

variety which at all other seasons adorns her bosom, than to behold the contrast of the growth and maturity of flowers in a warm, snug room? Ladies frequently evince much good taste and delicacy of moral feeling in these little attractions of domestic life. The following remarks from a recent number of the *Horticulturist*, are well-deserving of attention:—

We should be glad to do or say something to increase the number of those who grow room-plants. It is true that plants cannot be as well grown in rooms as in a well-constructed greenhouse; but, notwithstanding, there are some kinds that may be grown and flowered in a manner quite satisfactory, and with results highly gratifying. Certain conditions are necessary for the best success, and these it is our object to point out. The greatest obstacle to success is the dryness of the air: this may in a measure be overcome by a table suitably constructed, and the selection of plants best adapted to a dry atmosphere. The table should be the length of the window, and two or three feet wide, the boards being tongued and grooved. Around the edge nail a strip three inches wide, making the corners fit tight. The table is then to be filled with two inches of clean white sand. With a table of this kind, the foliage of plants can be frequently syringed or sprinkled with water, which keeps them clean and promotes their health: the drippings and surplus water are caught and absorbed by the sand, and the floor of the room is thus kept clean; the sand, indeed, ought to be kept constantly wet, and even watered for this purpose, if necessary. The evaporation from the sand will diffuse itself among the plants and through the room, and thus overcome, in a small degree, one of the chief obstacles to the successful culture of plants in rooms. The table should be fitted with rollers, to facilitate the operation of watering and cleaning the plants, and also for the purpose of moving it back from the window during very cold nights. The flower-stands in common use are altogether unfit for a room; the surplus water, dead leaves, &c., fall on the floor, injuring the carpet, and giving the room an untidy appearance. The table above described is free from these objections, besides having positive advantages for the successful growth of plants which no ordinary flower-stand can possess.

All rooms do not possess equal advantages for growing plants. A room with large high windows, looking to the south, is the best; the next best is one with a south-east or south-west exposure; next, east; next, west; and the least desirable of all, one looking to any point north. A large bay window with a southern exposure possesses many advantages for growing plants, quite equal in many cases, and superior in some, to these structures absurdly called "plant cabi-

nets," unless the latter be intended for the preservation of dried specimens, the only purpose for which most of them are fit. A basement window with a southern exposure will sometimes answer tolerably well, but a room in the upper part of the house is always to be preferred.

Plants cannot be well grown any where, or under any circumstances, when crowded together; it is always more satisfactory to grow a few well than to grow many indifferently. During very cold nights the table may be moved to the middle of the room; and if the plants should unfortunately get frozen, darken the room and throw cold water over them repeatedly till the frost is drawn out, and then expose them gradually to the light. In this way we have saved plants when the ball has been frozen as hard as a brick. Room plants should not be brought into the house till the nights get frosty, and while out of doors they should have a sunny exposure. Insects should be looked after, and destroyed on their first appearance; a little attention in this way will keep them free from such pests.

The Fruit Tree Business—Caution to the Public.

EDITORS OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—Permit me through the columns of your widely circulated journal, to give a word of caution to the public, at least to that portion of them who are making arrangements to plant out orchards, or ornamental trees, the ensuing season. It appears that at the present time, owing to the unsettled state of affairs in the Southern States, "Yankee tree peddlars" who usually spend the winters there taking up orders for trees, have made Canada their field of operations, and at the present time probably there is not a flower-stand throughout the length and breadth of the land that has not been visited by these gentlemen. Their whole stock in trade consisting of a beautifully illustrated Catalogue; a Book of Portraits of Fruits and ornamented trees highly colored &c. Now these men are not the agents of any of the respectable Rochester Nurseries, for the establishments they represent are what in Rochester are called "one horse nurseries," to whom many of our citizens have already been victimized; or they are mere speculators, who take up orders throughout the winter, and send them to the nurserymen in the Spring, for which they are allowed from 25 to 30 per cent on catalogue price, and often more. Now the nurseryman not having the same responsibility as if the order was sent direct to himself, generally sends the stuff he can spare most of, without reference as to whether it suits the climate or not. The agents are then employed to deliver the trees for which they receive cash or approved notes, which they get discounted here, and this is the last that will be heard of them. The purchaser finds when it is too late, that he has been sold