ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT SMITH.

Another year with its joys and sorrows has passed away. In more respects than one, it has been one of unusual care and anxiety to the lovers of horticulture, not only in our own state, but throughout the entire northwest. The apple crop of 1884 was probably the finest ever grown in the state, and the exhibition of the samples of our fruit at New Orleans could not but make our citizens feel proud of our state, and many of us fondly hoped that a new and prosperous era was dawning upon those of us who are interested in horticultural pursuits. But it seems that at least one more disaster awaited us. Orchards had doubtless been somewhat weakened by their heavy crop during the season of 1884, and were not in as good a condition to endure hardships as if the crop had only been a moderate one. The winter of 1884 and 1885 was one of almost unprecedented length and severity. When the spring at last came, the complaint of dead or damaged fruit trees was almost universal.

The question has been asked of me over and over again, what shall we do? One gentleman of long experience residing in the western part of the state, said to me not long since: "You must give us something better." I need not say that this is something we are all of us very anxious to do, and really hope and trust that we are upon the eve, at last, if not upon the dawn, of a brighter day. I cannot but trust and believe that between the many varieties of new Russians, and new seedlings, we shall find a few varieties that will endure our most severe winter with perfect impunity. And yet the experience of many years bids us be very careful about what we recommend.

There has been one peculiarity about the damage done to orchards that I can hardly account for. In the district that I in part represent, the damage, so far as I can learn, has been less than in any other portion of the state. In fact, I do not recollect ever seeing finer crops of Duchess than were grown in Brown county last season. Golden Russett and Fameuse also did reasonably well. In fact, but few of
our orchards are seriously damaged, while crabs were so
plenty that they were a complete drug upon the market,
although we have the great lumber and iron districts just
north of us where almost nothing is grown; yet with all
this advantage they could not be sold. While due west of
us, in St. Croix and other counties adjoining, I am told that
the destruction is almost complete, including even the
Duchess and many of the crabs.

Why should there be such a vast difference? The ther-
rometer was but little lower there than in Green Bay. The
winter in other respects was about the same. Why should
the damage be comparatively light in the one district, and
the destruction about complete in the other? There is cer-
tainly a cause for this. Let us face the facts in this, as well
as in other cases, and if possible ascertain the cause first,
after which it will be much easier to apply the remedy.

No premiums have as yet been paid upon exhibitions in
our class at the international exhibition held in New Orleans
last winter; and from what I can learn there is but little if
any prospect of there ever being paid.

Some, or perhaps all of you may have noticed that a num-
ber of premiums upon apples are awarded to myself, some,
if I mistake not, to Mr. Peffer and perhaps to Mr. Springer.

An explanation is due you in this respect. There was
some doubt about how far societies could compete for the
list of premiums offered. I wrote to Superintendent Earl
about it, and he replied to me in writing, admitting us to
compete for the entire list with two or three exceptions.
After our fruit was nearly if not all set up, another decision
was made by the authorities there, ruling us out of the en-
tire list with the exception of some two or three entries.
After a consultation with Mr. Earl (who by the way I do
not think was to blame) I withdrew all the society entries,
except the few about which there could be no dispute, and
entered the most of them in my own name, some I think in
Mr. Peffer's, and perhaps a few in Mr. Springer's name.
Should the awards or any portion of them that appear in
my name ever be paid, the money shall be immediately
turned over to the treasurer of our society.
There has been, in spite of all of our efforts to the contrary, some little friction growing out of our connection with the annual convention held in this city. Some of our number have for years believed that it would be better for both the State Agricultural Society as well as for our own, that we should act entirely independent of each other. President Arnold has expressed his wish to me that we should hold a joint convention, and I do not consider him in any way to blame for the differences that have occurred between the two societies. You have all of you doubtless noticed that we have crowded halls whenever our conventions are held outside of Madison. The reverse is apt to be the case when held in Madison. The question whether some radical changes in this respect would not be beneficial to us, is one that it would be well for us to carefully consider.

