

On: teaspoonful in a tumbler of water. This preparation must be kept very dry in tightly corked bottles.

GINGER BEER, No. 1.—A VERY SUPERIOR KIND.—White sugar, five pounds; lemon juice, one quarter of a pint; honey, one quarter of a pound; ginger bruised, five ounces; water two gallons and a half. Boil the ginger in three quarts of water for half an hour; then add the sugar, lemon juice, and honey, with the remainder of the water, and strain through a cloth; when cold, add the quarter of the white of an egg, and a small teaspoonful of essence of lemon; let the whole stand four days, and then bottle.—This will keep many months.

GINGER BEER, No. 2.—White sugar, three pounds; bruised ginger, three ounces; cream of tartar, one ounce; four lemons shred; boiling water four gallons; allow the whole to soak for two hours, then strain; add eight ounces of yeast, and, after a few hours, put into tightly-corked bottles.

GINGER DROPS.—These excellent stomachic drops may be thus prepared:—Cut into little bits an ounce of candied orange peel, and put it with the same quantity of sifted loaf sugar into a mortar. Beat and rub both together until they form a smooth paste, when you must add to them an ounce of pure pounded ginger, and half a pound more sugar. Work the whole together in the mortar, and add sufficient water to dissolve the sugar, rubbing the mixture well up together; then put it into a saucepan, boil it up to a caramel, and drop it in large drops upon clean writing paper.

The Weekly Tribune.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEB. 27, 1860.

TO AGENTS.—Our Agents will please not enclose silver or coppers in their letters, if they have not the even amount in paper money send the balance in postage stamps, or at some future time. Our friends can send us their subscriptions by mail with perfect safety, only be careful to direct correctly.—See first page.

Persons in the City wishing to subscribe for the *Tribune* can leave their names at Mr. Day's Office, or with either of the proprietors, and the paper will be left at their residence.

OUR FIRST NUMBER. In consequence of our not having retained copies enough of our first number we are unable to supply the demand made for them, this will account for Publishers, as well as many of our friends, not receiving a copy. We hope to furnish them with the second number.

On our first page will be found an article on the advantages of "Farmers' Clubs," we hope our Agricultural friends will give it a perusal as it contains many hints that may be of use. We are heartily glad to find that Farmers' Clubs are springing up in various parts of New Brunswick. We hope they may be fostered and encouraged by every true friend of his country.

We well know the advantage of associations, the mutual benefits derivable therefrom, and hope to see the Agriculturalists of this province availing to their interests sufficiently to induce them to meet and form Clubs all through the country, in which to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the present system of culture and what improvements may be introduced from year to year in the management of their Farms so as to secure the greatest returns from the least possible labour. Farmers' Clubs are common through the Northern States and from them are derived an incalculable amount of good, let our Farmers awake to this important fact. We shall, in the absence of a regular Agricultural Journal, endeavour to give our Farmers such information through the columns of the *Tribune*, as we think will be most useful, for, we are not without our interest in agricultural matters, nor yet without a knowledge of them. We hope by care and attention to this department of our Journal, to make it both useful and interesting to our Farming friends.

We shall be happy to publish any communications, discussion, or report on this subject.

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We have received the Report of the Board of Commissioners and of the Superintendent of this Institution for the year 1859.

From the Commissioners Report we learn that the gross expenditure for the year ending 31st October, 1859, including produce Farm, valued at £300 11s 6d, amounts to £4938 14s 1d; receipts from Patients, Farm Produce, etc., £947 10s 1d; receipts from Treasury £4000 less balance due Commissioners for the year 1858, which

leave a balance due Commissioners for 1859 of £68 15s.

The whole number of patients for the year 1859, was 234, and for 1858, 236. The average number for these years respectively was 150 and 155. The fencing and other works have been greatly improved this year, under the direction of the Board of Works. Water from the Carleton Water Company is expected to be introduced in the Spring.

This Institution is under the medical superintendence of Dr. Waddell, whose successful treatment of his patients is too well known to require anything from our pen.

