

in soap suds as warm as the hands can bear.—this will destroy the young that are too minute to be seen with the naked eye. Every such washing should be followed, after an hour, with a douche of clean water

As regards airing the plants, it is perhaps sufficient to say that what in this respect is healthful for human lungs will suit the plants. But do not forget that the plants cannot take a walk on a pleasant day, hence fresh air should frequently be admitted to them from the window.

In nature all trees and plants have their season of growth and of rest, a principle that must be observed in house

plant culture. When therefore any plant, after a period of growth and bloom, shows signs of lessening growth, water also should be somewhat withheld. In a state of rest from growth most kinds can get along with lessened light also, and this we may take advantage of, by putting such kinds as fuchsias, oleanders, hydrangeas and scarlet geraniums in a light cellar, while growth is suspended. Almost without exception it is best as the end of the resting season approaches, say late in winter, to shake the old soil from the roots and re-pot the plants into fresh earth.—Vick's Magazine.

NEW CANNAS.

DEAR SIR,—In looking over my notes on the newer Cannas, I am reminded of my promise to you of a report on them. I confess that I am at a loss what to say and do justice to them, and at the same time express fairly my opinion. There are too many varieties before the public, and too few good ones. We in America are too free to condemn the want of distinctiveness among the new continental varieties, but on the other hand are constantly introducing replicas of those long superseded, or with variations so slight as to require critical comparison, in order to distinguish the actual difference

The greatest lack of value and quality is in the dark foliage section, which I regard as most valuable for contrast in bedding, against a background of lawn or shrubbery. Lack of substance and vitality in the tuber, are strong points against most of the varieties in general use.

The past season was a most trying one, for which due allowance must be made.

While the enormous flowers of the new Italian hybrids are too frail to stand much of our bright sun and high winds, they should certainly be in every collection, for the sake of the few hours they afford striking contrast to the massive foliage peculiar to this section.

Without repeating catalogue detail, I give first choice to Alemannia, America, Baronne de Poilly, Hortense, Barbereau, Mlle Berat.

For second,—Africa, Aphrodite, Asia, Burbank, Beaute Poitevina, Directeur Roelz, Francois Billard, Franz Buchner, Leonard Lille, L. P. Lehalleur, Madagascar, Paul Lorenz, Roi des Rouges, Souv de Jeanne Chaure, Souv de Mme Crozy.

Instead of noting the third, in which we can feel little interest, the following older varieties are most desirable :—A. Bouvier, Austria, Comte de Bouchaud, Chicago, Columbia, Etendard, Eldorado, Furst Bismarck, F. Vaughan, F. L. Harris, Italia, Mme Crozy, Mme A. Bouvier, Mme Montefiore, Papa Canna, P. J.