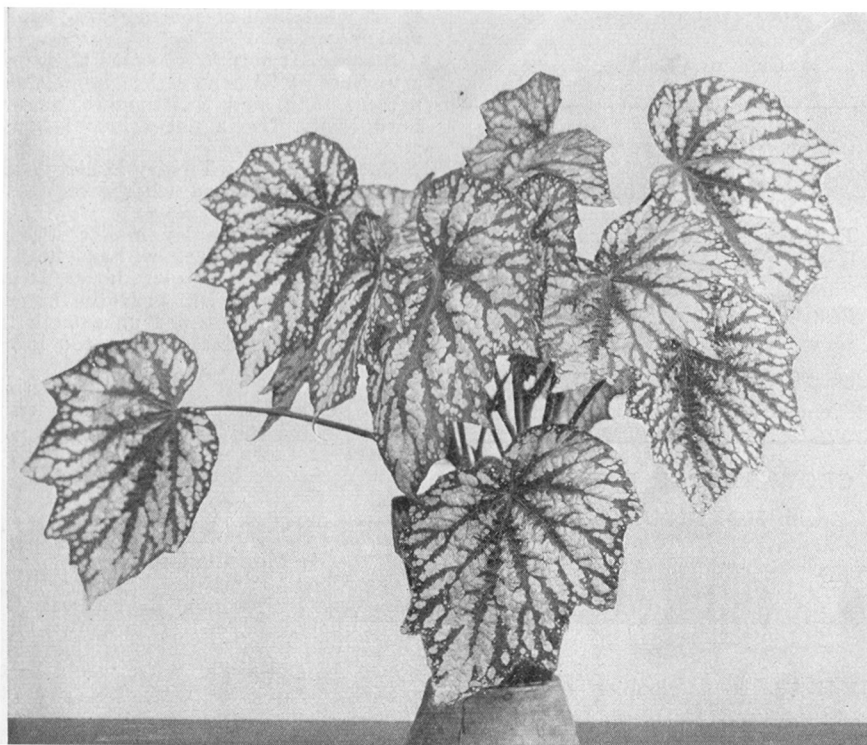


THE BEGONIAN

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN

Monthly Bulletin of the American Begonia Society



REX BEGONIA — ADRIEN SCHMIDT OR PEARL HUME



JUNE



1939

The Largest Selection of

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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SPECIAL CULTURAL BULLETINS

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ERIC WEDEMEYER

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YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

By Alice Fackelman

Question: Does it harm Rexes to leave the blossoms on them?

Answer: No, it does not. Some people think that the plant looks untidy with them left on, so they remove them.

Question: I have a bird's nest fern in a 4-inch pot. It seems to be root bound, but doing well. Should I repot it now? If so, what kind of soil mixture should I use?

Answer: It may be repotted now, using a mixture of 90 percent leaf mold and 10 percent sand, and NO manure, as ferns burn easily. Use a pot 1 inch larger in size.

Question: Will a Tingley Mallet do well in a lath house, and what care does it require?

Answer: The Tingley Mallet does not do well in the winter without heat, so should be in a heated glass house. It may be moved into the lath house in the summer after it has warmed up enough that the temperature does not go too low at night.

Question: What was the insecticide Mrs. Fewkes recommended for earthworms in the soil?

Answer: Lawn — again, it is in liquid form, use according to directions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Mrs. Clarissa Harris

Question: Tuberous begonias, when grown under muslin, bloom less than those under lath, and when grown under burlap will have less blooms than when grown under muslin. What would be the effect if wire-glass were laid over the lath?

Answered by Leslie Woodruff: Wire-glass has a certain amount of metal in it and would create heat which would not be very good for tuberous begonias as they must be kept cool during the hot summer days for best results.

Question: What must I do for my fuchsias to have a quantity of blooms in June?

Answered by Mrs. Rodenburg: We have not fertilized our fuchsias at all but it is advisable to give them a feeding now. Any well-balanced fertilizer will do. Water your plants well and apply around plant at the rate of one tablespoon to the plant, then water again.

Question: Should the hanging basket tuberous begonias be pinched back, and if so explain method.

