

the case in many farm houses. Nothing is more fatiguing to a woman than to have to be continually going up and down stairs when doing the ordinary housework. The pantry should be so arranged as to open into the kitchen and dining room, thereby saving many steps, and it should be large enough to contain all the meal, flour, groceries, &c., used in the family; then the housekeeper has everything right where she wants to use it, instead of having to go up stairs, or to some outbuilding for flour and meal, as is too often the case.


By no means neglect to build a cistern when building your house, for if it is not done then the chances are that it will never be done; and the housekeeper in a farm house without rainwater is to be pitied for the reason that farmers, from the nature of their occupation, soil their clothes more than

people in other business, and rainwater is worth double, to wash such clothes in, than that of hard spring or well water. If possible make the kitchen the pleasantest room in the house, for it is here that farmers' wives spend the most of their time; the time spent in the parlor not being more than a dozen afternoons in a year, as a general thing.

Sleeping apartments should be large and well ventilated, and the chamber should be done off into three or four good sized rooms, instead of six or eight, seven by nine bedrooms, as is frequently done. Use good materials, employ good workmen, and insist on their doing good work, and if no accident befalls it, you will always have a good house, and one not needing repairs every year, only requiring an occasional coat of paint to preserve it from decay, and retain the appearance of a new house.

## HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

### HOW TO WATER PLANTS IN POTS.

UMEROUS are the enquiries as to the time and frequency of supplying greenhouse and other indoor plants with water—their most important want. The curious part of the matter is that people—almost in the same words—seem to take it for granted that it should be done at stated hours and intervals, as if, in this variable climate, it was an easy matter to cultivate tender plants in a highly artificial state as to appoint the hours for relieving a sentry guard. It is an important subject for every cultivator of tender plants, and should be understood by all such. Those who water their plants at regular intervals and give each about the same quantity of water—as is often done, even by professional gardeners who do know their business—are pretty sure to kill some of the most valuable and delicate, as in a conservatory or other house full of plants there is scarcely one but will differ from its neighbour in the amount of water it requires at this season, even if the plants are all of the same species. In a mixed collection the difference in the amount of moisture to be supplied is very considerable. Succulent plants—Aloes, Yuccas, Cacti, Mesembryanthus, and such fat-leaved subjects—require little or no water from the beginning of November to the end of February; at least, such is the rule among good cultivators, though we believe it is not wise to apply it rigidly

to some of these plants, which are apt to shrivel and get hurt if allowed to become dusty and dry.

Geraniums, again, though they must not get quite dry, require to be kept comparatively so in winter till their flower buds are formed. We now allude to show or greenhouse geraniums. Fuschias are usually kept quite dry during the winter. Plants in a vigorous growing state, or coming into flower, as some are at all seasons, will of course require to be well supplied with water; they require to be as moist at the root as we keep growing plants in summer, only that one-third the amount of water and watering which would be required in summer will suffice to keep them so at this season. It is impossible to lay down a rule which would be of the slightest use as to the time of watering, &c.; it must be left to the cultivator's judgment. So frequent were the bad results of promiscuous and regular watering in the generality of gardens fifteen or eighteen years ago that an outcry was raised about over-watering, &c., which certainly made no inconsiderable improvement, but was also productive of much evil by making people err in the other direction—by not giving enough of water; and we certainly have seen more plants killed and injured of late years from want of water than from an excess of it. In one particular instance a splendid and very valuable collection of specimen Camellias was ruined, from being kept too dry in a