

### Saunders Plum.

DEAR SIR,—I notice an article in the *Horticulturist*, June number page 214, regarding Saunders Plum, which differs very much with my experience with it, also with my neighbors, where quite extensively grown. As grown in this district it is of first quality, very attractive, large yellow plum; good grower, healthy foliage; ripens last of July or first of August. Was exhibited first time at Fruit Growers' Association meeting held in St. Catharines, in 1883, and pronounced excellent quality, worthy of extensive trial. That fruit was grown on the original tree, grown by John Arris, Belleville.

W. H. DEMPSEY.

### Saunders Plum.

SIR,—I notice in the June number of the *Horticulturist* on question No. 846 at the request of Mr. J. T. Stewart as to the hardiness of the principal varieties of plums and am surprised at the answer given by Mr. Gordon which may mislead many who intend setting out plum orchards.

I will give a list divided into three classes: hardy, medium and tender according to my judgment and from personal observations, principally while trees are young. Some of these varieties, although tender in the nursery row, may overcome this with age:

*Hardy*.—Brant of Naples, Gueii, Duanes Purple, Lombard, Shippers Pride, Spaulding, Saunders, Red Egg, Peach, McLaughlin, Monarch, Field, Yellow Egg, and Bradshaw. The latter, although not as hardy as Lombard should class with the hardy sorts.

*Medium*.—French, Italian, and German Prunes, Gen'l Hand, Smith's Orleans, Grand Duke, Jefferson, Imperial Gage, Moore's Arctic, Pond's Seedling, Shropshire Damson, Abundance, Willard, Satsuma, Ogon, Chabot, Red June, Wickson.

*Tender*.—Coe's Golden Drop, Victoria, Reine, Claude, Kelsey,

E. MORRIS, *Fonthill*.

### Notes from Simcoe Experiment Station.

THE Smith's Giant Black Cap raspberry has proved entirely hardy here. It was exposed to a temperature of 26 degrees below zero without any protection whatever, and the canes are alive to the very tips. If the fruit turns out to be of good quality, it will be an acquisition for this section. It is fruiting heavily this season and we will soon know something of its quality.

THE Baba and Bessemianka Pears are seemingly quite at home and find here a congenial climate. I believe they will be like the Duchess apple in that respect. They are very thrifty so far, seem not to be affected in the least by extreme cold, and the foliage is of that dark green color and luxuriant growth so characteristic to hardy varieties.

WITH respect to your query last year, Mr. Editor, "Does a profusion of bloom draw heavily on the vigor of the tree even though it produces no fruit?" I would say I believe it does. My Flemish Beauty pear trees were last year a perfect mass of bloom. The frost came just as the fruit was setting and almost totally destroyed it. Only a few specimens on each tree survived. This year only a few blossoms appeared on those trees, although they were in a very healthy condition. Did the failure of the fruit cause a larger growth of wood, and consequent failure to form fruit buds? Or, was this year's failure owing to the great quantity of bloom last year drawing heavily upon the fruiting capabilities of the trees? I am inclined to believe the latter.

G. C. CASTON.

### Soda Not a Substitute for Potash.

SIR,—In the clipping marked "Small Fruits," page 200 of the June issue of the *HORTICULTURIST*; speaking of the value of Nitrate of Soda as a fertilizer, it is there stated, "As an available source of nitrogen, containing 16 per cent., and also 35 per cent. of soda, which is a substitute for potash for agricultural as well as for industrial purposes, the market does not furnish a better article or one that is more immediately active, and with the phosphate of lime it makes a complete manure."