Answer: It is advisable to do this to stimulate side-branching. After the plants

(Continued on Page 8)

RARE BEGONIAS

By Rudolph Ziesenhenné

The word "rare," when used in describing begonias, usually indicates a plant which is difficult to obtain and, if lost, difficult to replace. A rare begonia may be a very recent introduction into the United States, such as *coriacea*, *andien*, *dichroa*, *Reichenheimi*, *unifolia*, or the new African species; it may be difficult to grow, as are *Silvadore*, *Richard Robinson*, and *Dawn*; it may be tender and demand artificial heat during the winter in California, as do *B. engleri*, *B. cathayana*, *B. imperialis*, *B. luxurians*, *B. venosa* and *B. ulmifolia*. I shall discuss a few of the begonias which are considered rare in this country. Among the begonias under recent first cultivation in America, I shall take up *B. unifolia*, *Rose*; *B. coriaceae*; *Reichenheimi*, *hort.*; *B. venosa*; *Engleri*. Two begonias, rare because of their difficulty of cultivation, but of great worth to begonia fanciers, *Richard Robinson* and *Silvadore*, will also be discussed.

B. unifolia, Rose. Last year Mrs. Ziesenhenné's aunt, Mrs. L. B. Kirk of Santa Barbara, while traveling through Buzard's Gulch in the State of Guerrero, Mexico, had the foresight to gather seed of this rare begonia and I now have the "leaves" growing. The entire plant consists of one leaf which is connected to its tuber by a very short petiole. The leaf, when grown in a nursery flat, lies close to or on the soil. In its native habitat, the plant grows in moist canyons on limestone rock or talus, into the crevices of which to send its roots. It is a tuberous begonia, and while it is found on very moist limestone, there is leaf-mold in the rock crevices, according to Mrs. Kirk. It may be possible to raise this plant in a wall basket in the same manner as the stag-horn ferns. The single leaf attaining the size of twelve inches in diameter and at blooming time sends up a single stalk from the sinus of the leaf (where petiole attaches to the leaf) to a height of two feet and bears white flowers up to one inch in diameter.

My specimen of *CORIACEAE FLO-RO ALBO* was obtained from seed so labeled from Europe. As only one plant was raised from the seed, it is difficult to say whether the specimen and the plants which I have raised from it by cutting are true to the labeled name. In botanical literature there are only two applications of the name "*coriaceae*" (leathery) to the genus begonia: *B. coriaceae* A. DC. is a tuberous-rooted begonia from Bolivia which produces rose flowers; *B. coriaceae*

Hassk. is synonymous with *B. peltata*. Therefore, there is reason for doubt as to the true name of the plant. However, until it can be positively proved to be something else, it must keep its present name. This plant, whose habit of growth is loose and spreading, sends up strong succulent stems to the height of about three feet. The stem is close-jointed and produces large papery stipules about three-fourths of an inch in length and one-quarter inch wide, which remain on the stem. The lower portion of the stem becomes woody. The very thick, leathery leaves are slanting heart-shaped in outline, ear or cup-shaped in form, and are rich green in color. The mature leaf measures two inches across the top of the "cup." This plant, producing panicles of white flowers in the fall, is hardy in Santa Barbara.

Reichenheimi, hort. (*Rubella* x *B. heracleifolia*) was produced in Europe in 1903. This plant is interesting, for one of its parents, *Rubella*, is believed to have been a product of a cross between *B. heracleifolia* x *B. daedalea*. The plant has the same habit as *rubella*, *heracleifolia* and its variety *nigricans*, which are rhizomatous. The leaves, which are more deeply cut than *rubella*, and less deeply cut than *heracleifolia*, are distinctly six-lobed. The leaves which are held well above the plant, giving it a nice, compact appearance, are light green around the sinus and along the veins. The rest of the leaf is dark green. The whole leaf surface, except in the center, is covered with dark, irregular markings, as in *rubella*, which are sometimes united to form interesting patterns.

B. Venosa, another plant new to cultivation in America, was found on an island off the coast of Brazil in 1898 by Professor Lofgren, then director of the botanical department of the state in Sao Paulo. It is an attractive plant, growing from two to three and one-half feet tall and is entirely covered with white fuzz. The stem is succulent and is almost hidden by the large, papery stipules. Leaves are kidney-shaped and fleshy. Great care must be exercised in watering this plant in winter, when it requires artificial heat. Some sunshine is necessary to bring out the fuzz on the plant.

