

PLANT-PROPAGATION.

The success of tomato-culture depends to a very great extent on the care in selection of a good type of plant and fruit for seed purposes. Many growers simply select a fair type of fruit and pay no attention whatever to the parent plant, nor do they give any thought to the plants in the vicinity, consequently the number of plants with one truss of fruit and no leader is becoming noticeable. The cause of this peculiarity in some measure may be due to relying solely on selection of best type of fruit, and a plant having only one fruit-truss will naturally possess some good specimens, and a grower not having taken into consideration the constitution and environment will no doubt select these for seed purposes. I am inclined to think that this indiscriminate selection by growers of their own seed, season after season, is causing a deterioration in the constitution and vitality of the plants, thereby making them more susceptible to disease and less resistant to sudden climatic changes. I would suggest paying more attention to the selection of both fruit and plants for seed purposes, and occasionally introducing fresh stock, in order to preserve sound vitality, and also give plenty of room to young plants when "pricking out"—say, boxes of dimensions 12 ft. by 18 ft. Allow six rows and four plants to a row in the box. This will provide ample room for strong development; and aim at getting sturdy short-jointed plants, these being better able to resist disease owing to their strong constitution. The Department has a good illustration of this in Mr. Odering's house. This subject will be again dealt with in the report on experiments in this house.

VENTILATION.

No side or bottom ventilators were used at any time during the experiments, top ventilators being relied upon, and occasionally, during a very warm day, the end doors were used. The use of side ventilation by an inexperienced grower is apt to cause trouble, and the idea of this experiment was to simplify matters and demonstrate that the risk of disaster by indifferent use of side ventilators could be avoided. Many instances have come under my notice where growers, when the house has become too warm, have at once opened the side ventilators, thereby creating a cold draught on the plants in the vicinity. Should any of these plants have been weak in constitution they have at once collapsed, the trouble being in many cases put down as "sleeping disease"—quite an erroneous impression. This experiment proved that this risk of collapse can be obviated by a judicious use of the top ventilators with the assistance of an occasional use of the end doors during the very warm days. Moreover, it is unnecessary to undertake the extra work of manipulating two sets of ventilators when one set