

the plants. Chrysanthemums should be tied up to small sticks, and watered occasionally with liquid manure, to promote their coming in full perfection. Those in pots should be protected for late flowering, and be watched and taken in, on the appearance of a frosty night; they may, however, be exposed to the air as much as possible when it is mild and salubrious, as should all other half plants.

The following remarks of Breck in "The Flower Garden" on the cultivation of Plants in the parlour, will be found useful and interesting, especially to our lady readers:

A choice collection of plants in the sitting-room or parlor will add much to the charms of it; but as we often see them, weak, straggled up, crowded together, and infested with insects, they rather give pain than pleasure. In this state, the clear sunlight through the window is far preferable to a congregation of plants in earthen pots and saucers, with their occupants. Judging from what we too often see, cultivators in parlors have very erroneous ideas of what is necessary for a perfect management of their plants. In fact, the plants are killed with too much kindness; too much heat, too much water, want of light and want of water, are the general causes of the sickly state of plants, which have often come under our notice; to which may be added, neglect of compost or mould. Saucers under plants, if water is suffered to stand in them, are noxious, but necessary for the sake of neatness; they, therefore, suffer the water to stand in them, nor to be poured into them. The plants should always be given on the surface, and not in water unless the surface is dry, and in moderate quantities, for most plants. Water only should be used, and that of a moderate temperature, but not warm. When water is necessary, it should be applied in the morning on a mild sunny day.

Watering with guano water may be resorted to to stimulate the plants occasionally; but an excess will be injurious, if not destructive. A spoonful or two to a pail of water will be strong enough; this may be used twice a

week. It is useless to expend time upon plants in which the windows face to the north. North-east, or south-west exposures are best; of course a south window is the very best; it admits the sun all day.

Heat is more important than great heat; plants are frequently ruined, for all ornamental purposes, by keeping the room excessively hot. The hot, dry air of most sitting-rooms in the present day is so injurious to the plants, as well as some other plants, that it is hardly possible to make them flower, as the buds will often drop before the time of flowering. But

I have seen as fine blooms of the Camellia in an old-fashioned sitting-room in the country, as I have in the green-house. The room was so cold at night that the thermometer would fall nearly to freezing, with a plenty of air from the old window casements during the day. A good temperature for the Camellia is a range of 40° by night, to 60° during the day. I do not mean to be understood that this should be the highest range in the sun; but at the back side of the room, in the shade. This temperature will also do for most plants; some will thrive better with a higher range, but their cultivation should not be attempted in a sitting-room.

Where there is too much heat, and not well exposed to light, the plants will spindly up, and make feeble, sickly growth, and if they produce flowers, they will be so weak and pale as to excite the pity of the beholder.

Unless the pots are turned every day, the plants will grow one-sided; every plant should receive as much light as possible.

A stand for flowers should have rollers attached to the legs, so that the plants may with the least trouble be turned round to the light, or wheeled into the middle of the room at night, when the weather is severe."

J. F.

---

THE APPLE TREE BORER.—We copy the following from the correspondence of the *Rural New Yorker* :—

Inclosed please find a genuine *Saperda bivittata*, or *Apple Tree Borer*. It was taken from an apple-tree in my orchard, and is transformed from an ugly grub to the perfect insect, and is well fitted to choose a mate and go out in the world to propagate its species. This insect is so extremely shy in its habits, that it is seldom seen or captured, and this is only the second one that I have ever seen in the winged state. I would urge upon every one who is the owner of an apple orchard, the vital importance of waging a war of extermination against this insect, which appears so small and harmless, yet actually does more harm to the apple than all the other insects in America.

I have a fine apple orchard, about fourteen years planted, which I manage to keep pretty clear of the pest, by giving the trees a thorough examination in May and in October; and to sharpen the sight of the "boys," I pay for the first grub twenty-five cents, and five cents each for all the rest they capture, and you may be sure that they look pretty close after them.

We remove the earth from the collar of the tree, and then scrape the rough bark off; and if a dark spot is found, it is closely examined with the point of a stout knife. Sometimes they are just under the bark, like the peach grub; but generally they make a burrow in the solid wood, by cutting one-fourth of an inch in, and then working upward. Sometimes we find them about a foot from the surface of the