EVENING SESSION.

IDEALS IN HORTICULTURE.

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It is refreshing to turn away, if for a few moments only, from the conquest and worship of the Almighty Dollar, to the contemplation of Nature and her many children. We have developed into a nation of gold worshippers and in every province of enterprise and labor the desire for wealth is so over-mastering as to silence our higher aspirations and feelings. Even horticulture, which is generally looked upon as an ideal occupation is becoming contaminated with the same evil, and so my plea to-night is not for commercialism in horticulture, but for ideals in horticulture, the same ideals that have inspired our artists and idealists, ideals which are to stand for better and happier homes and contented people. If you seek wealth for wealth's sake, turn your face from horticulture. Try politics, banking, oil, brokerage, mining, "bucket shops" or some confidence game. Horticulture will give you an honest living, a decent burial, and a sweet memory to your remaining friends. It will give you besides these, the blessings of an out-door life, health and long life. You will not have to eat crackers and milk for your morning, noon and evening meal, nor need you walk the dewy grass before breakfast for your stomach's sake. You will have no occasion to endow libraries so as not to die rich. You will not be asked to dine with kings, nor sit at the table with monkeys. Your life will be calm and serene, for it will be a life for study, surprises and rest. Your mind will not be continually rent by worries about your business, the fall and rise of stock and securities, nor will thieves be tempted to break in and steal your treasures.

That horticulture is an ideal occupation for man, as well as woman, is attested to by the fact that it was the first work given the race by the Creator, and horticulturists today are as eager as ever to eat of the tree of knowledge, a fact, which would indicate that horticulture and thinking are closely associated. There are such things as combining business with pleasure, and when this is legitimately done, we have the ideal as well as the profitable side satisfied. The signs of the times seem to indicate that horticulture in its broadest sense is be-
coming more and more an occupation for all classes of people. Modern journalism is doing pioneer and missionary work in this direction, and it is surprising indeed, that during the last three or four years a number of very high grade publications have been started, extolling the pleasures and beauties of outdoor life, as work beneficial to the city, as well as the urban dweller. We may confidently expect that through the influence of these publications, many city converts will be made to horticulture and that horticulture itself will enter upon a broader and higher plane.

The artistic or the ornamental side of horticulture has suffered in America and we are just beginning to awaken to the value of decorative horticulture. In the past we have been too absorbed in the pioneer life incident to the development of a new country. We have been pre-occupied in the establishment of homes and farms and have had little time to think or to act upon any feeling or aspiration, which we may have had to make a home more attractive and hospitable. But we have reached a time in our national existence where this phase of our development must be emphasized. Blessed with an abundance of land and resources to develop the same, there is no reason why every city and village in our land should not have ample parks and play grounds. There is no reason why the city streets need to be narrow and crowded, nor the back yards the depository for everything that is useless and unsightly. It is hard to understand why the builders of cities and of towns should have been so blind to the future interests of the inhabitants as to lay out narrow streets and crowded squares, when land is cheap and abundant. Then, too, it is difficult to understand why cities have not long ago appropriated larger areas for the development of extensive park systems. In large, populous centers, the acquisition of land is becoming more and more difficult and expensive, if not impossible, but in our smaller cities, cities like Baraboo, where land is still cheap, the city should not delay in acquiring sufficient areas for parks and play grounds to serve for generations to come. It will never be any easier and cheaper than now, and if any one of you wish to build a monument to your memory, I know of no better way than to donate a section of land to your city for park purposes. Such a monument will be more enduring and more beneficial to the future inhabitants than the endowment of a library or a public institution of learning. We are a missionary people—we are willing and anxious to spend millions of dollars for the conversion of supposed heathen in foreign lands, but we often forget that
A border of Common Elder, Tenney park, Madison.
This and the following illustrations from Bulletin No. 108, Univ. of Wis. Agr. Exp. Station.
charity begins at home. There are millions of children and grown people in the crowded tenement houses in our large cities who have never tasted the real pleasures of out-of-door life. Crimes of all kinds and degrees flourish in the crowded cities and what else could we expect—there is nothing for the mind to do but to brood over their own conditions. Give them a chance to get acquainted with nature, with trees and flowers, and a new vista of life will suddenly be open to them. To alleviate and better conditions like these is real missionary work.

I would not have you understand that it is the city dwellers alone who neglect planting fruits and flowers. As a rule, the farmer is one of the last to provide his family with a liberal supply of fruit and flowers. It is not an uncommon sight to see farmers purchasing vegetables and fruits on the city market.

There is a great deal in the saying that we live to eat. Eating, indeed, should constitute one of the pleasures of life, and the farmer of all persons is the one who has the right to enjoy the fruits of his fields and his gardens. It is true that a large proportion of our farms have fruit trees planted on them, but this planting is often due to no special desire on the part of the farmer himself, but rather to the persistent effort of the ever present nursery agent. And for this work he is entitled to a great amount of credit.

The horticultural work on the farm is generally delegated to the women of the family, as if it did not require any hard work. It is true that gardening ordinarily requires less physical labor than general farming, but it is also true that it requires more brains, and for this reason I should judge, if for no other, it is delegated to the gentler sex. If the same amount of work were expended on an acre of orchard as is expended on an acre of corn, the profit from the orchard would be ten-fold that of the corn.

There is need of a decided awakening among farmers to the proper appreciation of things beautiful. There would be fewer young men and young women leave the farm if the farm surroundings were what they ought to be. The early impressions are the most lasting, and if the children be taught to appreciate and love flowers and trees and their nature, it would furnish a source of inspiration and knowledge, which is now so often lacking. You can hardly blame the young man for leaving the old homestead after years of hard work, without prospect for any enjoyments or home attractions. There
must be time on the farm for recreation and for the enjoyment of such pleasure as a farm can afford. The farm must offer something else than drudgery if it is going to attract and hold the future generation to the soil.

When we consider that a lily has to spin and toil, even if Solomon said that they did not, when it has its trials and tribulations, it has to search for its food, or it has to suffer for lack of water, or sunshine, or for any of the conditions which are essential or beneficial, that its suffering, though we cannot measure it, must be perhaps as keen and as great as that of an animal, I am not to argue whether they are intelligent; they may have an intelligence, although lower than ours, or lower than animals, but I want to impress you with the fact that the difference between animals and plants is not as great as we suppose it is, and the very fact that animals and plants are so closely related should encourage horticulturists and all lovers of Nature to get better acquainted with them.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT.

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Parks and their attributes as a phase of city improvement will be the subject under discussion in the following remarks.

Every peaceful community is normally governed and regulated by laws. Under these laws it becomes the office of a communal government to not only serve the interests of the individuals composing the community by policing, constructing streets and similar necessities which become apparent at an early stage of its life but an individual may reasonably expect that the township may properly provide such means for protection and enjoyment as a wise disbursement of public funds will permit.

Granted that this premise is correct let us inquire into the needs of a city.

Parks, their related properties and recreation areas in cities are necessary to facilitate traffic, offer wholesome and edifying means of exercise for the general populace and alleviate the causes which result in the needs of maintaining penal and charitable institutions.