

SEED SOWING.

THE usual failure in getting seeds to grow is from sowing them too deeply in the earth. If it were possible to keep the seeds dark and moist, they would be all the better from being sown absolutely on the surface. Every one familiar with forest growth must have noticed how forest tree seeds, which simply fall to the earth and are covered by the few leaves or the remains of grasses, germinate without difficulty. In cherry trees, especially, the stones, which have fallen from the tree, lying on the surface all winter, sprout and grow rapidly when spring time comes, and yet cherry seeds from the same tree, collected by the seed sower, sown in the way in which seeds are usually sown, frequently fail to grow. In order to have seeds as near the surface as possible, and yet protected against drying up, the

great prince of American practical gardeners,—the late Peter Henderson,—recommended for planting vegetable seeds, that the garden line should first be stretched along in the direction where the vegetables were to grow, sprinkle the seeds along the line entirely on the surface, and then simply tramp them in the ground along the line. In this way no garden seed ever failed to grow if it were good, and garden seeds are generally good, for it has been found that even old seed, if guarded against extreme heat or moisture, will continue to preserve its vital power for a definite period. Still every purchaser desires to get seed as fresh as possible. If the suggestions given are borne in mind, there will be very seldom complaints about the failure of garden seeds to grow.—Meehans' Monthly.

TOMATO GROWING.—A writer in American Gardening says:—Much of the success with the Tomato plants depends upon their not getting stunted in the hot-bed or greenhouse before transplanting. Too low a temperature, too scanty supply of water or getting rootbound may do this. If this happens the plants are later in coming to bearing, and also there is a considerable difference in the total yield. Too high a temperature is not as bad unless it scorches the leaves badly, but it makes the plants long legged and liable to be broken down by the wind or by their weight of fruit. If the plants cannot be set into the open ground before they begin to get rootbound take up a part of them and put them in boxes down cellar, where they will keep a week

or more very well, and that will give room for the others to grow.

WINTER CARE OF BULBS.—Where cannas, dahlias, gladioli and other summer flowering bulbs are stored in ordinary cellars they require careful examination from time to time. If the storage place is dry and warm the bulbs have to be sprinkled with lukewarm water when required to prevent their shriveling; if it is damp and cool there is danger of their rotting; and in a damp and warm place they are apt to sprout too soon. As in most cellars the temperature varies considerably in various parts it is generally not difficult to change the bulbs to a more favorable position if so desired.