

Mr. Maffey. Seed was sown on the 12th June, and on the 8th July the plants were pricked out into boxes, ample room being allowed the plants for robust development, short-jointed sturdy plants being the aim. The soil, both for seed and pricking out, was sterilized by heating to 210°. It was noticeable that by using the sterilized soil the plants were slow in getting a start, but later on made up for the delay by rapidity of growth and sturdiness, while sterilization prevented any possibility of eelworm infection.

On the 9th September the plants were set out in the house at a distance of 2 ft. between the rows and 1 ft. between the plants. The plants "came away" in good style, and on the 19th September the first spraying of Bordeaux mixture was given, at a strength of 3 lb. of sulphate of copper, 5 lb. of lime, and 50 gal. of water. On the 27th September the plants were tied and trained, as recommended by Mr. S. F. Anderson (see Department's *Journal*, No. 2 of Volume iii).

A second spraying was given with Bordeaux mixture on the 2nd October, and on the 8th the soil—which up to this time had received absolutely no manure—was given a dressing of superphosphate and bonedust, at the rate of 1 oz. of superphosphate and $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of bones per square yard. This was lightly raked in. On the 22nd October a third spraying was given with Bordeaux, and a fourth on the 9th November, the fifth and final spraying being given on the 25th of the same month. On the 18th November a second dressing of superphosphate and bones was given, at the same rate as the former dressing. As the plants were growing strongly this was deemed sufficient, and no further manure of any description was given.

The fruit colouring at this time, 9th December, sulphur was used and tested for control of "spot" (*Cladosporium fulvum*), and later on, 20th December, the plants were again sulphured. Experiments then ceased as far as spraying and sulphuring were concerned.

CONCRETE FLOOR.

The use of a concrete floor for control of eelworm (*Heterodera radicicola*) is to my mind excellent. Up to the present time we have no remedy within reasonable cost that will combat or check eelworm ravages [experiments with soil-fumigants, &c., are being conducted in Mr. Odering's house, and a full report will no doubt appear later], and until such time as a reliable remedy is forthcoming a concrete floor and changing the soil every season is the only reliable safeguard against eelworm infection, and this is borne out by the number of practical commercial growers who have already adopted this remedy. Care must also be taken that nothing but sterilized soil, or soil absolutely free from eelworm infection, is used in rearing the plants.