On motion of Mr. Plumb, Mr. Oliver Gibbs, Jr., secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, and the ladies reading papers at the convention were made honorary annual members of the society.

President Smith stated that he had hoped for the presence of Parker Earle the president of the Mississippi Valley Horticultural Society, and secretary Garfield of the Michigan Horticultural Society, but both had been obliged to remain at home — the latter by a press of work, the former on account of severe cold. He also mentioned the prospective fruit exhibition to be held in New Orleans next year, and suggested that it would be well for us to consider the feasibility of taking part in that exhibition.

On motion of Mr. Plumb the president was requested to send a dispatch of greeting to the Illinois Horticultural Society now in session at Bloomington, together with a statement of the extent and condition of our display of fruit — about 600 plates.

The regular programme was opened by the reading of the following paper on the Waupaca seedlings, by Mr. W. A. Springer, of Fremont:

THE WAUPACA SEEDLINGS.

WM. A. SPRINGER, Fremont.

I have been asked to give an account of Waupaca county’s seedling apples. I will say that the Wolf River leads. It is one of the first of Waupaca’s seedlings. The old original tree is thirty-two years old, perfectly healthy, has not missed a crop since 1862, and stands in one of the most trying places, where its roots touch the waters of the Wolf river. The young trees are all doing well. I have no trees that gave me so many apples, this year, as my twelve year old Wolf River trees.

The Wrightman orchard of seedlings at Weyauwega, ten of which you have before you, are all healthy trees, and nearly all of them good bearers. The Weyauwega has borne from a fair to a very heavy crop every year for the last fifteen years, and is an excellent keeping apple. The
Wrightman Blush is also an excellent keeper and good bearer. The Flora is a heavy bearer and good keeper. The Martha is a fair bearer but a slow grower. The Waupaca, although a large, beautiful apple and great grower, is not a great bearer. The other varieties not named, are all excellent trees and good bearers.

The Bennett orchard of seedlings, at Royalton, many of which are very choice, and ten of which we have here, are every tree perfect and all good bearers. Mr. Bennett has one of the best orchards in the county; it stands on a south-easterly slope. His seedlings are mostly numbered so I will say nothing now of any except the Bennett which is a beauty, a great bearer of excellent flavor, and one of the best market apples he has.

Mr. Ma Whinney, of Lind, has about ten varieties of seedlings, some of which are before you. All the trees are healthy and are fair bearers. The Helen is an excellent keeper and great bearer. His orchard is on quite high ground but is quite level.

The Gibson orchard, of Lind, is nearly all seedlings. Mr. Gibson has many very nice apples and good trees. His Sprawler, as friend Plumb called it, is a good keeper, a good apple and a perfect tree.

The Streit orchard, set out thirty-three years ago, and numbering one thousand seedlings, now contains many choice apples and trees.

Mr. Balch, of Weyauwega, has a seedling orchard numbering over one hundred, many of which are splendid trees, great bearers and good keepers, ten of which we have on exhibition. He has probably more apples in his cellar to-day than any other man in the county, though they lack color, and in size are not up to others of which we have spoken. His trees on the whole are a success.

There are many others of which we might speak, some of which we have on exhibition. In our town the Hickman orchard, thirty-five years old, perfectly hardy. Mrs. Hickman tells me they picked five barrels this fall, and then shook off more than another barrel. It bore a fair crop last
year. It stands in low, level ground. Although it lacks color it is a very good tree to have this year.

I have never seen as many good seedlings from any other quarter and why are they so hardy? Living and thriving when so many of our standards have failed. The old Wolf River is alone where three hundred other trees have died; not a good tree in the orchard. In every instance the seeds of these trees were from Maine, Northern New York and Canada East or seeds that grew here.

I think the place to look for hardier trees is from our northern seedlings, and that to use our northern seeds to grow roots to graft is better than to get the seeds of southern apples or seeds from the south.

I will say that there have been many very nice seedling apples raised here that have died like our tender standard sorts, but all of which we have spoken have perfect trees.

When I first came to this county thirty-four years ago, I brought trees with me. Set the first apple tree, and raised the first apple in the county. Many of these trees are alive and healthy, and bore well this year.

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The President, in opening the question for discussion, invited all persons present, whether members of the society or not, to take part in the proceedings of the convention.

Mr. Peffer thought our native seedlings would supply our wants, without forcing us to import Russian varieties.

Mr. J. P. Roe of Oshkosh, mentioned a good late fall seedling of his own, from the Duchess. The fruit is larger than the Duchess. Equal to it for cooking, and superior for dessert fruit.

This seedling blights a very little, and the one tree is hardy. Its grafts have not yet been tested; cions were taken this year for the first time. The tree has the habit of the Duchess.

He also mentioned a good dessert summer apple from seed of Tallman Sweet; and another winter seedling from the same parent. Both have the characteristic ring of the Tall-
man Sweet. In habit the summer tree resembles the parent, but somewhat less spreading branches.

Mr. Plumb referred to the general unreliability of most seedlings, and stated that many of those seedlings which prove valuable are so only on the peculiar soil on which they have originated, proving worthless in new localities.

President Smith inquired if these Waupaca seedlings—doing well in Waupaca county—would not do well in Brown county.

Mr. Plumb answered that the latter was a very diverse county, in some places drift hills, etc. These would probably do well. Pears thrive in such localities.

Mr. Roe stated that seeds for planting in our climate should be obtained from the most extreme northern limit of growth of good fruit.

Mr. Kellogg reported the Duchess well preserved in Mr. Hirschinger's collection now on exhibition, showing that it was rather more than a fall variety. He thought northern seeds would not give hardier seedlings than those from southern regions.

Mr. Tuttle reported that seedlings of value were very rare on this continent. Excepting the Wealthy, there is no such variety of American origin that is equally hardy with the Duchess. In his estimation, our reliance for the future must be placed on Russian varieties. No variety can be called thoroughly tested for our climate in less than twenty years.

The Society adjourned at 12:30 P. M.

DECEMBER 19th, 2:30 P. M.

The Society was called to order by the President, and Mr. Plumb presented his paper.

After some vigorous discussion the programme was continued by the reading of a paper entitled "Insectivorous Plants," by Mrs. C. A. Willard. After the discussion of Mrs. Willard's paper the following paper was read: