

foliage is stiff enough to bear handling, as in the case of Ivies, Oleanders and Lilies. These things sometimes give one a kind of despair; I have seen a beautiful Ivy, ten years old and thirty feet long, thrown away because it was hopelessly possessed by scale and would spoil all the plants in the same house with it if retained. Washing plants with a solution of carbonate of ammonia (about two teaspoonfuls to a pail of water) is good. Carbolic soap is useful but strong, and must be used weak. I *never* water a plant with soap-suds from washing, as I killed a good many weaklings in that way when I was young and ignorant. I water Verbenas, when growing, with carbonate of ammonia (one teaspoonful to a pail of water) about once in two weeks; it is good to use it often and weak, thus keeping up a constant feeding. When Verbenas are declining, they may sometimes recover if left close to the glass in a south window and kept rather dry; generally, however, nursing a sick Verbena is throwing away time, as the chivalric Southerner said of his children, "If they dies, they dies, and I always calculate to have some to spare."

Verbenas are as likely to do well in the window as in a greenhouse; but those ladies who place their Verbenas, Heliotropes and other soft-wooded plants behind a curtain in the "dim religious light" of a conventionally darkened room, can have little idea of the natural conditions of plant life, or, indeed, of human life. The disposition must be hopeful which would expect health and bloom without light. People who cannot endure the sunlight, and raise their curtains at least two-thirds the height of the windows, should give up window gardening. I have seen quite a number of plants behind a green shutter, white blind and a muslin curtain; they were not pretty plants, and their owner complained sadly that they did not blossom. The Oleander, Calla, Fuchsia, common Geraniums and bulbous plants will exist in semi-darkness, probably because they are scantily watered and have stored up some vitality out of doors in summer; but mere existence is hardly an object to those who take the trouble to start and pot plants for the house. Verbenas grow best of all hanging up either in some of the numerous hanging devices, or suspended by