

# The Rockwood Review.

## MIDSUMMER FAIRIES—(CONTINUED).

Knights and ladies, squire and page  
(Belted knights from accolade),  
Flowing pennons, lance in rest,  
Tingling spur, and waving crest,  
With fair ladies' scarf for gage,  
Silken banner flowing free,  
As in the olden golden age—  
The bygone age of chivalry,  
Lost from the prosy lives of men  
Till good King Arthur comes again.  
Now the wild shy things alone  
Keep the secret for their own—  
Holding revel with the elves  
In the long midsummer nights,  
Frolicsome and tricky sprites,  
Gay and elusive as themselves.

—K. S. McL.

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### Medical Instincts of Animals.

No instinct is more marked than that of self-preservation. In animals it is so strongly developed that it often simulates medical knowledge, or perhaps in some instances is actually a substitute for it. An interesting article on this subject is contributed to the Denver Medical Times by Dr. James Weir, of Owensboro, Ky. Dr. Weir begins by telling us about the therapeutic instincts of the honey-bee. When attacked by diarrhea (a disease under certain conditions it is very prone) the bee, he says, will immediately begin to suck astringent pieces of the dog-wood, poplar, wild cherry, or hickory, and will soon effect a cure. Indeed, in winter, when bees become sick with this disease, they will readily drink a decoction of wild cherry bark if it be placed in the hive. Bees seem to know that filth is a source of disease: hence, when ill in winter, they select a spot, as far from the combs as possible, at

which all of the sick members of the hive deposit their dejecta. As soon as warm weather arrives the accumulated filth is removed and the spot carefully cleansed. In summer all excrementitious matter is deposited without the hive. About the common crayfish Dr. Weir notes the following facts:

"Crayfish are frequently the hosts of innumerable little parasitic leeches (*histriobdellæ*) which, strange to say, only become parasites, and thus harmful to their hosts, when their number has increased to such an extent that they can no longer live natural lives. As long as they are few in number they are of distinct benefit to their host, the crayfish, for they eat the unimpregnated eggs and dead embryos, thus keeping the other eggs and embryos in a healthy state. But as soon as their number becomes so great that the decomposing eggs and embryos are no longer a sufficient food supply, the mutualists become parasites—they begin to devour the