

disseminate points of information, with regard to the progress of the science. I concur also in what his Lordship has said, that we are but at the beginning of this improvement. True, that we have made much progress therein as compared with other countries; true also that great progress has been made in agriculture as compared with its state in this country only twenty years ago; but we are as yet only in the infancy of what capital and skill are destined to develop.

With regard to another point touched upon in the report, and which is of immense moment to all of us—I mean the manufacture, and storing of manure—I have tried the system of boxfeeding, which was so strongly recommended to you last year, by Mr. Warnes; I have tried it in winter, and some portion of the summer, and the result is, that I consider it to be an immense improvement in the manufacture of manure, and attended with enormous benefit to the land. You are aware of the construction of the boxes in which the animal is placed, and that underneath the box, is a receptacle for the manure. Now I have left this receptacle under the animal for full six months at a time without his sustaining the least injury in regard to health; I had it lately cleared out, and my men told me the manure was so strong, as to make them sneeze and their eyes to water. Why, it is obvious, both solid and liquid manures stored up in a covered place, without being washed by the rains or dried by the sun, must be of far greater value than those produced under the ordinary system? And what is the ordinary system? Why, turning a few starveling beasts upon some straw, and when that rots, it is supposed to be manure; and you all know that the streets are frequently littered with straw, for the purpose of making manure, as soon as it should turn black, although there are none of the constituents of manure in it. Now, if the box feeding were attended with an enormous outlay, you might be allowed to pursue this wretched system; but I say that the old plan is more expensive than the new one, and that he who takes the proper means to make his manure of the right sort will be amply repaid.

A Mr. Foley made the following observations in proposing success to the Royal Agricultural College of Cirencester.

He then begged leave to propose a toast, as follows: The toast which I am about to propose to you is success to a new establishment which is at present little known, but which I trust will prove to be one of great importance. It is Success to the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. The character of the British farmer has always been highly esteemed, and I hope it will long continue to be so in this country, but formerly his education was almost entirely neglected; and I recollect the time when it was considered that because a boy's father and grandfather had been farmers he was duly qualified to act as one: that is not now the case. Farmers, like other people, appreciate a good education, and I have known several instances, where they have given as much as £200 per annum, to send their sons out as pupils. Now the object of Cirencester College is to give the best practical education at a very cheap rate. It has had to contend with all the difficulties and prejudices to which everything new is liable. Its first important feature was being distinguished by the sanction and approbation of a royal charter; since that period, the members of the council have determined that no exertions shall be spared on their parts to render it an establishment, beneficial to the public, and worthy of such honour. Errors

have been committed and corrected, and it is yet too early to assert that more changes may yet be found necessary. The building is not yet completed, but is, I believe, nearly full, as far as the accommodation will admit; there are now about 100 pupils, and the College is intended to contain about 200 when finished. The payments fixed at the general meeting of the shareholders, were as follows:—From 14 to 16 years of age 30*l.* per annum; from 17 to 18, 40*l.*; from 18 to 20, 50*l.* Two years are sufficient to attend to the courses of lectures for a final examination. I now venture to recommend all those who have sons to avail themselves of the cheap and rapid conveyance afforded by railways, and to go and see the college: they will then be able to judge for themselves whether they can do better than to send their sons there for two years. Each share of £30 gives a right of nomination for a pupil when a vacancy occurs. Mr. Foley concluded by proposing "Success to the Royal Agricultural College of Cirencester."

The following extract of a letter copied from the Mark Lane Express is worthy of attention. We think it would be very expedient to endeavour to obtain some of the roots of potatoes in their natural state where first discovered, and we believe this would be the best means to discover the real cause that has produced the disease:—

Now, Sir, through the medium of your respectable paper, I would beg to inquire—which fact might be easily ascertained by any one having communication with the aborigines of America or others who reside in the country to which the potato was indigenous, namely Virginia, from which it is said it was brought to this country by Sir Walter Raleigh (Youghall, in Cork, if my recollection serves me, is said to have been the first place in which it was planted)—I say I would wish to inquire whether the root in its real native state can now be obtained?

I would now say a few words as to the cause of the failure of the potato. The potato has certainly not been cultivated according to nature. It is partly tuberous and partly annual; what is meant by these terms is, it is a plant which can be raised both from seed and root. Now, I apprehend that the plant should, from its very introduction into this country, have been cultivated from seed as well as tubers, which could have been done thus. The general crop of potatoes on a farm growing for use would, of course, require to have been three or four years raised from seed, and during their growing a regular supply of seed sown for succeeding years, and change of seed and roots from one kind of soil, in the same way as is usual with grain to another. Had such a system been adopted, say 25 years ago, there is at least a strong probability the plant would not now have failed.

You will recollect that about 14 years ago—just when the cholera was committing its dreadful ravages in this country—that potatoes then, so far as my knowledge extends, were for the first time affected, but not so far, at least, as the shaw was concerned.

Now it was my opinion, as soon as I had turned my thoughts to the subject, that the plant had degenerated, had lost its native hardy vigour; and how, it may be asked, did I arrive at that conclusion? Well, in this way: In many cases the plant would not grow when the tuber was cut, but would when planted whole; formerly it would. Again, seed raised from said potatoes would not, in many cases, produce. Now, when we take into account that sound potatoes, prior to that fail-