year we talk of selling out. If we improve the farm it is only for the advantage of a year or two, and if we make an addition to the house it is only because we must have more room for an extra bed or two to accommodate more help.

I wish to assume then that why we build is for a home, for with the other object in view, it is only a place to live in. Then the house must be our house; wife and I must do the planning, or we must select a plan and make changes to our liking, and if we are not able to complete it all this year or next, it must be planned with reference to that enlarged completion. What I have said as to the adaptability of public buildings must apply to your house, for it must to all purposes be your house. For as a practical builder for more than thirty years I never yet built two dwelling houses just alike. I remember once of building a house for a man who had seen one that suited him; so in exterior and interior his house must be like it, but his building site was different, and the house could not front the same way, nor stand in the same relation to other farm buildings, consequently when too late he was not suited with it, though it was a good house. You have perhaps one or two or three thousand dollars that you want to put into a house, and you want to use that money to the best advantage and you want the house to look as well as your neighbors, and if he has built first, you want it to look a little better than his, and it possibly may be that this is one reason why you wish to build to show him and the rest of the world that you can beat him on a house. The old down-east or New England style was to build the great square or oblong house, and it had a
plenty of room inside of the enclosed walls, but as for convenience it might in many cases have all been in one room, for that would have saved the opening and shutting of doors to say the least. It had one good feature and that was the huge chimney in the center with two or three great fireplaces. There was plenty of fresh air if you did have to turn round occasionally to keep both sides warm.

Those old structures still adorn the hillside, and roadside along the highways of the eastern country. The march of improvement has re-modeled and modified some of them, but in many cases what was good enough for father or grandfather will answer for the son if he has not sold out and gone west. With this part I am glad to note the change not only in plan but better modes of construction. And while it is true that great improvements have been made for the better in our modes of construction, there seems to be a sort of careless indifference as to plans and details on the part of those who are about to build a house. Our farmers as a general thing do not see the necessity; or think they cannot afford to pay the expense of plans and specifications from an architect. And I am sorry so say that in too many cases they would be disappointed if they did; for this art until quite recently, has had but very little to do with county or farm buildings; for in fact there has been no inducement for them to do it on the score of paying patronage. But in this there begins to be an improvement, for plans and elevations of farm buildings are being called for and published in some of the trade journals. I have therefore urged in public and to private clients, for those contemplating to build, to spend a day, or days in looking at and comparing the houses of strangers or friends as to general plan and mode of construction, taking paper and note book along, and at your home-leisure carefully compare results, making memorandum and note of such changes as you want in your house.

I have heard of a man and wife who made a miniature house of paste-board; first and second floors, every window and door occupying its relative place, and which way to swing to be the most practical. This was their mode of
doing it, and when the edifice was completed, it was their house and home. I know of another very intelligent lady who expects to be the assistant with the husband in building a home next summer; and she has marked out a dozen or more plans, each with some good features, and all practical. When the house is built she will know just how it will look from the start, and no guess work about where the location or size of room or closet.

Many of those old structures still adorn the roadside and the hillside in our New England states, while many have been re-built and re-modeled to make them more attractive to the eye and more convenient for use, as better methods and better homes are suggested by a more advanced civilization. And while it is true there has been marked improvement in so many ways, with better modes of construction, and all kinds of labor in the construction, so much quickened and lessened by the appliances of machinery, yet, in fact, I know of quite a number of ladies who have made most admirable plans for convenient and economical house room, and many a happy suggestion the builder can get from the wife of his patron, if he is not too stubborn to accept it. It is no very great task to mark out on paper the ground plan of your proposed house, to a scale showing the relation of rooms to each and their purpose, then consult the best practical architect and builder of your acquaintance, and if he cannot do the work for you get his advice and opinion, with a few or complete detailed drawings; but in all cases have a complete specification of work and materials, whether you let the job by contract or hire your carpenters by the day, for it will save much in time and often or always avoid misunderstanding. In this, as in all other enterprises, it will not pay to hire incompetent workmen, even if they agree to work at low wages, for often the waste of material, or the lack of ability to comprehend details, more than offsets the difference in the price of wages. And however well your plans may be made, and specifications drawn, an incompetent workman may spoil the job. We often hear the remark from those who have visited at the homes or houses of city relations or friends, “I wish our house was as handy
and convenient as Mr. So and So's." Now there is no reason or excuse why the country home should not be more so. The wealthy landlord or the owner of a private residence in the city builds so as to get the best returns in money or comfort on the investment.

