

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



ALFRED D. ROBINSON



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Editor Says Adios

• As my year draws to a close I am more and more indebted to the members for their assistance. To name all who have helped would be a large task but I feel I shouldn't let this opportunity pass without mentioning just a few who have made the work lighter.

First, Mrs. C. H. Harris, business and advertising manager, whose "pep" talks when we were slightly discouraged should really go down in print. A good officer and a grand companion. Thanks also, to Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges of Berkeley whose assistance made possible a larger and more attractive magazine.

And to Mrs. Bessie Buxton, Frank Reinelt, Rudolf Ziesenhenn, L. E. Day, Margaret Gruenbaum, Mrs. Ella Fewkes and Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, sincere appreciation for their friendly encouragement and response to requests for contributions to the pages of the Begonian, also to Walter Fayle, editor of "The Hustler."

Mr. Clarence A. Hall of Ventura, President Harrison, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Nutter, and Mrs. Martha Green, staff photographer, deserve their share of credit for whatever the Begonian has done for the society this year.

I've named a few but the same feeling of gratitude goes to all of you including the branch presidents who materially helped us this year.

Being a member of Inglewood branch I am indebted to the local officers and members for their generous cooperation. To each of you I say THANKS and I wish it were possible to express my feeling to you personally.

So it is with mingled relief and a heavy heart that I pass on to perhaps more capable shoulders the work I am sure they will honor by their untired efforts in furthering the program we have attempted to get underway this year.

I'll miss the rush of mail the week before press day, that satisfied feeling when final proofs have gone to the printer, and the watchful waiting to see the finished product.

Let me wish each and every one of you a Merrier Christmas and a Happier New Year than you've ever known before!

—PAULINE NEY, Editor.

A Christmas Hybridizing Tale

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON



HIS IS CHRISTMAS . . . a season when Ghost stories and weird tales are in order. Here is one such.

The woods are full of Begonia hybridizers, some of them ultra-scientific on speaking terms with genes and cosmogenes and equipped with sundry dopes reported to do strange things to the glands of plants making them to forget the ways of their ancestors and follow by-paths and detours. Others just mix things hopefully, while still others just collect any old seed they find on their plants.

The resulting seedlings show such an amazingly small percentage of worthwhile novelties, IN ALL THESE CLASSES, that it may reasonably be assumed that plant breeding is in a very elemental stage and present-day methods are very like those of a painter of some renown whose product was surprisingly large and just as uneven, who said, "Oh, I just paint all the time, anything and everything, hoping I will hit once in a while."

However, some folks think this is a law governed universe, and that would suggest that somewhere is a better formula for this plant breeding than a mere huge quantity production to find one or two worth keeping. Here is an idea from the Occult.

Occultists postulate a design body for everything, or at least some of them do. They say a house is built in detail on paper by the architect, even before the foundation is laid, and it grows according to his plan. Nature takes a similar course and thus holds life to patterns. For the creation of new things, plants for instance, to change existing forms, a new design or plan should be formulated, not as a shadowy vision but a picture complete in detail. This might mean that the plant hybridizer, when he does his bit, should have in his mind a very definite and complete picture of the plant he hopes will result. Just try and work out in your mind such a picture. It is difficult, practically impossible for most people, by the time the bloom-making has arrived the foliage has blurred and clearing that loses the clarity of the stem. The writer has tried it repeatedly but has never succeeded; he is still raising thousands for the one to keep.

It is not intended to convey that the suggested thought form can be more than a help, merely the setting up of the plan which might make it easier for the seedling to "take a walk" using a political expressive phrase.

Now for a little corroborative evidence.

Several years ago two sons of an English Derby winner came to this hemisphere for stock purposes. The higher-priced one to California to the farm of a very wealthy man where it was mated to mares of high degree. None of the resulting foals ever distinguished itself.

The other, less regarded, went to South America and with mediocre mates begot race horses.

The first was bought by a man who sought to raise good horses just by money outlay. The second by a thorough horseman who knew horses.

Was it possible the latter had in his mind a definite picture and the former had not?

(Please Turn to Page 209)

BEGONIA xHELENA

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Director of Nomenclature

BEGONIA xHELENA was first seen in collections in San Diego about 1928 and is probably a seedling produced in that locality, according to Miss Constance D. Bower of San Diego. It was listed in Mr. Robinson's catalog of 1934.

The culture of B. xHelena is the same as that of B. Coralline de Lucerna and B. President Carnot, the types which it most closely resembles. However, it is not as strong a grower as these plants and does not attain their size. The flowers are white under glass, while the pods are pinkish in a lathhouse. The leaves differ from those of the above-named plants in that they are thinner, satiny, and light green with a brownish cast. It is a worthy addition to any collection since it adds an autumn "atmosphere." This plant is best propagated by stem tip cuttings.

To my knowledge this plant has never been used in hybridizing. Description: Root fibrous. Stems erect, 2-3 feet; bushy, woody and brown with a square line pattern below; above light green. Stipules narrow and long, tapering to a long point, about three



Begonia xHelena — 18 inches tall

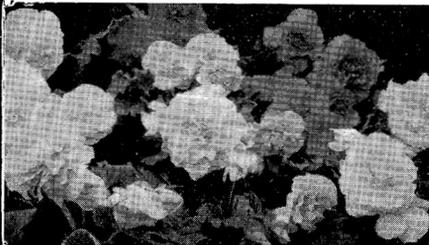
times as long as wide, falling off very early. Leafstem about one-fifth as long as the leaf, tinged red, grooved on the inner side. Leaves not quite twice as long as wide ($3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$), slanting heart-shaped, pointed; margin slightly lobed, toothed, wavy or crinkled; above bright green, with a brownish cast, a suggestion of brown near the edge, few scattered hairs, veins depressed; below free of hair, lighter green than above, red along the margin. Flowers are produced in much branched drooping clusters from the leaf axils of the branch tips, the males appearing first. The flowers are produced in the Fall and early Winter. Males, which usually fall off before opening, are one inch in diameter, greenish-white, the two vertical petals being truly heart-shaped, about as long as wide; the two horizontal ones are wide at the base and taper directly to a point, almost twice as long as wide. Stamens are yellow, formed in a clump; filaments are attached to a common base, anthers almost round. Female flowers are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; petals 5, 2 of which are wider, almost as long as wide. Seed pod greenish-white (under lathhouse conditions pinkish), wings 3, of equal size and shape, cells 3, placenta divided with seeds on all free surfaces. Stigmas 3, each divided into two, two twists to the stigma branch.