B. engleri was discovered in tropical East Africa by Ad. Engler in 1904. It sends its succulent main stem three to four and one-half feet tall. The stem is greenish-brown with purplish-red spots from which project reddish hairs. The leaf stem is up to four inches long, light green and with purplish spots, being hairy. Leaves

(Continued on Page 6)

EASTERN BRANCH "Become More Begonia Conscious"

Earle A. Sampson, Eastern Editor

Fourteen members attended the Community Group Meeting which was held on April eighth at the home of Mr. and Mrs. MacLetchi of Lynnfield Center, Mass.

The meeting was devoted exclusively to business and a number of excellent suggestions relative to a more compact organization governed by officers consisting of a president and secretary were submitted.

It was then voted to hold elections with the result that Mr. E. A. Sampson is now president, and Mr. Charles I. Gould, Jr., who is the treasurer of the entire Eastern Division, is now secretary of the Community Group.

It was further decided that the president was to appoint a committee of three members, who would draw up a plan stating the name and object of the organization, and also arrange a program and budget—all of which will be submitted for the approval and voting of the members at the next regular meeting.

It was suggested that an exhibit at the Topsfield Fair to be held in September.

Before the meeting adjourned, a number of cuttings which were donated by Mrs. Buxton and Mr. White were sold to various members and proceeds placed in the treasury.

Begonias at the Philadelphia Show

Earle A. Sampson

It would appear that the hobby of growing begonias has not, as yet, flowered in the hearts of many Philadelphians, and the begonias presented at the Philadelphia Flower Show were, numerically speaking, a decided departure from the splendid displays and sweeping successes achieved by the Eastern Division as represented at the Boston and New York Shows.

It was at the request of your correspondent that Mrs. George C. Bach of East Landowne, Pa., graciously consented to cover the show. From her we learn that the exhibition of begonias was not particularly large, nor was it grouped under any special display, and consisted of specimens of Rex, Feastii, Bunchii, Lucernes and Lorraines.

The Rex varieties, which consisted of two each of three kinds unnamed, show the results of excellent culture, being grown in ten or twelve inch pots, and hav-

ing extra large, thick leaves so numerous on the plant that it was impossible to penetrate through them.

In the Feastii group were six huge plants completely covered with blossoms. The specimens of Bunchii, Lucernes and Lorraines also showed the results of excellent care and attention. In fact, all the plants submitted looked very fine and in an extremely healthy condition.

Your correspondent would like to suggest the appointment of Mrs. Theodore Greenbaum of Philadelphia as chairman of a group of begonia enthusiasts in that section who will work towards inaugurating the procedure of presenting one large display at the annual Philadelphia Flower Show.

THE VOICE OF A NEOPHYTE

Lloyd E. Marble, Lexington, Mass.

If growing Begonias is a Royal Hobby, then I deduce that a king lives a hard life. But then, I suppose if I had a chance to become a king, I wouldn't turn it down.

Nearly four years ago, I was smitten by the desire to raise begonias. A mere semperflorens found its way into my house and although I maintained a complete air of indifference toward it, I was eventually infected with the disease that has cost me much valuable time, measureless worry and more dollars than I care to think about. And, oh yes, I have had a lot of fun out of it.

Now my point in this paper is to set forth a little of what it means to be a begonia fan in New England, and to insist upon the idea that begonia growing in New England is the sort of hobby that challenges the best there is in a person.

I will let others dwell upon authoritative advice as to soil, feeding, spraying and potting while I endeavor to give you the human side of this hobby which is known as the Royal Hobby.

Obtaining plants is one great problem. You, who may choose between the growers whom you will patronize, know nothing of our search for a florist who may have even one specimen. I have dug under benches and in back of other plants to find one plant. At one place, after much searching, I found three or four plants and was greeted by the man in charge with the half question, "Oh, you found a few novelties?" Florists seldom, if ever, know anything about them. One man pointed out a Jinnie May to me recently with the announcement that there was a Maple Leaf Begonia!

Then we have to contend with New England climate on which, of course,

there can be no question that it is the best climate in the world. In twenty-four hours, we can give a visitor more varieties of climate than any other section of the globe could possibly offer. If a visitor to New England doesn't particularly care for the climate of the moment, all he has to do is wait a little while and we will give him exactly what he desires. Be that as it may, I am of the opinion that begonias like a little more stability and less variety.