Our own home certainly should be constructed with the greatest care as to comfort and convenience. Very much depends upon the location of farm buildings as related to the use and purposes of the farm, and while I urge always a pleasant location, it is not always advisable to place it upon the highest land, but it is always best to locate with good drainage from the house in every direction if possible. And be very sure that the well is so situated that no surface drainage can come in contact with the drinking water.

Wind engines or wind mills are now so cheap that most every farmer has one. A very simple arrangement is used to convey the water into a small tank at the door or in the house, and from there to the barn or elsewhere. And I have seen this so constructed that three tanks were connected with one line of pipe. The overflow from the house tank supplied one in the barn, and from this the large or outside tank was supplied. With this arrangement it is very rare that the supply of water is exhausted or that the women folks will have to go to the well for it. No one will think now of building without ample provision for soft water, and the cistern should be constructed if possible, with an overflow as well as as a filter. This filter to be good enough for all practical purposes, need not cost over two or three dollars, made of good, sound brick at one side of the bottom of the cistern, and in capacity of some twenty or thirty gallons. The pipes or leaders from the eve-troughs should extend to the bottom of the cistern, instead of taking the rain water only to the surface; by so doing the water in the cistern is kept pure by being aireated, and wasting at the overflow rather than by a cut-off. The expense too of having a pump at the bath-room as well as the wash-room.

There is, however, a better and by no means very expensive way of having a tank or a bath-room, wash-room or kitchen which need not hold more than ten or twenty bar-
rels of water. This is connected to the main cistern by pipe and cut-off so that no fear can be had of overflow. The conveniences of this arrangement is so obvious that I need not enlarge upon its mode of construction. The main cistern should, if possible, have an overflow pipe below the surface of the ground and connecting with the drain pipe from the house, but always tapped so that no foul air shall come in contact with the water in your cistern. All of these things are only a trifle of expense when compared to the convenience and saving of time and labor to those who do the work, whether of your own family or servants. Then much depends upon the location of your house with reference to your other buildings. I would not have it too far away from the barn or out-buildings, nor would I locate it on the north of them nor across the highway; for I can think of no reason to compensate for this “yank” style that will offset the inconvenience of having to cross and recross a dusty and muddy street hundreds of times in the course of the year, saying nothing of opening and shutting extra gates and doors.

In the arrangement of rooms, make those the most used the most pleasant; and if you have a parlor for show and to keep the nice things in, let it be off to one side out of the way. If the kitchen is intended simply for a kitchen, it need not be so very large, and you will not in that case need a pantry, but have shelves, drawers, work-table and dumb waiter on one side and a portion of it communicate or accessible to the dining-room by double-faced drawers and doors, for this will save very much of extra labor. I would have two or more of the rooms communicate by folding or sliding doors, and the chimney so arranged that it should be centrally located to economize both in fuel, and labor of tending stoves; and if you should at any time wish to put a furnace in the basement it will be all the better by this arrangement; and for this and other reasons it is best to start your chimneys from the cellar foundation. I would advise to have all stove-pipes enter the chimney below the ceiling and place registers in the floors for the purpose of warming the chambers in winter, and to change the atmos-
sphere of the rooms in summer even. There is, however, a patent drum or heater lately being used which is very safe and economical in saving heat for chambers when placed in the upper room or hall-way, and by opening the doors from this, two or three rooms are comfortably warmed.

I have very briefly mentioned some of the styles of architecture. But what would be proper for a temple or public building would for the style of our house be very improper. Yet for all of this we have seen the attempt to make a dwelling house look well with heavy Doric columns supporting a gable end so as to form a lofty porch for the front entrance.

