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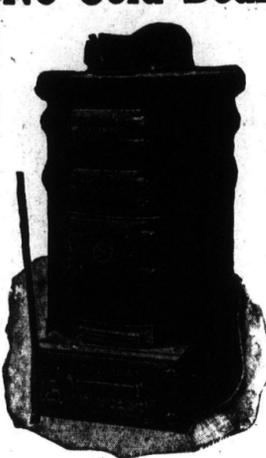


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Fighting House Plants' Enemies

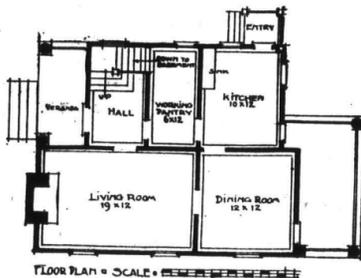
By Dell Grattan

The house plants that do so much to brighten our shut-in days of winter have each their special enemy, and guarding against these is one of the chief difficulties in our indoor gardening. Various baths, dustings and smokings must be resorted to. For the baths, tobacco water is invaluable, made thus: pour a gallon of boiling water upon a pound of tobacco stems, let stand a day, keeping warm, strain and use. To give a plant a plunge bath add enough of the tobacco water to color the water to be used. This is very effective where insects are to be destroyed.

Smudges to destroy insect pests are made thus: Put a few slivers of wood or a few matches crossed in a small flat tin, cover with pyrethrum powder, tobacco dust, cut-up stalks, or flour of sulphur, mixed with fine damp sawdust. Light, see that there is not too much blaze, and set beneath the infested plants; but be sure the smudge is not big enough to give out a scalding heat; better use two or three small ones if heavy smoke is required.

The special enemies of palms, red rust and brown scale, need to be washed off with strong carbolic soapsuds and a soft brush before bathing and smoking.

The worst among the insect pests are plant lice, mealy bugs, white and black



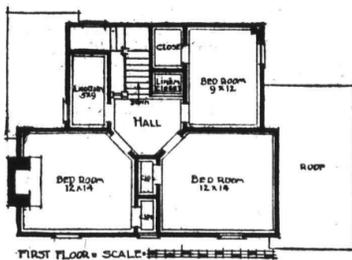
living-room with old fashioned brick fireplace, and two windows. The dining-room is also on the front. No day is so bleak or cold but these rooms will have a cheery atmosphere. There is a verandah with access to both dining-room and kitchen. There is a smaller verandah at the entrance. Every year we see a greater tendency on the part of the people to inclose their porches for winter use. The one off the dining-room would be admirable for sun room purposes.



The kitchen is 10 ft. by 12 ft. and if a separate working pantry is not desired, the kitchen may be left 16 ft. by 12 ft. and have built-in cupboards and bins.

The upstairs rooms are well provided with ample closets. The owner's room has a home-like fireplace—just the thing for spring and the first cool days of fall, when it doesn't seem worth while to have the furnace going. An ash flue running to the basement will be a con-

venience when cleaning. There is a linen closet conveniently placed, and a lavatory is at the head of the stairs. This house is planned to withstand our northwestern winters, and should have a well installed heating plant, either hot air or hot water. The construction is frame, with a stone or concrete basement. The stings should be painted white and roof green. Windows with small panes will give an added quaintness, and the chimney would be best built of red bricks



flies, red spider, and the various scales. Soap and water, smoke, and endless watchfulness will keep them well, but every new plant that comes to you from a greenhouse or hothouse must be suspected. Do not set it among other plants that are clean and in good condition for at least ten days, and then only after a thorough bath. If a plant is badly infested with insects it had better be thrown away quickly.

Tiny flies, black or white, are hard to overcome, as the least touch on the pot or plant sets them flying. To treat a plant infested thus, set it apart, with a stick higher than itself set into the earth by it; throw a thin cloth over this, letting it reach the ground all around, then slip under it a lighted smudge, and turn down over all this either a box or barrel with paper pasted over the cracks. After this has stood for two hours, plunge the plant into a tepid bath, keeping the cloth on until well under the water, in order to hold in any flies that may be left living. Splash the plant well, drain, and while damp, dust with either insect powder or finely crumbled tobacco, putting it on to both sides of the leaves.

For plant lice spray thickly with strong tobacco water, leave an hour, then bathe, and dust with more tobacco. A little flour of sulphur mixed with the tobacco makes the treatment more effectual, bathe in carbolic soapsuds next, and follow this with a shower of clear, tepid water. Another pest is the red spider which is invisible until it appears as red blotches upon the foliage.