

QUESTION DRAWER.

THE PEARL GOOSEBERRY.

Mr. Wm. Saunders, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, writes that he believes this gooseberry was a cross between Downing and Ashton's seedling, an English variety. With regard to its size, Mr. Smith says it will not average double the size of the Downing, although it is considerably larger, and much more productive. We should also credit the present ownership of this berry to Messrs Smith and Kerman, and not to Mr. A. M. Smith.

KEEPING CABBAGES.

SIR,—Please inform me the best way to keep cabbages through the winter.—AN ENGLISHMAN, Bracebridge.

Reply by A. Gilchrist, West Toronto Junction.

Cabbages are kept successfully by putting them into bunches, covering lightly with soil, in the driest spot in the garden. Some gardeners put the roots up, that the leaves may shed the water off better, but the frost runs down the stem and sometimes injures them. I prefer the root down. If only a few are to be kept, a narrow trench will do; if a quantity better make the trench four or five feet wide, cover with a few leaves or straw and put on about three or four inches of soil. A little frost will not injure them. If kept too hot they will get yellow.

GERANIUMS KEPT IN THE CELLAR.

SIR,—I have heard geraniums may be wintered successfully in a frost-proof cellar;

if this is the case, kindly tell me how to manage them in the right way, and oblige.—AN ENGLISHMAN.

Reply by A. Gilchrist, West Toronto Junction.

Geraniums can be kept in a light cool cellar. Put them in boxes or pots; place them as near the cellar window as possible; give very little water. In the spring take cuttings of them and throw the old plants away.

SEEDLING GERANIUMS.

SIR,—I have a very nice seedling geranium about three years old, which has never flowered, and shows no sign of doing so. Can you give me a receipt to make it flower. I slipped it some two months ago, but that has made no difference.—D. A. FERRIER, Fergus.

Reply by A. Gilchrist, West Toronto Junction.

Florists wishing plants to bloom keep them pot-bound. If the seedling geranium has not bloomed at one year old, it will very likely be a shy bloomer, and not worth keeping.

MIXING VARIETIES.

I. Will you please tell me when different kinds of strawberries are planted in rows side by side, if either kind will run out, that is, will the pistillate kinds produce staminate flowers, and the staminate kinds produce pistillate flowers; if so, which kinds are most likely to get mixed in the blossoms, the pistillate or staminate variety?—E. ROBINSON, Glendale, Ont.

The fertilization of one blossom by another will have no effect upon either flowers or berries of the growing plants. The effect will only be observable in the seeds produced by the flowers so fertilized, and will be seen in the seeds only.