The Gothic style looks well enough for a church edifice, and is more sensible for a house than those more ancient.

A style more modern from the French called Mansard, from its author or originator is more in keeping with our taste of harmony and more substantial in effect.

But more lately there has sprung up what we choose to call the Queen Anne style. So if anything looks odd and all out of shape it is safe to call it Queen Anne. I had written something of my ideas regarding this craze, which is soon to pass away, when I came across this bit of humor from Bill Nye. He calls it crazy quilt architecture and as many a truth is spoken in jest, I will give his description instead of my own.

**CRAZY QUILT ARCHITECTURE.**

It may be premature, perhaps, but I desire to suggest to any one who may be contemplating the erection of a summer residence for me, as a slight testimonial of his high regard for my sterling worth, that I hope he will not construct it on the modern plan of mental hallucination and morbid delirium tremens peculiar to recent architecture.

Of course a man ought not to look a gift house in the gable end, but if my friends don’t know me any better than to build me a summer house, and throw in odd windows that nobody else wanted, and then daub it up with colors they have bought at auction, and applied to the house after dark with a shotgun, I think it is time that we had a better understanding.

Such a structure does not come within either of the three classes of Renaissance. It is neither Florentine, Roman nor Venetian. Any man can originate a style of architecture if he will drink the right kind of whisky long enough, and then describe his feelings to an amanuensis. Imagine the sensation that one of these modern, sawel-off cottages would create a
hundred years from now, if it should survive. But that is impossible. The only cheering feature of the whole matter is, that these creatures of a disordered imagination must soon pass away, and the bright sunlight of hard horse-sense shine in through the shattered dormers and gables of gnawed off architecture of the average summer resort. A friend of mine, a few days ago, showed me his new house with much pride. He asked me what I thought of it. I told him I liked it first rate. Then I went home and wept all night. It was my first falsehood.

The house, taken as a whole, looked to me like a skating rink that had started out to make money, and then suddenly changed its mind, and resolved to become a tannery. Then ten feet higher it had lost all self-respect and blossomed into a full-blown "drunk and disorderly," surmounted by the smoke stack of a foundry, and with the bright future of thirty days ahead with the chain gang. That's the way it looked to me.

The roofs were made of little odds and ends of misfit rafters and distorted shingles that somebody had purchased at sheriff's sale, and the rooms and stairs were giddy in the extreme. I went in and rambled around the cross-eyed staircases and other nightmares till reason tottered on her throne. Then I came out and stood on the architectural wart called the side porch, to get fresh air. This porch was painted a dull red, and it had wooden rosettes, at the corners that looked like a brand new carbuncle on the nose of a social wreck. Farther up on the demoralized lumber pile I saw now and then places where the workman's mind had wandered, and he had nailed on his clapboards wrong side up, and then painted them with the Paris green that he had intended to use on something else. It was an odd looking structure indeed. If my friend got all the materials for nothing from people who had fragments of paint and lumber left over after they had failed, and then if the workmen constructed it nights for mental relaxation and intellectual repose, without charge, of course the scheme was a financial success, but architecturally, the house is a gross violation of the statutes in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the state.

There is a look of extreme poverty about the structure which a man might struggle for years to acquire and then fail. No one could look upon it without feeling a heartache for the man who built that house, and probably struggled on year after year, building a little of it at a time as he could steal the lumber, getting a new workman each year, building a knob here and a protuberance there, putting in a three cornered window at one point and a yellow tile or a wad of broken glass or other debris at another, patiently filling in around the ranch with any old rubbish that other people had got through with, and painting it as he went along, taking what was left in the bottom of the pot after his neighbors had painted their bob sleds or their tree boxes—little favors thankfully received—and then surmounting the whole pile with a potpourri of roof, a grand fare-
well incubus of bumps and hollows for the rain to wander through and seek out the different cells where the lunatics live who inhabit it.

