The Bloomfield Cimes.

Tuesday, August 5, 1873.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

Advice for the Sick Room.

Professor L. P. Yandell's Valedictory Address to the graduates of the Louisville Medical School gives, among other items, the following advice about the treatment for the sick

"In all things study the quiet, the ease, the enjoyment of your patients. Give them abundant fresh air and ice and cold water and fruit, when they desire such things. As to food, obey their appetites. Hunger and thirst have been well styled our " physical conscience," which in the sick-room is never to be disregarded. They are safer guides in respect to diet and drink than can be found in all our medical philosophy. They made known to us what the living organism needs. Whatever sick people have a true desire for they ought, therefor, to be indulged in. When your little patients have been sick a long time, and have become anamic and emaciated, it may be for want of proper food, have them carried to the table, and allow them to indicate by signs, if they have no words, what their systems require to build them up again. Infants suffer great distress when ill, on account of thirst, which they have no way of making known to you except by their moans and cries. You will often be delighted to see how instantly their plaints cease on your giving the little sufferers a drink of cold water. Dismiss from your minds, then, and everywhere discountenance the absurd notion that cold drinks can ever be injurious to the sick. Avoid noise in the sick-room. Whispering, too, should be discountenanced. The attention of patients is attracted by it, and they are annoyed and fatigued by the effort to hear. Some of my colleagues whisper that this is especially the case with lady-patients. As a general rule, you may safely trust the feelings of convalescents in regard to setting up and taking exercise as well as in reference to diet. In a word, you can scarcely consult the inclinations of the sick too far, except as to physic, of which, of course, they know nothing."

Vegetable Instinct.

If a pan of water be placed within six inches of either side of the stem of a pumpkin or vegetable marrow, it will in the course of the night approach it, and will be found in the morning with one of the leaves on the water. This experiment may be continued nightly until the plant begins to fruit. If a prop be placed within six inches of a young convovulus, or scarlet runner, it will find it, although the prop may be shifted daily. If, after it has twined some distance up the prop, it be unwound and twined in an opposite direction, it will return to its original position or die in the attempt; yet notwithstanding, if two of these plants grow near each other, and have no stake around which they can entwine, one of them will alter the direction of the spiral, and they will twine around each other. Duhamel placed some kidney beans in a cylinder of moist earth; after a short time they commenced to germinate, of course sending the plume upward to the light, and the root down into the soil. After a few days the cylinder was turned onefourth around, and again and again this was repeated, until an entire revolution of the cylinder was completed. The beans were then taken out of the earth, and it was found that both the plume and the radicle had bent to accommodate themselves to every revolution; and the one, in its efforts to ascend perpendicularly, and the other to descend, had formed a perfect spiral. But, although the natural tendency of the roots is downward, if the soil beneath be dry, and any damp substance be above, the roots will ascend to reach it.

How to Make Root Beer. A good root-beer is a desirable thing in the hot days of summer, not only for slaking thirst, but also because of its utility as a tonic. This is the way to make the real, old-fashioned brew: Take spruce boughs, black-birch bark, sarsaparilla, winter-green leaves, sassafras, yellow dock, and dandelion roots : boil together in a large kettle, with a handful of hops and two quarts of wheat bran, and two quarts of molasses. When boiled enough-two hours or sostrain through a sieve, cool, and add a pint of yeast. If not very sweet to the taste, add more molasses. Let it work over night, and bottle. Secure the corks tightly, and it will foam well. The same can be made in larger quantities, and put into a fifteen-gallon cask, and worked from the bung-hole for a few days, but it will not foam so well as if bottled.

EF E. G., Union county, O., says "Locust stumps are killed to avoid sprouting, by boring a hole in middle pretty deep and filling it up with common salt. That will kill the roots to the very points. To rot the stumps, fill the same hole with blue vitrol.-To burn them out fill the same hole with coal oil; let it stand until it has saturated it through, then apply the match.

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Restores the Weak and Debilitated,
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