

A lean-to house is better adapted to pot culture on a small scale than a span-roofed house, provided it faces nearly north, so as to secure the greater amount of sunshine. The upper portion of the glass roof should be left unshaded. A wooden trough, 12 in. by 12 in., can be used in place of pots, and is really much better. As the roots of the plants will be confined to a small space, methods of cultivation must be very different to those of ground culture. The soil used should be good turfy loam, with a little very old manure, and bone-dust equal to a 5 in. potful to a barrow-load of compost. The loam should be broken by hand, not riddled, as that would remove the fibre, which it is important to retain. The only drainage required is provided by shaking most of the soil from some of the turf, and placing the latter in the bottom of the pot. The whole contents of the pot will thus be rooting-material, which is an important point. For were it otherwise larger pots would be required.

Plants for this method of culture should have been raised in small pots, first in 3 in. size, then moved to 5 in., planting in the larger pots as soon as the points of roots show freely through the soil. The larger pots should be only half-filled with soil, the ball of the young plant placed on the soil, and sufficient soil added to cover it, and pressed very firm. No more soil should be added until the plant is a foot or so above the pot, when it should be filled up. The plants will require frequent watering, and while the fruit is swelling liquid manure should be given two or three times a week. After the pots have been filled with soil new roots will push from the buried portion of the stem, and the plant will be greatly strengthened, so much so that the increased vigour of the plants may demand more root-room. This can be given by laying strips of fibrous turf round the rim on the pot and filling up with soil. Roots may come through the top of the soil, in which case give them a mulch of dry horse-droppings; these may be piled up, as water will pass freely through them. During twenty years' continuous practice in pot culture I never experienced an attack of blight. Probably the elevation of the plants from the surface of the soil, thus securing a dryer atmosphere, accounts for this immunity.

[Open-air culture will be dealt with in the next issue of the *Journal*.—ED.]

---

*Lyons Fair Information Bureau.*—A commercial information bureau has been established at Lyons, France, in connection with the Lyons Fair. In drawing attention to the new service the administration of the fair states that the bureau is intended not only to reply to the numerous communications received by it from all parts, but to develop the relations which are thus becoming established between the manufacturers represented at the fair and the traders of the world. It may be mentioned that the principal aim of the Lyons Fair is to take the place of the Leipzig Fair as an international institution. The two annual fairs already held at Lyons have been a great success.