

warmest, the exception being *Arancarias* or Norfolk Island Pine, which will do best cool. But if possible avoid placing any plant near the registers, as the dry heat from these is most injurious to plants. When you visit greenhouses you think and say how very warm they are, yet when there is no sun they are not, as a rule, kept as warm as your rooms. The average temperature of our greenhouse at night is 55° F., your room is 65° F.; then in the house your temperature is kept as warm at night as in the daytime. In greenhouses we make a difference of 10 to 15 degrees. As the plant at night is without light and, to use the word, sleeping, an excessive heat only forces growth which without the light means a spindly, weakly, drawn-up appearance. This is mentioned that you may see that with good management one can to a certain extent counteract these difficulties.

One caution is given—plants, like ourselves, are greatly benefitted by fresh air. In opening windows to admit air don't forget that a plant to get frozen or chilled need not stand close to the opening, but may get touched at quite a distance from the door or window if in direct line of the incoming current of air. Plants do not like cold draughts, so be careful in placing plants near door-ways or in halls or stairways when the opening of outside doors lets in frosty air.

CAREFUL WATERING IMPORTANT.

The watering of plants is a most important item in plant growing. It seems difficult to get into some people's minds the fact that plants cannot be watered by rule. Half the people if asked the question: When do you water your plants? will tell you, "a little every morning." That means whether dry or not. That is very poor plant growing. It means that the top of the soil is wet and sour and the bottom dry. Plants must be watered when they are dry. That will depend a good deal on the health of the plant and the temperature of the room. A plant in good health will take up much more water than a sickly plant; in fact, when a plant is not healthy it is no good giving it a lot of water as most likely the roots are in a bad way, and as they will not use up the water the soil will become soggy and make your plant worse.

The temperature of the room will have a great deal to do with the amount of watering necessary. A plant in 70 degrees will dry out quicker than a plant in 55, and of course must have water. Before watering, look at your plant and feel the soil. If it feels dry and does not stick to your finger you will know it needs water, and water thoroughly, making sure it goes through the whole pot. Never let a plant wilt for want of water. They are never the same again if it is allowed to occur often. Never let your plants stand in water in the jardiniere; that soon kills. An exception is the herbaceous *Spiraea*. It does not hurt this