

Our three lilacs, the common, *Syringa vulgaris*; Persian, *S. Persica*, and the Josikea, *S. Josikaea*, are hardy and satisfactory. The latter is to be recommended because it blossoms three or four weeks later than the other sorts.

Tamarix gallica, Tamarisk, was injured last winter. Hitherto it had stood well.

The chaste little *Deutzia gracilis*, with some protection of leaves, is very desirable.

From *Spiraea triloba* we get our most profuse white flowers.

Attempts at *Rhododendron* culture have so far proved unsatisfactory.

Double-flowering Almond was injured last winter.

The Mock Orange, *Philadelphus coronarius*, is always hardy.

The Rose Acacia, *Robinia hispida*, is hardy and very attractive.

The Missouri or Buffalo Currant, *Ribes aureum*, is hardy and popular. It is often sold by nurserymen under the name of *Ribes fragrans*.

The *Japanese Quince* is not hardy.

[We take the above from a bulletin of the Agricultural College of Michigan, dated October, 1885]

PLANTS FOR LIVING ROOMS.

Many people, both in city and country, keep plants in their rooms, and not a few grow them there from one year's end to the other. Of course, plants do not thrive as well in dwelling-rooms as in green-houses, and a common impression exists that gas is particularly obnoxious to them—that is, gas light. The heat-drying effect of the gas flame no doubt affects plants, but not to the extent that it is supposed to; anyhow not much more than a lamp or stove would. This evil effect may be remedied, to a very great extent, by setting the plants on saucers inverted into others of larger size, and keeping these

large saucers constantly full of water. This will gradually evaporate and keep the air around the plants in a moist condition, sufficient to counteract the evil effects of gas or stove heat. The inverted saucers should be large enough so that the base of the pot in which the plants are growing does not actually stand in the water, although occasionally this is beneficial to the plant, especially when much drainage has been used. Maiden Hair Ferns, Acacias, and Primulas do first rate under these circumstances. Also the beautiful-leaved Marantas, if kept warm enough during winter. What really destroys room plants is mismanagement and want of light and air. Few plants will thrive long unless they have both. But where there is plenty of both, almost anything may be made to grow and blossom beautifully. Geraniums, Fuchsias, Begonias, Gloxinias, and Abutilons will all give an abundance of flowers, and what is more, these will not be infested by insects, as Roses and Chrysanthemums would be. If flowers are not an object, we would suggest *Aspidistra lurida variegata*, Marantas, Ferns, the beautiful *Sanseveria metallica*, *Ficus elastica*, *Areca lutescens*, or almost any palm. Even small Agaves look nice, and if kept in rather small pots they will not outgrow your window-sill very soon. Mentioning Agaves reminds us of Cacti. These are the plants just suitable for room-culture; neither gas light nor fire heat will hurt them. In fact, they will not require any heat at all during winter, providing frost is excluded. If flowers are expected from them in spring, they should have plenty of sun during winter, but they will not want any water except once in two weeks. Of course you do not expect these to grow during winter, as this is their season of rest, excepting, however, the Crab Cactus or *Epiphyllums*, which, with good man-