

compared with the healthy tubers. It was stated by Mr. Williams, of Chester, as the result of his observations in Anglesca, that "Those parts of potato fields where there are most weeds, such as grass, chickweed, and the like, suffer least from the disease; that the haulm decays many weeks earlier than it used to do before the disease came in, and the young tubers thus deprived of their natural shelter from the sun, may profit by the protection given them by the weeds."

An intelligent correspondent of a British paper remarks in reference to the best time for kiln-drying potatoes:—"According to the practice of Professor Bollmann, the operation was performed as soon after digging time as it happened to be convenient, and that the potatoes were dried in single layers on a heated floor, the temperature of which was gradually increased to the maximum of 140 degrees Fahrenheit. After being submitted altogether 24 hours to this process, the tubers will be dry enough to be replaced by a fresh supply, which of course will have to be repeated until the whole stock of seed potatoes have been heated in a similar manner.—The seed may afterwards be put in sacks or bins, or disposed of in heaps on the floor of a dry loft. For the convenience of cottagers or others whose stock of seed potatoes may be small, the common oven will answer the same purpose. It is now a well established fact in vegetable physiology that tuberous rooted plants especially perform the functions of suction after the stalks have died away, and the roots to outward appearance are fully ripe. In the case of late potatoes, therefore, the deposition of the organic matter cannot be reckoned to begin until the first week in November, and as this most important process in most vegetable structures is not completed until the end of January, we may safely determine the latter period to be the best for kiln-drying the potatoes.—Again, early potatoes should be dried in the same way any time between the middle and end of October. Let the process be carried out according to the rules here laid down, and the manner of the operation will be found to be in harmony with the revelations of Botanical science. Besides, the cultivator should never lose sight of the fact that the potato loses nothing of its moisture by drying, and seeds are not considered saleable until carefully dried. One of

the causes of disease is thus removed before planting. It often happens that seed potatoes have to be spritted at least once before planting, an operation which afterwards greatly impoverishes the crop." Our readers will of course make the necessary allowance on account of the difference of climate between England and Canada, in reference to the periods of the year mentioned in the preceding extract.

Several artifices have been employed by different individuals, with more or less success, for the purpose of evaporating the excess of moisture which always exist in tubers pre-disposed to disease. It is a good plan when digging potatoes to leave them a while in the field in small lumps but slightly covered with the haulm, and afterwards store them away in a dry and airy situation. Much of course will always depend on the nature of the soil, time of planting, manure and cultivation, and the character of the season. Wet, stiff land will never produce sound and nutritious tubers. Hence the necessity of draining; and in many situations the application of lime previous to planting, will be found exceedingly beneficial. No plant perhaps has received such neglect and unreasonable treatment as has this plant for the last half century, and what was formerly a certain and profitable crop has of late become the most precarious and unremunerative.

TAR AND TURPENTINE.

Recently some parties in Michigan have turned their attention to the manufacture of tar in the pineries of that country. The product appears to be obtained in paying quantities, and sells readily at \$1 per gallon, American money. It seems that the parties who have entered into the manufacture are Norwegians, who settled at Grand Traverse last fall. If this manufacture proves profitable in Michigan, there is no reason why it should not be equally so in Canada. The following article on the production of turpentine and tar is from the N. Y. *Scientific American*.

The immense forests in North Carolina which cover the sandy ridges between the swamps and water-courses, consist almost wholly of the long-leaved pine, the *Pinus palustris* of the Southern States. From them is gathered one of the great staples of North Carolina—the turpentine. These trees at maturity are seventy or eighty feet high, and their trunks eighteen