

upon the milk of its mother. The *cotyledons*, or young leaves of the plant, during germination absorb the endosperm, and remain within the seed coat some time after the radicle has made its exit. When the plantlet ceases to derive nourishment from the mother seed, the germinating process is finished.

The baby stage in the life-story of the young plant is passed. It must now depend on its own exertion to supply the necessities of life. For this purpose, the radicle buries itself in the soil, and sends out slender rootlets to gather in the food found there.

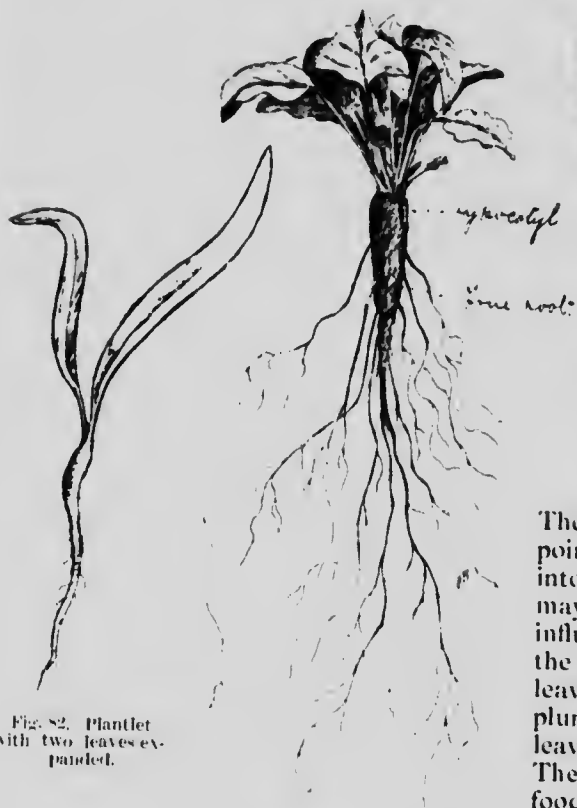


Fig. 82. Plantlet with two leaves expanded.



Fig. 84. Sugar Beet at full growth.

Fig. 83. Showing immense development of the root system of the beet.

The *plumule*, or growing point of the embryo, ascends into the air, in order that it may come under the direct influence of the sunlight. As the days pass, we notice new leaves unfolding from the plumule. Why are these leaves sent forth by the plant? The leaves, like the root, are food gatherers. They absorb from the atmosphere substances which are necessary to the formation of plant

food, and it is in the leaves that the manufacture or working over of those materials obtained from the soil and from the air takes place.