

indispensable cleanliness and purity of the vessels with more certainty, because at a less expenditure of time and trouble. Although it is an ascertained and undeniable fact that the quality of the butter depends much upon the nature of the pasture and locality of the dairy, the universally prevailing cleanliness of the whole management, and *very* essentially on the purity of the water employed, still I ascribe much of the reputation which our butter has of late years enjoyed (and which is verified by our obtaining at all seasons one penny per pound above market-price in our neighbourhood) to the beneficial introduction of glass milk-dishes."—At the suggestion of Mr. Hayter, M. P., it has been ascertained from Mr. Apsley Pelatt, of the Falcon Glass Works, Blackfriars, that in consequence of heavy duty and restrictions of the Excise on manufactured glass articles in this country, glass milk-pans of a size and shape similar to those of Captain Carr, but of white flint glass and stronger mould, could not be made for sale in England for less than 7s. 6d. each; but should that price, under the restrictive circumstances of the case, obtain purchasers, there would be no difficulty in manufacturing a superior and serviceable article of the kind to any extent that might be required. The milk-pan presented by Captain Carr to the Society is of the common dark green bottle-glass, and weighs 3½ lbs. It is round in shape, and nearly 4 inches deep, measuring 17 inches across the outside of the top, and 11 inches across that of the bottom.

CULTIVATION OF THE POTATO.

To the Editor of the Mark-Lane Express.

SIR,—Various have been the conjectures respecting the failure in the potato crops so prevalent within the last 12 or 15 years; and as the potato is the most valuable of all the vegetable tribe, producing in their cultivation an abundance of labor, and is also a favorite vegetable with the prince and the peasant, not only with the latter as a substitute for bread, but also at the table of the wealthy, they are used to a considerable extent. Viewing them collectively under such favourable advantages, may we not conclude that a failure to any extent might justly be considered a national loss in food and labour? With such impressions, and with a sincere desire to impart to others similar benefits to those I have received, I am desirous to offer a few practical observations. Having been a potato grower upwards of 30 years, although seldom planting more than 50 acres in a season, still I have paid some attention to their cultivation.

Respecting the failure of the crops, I consider it may arise from various causes. A serious injury, no doubt, is often produced by the potatoes heating in the hills when first put together, and also in allowing them to vegetate in the spring before they are removed, by which their germinative qualities become so greatly weakened; although the set makes an effort, it is often seen that the plant has not sufficient power to throw up a shoot through the surface—hence we perceive them producing small buttons, or, what has been termed, Bobbin Joans. A similar effect is often produced by the potatoes heating in consequence of being a long time retained in a vessel by contrary winds, &c.

A disease called the dry rot has, within a period of 15 years, proved the most fatal; frequently half a ship's cargo damaged. Potatoes planted so infected must also prove a failure.

Experience has often proved that the plants are frequently seriously injured by the land being in too wet a state, the most effectual remedy on such land would be a thorough drainage.

Although, singular as it may appear, I am of opinion that there are more failures in the potato crop in a season, such as the present, when the weather is both hot and droughty, than even in a wet season, and that such failures arise from the dry state of the land, combined with the effect the atmospheric influence has on the plant, impeding its germinative powers, by which the set becomes in a stagnant state, vegetation ceasing, consequently it is destroyed by centipedes and various insects, after throwing out small puny shoots, few of them rising through the surface.

Before I state the system I have found so beneficial in seasons such as the present, I will just hint for the benefit of the young practitioner that it is advisable in droughty seasons to keep the land well harrowed and rolled in order to retain the moisture, and to put on the manure also in a moist state, ploughing it in as quick as possible, and, as potatoes are an exhausting crop, not to spare the manure, that the next crop may not suffer.

There are so many systems of planting potatoes; most persons consider their own the best; my plan is to draw the drills 23 inches apart, lay in the manure well washed, and the sets on it, ploughing them in.

We lastly come to the system of preparing the sets, which I consider of the utmost importance in seasons when the land is in a dry state; it has been my invariable practice for the last eight years. Mr. Cowan, to whom I am indebted for the discovery, found the following the only effectual remedy, after trying various experiments:—Take fresh slacked lime, into which dip the cut part whilst moist, which absorbs the watery part on the outside, forming a crust. I have no doubt that such acts as a shield against the atmospheric influence hence penetrating the cut part, and is also a substitute for the rind; hence it is that many prefer planting whole potatoes, to which I have two objections—first, that it frequently occurs that in consequence of such a number of eyes, small tubers are produced, and in a season when potatoes are at a high price it is more expensive; late years they have not been found a very profitable crop.

To return to the application of the lime: I have adopted the system of setting a strong lad to about 7 women cutting, who spreads three bushels at a time on a floor, and with a fine sieve shakes some lime over them, giving one turn, which answers the purpose of dipping, and is more expeditious.

I must apologise for entering into such a lengthened statement—the importance of the subject must be my plea. As the season for planting is now advancing, I trust you will do me the favour to publish in your next journal, in order that your correspondents may have the opportunity of trying the experiment, which I offer them with the fullest confidence.

TIME VERSUS LIFE.

BY B. R. T. CRUCIFIX, M. D.

Sherwood, Gilbert, and Piper, Paternoster-row.

This work might not have been inappropriately named *Prudence versus Time*, as showing how much the ravages of time are accelerated or retarded by a prudent course of living. The following extracts will exhibit the character of the work more strikingly than we can describe it;—

"After much consideration it is here endeavoured to place the subject in question in a form, tangible alike to the profession and the public. The plan and scope of the argument will develop themselves more clearly as the particulars are opened; at present it may be sufficient to premise that the following pages may be considered as an attempt to trace the causes which accelerate the destructive influence of time on the human species, and to point out the measures (medicinal, dietetic, and moral) by which that influence can be so far modified, that, in many cases, life may be preserved to the ordinary period, or even, in some instances, extended beyond it."

"What liquid diet is most favourable to longevity? This question can no more be replied to from appropriate and authentic records of experience than in the case with respect to solid food. Yet, if we take that which appears a fair rule, viz. that whatever has a manifest tendency to produce disease tends to shorten life most rapidly, we shall establish very readily what liquids favour the operation of time in the greatest degree, namely, all *vinous and spirituous drinks*, however disguised, diluted, or modified; and, on the other hand, we may infer with equal certainty, from the opposite series of facts, that *water*, of the ordinary purity as found in the earth, is that which supports life the longest.

"But in what degree the artificial drinks that are taken by all nations injure or nourish, is a problem much more