

SUNBEAM

Vol. XXII.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 21, 1901.

No. 19.

GIVING THE FLOWERS A DRINK.

Did you know that flowers grew thirsty? Sometimes, when they have had no water for some time they will turn up their little leaves toward the sky, as if begging for a drink. Over the network of each leaf is a covering that we may call its skin. Then under this the leaf is full of little cells which are as closely joined together as those of the bee's honeycomb. These leaf-cells are filled with a sort of soft jelly, which contains among other things the matter which gives the leaf its green colour. Each leaf is also provided with a number of tiny pores. Through these pores, which are really so many little mouths, it drinks that part of the water which it requires for its nourishment.

Every plant does its digesting in its leaves, which are, therefore, like so many little stomachs. The dear old lady we see in our picture knows how important it is for her plants that they should not get their little mouths filled up with dust, or have to wait too long for a drink, so she is holding them out in the rain, even at the risk of getting wet herself. She looks very pleased to see the rain come pouring down, for she knows how refreshed her flowers will feel after they have had a good drink. Plants very much prefer rain water to hard or well water.



GIVING THE FLOWERS A DRINK.

Annie and Lily were going home from school together one afternoon, and Annie was teasing Lily to go off somewhere and

play with her. "But mother told me to come right home from school," said Lily. "Well, she has gone away, and would

never know if you did go away for a little while," said Annie. "But God has not gone away; he would know," said Lily.