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ually, in the autumn, I found the yield very much larger than usual, and a further number of varieties diseased, which I destroyed, storing over the remainder. In the spring of 1877 I found further numbers of varieties diseased, and I again destroyed the diseased members of varieties. At the same time as a crop in common rotation; and the growth was again most luxuriant, the large white flowers of certain varieties seeminly to sparkle in the sunlight, and the yield being, as before, very much larger than usual. I again stored over the remainder, and the following year, during the winter, which were destroyed. In the spring of 1878 I planted the remaining varieties, and in the spring of 1879 I found that the diseased and the healthy plants were again in the same proportion. The diseased plants did not disappear, such flowers as they produced were smaller, and some of them changed colour. The foliage also changed slightly, but the yield was, as previously, very much larger than usual. In the spring of 1880 I was, as before, in the spring of 1875 varieties I find, produce to range from two or three, to as much as ten or twelve per cent. and there are three of the absolutely free from disease, and which are so during each year of their lives. Also I found that the new varieties, besides being much more prolific, are much more nutritive than the old varieties—contain more flesh-formative matter in proportion to the starch. And the conclusion I draw from this foregoing is, that the new varieties, which are so much more prolific, and more nutritive during the first few years of life, will be so prolific and so little subject to the disease, that they will give, after suffering from the disease, a larger yield than the old varieties, and the old varieties give so small a yield that they cannot put together.

Sir,—Mr Darwin authorises me to state that, "after due consideration of the information which I communicated to him, he fully approves the principles on which I have been acting in this matter," namely showing the plants from which the new varieties were obtained by crossing their buds (seeds) those plants which proved themselves most vigorous and least subject to the disease. And before the publication of his work on "Cross Fertilisation of Plants," Mr Darwin has expressed his approval of the method employed by the breeder of crossing plants very similar to those which have been obtained by the cross-breeding of animals, and suggested that, to the principle of "selection of the fittest," I should add the increased vigour of the selected stock, or of the fittest, "I should add the increased vigour of the selected stock, or of the fittest," I should add the increased vigour of the selected stock, or of the fittest."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. G. RUF.

The last meeting of the Farmers' Club, held at the Inns of Court Hotel, was numerously attended, and an important discussion arose upon the paper on "The Land Question," read by Mr. W. Scootson (of Aigburgh, Liverpool), who said that the great increase in the population of England and Wales which had taken place since he was a boy had been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the number of the parishes having actually diminished in population. The least of the causes of that was the monopoly in land. Among other causes were the fact that the land was not being cultivated, and that the owner's side of the question of agriculture. As to what had to be done, he said, most to raise the agricultural population, and to give them the opportunity of cultivating uncultivated land side by side with the entitailed, paying rent, or only a game rent; and, next, to give the tenant the right to buy the land, which looked like fixing a price for paying too much rent. A quotation from Mr. Caird, in order to show that the landowners were not partners in one concern, and also that the capital value of land might be fixed at too high a figure, Mr. Scootson said that the growing interest of growing crops was not the only thing that was of interest to the landowner. He said that for the people—he saw no other interest in the manufacturing community for the nation that was so heavily weighted. He said that the landowner's interests in his land—political, social, religious, and game—all of which were rather against the food-producing population. He said that the landowner's interests in his land—political, social, religious, and game—all of which were rather against the food-producing population. He said that the landowner's interests in his land—political, social, religious, and game—all of which were rather against the food-producing population.

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