Recently I have been going through a rather distressing period of sickness among my plants. As a result, some of my more treasured possessions have gone to Heaven or wherever begonias go for their eternal rest. It would be rather surprising to know the number and variety of diagnoses that I have received. For example, a reliable botanist told me that some sort of bug was doing the damage, and recommended a certain entomologist who proceeded to inform me that it was not a bug but a disease. The peculiar fact, however, was that neither one could name the exact kind of bug or disease—nor did they know the cure. Confidentially, I had to puzzle it out for myself.

In New England, when conversation lags, we always talk about the weather, and naturally I decided to blame my difficulties and begonia losses on the weather as the trouble couldn't possibly be with me. However, I have made noticeable progress in overcoming my difficulties, but then, it is probably due to the weather which is so much better.

Up until a short time ago, we New England growers experienced a great deal of difficulty in securing expert advice. Now, due to the untiring activity of Mrs. Buxton, we have our neighborhood monthly meetings which are proving to be of material benefit to all of us.

Perhaps only a few of you who read this really know what it means to watch over a single leaf lest it depart, and then when another leaf is finally added to glow with pride at your accomplishment. That is what the Royal Hobby means to a neophyte in New England. Progress is slow, but if it is achieved, it is greatly rewarding.

I do not, as yet, feel that I have passed the neophyte stage, but I continue to labor more hopefully than formerly. Perhaps the fact that it is a real challenge has had much to do with the progress that I could have made. Certainly it has added zest far more than a hobby of ease could have done. When I have had least suc-

cess, I have been most determined to succeed. Perhaps some indication of my success may be gauged by the accompanying picture of my Medora. True, this is amateur photography by an amateur Royal Hobbyist, but it will perhaps serve to tell my story in part. The canes are something over four feet high.

INGLEWOOD INCIDENTS

By Pauline Ney

Mr. H. J. Rapella will speak on the easy adaptability of orchids to home culture at the next regular meeting, June 2, with highlights from his recent trip to tropical lands in search of rare species. Visitors are always welcome.

At the May 5 meeting with 135 members and friends present, Tom Irvine presented President Frank Harrison with a beautiful gavel to be used to open future meetings at 8 p.m.

Copies of the new begonia song were given to all present and with Loy Ryan at the "concert grand" it was a pleasure to hear so many sopranos, tenors, altos and basso-profundos.

The beautiful *Dendrobium Superbum* (orchid to you) in full bloom, donated by Mr. Rapella was won by Eddie Tomes and placed on the secretary's desk. Unfortunately for her, he remembered to take it home.

In addition to the above there was a speaker and a very lovely one, too. Mrs. Bernice Sim of Manhattan Beach spoke on ferns, fuchsias, and begonias and their arrangement in the lath-house.

Inglewood Branch of the A.B.E. is happy to accept the invitation of the Centinela Garden Club to participate in the Flower Show to be held June 23, 24 in the Inglewood High School gymnasium. Mr. McDowell is chairman of the Flower Show committee.

Los Angeles with her far-flung harbor has been the subject of much comment, her city limits undetermined, but Inglewood Branch has gone them one better by extending its limits to Red Roofs, Nightingale Road, Petswood, W. Kent, England. (Whew!) Welcome, Mr. Sidney Stubbs, to the royal hobby of begonia growing.

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1050 East Nineteenth Street

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Bulletins, Information

1732 Temple Avenue

In this issue we are reporting a few news items from our Inglewood Branch that members from communities where no branch organization has been formed may know a little of how our branch organizations function. Later we hope to give similar news from other branches. There is a lot of fun in getting even a small group together to talk over problems of the "Sheltered Garden," and begonias in particular. If you have never contacted other begonia enthusiasts in your community you will be surprised to find how many there are, and what interesting people they are.

You will note by the list of new members in this issue that the number of members having no possibility of contact with local begonia meetings is growing faster than those that can attend these branch meetings. The editor would like to know just what you would like the Begonian to contain. Write him and express your preferences among the following topics. Cultural notes about begonias, descriptions of common begonias, descriptions of new or rare begonias, notes concerning other shade-loving plants, notes about meetings or shows, descriptions of typical shaded gardens, notes on scientific research and hybridizing. Let us know whether our advertisements are of any value to you. We try to include only advertisements that may be of value to begonia fans.

MEETINGS FOR JUNE

June 2, Friday, Inglewood, Odd Fellows Hall, 161½ La Brea Ave. H. J. Rapella will speak on the home culture of Orchids.

