

## OUR AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

### ABOUT WATERING PLANTS.

Continuing Mr. Maxsom spoke on the following strains: One of the chief points in the care of plants is the watering. It should be done with great care, too much or too little will kill your plant. There are two ways of telling when a plant needs water, by the weight of the pot and by the sound when it is tapped. When it feels light or rings when tapped the soil is dry. A damp soil is heavy, the pot has a dull sound when struck. Water should be poured on slowly until it runs down into the saucer. If a plant is real dry it may need to be watered two or three times in succession before it is well soaked. The carpet is often an enemy to the plants in this matter as well as in that of the sunlight. Many a house-keeper fails to put enough water on their plants that are kept in doors for fear of the carpet being soiled. It is a question between having the carpet and your flowers injured. It is well to take the plants to a sink where you can water them freely.

Some flowers are ruined for that season if allowed to get once thoroughly dry. The maidenhair fern is an example. The rubber plant will stand a good deal of drought.

### WASH THE PLANTS.

It is important to wash plants occasionally. Take them to the sink and with a fine sponge bathe the leaves. They are refreshed by a bath as well as a human being. Be careful, though, not to dry them in a draft or low temperature for they are very sensitive to chills. A little soap in the water will do no harm. Tobacco smoke is the best remedy for a green fly. Take a large paper bag; put the plant into it and close the top. Then make a small hole through which to insert the stem of a lighted pipe. Get a smoker to blow the smoke from the pipe into the bag. That avoids all heat, which is injurious to the plant. When the bag is full of smoke stick a bit of paper over the hole and the fly will be killed.

## POTATOES FOR PROFIT.

AS the tendency of potatoes after a few years of cultivation is to deteriorate, it becomes necessary to have new varieties to take their places. Most of the kinds cultivated twenty years ago are now superseded by varieties of recent introduction. In the last half dozen years we have had a number of new varieties of superior excellence in all of the qualities of first-class table potatoes. As most desirable of late introductions may be named the New Queen, Early Essex, Carman No. 1, Carman No. 3, Banner, Somerset, and Enormous.

From the experience of the past few years it seems indispensable to have our crop of potatoes planted very early in the season, so as to have them well advanced in growth to escape the ravages

of the potato beetle, and the blight which usually appears in the latter part of July or during August, and is apt to be followed by more or less rotting of the potatoes. Two important advantages in the early crop are that the price of potatoes is much higher than later in the season, and the land can be used for a second crop of celery or late cabbages with but little cost of cultivation, thus adding quite an amount to the yearly profits.

Another method I have practised very satisfactorily is to plant about the fifteenth of June every third row with squashes ten feet apart in the row. The potatoes being harvested early, the squashes will occupy the land later, and produce about as large a yield as if no other crop had preceded them.

