The Bloomfield Cimes.

Tuesday, May 13, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons inho are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

A Poisonons Plant.

A few years ago there was in the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, a specimen of probably the most poisonous plant ever introduced into England. It was the Jatropha urens, the properties of which are so noxious that its possession is positively dangerous. The ex-curator of the gardens was one day reaching over it, when its fine, bristly stings touched his wrist. The first sensation which he felt was a numbness and swelling of the lips; the action of the poison was on the heart, circulation was stopped, and he soon fell, unconscious; the last thing he remembered, being cries of, "Run for the doctor." Either the doctor was skilful, or the dose of poison injected not quite, though nearly enough to cause death; but afterwards the young gardener, in whose house the plant was placed, got it thrust into a corner, and would, not come within arm's length of it. He watered the offender with a pot having an extremely long spout. In a short time however, the plant disappeared altogether, and another specimen of the genius Jatropha, which was afterwards introduced, vanished in the like mysterious manuer. It was presumed that the attendants were secretly determined that such plants should not, be retained in the houses, to cause the possibility of an accident such as that which happened to their curator .- The Garden.

A Beautiful Experiment.

The following beautiful chemical experiment may be easily performed by a lady to the great astonishment of a circle at her tea party : Take two or -three leaves of red cabbage, cut them into small bits, put them into a basin, and pour a pint of boiling water on them ; let it stand an hour ; then pour it off into a decanter. It will be a fine blue color. Then take four wine glasses; into one put six drops of strong vinegar; into another six drops of solution of soda; into the third a strong solution of alum, and let the fourth remain empty. The glasses may be prepared sometime before, and the few drops of colorless liquid that has been placed in them will not be noticed. Fill up the glasses from the decanter, and the liquid poured into the glass containing the acid, will become a beautiful red; the glass containing the soda will become a fine green; that poured into the empty one will remain unchanged. By adding a little vinegar to the green it will immediately change to red, and on adding a little solution of soda to the red it will assume a fine green, thus showing the action of acids and alkalies on vegetable hues.

Cough Syrup.

Take Orleans molasses one pint, West India rum one pint, benzoic acid two drachms, tincture of lobelia one ounce, tincture of chrysosplenium Americanum, or water-capet, two ounces. Mix. Dose a teaspoonful every two or three hours. This syrup is an invaluable remedy for coughs, colds, bronchitis and incipient consumption. It can be used by children and adults with perfect safety, and is the best cough syrup known. Many cases of bronchitis and early consumption have been cured by it. It improves the appetite, strengthens the lungs and vigor and tone to the whole system. Several cases who had tried Jayne's Expectorant, Dr Schenck's remedies and many patent nostrums, have been entirely cured by this remedy. In these cases, the patient took a tablespoonful five or six times a day.

Ironing Shirt Fronts.

In a first-class laundry starch is made in the usual manner; to a pail of starch a whole sperm candle is used. When the linen is dry, it is dipped in the cold starch and ironed in the ordinary way; then it is dampened with a cloth, and the polishing iron pressed over it. This is an ordinary smoothing-iron, ground off so that the edges are all rounding. To this last manipulation the linen is indebted for the peculiar laundry gloss which all admire so much, but which many housekeepers have vainly striven to leave upon the wristbands and bosoms of their busband's shirts.

To Tan Small Skins With the Hair on.

Wash them in cold suds, then dissolve pulverized saltpetre and alum in hot water, add cold water and soak the skins in it all night; hang them over a pole to drain; when dry sprinkle with powdered saltpetre and alum; fold the flesh sides together, and lay them where they will not freeze, turn every day till dry, then scrape the flesh side with a blunt knife, and rub with pumice stone and the hands.

To wash hair brushes, never use soap. Take a piece of soda, dissolve in warm water, stand the brush in it, making sure that the water only covers the bristles It will almost instantly become white and clean. Place it in the air to dry, with the bristles downward, and it will be as firm as a new brush.

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a Pension.

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