

House Plants.

BY R. ALSTON.

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In response to our chairman and the Manitoba Horticultural Society to speak on such an important subject as how to grow house plants, how to water them, how to prevent insects, and how to transplant, I may say that it gives me great pleasure to do so this evening, and I will do so to the best of my ability, but I have had very short notice, and have very little time to devote to such work at this time of the year. This subject, to my mind, is a very important one, and I think it needs handling by a more fluent and able speaker than myself, and I feel my inability to speak on the subject even to my own satisfaction, that is as I think it ought to be explained. It is the many enquiries, and I might say complaints, about all kinds of plants, that have been made to me from time to time, that have suggested many of the points of which I am to speak to-night.

To grow plants in the house is not a very difficult thing to do, if the right methods are taken; success depends a great deal upon the care and attention given to them, that is the right attention which I will speak of later.

Some rooms are far more adapted for growing of plants than others, one with a southern aspect into which the sun shines the greater part of the day is the best, but it is quite possible to have plants do well in a room into which the sun never shines, that is, providing the right varieties are chosen, such as ferns, palms, begonias and many other foliage plants. Of course flowering plants will not do well without sunlight, that is they will not flower, but at the same time might grow just as freely as the foliage plants. The most essential thing next to the sunlight is the moisture without which no plant