were affected also. The disease commenced at the top, and proceeded downwards. Before the vines were affected there was no disease in the potato. The malady was worst on old ground, and on low land. He had three varieties. The Blues were most affected, the Vetoes next, and the Long Reds were scarcely at all injured. He fed to stock those that were most affected, so did others in the town, and no damage was done.

Mr. Page, of New Bedford, inquired of Mr. Fay whether in any case the potatoes were affected unless the tops were diseased, to which Mr. F. replied in the negative.

A gentlemen from Chester said that the vines seemed struck with a sudden blast. He supposed that it was occasioned by atmospheric influence.

Mr. Prince Bracket, of Sturbridge inquired whether potatoes planted early or late were most affected. Some of his neighbours planted early on dry soil and their crops were good. There was no blast on the vines. This disease producing a sudden effect. The leaves on all wilted in a single day, and soon the potatoes were rotten. A man from Connecticut said that the early planted were not so much affected.

Hon. Mr. Allen, from Plymouth Co., said that he would give the experience of a man in his county. He planted a field of potatoes, a part descending to the south, and a part to the north; both parts treated alike, and that part having the southern exposure, was much affected, and the other part was not injured. Great heat may have some effect, as the most injury was done where the heat was greatest. In some parts the Long Reds were not affected, but in Plymouth Co., some say that this variety was most affected; but the Abington Blues seem to have sustained the most injury. He tho't that the best seed was from late planted, and farmers should plant some late for that purpose.

Friend J. M. Earle, of Worcester, remarked that he travelled considerably last fall, and he made many enquiries as to this disease, and examined diseased potatoes in many places, and all seemed to argue that those planted early generally escaped. Chenagoes were much affected. He did not think that great heat occasioned the disease, for we often have greater heat in July and August, to which early potatoes are exposed, than at a later period in the season; of course early planted are exposed to the most heat. The disease was considerably developed before the warm weather in September. In some cases part of a field of potatoes was killed while the rest escaped.

Hon. Mr. Dillingham, of the Senate, said he tho't that salt would have no good effect. He planted an acre, using sea weed, kelp, and barn manure. The potatoes were all dug at the same time, and appeared good. They were put in the cellar. In three or four weeks, on boiling them, it was found that the Long Reds were much affected, and turned black under the skin. They were all overhauled, and the Long Reds were much diseased, and the Rohans about the same, but the Chenangoes were not injured. The principal part of the sea weed and kelp were on the part planted with Long Reds.

Mr. Cole, of the Cultivator, stated that after all that had been said we had not discovered the cause of this disease. What appeared to be a cause in one case had no effect in another. He had for some time thought that it was occasioned by atmospheric influence, which could not be explained, as he stated at the previous meeting, in the same manner as diseases which affect mankind and animals. Some persons is pre-disposed to disease, and are affected, while others escape. So some varieties of potatoes are hardy and escape this disease, while others are tender and pre-disposed to it. This is not owing to old varieties; the Dean potato, called also the Veto and Abington Blues, is more affected, generally, than the Long Reds, which have for a long time been among us, while the Veto has been more recently from the seed. The reason that early planted potatoes were less affected, is because this blight prevailed late in the season. Many things assigned as causes are only predisposing causes. He had found from experience that potatoes planted late were best for seed, and grew the most vigorously.

It is important to find preventives of the disease, though probably no complete remedy will be found. Hardy varieties should be preferred; seed from late planting, if not affected will be best. Plaster may be useful. Mr. Everitt stated the other evening that the injury was least when plaster was used. A Mr. Netterville of New Jersey found that his potatoes were affected in 1843 after put into the cellar and so he picked out those that were affected and put half a peck of slacked lime to each layer of the others and they kept well. On planting last spring he put a table spoonful of lime in each hill, and after they were up, and before hoeing, he applied to each hill about a gill of a mixture of lime 2 bushels, plaster 3, and ashes 8. He had not one rotten potatoe in the fall, while those of his neighbours were much diseased. Although lime may not be a complete remedy, it may have a favourable effect.

Mr. Thomas Kempton, of New Bedford, observed that seeding potatoes had been equally affected with others, that the disease commenced at the stalk and progressed up, late planted had been most injured.

Hon. Mr. Foote, of Berkshire Co., said that Wm. Patridge of New York City, well known as a good practical chemist, in preparing a piece of sandy land on Long Island for potatoes, mixed with the surface soil a large portion of pulverised charcoal, and he had a good crop, and none were diseased.

The President remarked, that the whole discussion reminded him of the remark of an old physician who was on consultation in a case of spotted fever, and having examined into the case, and his opinion being required, said "It is *death*;" so from all that has been said on this subject, it only appears that it is *death* to the *potato*.

Remarks—Although the discussion has not led to a discovery of any definite cause of the potato malady, yet, it has shown that many supposed causes, were not true, and it may prevent many from being led astray by false suppositions. It shows conclusively, that in most cases some varieties are more hardy or less predisposed to the disease than others, and from what has been said, and from what has been done many persons will be aided and stimulated in further investigations, and farmers will have more light as to using preventives of the disease, or something that will in some measure have a conservative effect. Hoping that good would grow out of the discussion, in regard to the nature and operation of the evil, and the mode of applying remedies, we have reported it at length, for the subject is of great public importance, and should deeply interest every individual who raises or eats a *potato*. The true cause is doubtless atmospherical influence.

Idleness.—There are but few who know how to be idle and innocent.—By doing nothing, we learn to do ill.