

activity, and even to turbulence and noise, on the part of her child, only shows that he is all right in his vital machinery, and that this exuberance of energy is something to be pleased with and directed, not denounced and restrained.—*From "Gentle Measures in the Management of the Young."*

WINDOW GARDENING.

BY S. O.

Flowers are easily cultivated, even in the dreary season of winter, by a true lover of them. By a movable shelf, fitted into the window, with a leg resting upon the mop board, you can make a nice flower-frame. Put a moulding all around the edge, and line the shelf with zinc, and you can then water your plants, with a small watering-pot, without harm to the carpet, or furniture; or by dipping a small whisk-broom into a pail of water, and shaking it over them, you can give all the effect of a summer shower.

Plants should not be forced in January, but allowed to rest till February's lengthened sun arrives; then you may stimulate as you please. Till then, lime water is all the invigorator required. Buy half a pound, slack in cold water, allow it to settle, then pour off clear and bottle. Once a week drop one tablespoonful round the soil; a teaspoon will do for a small pot. This kills all the vermin which may have been in the earth, and gives the leaves a vivid green, stimulating a little. Always water your plants with water warm to the hand. Cold water chills away their life.

The red spider is a deadly enemy to roses, carnations, fuschias, lobelias, and many other plants. To destroy these pests, take one dozen brimstone matches, break off the ends, and pour on them a cup of boiling water. When cool, wash with a cloth, or sponge, all the infested leaves and branches, taking great care not to drop much of it upon the soil in the pot. This application, if renewed once a fortnight, is said to entirely destroy this insect. If the plants are very badly injured by them, wash once a week for three weeks, and you will be fully repaid for your trouble by the renewed beauty of your nurslings.

As often as once a week loosen the earth around the roots of your plants, as it becomes baked by repeated watering. Take a heavy, large hair-pin, and scratch around the plant vigorously. Keep one stuck in one corner of the pot, to be always at hand.

A copious watering from the suds used in the weekly wash will invigorate your plants wonderfully, and is very little trouble. Have the suds a little warm to the hand, and give your plants a generous

supply. It is well to refrain from watering them the previous day, as the plants will receive more benefit from the suds. Try this simple stimulant, and you will never allow the suds to be thrown away until you have had your full share.

We have scarlet, white, cherry and pink horseshoe geraniums, coming rapidly into bloom under this treatment, and by February they will be a mass of brilliant color. The heliotrope, by their side, also shows a wealth of buds, and the Czar violet, sweetest of all known sweets, already lifts its blue-eyed chalice, to the delight of the beholder.

This violet should be in every collection of house plants, no matter how small. It is a constant bloomer, and two blossoms will perfume a room. It is very hardy—will bloom under the snow. The florist asks but fifty cents a plant, and it is easily propagated by runners. The saxifraga tri-color is in our estimation the most elegant novelty of variegated plants. Its foliage is beautifully marbled with green, white and crimson. In a hanging basket it is a strikingly beautiful ornament.

Both the variegated and the green varieties of the tradescantia are easily cultivated, and will repay the little care they require. Their blossoms are very minute, but highly colored and very pretty.

Lobelias are lovely at this season. Their beautiful blue flowers are so thickly scattered over the plant as almost to conceal the foliage.

Innumerable are the varieties and species of plants for winter culture; but space is denied us, now, to enumerate them. But let us beg our readers to cultivate *some*. You can render your common sitting-room a bower of beauty by arranging a shelf in a sunny window, and hanging a basket of trailing vines from a hook in the upper portion of the window.

The effect on children is very beneficial. The smallest child notices the beauty of a room adorned with the rich drapery of vines, and perfumed with the sweet odor of violets, hyacinths and heliotropes, and with shouts of joy show you that, in the tenderest years, the childish mind is susceptible to the refining influence of plants and flowers. If we make our home the most beautiful place on earth to our children, we will never lose our influence over them.—*Mother at Home.*

THE INFLUENCE OF DRESS.

BY JENNIE JUNE.

To fashion-mongers and their devotees, the human body is simply a lay-figure upon which to exhibit articles of dress; it has neither faculty nor feeling of its own, any