

of the leaves and stems, taking care not to break the foliage. This is sure to keep them from insects for a considerable time, which are so hard to overcome in the house.

"How often should I water my plants?" Not until they are dry, which can be ascertained by seeing if the top of the pots look dry; or if you will weigh them in your hand, you will find by practice whether they are wet or not by the weight. Too much water is the greatest cause of poor success with house plants. If a plant becomes unhealthy, drops its leaves or turns yellow in color, you have been giving too much water. But this difficulty may be easily overcome if the drainage is proper. If the plant appears as described withhold the water; do not let it fade, but give no more than will keep it from doing so until you see it fairly started into good health.

You cannot expect plants grown in the dwelling house to look as well as those in green-houses, as they do not have the same light overhead, nor the moist air and good washing with the syringe, and yet I have seen many that nearly come up to the best of green-houses. You can do much towards keeping the foliage clean by standing them in a tub occasionally, and sprinkling them with the watering-can, which not only adds much to the appearance, but also to the health and vigor of the plant. When sweeping the house, dust will gather on the leaves, and you will also find it beneficial to wash them with a sponge several times during the winter. Do not make a practice of watering your plants at stated intervals, but first ascertain whether they require it. Let the plants have plenty of room, and turn them around occasionally, so as not to have one side always to the light, and they will have an equal, bushy appearance, and not be all one-sided. Many attempt to ventilate their plants by opening a window and allowing the cold air to rush in upon them. Avoid this, unless the outside air is warm and without cold winds, as they are rendered very tender by their indoor treatment, and are very easily injured by any sudden change. If you use saucers under the flower pots, never allow water to stand in them.

The green-fly is perhaps the most troublesome insect enemy of the house plant cultivator, but they can be overcome in various ways. Take a piece of paper large enough to cover the top of the pot, cut it across to the middle, and then draw it over the pot, bringing the stem of the plant in the centre of the paper. Then commence at the