June 8, Thursday, Long Beach, Community Hall, Ninth and Lime. Mrs. Cardoza Sloan, of Corona del Mar, will talk on Ferns.

June 13, Tuesday, Ventura, Trotter's Hall, 1338 Santa Clara St., 7:30. The Dean of Begonia growers, Alfred D. Robinson, of San Diego, will be the guest speaker. All begonia fans or members in California are invited to attend this noteworthy meeting.

June 21, Wednesday, San Francisco, 1060 San Francisco St.

Board of Directors

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for May was held at Modjeska canyon in the charming mountain home of Dr. & Mrs. Caseley.

An hour was spent in viewing the grounds and conservatories before the meeting was called to order.

Mrs. Green reported favorable progress on organization of new branches at Middleton, Mass., San Fernando, and Glendale, California.

Mr. Kelly reported that the Los Angeles Public Library is considering a proposition to type copies of the German Begonia book which has been recently translated.

Mr. Dunkle read a proposed constitution for the Long Beach local society. It was discussed section by section, revised somewhat and ordered to be submitted to the membership at their next regular meeting.

The president appointed Mr. Dunkle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Nutter on a committee to investigate the advisability of holding a begonia show this summer.

Continued from Page 2)

are about two and one-half inches wide and five and one-half inches long, egg-shaped, margin toothed, upper side dark green and hairy. The flowers are pink, blooming in the summer and fall in Santa Barbara. The plants, obtained from seed from Europe, answer the description of the original *B. engleri* in botanical literature. One usually finds the plant bearing this name entirely lacking in hair. They are undoubtedly from a seedling variation. The true plant is a worthy addition to any collection. It requires heat during the cold months.

NEW MEMBERS CALIFORNIA

- Mrs. John O. Prescott
2958 N. Lake Ave., Altadena, Calif.
- A. A. Christiansen
1735 Holly Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
- Mrs. Vera Rodda
823 Walnut Ave., Bellflower, Calif.
- Dr. C. M. Tompkins
Hilgard Hall, University of California
Berkeley, Calif.
- Mr. Brydon
Botanical Gardens, University of California
Berkeley, Calif.
- Mrs. Wm. Boyd
Camarillo, Calif.
- Mr. Henry Werle
Bungalow Nursery, Colma, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Corbly
660 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, Calif.
- Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred R. Panner
1531 S. Cerritos Ave., Downey, Calif.
- Mrs. C. W. Garrison
362 Virginia St., El Segundo, Calif.
- Mrs. F. B. Forbes
Falbrook, California (Star Route)
- Mrs. Leila R. Schlimmer
545 E. 134th St., Hawthorne, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thompson
603 Cedar Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.
- Mrs. John D. Weiss
R.D. 1, Hollister, California
- Mrs. J. B. Huston
2661 Grand Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Clark
704 E. Hardy, Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. Carrie Cooley
126 N. Locust, Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. C. H. Coxhead
4222-102nd St., Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. G. N. Gillaspie
643 E. 99th St., Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. E. D. Hagenbuch
3838 W. 102nd St., Inglewood, Calif.
- Miss Ethel Morris
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- Mrs. Theresa Seits
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- Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Trapier
318 Lime Ave., Inglewood, Calif.
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649 E. 99th St., Inglewood, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Hayes
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4002 Massachusetts St., Long Beach, Calif.
- Mrs. Susan W. Miller
205 Ellis, North Long Beach, Calif.
- M. M. Ringler
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P. O. Box 33, Redlands, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Burch
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- Wm. W. Lewis
730 Quintara St., San Francisco, Calif.
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60 Lamartine St., San Francisco, Calif.
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1060 San Francisco St., San Francisco, Calif.
- Miss Nettie Sullivan
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- Mrs. Mildred I. Wurz
860 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif.
- L. M. Cahn
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- Mr. J. D. Eberly
1017 - 23rd St., Santa Monica, Calif.
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- Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stewart
627 Santa Paula St., Santa Paula, Calif.
- Howard F. Honan
8941 San Miguel, South Gate, Calif.
- F. Amend
739 - 4th St., Vallejo, Calif.

If you are interested in the formation of Branch Chapter of the American Begonia Society in your community, write to Mrs. L. J. Green, 1317 Chester St., Inglewood, California. Mrs. Green has been appointed by the Board of Directors to assist in the formation of branches wherever they are desired.

