

June, and some patches not until the middle of June. In digging the potatoes, I have invariably found that when there was any disease, it has always been on the lowest and wettest places. On the dry parts of the field, there never has been the least sign of the rot that I am aware of. Last spring I planted one and a half acres with large potatoes to raise seed from. The land was very wet and low, a black sandy loam with a quicksand subsoil. This piece was planted about the middle of June, and came up quick and grew very luxuriantly, promising a heavy crop. It was rather late in the fall when they were taken up. There was a heavy crop, but so diseased that they were scarcely worth digging. I had no loss in any other field, though I had upwards of 18 acres besides. I have observed that if the potatoes are not got out of ground before the heavy fall rains, they are almost sure to be more or less diseased. The excess of moisture in the earth seems to have a very bad effect.

From the above observations, I infer that the cause of the disease, to some extent, at least, is a superabundance of top water, and a cold, hard subsoil underneath, and I strongly recommend as, at least, a partial remedy, thorough under-draining, and subsoil ploughing. The drains should be laid in deep, with good pipe draining tile, each drain left open at each end to allow a free circulation of air through the drains, and consequently through the soil. The sub-soiling should be deep and well done. This would take off the top water, and permit much earlier planting. The circulation of air through the drains and soil would keep the ground moist, and prevent injuries to the crop from long continued droughts. The sub-soiling would loosen the earth to a sufficient depth for the roots to strike down, and obtain moisture and food from below. The thorough draining and sub-soiling will prevent the early frosts, in a great measure, which are so injurious to the crops that ripen late in the fall. If the above plan of cultivation of the potato is strictly followed, and the seed selected, and prepared as directed, we shall have much less cause to fear the potato disease, than many of us have under our present method of cultivation.

I now leave the subject with you, trusting that what I have said may cause some of you to think seriously on the suggestions which, with due deference to the opinions and experience of my brother members, and with but little time for the preparation, I have ventured to submit to you.

AID TO AGRICULTURE IN ILLINOIS.—The Illinois Legislature has authorized the publication of 8,000 copies of the 2d volume of Transactions of the State Agricultural Society, and it is designed that the work shall be published and distributed so that the County Societies can have their copies to serve as premiums at their exhibitions next fall. The Legislature has also made an appropriation to the State Agricultural Society of \$3,000 a year for two years. All which is commendable, and evinces that the Legislature of Prairiedom may be truly denominated "the assembled wisdom of the State."

REMARKABLE HORSE.—There is at the present time to be seen working at Sandbeck, on the estate of the late Earl of Scarborough, a horse of the name of Shasper, who has, during a period of twenty years, travelled the enormous distance of 140,000 miles, or above the distance of four times round the globe. The *Doncaster Gazette* says: "This remarkable animal has, during that time, been solely driven by James Forshaw, who has been a servant on the estate for upwards of twenty years, and never lost a single day. Since the demise of the late Earl, these two faithful servants have been separated—Forshaw having been discharged. This old and valuable servant was much grieved in parting with his companion in labour."

OIL OF MUSTARD IN RHEUMATISM.—When one-third of the male population complain, to some extent, of rheumatic pains, in the fickle climate of New England, but more especially along the sea shores, physicians have it in their power to mitigate an immense amount of severe suffering by prescribing the volatile oil of mustard. It is employed as rubefacient, being first diluted in its own weight of alcohol at forty degrees. Some patients may object to its pungent odor; but that is temporary, while the remedy may in some cases prove a permanent cure. Make the application at least twice a day, and protect the part with soft flannel. Mustard mills are in operation in the cities generally, at which the oil may be procured, it being an article not much in demand in the arts.—Were it not for detecting it by a pungent odor, this oil would have become a secret remedy for rheumatic pains years ago. A nostrum loses miraculous efficiency and curative powers on becoming known.—*Medical World*.