

the popularity of this resort increase that the hotel was found inadequate for the increasing number of guests, and last year another large hotel was erected near it called The Annex. The two hotel buildings and ten adjacent cottages provide ample accommodation for 250 guests. The cuisine department is under the supervision of a competent and skillful chef, and on the tables of the beautiful dining rooms are found every luxury of the season. Only the best trained attendants are employed and the "summer guest" is sure of receiving all of the delicate little courtesies that go so far towards making one's sojourn so charming and delightful. Prices for board and rooms are low when one considers the advantages and comforts afforded.

Our meetings were held on the spacious porch of the Annex and it seemed a fitting place indeed for horticulturists to meet and plan how to advance the interests of horticulture in Wisconsin, and we watched with reluctance the hour for adjournment draw near when we must close one of the most interesting and profitable meetings we ever held.

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### A LESSON IN BUDDING.

Our illustration shows a lesson in budding nursery trees, as given to the second year students in the Short Course in Agriculture, at the University of Wisconsin. Readers of the Horticulturist who desire to become acquainted with this method of propagating trees and shrubs, and who are unable to attend the "Short Course," may gain some useful hints by studying this picture carefully.

Budding is usually performed toward the latter end of summer when growth is beginning to decline, but before it has so far declined as to prevent the bark of young trees from separating readily from the wood. The buds are taken from young shoots of the current season's growth, only those that are hard and plump being selected. It is customary to cut the shoots containing the buds,—“bud-sticks” as they are called,—on the same day they are to be inserted, and to pre-

vent them from withering in the least, they are trimmed at once and rolled in a damp cloth. The trimming consists in cutting off the leaves, leaving a short bit of the leaf-stem (petiole) attached to the branch to serve as a handle while inserting the bud. The trees to be budded, which are called stocks, are usually seedlings of one or two season's growth, though with Marianna plum stocks, which are now quite largely used in propagating the plum in some sections, the stocks are grown from cuttings.

The lower branches of the stock are cut off up to three inches or more from the ground and a smooth place is se-



STUDENTS BUDDING TREES.

lected for the bud,—usually on the northeast side of the stock, as that is the part least exposed to the sun. With the budding knife, which may be purchased of most of our extensive seedsmen, a T-shaped cut is made on the stock, just deep enough to reach through the bark and about two inches above the ground. Then a bud is cut from the bud-stick by inserting the knife blade about one-fourth of an inch above the top of the bud, at such an angle that the back of the blade nearly touches the bark of the stock. The right-hand student in the picture is in the act of cutting a bud. The blade is passed down just behind the bud, being inserted deep enough so as to touch the wood, but not deep enough to re-

move much of it, and then turned a little so as to run out about a fourth of an inch below the bud.

With the ivory end of the budding knife, the "lips" of bark in the angles of the T cut are next loosened from the wood, as is being done by the central student in the picture, when the bit of bark bearing the bud is slipped down behind these lips, using the stub of the leaf-stem left on it for a handle, until the top end of the bit of bark is just below the horizontal cut of the T. The bud, of which the apex should of course point upward, is then visible between the lips of the stock. The next operation which is being performed by the left hand student in the picture is that of tying the bud. For this purpose, an oriental grass called "raffia," which may be ordered through the larger seedsmen is now chiefly used. This should be moistened a little before use. A bit of raffia is held as is shown by the student across the lower end of the T cut, and just below the inserted bud. The ends are then crossed on the opposite side of the stock, brought forward and crossed again just above the bud, entirely covering the horizontal cut of the T, and pressing the lips down snugly over the bud. Then bring the ends behind again, and tie a half knot, drawing them up moderately tight.

If the bud "takes" it will grow fast to the stock in a very few days. In about ten days the raffia should be taken off, by cutting it on the opposite side of the stock from which the bud was inserted.

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## WHAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF THE SHADE TREES?

The great mortality among shade and forest trees this season has elicited much comment and various hypotheses as to its cause. "Root killing" has been a favorable explanation, which appears to satisfy many inquirers, and there is evidence in many cases that the roots perished before the rest of the tree. The root-killing has been ascribed to the freezing of the roots in an unusually dry soil, a proposition that would have been more tenable had the past winter been a severe one, instead of the mildest one with which we have been fa-