We are still in need of good photographs of specimen plants. There is quite a knack to good plant photography. For example, small plants usually show the characteristics of the variety better than large plants, as the large plants make for too much repetition of detail, and are more difficult to focus. Use a plain background, also, that will contrast with the plant and bring out its characteristics better.

Mrs. C. W. Cannon
R. D. 2, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Walter O. Clark
1081 Buena Vista St., Ventura, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Coleman
358 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. C. N. Townner
1267 Lagoon Ave., Wilmington, Calif.
Mrs. Charlotte Derby
Wheatland, Calif.

OTHER STATES

Dr. H. C. Gieseke
Greenville, Ill.
Chas. E. Horning
Wallace, Idaho
Mrs. J. J. Miller
411 Hammond Ave., Waterloo, Iowa
Mrs. Hannah Royer
810 So. 12th St., Lebanon, Pa.
Dr. F. J. Elias
Morgan Park, Duluth, Minn.
Mrs. Mary Pilecki
284 Halladay St., Jersey City, N. J.
Stanley C. Clarke
P. O. Box 928, Albuquerque, N. Mex.
Dr. J. Lewis Donhauser
252 State St., Albany, N. Y.
Mr. George Floen
381 State St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mrs. James T. Aitken
R. D. 1, De Lancey, N. Y.
Mr. Jay Holmes
Room 3501, 122 E. 42nd St., New York, N. Y.
Mrs. J. Chas. Ross
4401 Columbia Rd., North Olmstead, Ohio
Dr. S. F. Wildman
316 Medical Arts Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.
J. C. Spagle
Garden Acres, Rt. 10, Box 557, Milwaukie, Oreg.
Mrs. George C. Bach
115 Hirst Avenue, East Lansdowne, Pa.
Mrs. Rhea Howard
2105 Beckley Dr., Wichita Falls, Tex.
Mrs. Genevieve D. Broughton
Box 136, Monroe, Wash.
Mrs. Ida C. Wickstrom
604 - 5th St., S. W., Puyallup, Wash.
Dr. H. C. Tollefson
818 Medical Arts Bldg., Tacoma, Wash.

FOREIGN

Miss M. L. Arellano
T. No. 303 entre 15 y 17, Vedado, Havana, Cuba
Mr. Sidney Stubbs
Red Roofs, Nightingale Rd., Petswood, W. Kent, England
Charles Chevalier
1 Rue Fusch, Conservateur Honoraire du Liege, Belgique

We have a request for seeds of *Argentea Guttata*. If any member has some, will he kindly notify the editor?

The new bulletin on Rex and Rhizomatous Begonias is just off the press. Even if you do not grow any Rex Begonias you should have this bulletin to supplement the others. No amateur can afford to be without these four cultural bulletins that have been so carefully worked out by our Research Department.

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Mention the Begonian in answering our advertisements.

Attention: San Francisco!

(Berkeley clipping, sent in by
Pauline Ney.)

Built Own "Incubator"

Developed into a begonia fan by Councilman Richard French, City Manager Hollis R. Thompson has sprouted an "incubator" batch of hybrid begonias in the record time of seven days. Dr. French claimed they can rarely be sprouted from the tiny seeds in less than two weeks, so City Manager Thompson worked out his "incubator" invention.

It consists of a metal barrel in which have been placed a number of building bricks. Water was brought to the level of the bricks and they were then covered with leaf-mold containing the seeds. An electric light hangs in the contraption to provide heat and a glass over the top is tilted to give ventilation. The next problem for City Manager Thompson to figure out is how to get the seedlings out and where to borrow a hot house to keep them in.

PROPAGATION OF FUCHSIAS

By Victor Reiter, Jr., San Francisco

The amateur fuchsia enthusiast will be particularly interested in the propagation of the fuchsia by cuttings, but it is well to remember before going on with our discussion on cuttage that most of the new varieties are produced from seeds, and that the finest tree fuchsias are produced by graftage. Amateurs sometimes increase their stock of *Fu. corymbiflora* and some of the other species by seed, but our choice named garden hybrids must be multiplied by vegetative means—i.e. cuttings.

The fuchsia is one of the easiest of all plants to increase from cuttings, and can be successfully handled as (1) hardwood cuttings, (2) ripe wood cuttings, and (3) soft wood and soft tip cuttings. Each type has certain advantages, but one might class hardwood cuttings as strictly an amateur's home method and the soft tip cuttings as the nursery man's favorite intensive method.

