

sandy loam, made rich by the addition of well-rotted manure, which should be thoroughly mixed with the soil. Such a soil, thus prepared, will not become hard or baked, but will become loose and porous. It will not only afford the small and tender plants a chance for existence, but it will also enable them to perfect themselves with vigor and beauty. If your garden is composed of a stiff, heavy soil, a good dressing of sand and manure will assist it wonderfully in the way of plant development; and some of the most delicate plants that would not succeed at all in such soil, in its unimproved condition, will, after such preparation, flourish in the most satisfactory manner. A heavy soil is greatly benefited by being roughly spaded up in the fall, and remaining in that condition through the winter. In all cases, before sowing the seed, it is of the utmost importance that the soil should be thoroughly pulverized. This important particular should never be overlooked.

VIRTUES OF AMMONIA.—Ammonia, or as it is more generally called spirits of hartshorn, is a powerful alkali, and dissolves grease and dirt with great ease. It has lately been recommended very highly for many domestic purposes. For washing paint, put a table-spoonful in a quart of moderately hot water, dip in a flannel cloth, and with this simply wipe off the wood work; no scrubbing will be necessary. For taking grease spots from any fabric, use the ammonia nearly pure, then lay white blotting-paper over the spot, and iron it lightly. In washing laces, put about twelve drops in a pint of warm suds. To clean silver, mix two teaspoonfuls of ammonia in a quart of hot soap suds. Put in your silverware and wash it, using an old nail brush or tooth brush for the purpose. For cleaning hair brushes, etc., simply shake the brushes up and down in a mixture of one teaspoonful of ammonia to one pint of hot water; when they are cleansed, rinse them in cold water, and stand them in the wind or in a hot place, to dry. For washing finger marks from looking-glasses and windows, put a few drops of ammonia on a moist rag, and make quick work of it. If you wish your house plants to flourish, put a few drops of the spirits in every pint of water used in watering. A teaspoonful will add much to the refreshing effects of a bath. Nothing is better than ammonia water for cleansing the hair. In every case rinse off the ammonia with clear water. To which we would only add, that, for removing grease spots, a mixture of equal parts of ammonia and alcohol is better than alcohol alone; and for taking out the red stains produced by strong acids in blue and black cloths, there is nothing better than ammonia.