

estimates, in advance, of the crop of wheat in that country, in 1899, over judged the yield by the modest number of 6,000,000 bushels!

*A new potato disease.*—We remember only too well the advent of the original potato-disease in 1845, and the terror and annoyance it excited in all quarters; but we did hope that Ireland would never again experience such a calamity. However, fore-warned is fore-armed.

#### THE NEW POTATO DISEASE.

According to the Dublin *Farmers' Gazette*, Professor Johnson's investigations during the past season have shown him that the new disease has obtained a strong foothold, not only along the western coast of Ireland, but also in other parts of the country. It is described as the "yellow blight" or "root rot" disease. Instead of first attacking the foliage, as the common potato disease does, the new disease starts in the underground stem. The first sign of the attack is the appearance of yellow blotches on the leaves, not due to fungoid growth there, but occasioned by the interception of nutriment by the fungus on the stems and roots. At a later stage of the attack the underground portions of the stems and such tubers as have formed upon them are covered with small black bodies which are supposed to contain the rooting spores of the fungus. But the life history of the fungus has not yet been fully ascertained. The only preventive to this disease at present suggested is the destruction of the haulm and root fibres of an affected crop by fire, and the careful avoidance of the use of any tubers from an affected crop for seed.

*Calves.*—We have often advised breeders of milch-cows to take away the calf from the dam as soon as it is born; in fact, the cow ought never to see its calf, if it can be prevented.

Mr. Valency Fuller takes a different view of the case. He says, in an address published in one of our exchanges: "As soon as the calf is dropped, allow the mother to lick it. If she does not do so of her own accord, that end is often attained by sprinkling salt on its back. Some breeders leave the calf with the cow for one to three days; others take the calf away, but let it suck the cow for about three days. I believe it is desirable to leave

the calf with the cow at least three days, as she will fret less than if the calf is taken away from her at once. At the end of three days, as a rule, all danger of milk fever is past. Again, inflammation is often drawn out of the udder by the calf sucking. Whichever course is adopted, it is important to watch that the calf does not drink too much milk, as it will cause "scouring" in the calf."

What earthly good can the mother gain by licking the calf? In our younger days, we remember the farm-bailiff sprinkling the calf with salt, as soon as it was dropped, that the mother might become thirsty, so as to be induced to drink her "bran-mash" more readily; as if the exhaustion of parturition would not make her feverish enough without any tempting.

As for the calf being left with the cow for at least three days, as Mr Fuller recommends, as a means of making her fret less, our experience, and the opinion of all of our friends who have tried our plan—the Scotch plan, by the bye—is that the longer the calf remains with the cow, the greater will be her annoyance when deprived of its company, the more howling will she make at her lonely condition, and the more reluctant will she be to give down her milk to the milkmaid.

Try this plan: As soon as the cow is observed to be on the point of calving, watch her closely; as soon as the calf is extruded, take it up by both hind and fore legs; place it, in a warm loose-box as far as possible from the cow, on a thick bed of soft straw; cover it up with the same, and leave it alone for some hours. The Scotch generally rub the calf dry, but the friction agglutinates the coat, and the hair will dry quite as well if left alone under plenty of straw. A look should be given to the calf now and then, to see that it has not kicked off the covering.

Why allowing the calf to suck the cow, instead of drawing-off her milk by hand, should "draw-off inflammation from the udder," we cannot see.

At the Show of the Smithfield Club: "Hampshires, were in good muster, the number of pens being seventeen, from the flocks of Messrs. T. F. Buxton, R. W. Hudson, Lord Rothchild, L. H. Baxendale, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Marquis of Winchester, J. Bonham Carter, J. Clarke, W. B. Greenfield, and Alfred Brown. Suffolks give an array they seldom, if ever, did before, there being no fewer than fourteen pens,