

pots to remain there until the surplus water is drained off. If this cannot be done, place a saucer under each pot, and about fifteen minutes after watering go around and turn out all the saucers. Never allow water to stand in the saucers, as it will prevent aeration through the hole in the bottom of the pot and also has a tendency to rot the roots. When plants are kept in jardineres, people often get careless, allow water to collect in the bottom, and then wonder why the plant is not doing well.

It may perhaps come as a revelation to the amateur to be told that plants breathe, and they do this through their leaves, which are full of small pores for that purpose. So it becomes necessary to bathe the leaves frequently to remove the dust which will invariably settle on them and choke up the pores. This may be done by spraying or by carefully rubbing the surface of each leaf with a damp sponge.

If the plants should need extra feeding it is much better to give in liquid form, being more readily assimilated by the plant. The best form of liquid food is made from cow or sheep manure, as there is no danger of burning the roots, if not applied too strong. More cleanly to handle are the special plant foods put up in powder or tablet form, and which can be brought from the local seedsman.

Geraniums are remarkably free from plant diseases, or in-sects, which is more than can be said of some plants, and in naming a list of some plants, and in for the amateur I purposely avoided mentioning the calceolaria, as my experience with it as a window plant has not been satisfactory on account of its liability to become infested with green fly. These plant lice, or aphides, are generally found on the underside of the leaves, where they suck the sap. Against these use tobacco water or soap suds. Some persons advise fumigation but unless done thoroughly this method is of fittle use, and as the plants need syringing after, it is well to wash them first and rinse in clear water after. Next to the aphides in destructiveness is the red spider, a very small red mite which can scarcely be seen by the naked eye. It also lives on the under side of the leaves, but its presence can be readily discerned by numerous small, yellow spots on the leaves. Like the aphis, the red spider lives on the plant's juices. It there's in a hot, dry atmosphere, and its presence is a sure sign of insufficient moisture. The conditions ordinarily found in liv-ing rooms are very favorable to this pest. The remedy is obvious; syringe the plants with water, applying it on the under side of the leaves, and with



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