

In the case of the almond, bitterness has been thought by some high authorities to indicate specific difference.

In N. America the Roman apricot endures "cold and unfavourable situations, where no other sort, except the Masculine, will succeed; and its blossoms bear quite a severe frost without injury."⁶⁸ According to Mr. Rivers,⁶⁹ seedling apricots deviate but little from the character of their race: in France the Alberge is constantly reproduced from seed with but little variation. In Ladakh, according to Moorcroft,⁷⁰ ten varieties of the apricot, very different from each other, are cultivated, and all are raised from seed, excepting one, which is budded.

Plums (*Prunus insititia*).—Formerly the sloe, *P. spinosa*, was thought to be the parent of all our plums; but now this honour is



Fig. 43.—Plum Stones, of natural size, viewed laterally. 1. Bullace Plum. 2. Shropshire Damson. 3. Blue Gage. 4. Orleans. 5. Elvas. 6. Denyer's Victoria. 7. Diamond.

very commonly accorded to *P. insititia* or the bullace, which is found wild in the Caucasus and N.-Western India, and is naturalised in England.⁷¹ It is not at all improbable, in accordance with some observations made by Mr. Rivers,⁷² that both these forms, which some botanists rank as a single species, may be the parents of our domesticated plums. Another supposed parent-form, the *P. domestica*, is said to be found wild in the region of the Caucasus.

⁶⁸ Downing, 'The Fruits of America,' 1845, p. 157: with respect to the Alberge apricot in France, see p. 153.

⁶⁹ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1863, p. 364.

⁷⁰ 'Travels in the Himalayan Pro-

vinces,' vol. i. 1841, p. 295.

⁷¹ See an excellent discussion on this subject in Hewett C. Watson's 'Cybele Britannica,' vol. iv. p. 80.

⁷² 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1865, p. 27.