In the Dr.'s Report we find that in his Report of 1858 he gave 155 patients then on hand—men, 88, women 67. Since that time there have been admitted 79—men 54, women 25, making the total treatment in the year 234. During the year, 43 men and 16 women have been discharged; 10 men and 11 women have died. Of those discharged, 20 men and 9 women have recovered; 7 men and 1 women much improved; 13 men and 5 women improved, and 3 men and 1 women unimproved.

No epidemic has prevailed in the Institution during the year.

There are now 154 inmates, some of whom are recovering; the average is 101—57 men, 44 women. Dr. Waddell reasonably complains of the overcrowded condition of the Asylum, and argues that for humanity sake the Government should make such extensions and improvements as the increasing number of patients demands or that the number of admissions should be limited. We believe that among the many Institutions of the Province, there is not one on which the people would more readily approve of an additional expenditure being made than on the Lunatic Asylum. We hope the Government will be enabled to comply with the Dr.'s requests, and thus provide a safe and commodious home for that unfortunate class of our fellow creatures.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL.—Our readers will be gratified to learn that it is confidently hoped that a public Hospital, so long desired, and so much needed, will soon be erected in this City. A Bill to provide for its erection and support was introduced in the Assembly on Monday last, by the Provincial Secretary. We hope nothing may transpire to stay its progress.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF HOUSES.

The nature and condition of the soil upon which houses are to be built should receive far more attention than is usually bestowed upon such subjects. A soil which is spongy and damp, or contains much loose organic matter, is generally unhealthy; whereas a dry, porous soil affords a healthy site for buildings. Thus a compact sand and gravel soil, like that upon which the greater part of the city of New York is built, is very favorable to health, because it has sufficient porosity to allow surface-water to penetrate into it, and to carry off organic matter to undergo oxidation without causing malarious vapors. Wherever we find a soil deficient in gravel or sand, or where gravel and sand-beds are under-laid with clay, there should be a thorough sub-soil drainage, because the clay retains the water, and a house built in such a spot would otherwise always be damp and unhealthy.

When the sub-soil is swampy, which is the case with many portions of various cities that have been filled in with what is called *made earth*, fever is liable to prevail in houses built in such localities, owing to the decay of organic matter underneath, and its ascension in the form of gas through the soil. When good drainage cannot be effected in such situations, and it is found necessary to build houses on them, they should all have solid floors of concrete, laid from the outside foundations and covering the whole area over which the structure is erected. The Romans, who, exceedingly sensible persons in all that related to houses, made all their buildings with concrete floors, and over each of these a flooring of tiles was laid. These floors tended to prevent dampness in their houses, consequently they were more comfortable and healthy than they otherwise would have been. Such floors also tended to prevent the cracking of the walls, owing to the solidity and firmness imparted to their foundations. We recommend the general adoption of such floors for all buildings which may be hereafter built on made soil, or in damp situations.—*Scientific American*.

FIRE GRATES AND CHIMNEYS.

A commission, appointed by the Board of Health in England, consisting of Mr. Fairbairn and Professors Wheatstone and Playfair, have made a report on grates and fire-places, in which they recommend some changes. They urge for all parlor grates the use of a greater amount of reflecting surface, to direct more heat into the room, and they advise the flue of the chimney to be much smaller than those in common use—a reform which we have also frequently advocated. They state that the flue of a chimney does not

require to be made more than 9 inches in diameter at its widest part; a narrow chimney diminishes the quantity of ascending air and a tendency to smoke. Chimneys always draw better when they are kept warm; therefore, wherever it is possible, they should not be built on the outer walls of houses, such as gables. As a general rule the grate should be situated at such a position in the fire-place where it can be seen from the greatest number of points in the room, and a good frontage of fire-surface should always be exposed.—*Scientific American*.

QUICKSILVER OR MERCURY.

The value of this metal is not generally appreciated. Without it no gold could be obtained from the quartz rocks that now yield it in large quantities. It is a very peculiar metal; at ordinary temperatures it is a fluid, but such is its affinity for gold that when brought in contact with it, a mechanical union is formed, and a different compound produced. The mercury seems to enter into the pores of the gold, as water passes up through a fibrous substance by capillary attraction. It forms an amalgam, the precious metal must be separated afterwards, or it can be of no use. In this emergency the nature of the quicksilver affords an easy solution to the problem. By placing the amalgam of gold and mercury in a bag of chamois leather, the mercury can be squeezed through the pores of the bag, while the precious metal is left behind.

