

perature of sixty degrees, and at fifteen above freezing on the coldest night they will probably not be injured by the cold.

HOW TO WATER PLANTS.

There is one thing that should be remembered, and it is this, that the warmer the room is, the more water the plants will require, as they then have to depend absolutely on the moisture in the soil, and consequently absorb the moisture much quicker from the same, and must therefore be watered much oftener. The watering of plants is a very important thing, and very often it is not attended to as it ought to be done, and then in many cases it is attended to too well, a great many people having the idea that plants should be watered every day. In some cases they would stand it but in others they would not. How often should we water our plants? is a question that is asked me more than any other, and I invariably have a smile when I answer "when they need it." There is no such thing as having to water a plant every day, every two days or every three days. You might water a plant to-day and it might need it again to-morrow, or it might not need it for two days. Then you will naturally ask the question, How are we to know when to water our plants? This would depend upon the circumstances under which the plant is being grown. If it is over a tank containing water like the one previously mentioned, you would not have any trouble in finding out when the plant needs watering, as you could tell by tapping the pot, and if it has a clear bell-like sound it is dry and needs watering, but if it has a dull sound it does not require water. Avoid extremes in all cases, and do not let the plant be too dry or too wet, and above all do not let your plants stand in water.

House plants ought to be kept free from dust, as the minute particles enter the pores of the leaves and thus prevent the healthy growth of the plants. They should be sponged over once a week with soapy water, or which is better, water containing a little fir tree oil. This will also improve the appearance of the plants and keep them free from insects of various kinds.