I did tell my friend of one thing that I thought would improve the looks of his house. He asked me eagerly what it could be. I said it would take a man of great courage to do it for him. He said, he did not care for that. He would do it himself. If it only needed one thing, he would never rest until he had it, whatever that might be. Then I told him that if he had a friend—one that he could trust—who would steal in there some night when the family were away, and scratch a match on the leg of his breeches or on the breeches of any other gentleman that was present, and hold it where it would ignite the alleged house, and then remain to see that the fire department did not meddle with it, he would confer a great favor on one who would cheerfully retaliate in kind at call.

But we have what may be considered a modification of the Queen Anne, as being more plain, and therefore better adapted to the taste and requirements of the American people. All things considered, a house square or nearly square, with a high roof may be the cheapest to enclose a given space; but if cheap is what we are after let us build our house like the barn. We take pride in the beautiful, so we may make our house with a pleasing exterior in gables, cornice and windows, and to do so we will avoid long wings and bring it up compact, so that each part will sustain the other. This will give it the appearance of firmness and solidity, besides making all of our rooms easy of access.

In this county we have such a variety of building material that everyone can gratify their own taste. But for country buildings wood has, and will for some time be the principal material used, and since the adoption of a better style of painting more in harmony with natural objects than the blank white, what would otherwise appear cold and tame, looks neat and cozy. In planning your house, be sure that all the foundation walls, if in clayey soil are put below frost, whatever the superstructure may be.

We will suppose you have decided to build of wood, then of course you will have what we call a balloon frame, for this is a western invention and cheaper and better than the old method of mortice and tenon. And for this class of buildings it is not necessary to use sills even, but instead two thicknesses of 2x8 stuff, letting joists and studs rest on
these, spiking the two together. It is not necessary either to use long studding for high buildings, but preferably we will use such lengths as we want the height of each story. If for instance, you wish your first story 10 feet, cut them four inches less, then use two thicknesses of 2x4, as you would for plater, and for the second story proceed as for the first, cutting the studs of the right length to receive the plater. You thus have a better and cheaper frame than one of continuous lengths of studdings, and all communication of vermin or a circulation of air is cut off.

To make our house warm in winter and cool in summer; we make tight walls by using sheathing boards well nailed and well covered with building paper, well lapped and wrapped around corners and under all window frames and casings and under the shingles. Lay down your first floor before plastering and then put paper on to this before laying the floor proper. In addition to this we sometimes put paper onto or between the studs before lathing and plastering. In all cases let the plastering go tight down to the floor. I am glad to say that the style of wide casings and heavy mouldings for inside finish has been superseeded by much narrower and planer casings. But to give a variety we use the natural woods trimmed with other kinds or varieties. And almost any variety of wood finished in this way in its natural color looks well. To be sure we want no bunglers at this kind of work, for if a clean glove hides a dirty hand, so paint and putty covers many defects of a slovenly workman. I have mentioned some of the conveniences and improved methods of house building; but in a paper of this kind it is not proper to go into details for it would take too much of the time of this convention. If we only know how it costs no more to do a thing properly, than to do it poorly or improperly. It costs no more to have our house planned so as to be convenient, than it does to have it ugly and inconvenient. If my kitchen is arranged so that my wife and daughters can do their work in less time and easier, then they will have more time to devote to something else. A dumb waiter in kitchen or dining room will save many steps down and up from the cellar. The cistern pump within
reach of the cook stove or a tank over-head is better than to draw the water with pail and rope outside. A nice revolving flour chest under the work table is neater and much more convenient than to keep it in a sack or barrel in some back room. Wood nicely prepared and kept dry is better economy than to go ten rods to the wood pile and dig it out of the snow.

The intelligent *paterfamilies* and the skilled mechanic by a little forethought, can save much in time and expense by well matured plans; taking into consideration all of the details. By thus doing our *house* or *home*, though costing less than two thousand dollars perhaps, may be of more value in home comfort than a huge pile of brick, wood and mortar costing twice the amount. For to my mind a ten thousand dollar house is to much house for home comfort to the farmer. Not to this class are the suggestions offered, but to those of more moderate means.