You are doubtless aware that tree peddlers are already peddling so-called Russians in all directions. Would it not be well to insert in our fruit list a word of warning, or some resolution in this respect that might be of benefit to those who will look with unusual interest for our next volume of transactions. While many of us firmly believe and all of us hope that we have some valuable varieties, as well as perfectly hardy ones, none of us expect them to be of permanent, lasting value.

Last season was probably about as unprofitable a one for the small fruit growers of the northwest as has been witnessed for many years. The acreage was large, and in most places the crop fully up to, if not above, the average. Business was depressed and times generally hard. The result was generally not a favorable one to the growers. Among the new varieties that come with each succeeding year, many of which I have been trying, I have found the Manchester to be of value thus far, and am now testing it upon a more extended scale, and if it does as well next season as it has for the last two, I shall let it divide honors in my garden with the Wilson. I have kept a few of the Kentucky plants for some years in order to lengthen out the season, but the Manchester is about as late and in all respects preferable.
The following I expect to plow under next season as unworthy of further cultivation: Kentucky, Sharpless, Piper's Seedling, Glendale, James Vick, Windsor Chief, Bidwell, and perhaps some others. I use the term unworthy here in a comparative sense. If I could get no better ones I should certainly keep some of them; but as compared with the Wilson or Manchester upon my grounds, they are unworthy of longer trial. If the Cuthbert raspberry does as well with others as it has with me, it is indeed a prize. It was five weeks last season from the day that we picked the first box until we picked the last ones. I have regretted that I did not keep a strict account of the yield, but am safe in saying that it was very large. The berries were large and firm and of excellent quality. The Gregg is the best of the black caps that I have tried, although its bearing season is not more than half as long as that of the Cuthbert. My grapes are upon a light, sandy loam with a very sandy subsoil. My Concor ds do not do nearly as well as they do upon the heavy clay loam of one of my neighbors. In fact I feel confident that I can raise more pounds of Delaware upon a given area of that soil than of the Concord. We picked twenty-seven pounds of Delawares from one small vine last fall. Some of the larger vines doubtless had more, although they were not measured or weighed.

The general result of my last season's work was only a repetition of the old, old story that it is only the good varieties, and then good cultivation, that pays during such years of depression as the last few have been. In fact, this may be said of almost all of the last ten or fifteen years.

To most of our members the year has been one of health and comfort if not of prosperity; yet one of our number has left us and joined the great and silent majority beyond our sight. I refer to Mr. J. Suydam, of Green Bay. He was but slightly known to most of you, and perhaps not at all known to some of our number. To myself he has for many years been an elder brother and a confidential friend. He was a dear lover of horticulture in all of its different branches. For years he had been the vice president of our home society, and never tired of doing anything and everything that
tended to advance his interests. He was a ready writer and often employed his pen in behalf of our cause. Perhaps he had not the brilliant intellect of our Mrs. Lewis, whom we all so deeply mourned one year since, and whom none of us will forget while memory last, yet in its honest, earnest Christian life he was, in my opinion, the equal of any of those whose names have ever adorned our list of membership.

It seems to me that during the years since you first honored me by placing me in my present position, we have been unusually exempt from deaths, or extreme illness among our members, still, it is well for us to bear in mind that it will not always continue. One by one we shall lay down the work, and our voices be heard no more in the friendly greetings that have been so many and so pleasant among us. Then let us work on while we may, and do so with kind and pleasant feeling, for each other. When we differ, as we often do, let us do so with no unkindness toward those who differ with us. Rather let us work that at the end we may each of us receive from the Good Father over all, the welcome that we doubt not has already been awarded to our friends of whom we were speaking: "Well done, good and faithful servants."

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Professor Seymour read the report of Secretary Trelease. The past year has not been without importance for the State Horticultural Society. At the time of our last annual meeting a partial report on our successes at the New Orleans Exposition was made, and is complimented by other reports, published in the last volume of transactions. But just as the society appeared to have reason to congratulate Wisconsin as being an apple-growing state, the discovery was made that our orchards have largely succumbed to the protracted cold of a severe winter. From the first, the Society has been conservative, testing new or untried fruits liberally, recommending them cautiously. Many doubtless believed that we have a fairly satisfactory list of iron-clad