INTRODUCTION

In a paper discussing suggestions for experiments in tomato cultivation in the West Indies Paterson (1) made certain recommendations for the laying down of manurial trials.

An experiment based on his recommendations was laid down at the New College Farm of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in January, 1954, at the beginning of the dry season, with the object of studying the effects of different amounts of fertiliser dressings on a tomato crop. The crop failed and the trial yielded no information on manuring, but a study of the factors contributing to the failure might lead to suggestions for the modification of some of the cultural methods used in the experiment.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tomatoes can be grown quite successfully in the tropics and although not much critical work on the crop has been published various authors have discussed its cultivation. MacMillan (6) states that tomatoes grow well, especially in dry districts, at medium elevations, but that in wet conditions they need some sort of protection from rain. In Trinidad, according to Martyn (7), tomatoes may to some extent be grown throughout the year. Prevailing high temperature is a limiting factor, as plants require the temperature to fall to 65°F. or below for a part of every twenty-four hours in order to produce their maximum fruit. Further, the rainy season encourages the spread of diseases, preventing the use of some of the