

again put around the cutting as before described, and left for a week or two longer. If on examination the base of the cutting shows signs of decay instead of rooting, it should be severed entirely from the plant. In this case the cutting could then be shortened a joint or two at the base, and placed in a four inch pot filled with sharp sand. Place the pot in a shaded warm part of the green-house or window and keep the sand moist. A plant may possibly be obtained in this way.

The best time of the year for striking cuttings of the *Ficus*, whether by ordinary or moss cuttings, is during July and August. A warm, sheltered, and fairly well shaded position in the greenhouse or conservatory, is the best place for the plant to ensure success with this method of mossing cuttings. A greenhouse, however, is not absolutely necessary to be successful, as I have rooted cuttings by this method out of doors during the hot months of summer by standing the plants in a warm, well sheltered position.

In potting the cutting most of the moss should be first removed and the plant securely staked. The leaves should also be tied together fairly tight, so as to prevent the cutting from shifting about in the pot. Use light sandy soil for the first potting, and not too rich. Water the cutting rather sparingly until it has become well rooted in the pot, and keep it in a warm shaded place for a time. I have attempted to describe as clearly as possible the method of rooting cuttings by mossing them, some allowance, however, must be made as to depth and length of incision, length of cutting, etc., as these must of necessity vary a little according to the growth of the branch made use of.

**Single Joint Cuttings.**—These cuttings consist of a single joint with leaf attached. The best part of the branch to secure these cuttings from, is from a few joints above and below the part of the branch described as

suitable for cuttings for mossing. Insert the cutting firmly in sharp sand, so that the base of the leaf and stem at the joint is just under the surface of the sand. A shallow box about two inches deep, well drained and filled with sand, will perhaps be better than pots for these cuttings, as they are less liable to be shifted about in the sand. These pots or boxes—as the case may be—of cuttings can be placed in a warm shaded part of the greenhouse, or in a frame that should



FIG. 2371.  
FICUS CUTTING WITH "HEEL."

be covered closely with a sash thickly shaded, so as to exclude the direct rays of the sun. Careful watering so as to keep the sand always fairly moist is necessary to be successful with these cuttings. I have known cuttings of this kind to strike root successfully when the pots have been placed in a window. Single joint cuttings, how-