Not long since I was talking to a very intelligent man upon this subject, who had built a city and a country house, the country house is now his home: “My first house, said he, cost me nearly six thousand dollars, the one I now live in cost me twenty-five hundred dollars, and it is every way complete in all of its details, and more desirable for my family than the first one, though not costing me half as much.”

Those who are able to build a five or ten thousand dollar house are not those who are content with rural life or rural home, and to those who are able to build palaces, the suggestions offered in this paper are of but little use.

There may be some who are ambitious for more land, and farm is added to farm, while the toil and drudgery goes on year after year; comforts and conveniences are denied to secure the money for more farm and more taxes. Or the ambition may be for a costly house; the earnings and savings are laid by for this purpose, and all are looking forward to the time when their hopes shall be realized. But the years come and go. Some of the children have left the paternal home which was inconvenient and cheerless. By and by perhaps the costly house is built, but who is there now to
enjoy it. Fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars invested in a neat cosey house ten years earlier, how much better for father and mother, and the boys and girls would have had a home of pleasure and contentment which would have made them better men and better women. "My father is the best man I know of," said a young lady in my presence not long since, "and my mother is the best woman in the world, so good and kind, and our home is always so pleasant with father, mother and brothers to love me." It must be a strong and loving heart and a manly man that can woo and win such a daughter from this home. We know of such homes as this, and the whole after life is sweetened by its remembrance.

DISCUSSION.

This paper was discussed by Mr. Broughton, who opposed the idea which he understood the paper to convey, that a farmer should build a house regardless of the consequences of running in debt.

Mr. Olds—I would like to speak a word in favor of the heating drum, spoken of in the paper as a means of economizing fuel and of ventilating a room. It was invented in my town. I have one attached to my heating stove and it has proven to be a very excellent thing. It draws in a current of air from outdoors and carries that current into the room already heated, and drives the foul air into the flues of the chimney thereby ventilating the room.

Mr. Hoxie—I want to draw attention to one thing in this paper, and that is the idea of farmers out west to get more land than they know what to do with. I think a farmer should get a home instead of so much land.

Mr. Plumb—I want to offer one suggestion. I have visited Mr. Hoxie's recently built home, and I would say to all who contemplate building, that you would do well to get the plan of his kitchen. I have visited many homes, and costly houses, but when I saw the arrangements for cooking in Mr. Hoxie's home, I thought then that that was worth all the rest of his very complete house together. So I drop this
suggestion that if he has the plan of his kitchen with him, I hope you will all see it.

Mr. Broughton here offered a resolution in commendation of the work being done in the state by farmers' institutes.

Mr. Phillips — I move the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Morrison wished me to say a word in this connection. He does not claim the honor of making a success of these institutes. They are, he says, the result of seed sown years ago by Prof. Daniells and others, together with the winter meetings of the State Agricultural and Horticultural societies, from which now these institutes are reaping such bountiful harvests. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. Ida E. Tilson read a paper on "Home Adornment," and was followed by Mrs. Campbell, who read a paper on the subject of "How to Educate Our Girls."

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HOME ADORNMENT.

By Mrs. Ida E. Tilson.

Literature, sacred and secular, poetical and prose, is full of references to the garden. In history the pleasure grounds of Nebuchadneezar, Haroun*al Raschid and Louis XIV. stand side by side with their warlike deeds. Scarcely a modern newspaper can be taken up which does not contain articles on artistic architecture, decoration of rooms, arrangement of furniture and drapery, or beauty in horticulture. Two or three distinct professions have grown out of this general public interest, and there has been a great change for the better in our homes within a few years, but some chance for improvement still remains, more particularly, perhaps in localities remote from cities and villages. Then, too, we all grow and live and learn by repetition. Over and over again the sun rises and the rain falls. Over and over again we tread the round of daily duties. It is "line upon line and precept upon precept" in education. So, although much has been written about home adornment, perhaps further attention can profitably be given this subject.