A perfect separation of the two metals, however, cannot be accomplished in this manner; some gold still remains combined with the mercury; but another and certain method of separation is at hand. By placing the amalgam in an iron retort and submitting it to heat, the mercury, being volatile, passes off in vapor, leaving the gold behind in a pure condition. The quicksilver is condensed after passing from the still, and is made to do duty a thousand times—over and over again—it recovers gold. It requires about two pounds of mercury for amalgamation to reclaim one pound of gold. Its affinity for gold is wonderful; the quality which it possesses of seizing upon the auriferous particles floating among the dirt and other products of the rocks, in water, is surprisingly strange.

Mercury has been known from the remotest ages; it is chiefly found in a state of nature combined with sulphur, and as a sulphide it is called cinnabar. There are extensive tracts of mercury ore in California, where it is smelted and distilled, and the fluid metal secured for the gold miners. It is placed in iron flasks for use, and it is a singular fact that while it has such an affinity to unite with gold, it has none for iron. Great quantities of it pass off in the amalgamating process, about five per cent being generally lost at each operation; hence fresh supplies are continually required to restore the waste. The quicksilver mines of California are very valuable, and severe contests at law have arisen in regard to the titles by which the cinnabar lands are held. Although mercury is a fluid and beaten gold very ductile, yet no sooner do these two metals combine than the gold becomes extremely brittle, or rather the amalgam formed with gold and mercury is very brittle. A gold ring rubbed with quicksilver becomes perfectly rotten so brittle as to break very easily.—*Scientific American*.

DRAINS AND CESSPOOLS.

It is of the utmost importance to the health of cities that the drains which lead from houses to common sewers should have a pretty good descent, so as to keep them from being choked up, and to allow a quick discharge of all matters that flow into them. Sewers should never be built so as to end abruptly at the point of discharge, but should be angled, because the wind is liable sometimes to blow into straight drains, and carry fetid grass up into the buildings.

Cesspools (which are deep holes made below the surface of the ground to receive sediment water) are magazines of filth and storehouses of disease. They generate pestiferous vapors, and should never be allowed near dwelling-houses. In cities and villages where no general system of drainage is carried out, it is not uncommon to find a cesspool built alongside of almost every house, and some have cesspools in their cellars. A cesspool, instead of making a house more dry, as is usually supposed, actually tends to render it more damp, by collecting and retaining the water in a large body. We once saw a church which had a large cesspool made along side of it, under the pavement, the whole water from the roof being conducted into the cesspool. The basement, which constituted the lecture room, was always exceedingly damp and chilly, but, for years, no one seemed to be able to give a good reason for it. At last one person suggested that the water from the roof should be conducted into the street instead of into the cesspool, and the experiment was tried. The result was most favorable; and the lecture room has now become much more dry and comfortable.—*Scientific American*.

EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT ON VEGETATION.—In answer to an inquiry on this subject, a correspondent of the *London Builder* states:—"I planted vegetables in a place where daylight could not penetrate, over which I suspended a paraffine oil lamp, with a reflector to throw the light upon the plants. They have grown up, a beautiful dark green. I have also lighted a greenhouse with lamps every night, and find it not only increases vegetation, but gives a beautiful deep tinge to the plants."

SETTING FENCE POSTS.

EDS. GENESEE FARMER.—In the January number of the *Farmer* for 1859, E. MORTON, of Berrien Co., Ohio, inquires whether fence posts will last longer by being set in the ground top end down. As no one has deigned to answer him, unless an article published, I think, in the March number, was intended as an answer. I will give him my experience.

The author of the article in the March number scouts the idea of using wood posts at any rate, and advises the use of burnt clay posts. Now this may be an improved sort of post, but there are several farmers, if not more, in our extended country, who are not so situated that they can procure such posts, and must of necessity use wood.

