

We regret to have to state that we have had communications from more than one well-informed correspondent, announcing the fact of the appearance of what is called "cholera" in potatoes in Ireland, especially in the north. In one instance the party had been digging potatoes—the finest he had ever seen—from a particular field, and a particular ridge of that field, up to Monday last. On digging in the same ridge on Tuesday, he found the tubers all blasted, and unfit for the use of man or beast. We are most anxious to receive information as to the state of the potato crop in all parts, for the purpose either of allaying unnecessary alarm, or giving timely warning. All through Fingal serious damage has been already sustained.—*Dublin Freeman*.

The *Dusseldorf Gazette* states, that a farmer living on one of the estates of the Duke d'Arenberg, near Dusseldorf, has discovered a mode of preventing the rotting of potatoes, and even of curing it when it has already commenced. The method is very simple; it consists in merely harrowing deeply the earth in which the tubercles are planted, so as to produce an evaporation, which will diminish the fermentation caused by humidity. This plan has proved completely successful.

In this country (says the *Cork Constitution*) the potato crop is in quality excellent, and in quantity most abundant.

A correspondent informs us that he has examined a great many crops in our neighbourhood, and has uniformly found that wherever the potato is affected, it is from exposure to wet. He has taken up a great number of roots, and those tubers which were situated deep in the soil, or at a distance from the parent stock, have escaped; but that if they were fleet in the soil, and even exposed to air (which latter circumstance would have caused them to become green), they were invariably diseased; and also if the old stock had not completely decayed away, or were originally of large size, it apparently acted as a reservoir of moisture, and exerted the same influence over those deep in the soil which the combined effect of air and moisture had upon those on the surface. Those tubers which were developed upon long root fibres a moderate depth in the ground were always healthy. These remarks hold good with every variety of potato on every variety of soil, as far as the neighbourhood of Bury is concerned, except in very small patches of land which appear singularly healthy in the midst of a vast deal of blight.—*Suffolk Herald*.

The Society of Medicine at Antwerp has addressed to the Governor of this province a letter, dated the 5th inst., in which the society gives it as its opinion, "That the best thing to be done to preserve the winter crop from a speedy destruction would be to take out of the earth the tubercles of which the herbaceous parts have died, and to extract the starch. This operation, which is an easy one, might be undertaken at a small cost by the Bureau of Bienfaisance, to supply the wants of the numerous poor that they have to nourish during winter. With respect to the potatoes that are to be given to beasts, it would be enough to scrape the potatoes after having previously washed them and cleaned them from their diseased parts, and then to submit the pulp thus scraped to the action of a press. These last, to be preserved, need only be dried in some receptacle properly heated."—*Globe*.

The failure in the crop of late potatoes promises to be more serious than was at first imagined. A gentleman, who has just travelled through the pota-

to districts of Somersetshire, informs us that for miles on either side the road the tops have been mown down with the scythe, in order, if possible, to save the roots. One large grower in the Mendip district, whose crop generally averages from a thousand to twelve hundred sacks, has offered to sell the whole in the ground for £30. Another large grower calculates upon being £150 out of pocket. The disease attacks the tops, which shrivel away as though burnt, and gradually extends downwards from the leaves to the roots. The diseased fruit, in several instances, poisoned pigs to whom it was given; and there is too much reason to fear that the crops, when once affected, will become entirely useless.—*Cheltenham Examiner*.

The extraordinary disease which has destroyed the potatoes in England has extended its ravages over Belgium and the north of France. In the latter there has been a complete panic on the subject, and, according to a statement in one of the Rouen journals, the mayor of one commune ordered that no travellers were to be supplied with potatoes. The Central Society of Horticulture for the department of the Siene Inferieure deputed a commission to visit the parts around Rouen where the potato is cultivated. Immense fields were found entirely destroyed. In all the neighbouring districts the disease was found to be prevalent. In fields with a north or south aspect, having a good or bad situation, in all sorts of soils—stiff clayey, light sandy, deep and shallow, the disease is the same. The only difference is that the red potatoes are less affected by it than the others. The disease begins at the stalk, small black spots make their appearance, they increase, and spread, and multiply till in the end they cover the whole stalk. It begins on the surface, and soon sinks beneath it; the vessels of the plant then take up the virus, it descends with the juices, and destroys the texture of the plant. The stalks dry and wither. The leaves die the last. The virus being carried to the tubers of the descending sap, small black spots appear in the middle of the potato; they enlarge and spread. When the disease reaches the skin, the starch or pulp decomposes and becomes dry, hard, and black. The skin breaks, decomposition is then complete, and the potato is rotten. It is supposed that the cold nights and rain have caused this disease. The stalks look as if they had been frozen. The commission learnt that the peasants have given these diseased potatoes to their cattle without causing them any injury. The commissioners, therefore, had some of those which were just spotted boiled for themselves, and partook of them without inconvenience. The amount of the crop destroyed in the north of France is estimated at one-fifth of the whole.—*Rouen Paper*.

USE OF THE ROOT IN WORKHOUSES.—The Board of Guardians of the Totnes Union, on Saturday week, came to the following resolution: "That, in consequence of the very unwholesome state of the potatoes (as reported by the medical officer and master), the use of potatoes in the workhouse be discontinued for the present, and that in lieu thereof bread and rice be substituted, on alternate days, at the rate of six oz. of bread, or four oz. of rice (uncooked), in lieu of one lb. of potatoes."

We regret to hear that the disease of the potato crop, which appears to be so general throughout the kingdom, has committed its ravages to a very great extent in this district. Upwards of half the crop is said to be unfit for use.—*Brighton Gazette*.