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USEFUL HINTS.

A whisk or small dusting brush is the best for sweeping stair carpets.

Whiting or ammonia in the water is preferable to soap for cleaning windows or paint.

Moisture is a great enemy of the piano, and it cannot be too carefully guarded against.

To remove mildew, rub common yellow soap on the damaged article, cover with starch and then salt the starch on that. Rub well and put out in the sun.

In watering plants the bulbs and roots should receive a thorough soaking, as a slight watering does little or no good. Plants in bud or blossom require more frequent watering than those only in foliage. Tepid water should always be used in plant watering, and should be applied in as fine a spray as possible. The leaves of plants should be washed at least once a week, as this keeps the plants free from insects.

A few drops of liquid ammonia in a quart of soft water is good for plants.

The best compost for pot plants is one part leaf-mould, one part rich loam, one part river sand, and one part peat, mixing the whole thoroughly together.

Pots for house plants should not be too large, as it is allowed that plants which grow in small pots are the best bloomers. The pot should be well washed before using it, and thoroughly dried in the sun. Two or three pieces of broken crock with a little charcoal should go in the bottom for drainage. Pots should not be filled to the edge with soil, as room should be left for watering. Care should be taken not to pile the earth round the neck of the plant, as it is injurious to most plants.



Mrs. J. H. HORSNYDER, 152 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, Cal., writes:

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