rent and as marked as in any other cases where the lands were in a totally opposite condition. One would scarcely have expected this. The general supposition would have been that the moisture contained in the soil would have exerted the same influence upon the more easily soluble portions of the manure, as did the water applied to it in the cistern of the drill, and that therefore the crop would have been equally vigorous and healthy where the manure was sown dry as where sown in a liquid form. But the result proved otherwise."

Precautions to be taken in the Cultivation of Potatoes.

This indispensable esculent continues more or less affected by the mysterious disease, which commenced such destructive ravages some seventeen years ago, and from which it has never yet, for a single year, been entirely free. In Canada the disease has sometimes been exceedingly virulent, and we observed it last season in some parts of England, Ireland, and France in a very aggravated form. A writer in the *Journal de la Societe Centrale d' Agriculture Belgique*, for September last, estimates the yield of this root, at least, a third less than it was twenty-five years ago, without including the tubers thoroughly diseased. The causes of the diminution, according to his view, may be summed up as follows:

1st. The late planting, which prevents the plant undergoing at the proper period the different phases of vegetation, and weakens the vital principle of the potatoes, which an earlier planting would have strengthened.

2nd. The division of the tubercle into quarters, which deprives the plant of the nourishment nature has placed at its disposal.

3rd. The principal cause of the diminution of the potato crop, is in the use of the lower part of the tubercle, instead of the upper part or crown. The author had proved that the latter produced sprouts, not only stronger, but quicker and more productive; whilst the lower part of the tubercle produced sprouts later and less vigorous. The sprouts are often very slender, and produce weak stalks without any strength, and which fall to the ground; and often at the raising of the potato an abundant quantity of hair-like roots is found instead of potatoes; or, if they are found, it is in small numbers and of very small size. These facts are said to be but little known among agriculturists, who should choose for planting tubers with large germs; and if they do not wish to plant them whole, cut them in twos and across; plant only the upper half or crown, and keep the lower part for consuming.

4th. It is advisable after raising the crop, to wash the *seed* potatoes in *fiorin* or *urine* with lime and salt; and those intended for domestic consumption in water with lime and salt, and let them be well dried before pitting. The seed potatoes should not be taken out till the time for planting, in order that the germs and little roots may not be destroyed, as that would weaken and retard the growth of the plant. When potatos are kept in out-houses, it is best to pick them long before planting, in order to dry the wound. A hard crust is formed on the surface, which preserves the pulp from decaying and from insects. It is also advisable, after having cut the tubers, to expose them to the sun, to make them green before planting. Seed potatos should be chosen from the most productive parts, and free from disease.

From an elaborate article in a recent number of the *Journal of the West of England Society*, on potato culture, from the pen of Dr. Lang, in which many curious and important truths are discussed, the following may be regarded as conclusions deduced from his treatment of the whole subject.

1st. The desirability of *early planting* in dry, clean, and well prepared ground.

2. That white potatos are less liable to the disease, and therefore to be preferred to the colored sorts.

3. That the soil in no case *produces* or *influences* the disease.

4. That the disease is of a fungoid character, infesting many varieties of plants, and increased in activity by atmospheric causes.

5. That all heterogeneous manures are injurious.

6. That lime and salt, mixed in the proportion of 8 tons of lime with 3 cwt. of common salt, is the best manure, and this is the proportion used to the acre.