But to my experience. About thirty years ago, I, to test the thing, split two bar posts, side by side, out of a chestnut log. They were eight feet long, eight inches wide, and three thick. One I set butt down, the other top down. At the end of ten years, the one set in butt down was rotted off, and I re-set it in the same hole. At the end of six years, it was rotted off again, and I put in a new one. The other lasted four years longer, when it got split in two, and I took it out and it was about two-thirds rotted off. Sixteen years ago, I set six pairs of bar posts, all split out of the butt cut of the same white oak log.—One pair I set butts down, another pair, one butt down, the other top down; the others top down. Four years ago, those set butt down were all rotted off, and had to be replaced by new ones. This summer I had occasion to re-set those that were set top down. I found them all sound enough to re-set. My experiments have convinced me that the best way is to set them tops down.

North Almond, N. Y.

WM. HOWE.

CITRIC ACID IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Dr. Hartung states that this substance acts more efficaciously than lemon juice in acute rheumatism. He forms a mixture with six drachms dissolved in five ounces of water, and sweetened with two ounces of sirup. This is to be taken in from 15 to 36 hours, the patient also drinking as much cold water as he pleases, and the parts being wrapped in wadding. Of 45 cases of acute rheumatism, some of them very bad ones, so treated, in two only was the result not satisfactory. Sometimes, even after 24 hours of treatment, there is a notable diminution in the pain and fever, although, in most cases, from two to three days are required to produce this amendment. The remedy does not induce diarrhea, and it favors transpiration. *Druggist's Circular*.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATORS. The annual Register of the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Government of Massachusetts is this year published by Edgar M. Brown, Door-keeper of the House of Representatives. It appears from the tables that the President of the Senate is the only member of that branch from Suffolk born in the county; only four of the Boston delegation in the House are natives of the city. We copy the following recapitulation of the Senate and House of Representatives. The whole number of Senators is 40; Representatives, 240; total, 280. The occupations are thus stated:

Lawyers 24; farmers 56; merchants 31; manufacturers 17; boot and shoe manufacturers 23; physicians 8; clergymen 3; tanners 6; editors 5; carpenters, builders, 5 each, 10; mariners, printers, carriage manufacturers, 4 each; teachers, bakers, shoe makers, hatters, mechanics, and gentlemen, 3 each; morocco manufacturers, auctioneers, leather dealers, publishers, masons, real estate agents, furniture dealers, boot and shoe cutters, deputy sheriffs, clerks, accountants, hotel keepers, painters, 2 each; bookseller, bottler, clicker, salesman, coal dealer, reporter, librarian, paint manufacturer, upholsterer, musician, school furniture manufacturer, wool sorter, railroad conductor, wheelwright, expressman, glider, ship builder, paper manufacturer, marble dealer, machine builder, machinist, chair manufacturer, lumber dealer, apothecary, butcher, agent manufacturing company, clock maker, iron founder, student, stone manufacturer, chocolate manufacturer, nurseryman, lime burner, edge tool manufacturer, overseer, plough pattern maker, sleigh manufacturer, stove dealer, boot and shoe cutter, treasurer of bank, furniture manufacturer, stove dealer, whip manufacturer, 1 each.

Their places of birth are as follows:

Members born in Massachusetts 225; in Maine, 9; in New Hampshire, 14; in Connecticut, 6; in Rhode Island, 4; in Vermont, 7; in New York, 5; in Pennsylvania, 2; in South Carolina, 1; in England, 2; in Ireland, 3; in Scotland, 1; in New Brunswick, 1.—*Transcript*.

Man is but a reed, the feeblest thing in nature; but he is a reed that thinks in *rosen pensant*. It needs not that the universe arm itself to crush him. An exhalation, a drop of water, suffices to destroy him. But were the universe to crush him, man is nobler than the universe, for he knows that he dies; and the universe even in prevailing against him, knows not its power. To the soul there can be no death which it does not both know and feel. Dying, then, it is nobler than nature living.

The sunshine lies upon the mountain top all day, and lingers there latest and longest at eventide. Yet is the valley open and fertile, and the mountain-top barren and unfruitful.

Without established principle, our feelings contend against evil as an army without a leader, and are oftener vanquished than victorious.