(1) **Hardwood Cuttings**—For the amateur this offers the easiest winter multiplication in a small way where only a limited number of plants are desired. It requires no propagating equipment whatever, and no experience.

Method—Healthy plump branches from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch caliper are selected in the brownish bark area of the plant (8 months to 18 months old) and cut into lengths of

from six to twelve inches. The lower cut is made just below a node (eye) and the upper immediately above a node. The defoliated hardwood cuttings are inserted for half their length in sweet loamy soil (light preferred) in a section of the garden which is well drained and where there is the least danger of winter frost. They root over winter and may be transplanted the following spring. If the cuttings are sheltered by cloches (bells), inverted mason jars or similar devices, rooting is materially accelerated. The shelter of fences, walls or shrubberies are helpful.

Criticism—This method is most successful only when the fuchsias are dormant (winter) and it requires too much of the mother plant framework to get a few cuttings. Rooting is slow and the resulting plants are inferior to tip grown material. It is practicable only in our milder coastal regions.

(2) **Ripe Wood Cuttings**—This is probably the best method for the amateur. It can be practised throughout the growing season although most successful in early summer.

Method—Leafy cuttings on which the foliage is completely mature (firm and dark green) and from which the growing tip has been removed (if growing actively) are chosen. The bark of these cuttings should be at least partly green but may be brownish toward the base. Although cuttings can be removed at any point below a node, it is advisable to select cuttings of lateral branches from three to six inches long which can be removed in their entirety so that the base of the branch where it forked from the parent stem becomes part of the cutting. This basal area is most active in producing roots and when the cuttings are pulled off the parent stem instead of being cut, the resulting piece is said to have a "heel" and is called a "slip." This type of cutting must be protected from wilting and should be inserted approximately one inch deep in moist sand or sandy loam in considerable shade under a cloche, glass jar, cold frame, or other moisture retaining transparent covering. One recommended method is to insert them in sand around the edge of a large flower pot covered by a large bell glass. Dipping the dry ends of the cuttings for their lower $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in "hormone powder" before inserting them in the sand, materially accelerates rooting. Watering must be tended to and the foliage must never be permitted to wilt. The plants are ready to transplant when the dormant buds begin to break into growth.

Criticism—This is the best amateur method and fails only in a very few in-

stances with a limited number of difficult varieties such as Countess of Aberdeen and Rose of Denmark. This method succeeds best before the cuttings have flower buds and it is not recommended in the fall or when the selected branches have just completed flowering. The ripe wood cuttings produce good plants.

(3) Soft Wood and Soft Tip Cuttings—The soft tip cutting is merely an exceptionally tender soft wood cutting and we can consider these two types as one class of cuttings. These are the most favored by nurserymen and advanced amateurs possessing facilities for propagation. They are the fastest and easiest for the expert.

Method—Green, soft, leafy branches are chosen from three inches in length for the soft wood cuttings to a half inch in length for small soft tip cuttings. Wood is selected from the most actively growing, leafiest branches which are cut with a sharp knife through the soft green immature stems. The cuttings are usually treated with "Hormone Powder" and stood from one inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in neutralized peat (Ph. 5, 5-6), sand, top gravel or similar material in a cold frame or cutting box which is kept moist and warm. Heating with electric cables and the additional shelter of greenhouse conditions is recommended, although cuttings taken in summer do not need artificial heat.

Criticism—This is the best method and produces the best plants. It is particularly desirable where speed and earliness are desired. For those possessing satisfactory equipment this method can be used to get fresh early plants

(Excerpts from the April Bulletin of the American Fuchsia Society.)

(Continued from Page 2)

have attained the height of 6 or 8 inches, pinch out the top of each branch and to play safe dust the cut was Semesan to prevent disease or decay.

Question: What is the reason the leaves on my gardenias are turning yellow? This plant has had the best of care and received an application of aluminum sulphate.

Answered by Mr. McDowell: The gardenia, like the hibiscus, has not had a rest period and it is only natural that it should shed some of the old foliage when the new growth begins.

Question: Why did some of my tubers rot in the Spring? They were kept from frost and moisture.

Answer: The tubers probably were slow in starting last Spring and had not fully matured by Fall and consequently were too weak to ripen for the winter's rest.

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