

## DISCUSSIONS

### *Mr. MacDonald :*

Could I ask Mr. Bolhuis, with regard to his cuttings—he tried cuttings of various lengths. Was any work done on the period of wilting? I have seen quite a bit in the literature stating that wilted sweet potato cuttings are much better than unwilted ones, but I have never come across an actual experiment that demonstrates this. Has any work been done by yourself ?

### *Mr. Bolhuis :*

I agree with you. I have never come across anything like it, and we used non-wilted cuttings. Entirely fresh material. In Java, under native planters, it is a well known fact that from every three years you have to plant your sweet potatoes by means of tubers instead of cuttings, and we tried it out for 13 successive generations—one series of cuttings only, another series for three years by tubers, and one series is entirely by tubers. After 13 generation there was no difference.

### *Professor Milthorpe :*

I wanted to raise the question of relation of time to tuberisation in relation to the source of cutting. If one takes cuttings from old plants or plants which are already forming tubers, do they initiate tubers more quickly than those from non-tuberising plants, or from cuttings which arise directly from the root tuber ? Secondly, does the presence of part of the mother tuber have any effect on the time to initiation of the tubers ?

There is, I think, in the Irish potato, evidence of possible presence of some tuberising factor which is developed with age in the mother tuber.

### *Mr. Bolhuis :*

I am sorry I cannot tell you very much about this, not because I am not familiar with sweet potato, but because my connection with sweet potatoes was quite incidental.

### *Mr. Degras :*

This is about a question of Dr. Milthorpe. We are now beginning an experiment to decide whether there is or not, a part of determination of tuberisation in sweet potatoes, not only with the part of the plant which is taken from multiplication but also with the time of the year when we take the cuttings. We think that we could not have two different patterns coming in that process. First, difference of the part of the plant at the same time, and also different stages of the development of the plant all along the year, and we are now beginning, we started last month, to see what there is in this idea. It is a very interesting problem.