

## MR. WERTZ'S LECTURE.

Mr. Wertz from Hood River valley delivered an interesting and instructive lecture in the school chapel Monday evening. His subject was the raising of apples and poultry. He said he seldom had the opportunity of looking into so many smiling faces and speaking to such an intelligent looking audience as those who were present. He expressed his willingness to answer all questions asked relating to the subject. He told the story of the apple seed. The planting and the attention it must receive in the nursery room until it has developed into a sprout about the size of a pencil, when it is budded, usually in the month of August. He explained the science of budding.

He demonstrated, with the assistance of Mr. Chalcraft and Mr. Hatt, the line and ring system used for setting out trees, thus keeping them all the same distance apart and in line in all directions. The point where the tree is to set is marked by pegs driven in the ground. Digging the holes is the next important step. Mr. Wertz showed by the use of a simple apparatus called the yoke, each tree could be placed in the center of the hole, and not be a fraction of an inch out of line. He called attention to spraying and protecting the trees from the many pests that destroy them.

In Hood River valley if a fruit grower does not spray his orchard at the proper time the fruit growers association sprays it for him and presents their bill. If any trees are effected with scale or pests the inspector notifies the Fruit Growers' Union and his orchard is pulled up. It is plainly understood why Hood River produces the best apples in the United States.

He told how the apples are picked, sorted, and packed for shipment. The apples are carefully picked in two gallon cans and placed one and two at a time in the boxes and taken to the packers. The Fruit Growers' Union does not permit the grower to pack his own apples. They send their own packers and foremen. Each apple is wiped, wrapped in

tissue paper, and packed in boxes between layers of card board. It then goes to the presser where the lid is put on and they are ready for shipment. When they reach New York or other shipping points the fruit inspector looks them over with a critical eye and if one box is not up to the standard the whole carload is rejected.

Mr. Wertz closed his lecture by some interesting remarks on the raising of poultry. He said that the principal point to remember when starting into the poultry business was to buy the standard-bred fowls and to know as much about chickens as the man who goes into the drug business knows about drugs. It costs as much to feed scrabs as it does to feed thoroughbreds. The pedigree fowls are the best for eggs and table use.

He made a drawing of a hopper used for feeding poultry cracked corn, wheat, and oats. The advantage that comes from a hopper is that it prevents waste and requires filling only once a week and keeps the poultry well supplied with food. Beef scraps and green food should also be fed. Dry mash is the feed that must be fed in the winter if eggs are expected. Dry mash is made of equal parts of corn, wheat, oats, middlings, cotton seed, and beef scraps ground together. Plenty of fresh water and green food is necessary in winter. In summer the beef scraps should not be used.

He showed how the record of each hen was taken by the use of a trap nest.

Each fowl is numbered and a record kept of the number of eggs layed each month. By this system the best breed of poultry can be raised. The drones can easily be disposed of by this method. He made a drawing on the black board, describing the way it is used. He gave several good points on buying and selling eggs for hatching, stating that honesty was the best policy. He explained the manner in which day old chicks are shipped a great distance without loss, it being much cheaper to buy them than to take the trouble of hatching by use of the incubator or fowl.