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OBSERVATIONS ON BEGONIAS by LAMBERT DAY

HAVE YOU ever wandered through your gardens, or while sitting in the cool shade of your lathhouse thought of the many factors that are involved in the growing of your begonias? You will soon come to the conclusion that there are three distinct ingredients for the successful plant growth co-ordination. First: The soil factors. Second: Climatic conditions. Third: The individual growth characteristics. These things are so interlocked that unless some attention is paid to all three, mediocre results are likely to be our lot.

Our first reaction would probably carry us to the library in search of articles written by collectors, describing the native haunts of our plants. Here we will find that most of our begonias come from a tropical country. This does not mean that they are subject to a great deal of tropical heat, for they are found in most cases at altitudes high above sea level, 5,000 to 10,000 feet. This means that the temperatures will range between 40 degrees and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The average begonia then, should grow best when the temperature is maintained between 50 degrees and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The rainfall varies from 200 to 500 inches per year. Our rainfall is less than a tenth of this amount in Los Angeles.

These few facts have told us several things about the soil that our plants require. Because of the low temperature their soil would be made up largely of humus which is partially decayed vegetation. This result is brought about by the fact that decomposition is much slower at low temperatures and a great surplus of decaying vegetation is built up. The nitrogen content is much higher than in our soils as it accumulates faster than it is removed. The soil is also acid in character.

With so much rain the drainage is very

good or the plants could not exist; yet the soil is continually moist. We are told that under weather conditions of this kind that a lacteritic type of soil is generally found. It is reddish in color, quite deep and very mealy or friable. Generally the soil can be cultivated following a rain.

This leads us to the conclusion that we want a soil that is composed largely of humus and drains well. Leaf mold, peat, sand, silt, friable loam, then can become integral parts of our manufactured soil.

Because of the much different weather conditions that we have here, our humus decomposes and its food value is lost quite rapidly making it necessary to add a commercial fertilizer, or manure with our soils. Also, as a great deal of food values are leached away each time we water, a fertilizer that becomes available to the plants slowly should be selected. Bone meal, Scotch soot, and sludge are excellent examples of this type of fertilizer.

Begonias will grow in many types of soil foreign to their own, but I am inclined to believe that they grow, in spite of it, rather than because of it.

Mix up fresh soil at frequent intervals, soils that have been used once may be used again provided that the missing elements are replaced. This may be done by mixing it into the compost pile and allowing it to go through the regular cycle.

A small kit of materials for testing the soil to be used will prove invaluable in giving you a clue in case you suspect that your soil is not giving proper results. However, judgment must be used, otherwise your tests might lead to false conclusions. The soil should always be kept slightly on the acid side.

(Please Turn to Page 204)

To lovers of Begonias, we recommend their use for Christmas Gifts and extend the Season's Greetings to all our many friends and well-wishers.

ANNIE C. ROBINSON ALFRED D. ROBINSON

Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

530 Silvergate Avenue

Point Loma, California



SOIL AND ITS MAKING

by A. A. LONGMIRE *Member Board of Directors, Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura*



MOST SOIL, as we know the basic bulk, is composed of marine life, minerals, jem stones, and chemicals. They are blended together in many different forms; some through erosion and formed sedimentary rock, others through internal heat which melted and fused them together, forming mineral-bearing rock and jem stones, with the aid of wind, water and sun.

Erosion and decomposition has taken place, gradually, but slowly wearing them down into the form of sand. A low form of plant life called likens, by their acid structure, reduces rock to soil but not sand. Microbes, bacteria, and fungi, have played a large part in the decomposition of rock, breaking it down, into small particles or sand. These fine particles of rock or sand weathered fine enough, will retain a vast amount of water, which is a perfect medium for seed and spores. We are taught that the earliest plant life was of the fern order, these ferns making a tremendous growth. So dense was this vegetation that the accumulation formed

great beds, which in time formed into coal. These deposits were covered by erosion and then submerged by water. Other deposits that were not covered by erosion, but only by water, formed as we know them today, peat bogs. Remaining deposits that were left only to the exposure of the weather, turned into humus by the action of bacteria and fungus.

We must not overlook the myriad insects, worms and microbes, for they have played a very important part in the building up of what we now call soil. First we are told, that the top three inches of the entire earth's surface is the humus, passed through insects and worms. This humus completely changes every seven years, which in return gives us a deposit of manure to help build the soil.

Most forms of insects pass one cycle of their lives in the soil. Others for longer periods; for instance, moths, one to nine times, and these while in that earth cycle, cast their skin, leaving it in the earth as soil material. Worms in many instances will eat ten times their own weight daily, the excretions returning to the soil as manure.

Earth worms eat mostly decayed vegetable matter, and digest it mostly on the surface of the soil, making it quickly available plant food. 25% of the vegetation of the earth is consumed by insects and worms, and 25% of this returns as manure to the soil. Another 25% of the earth's vegetation is consumed by animals, birds and fish, the remaining 50% falling to the earth as dried or dead matter. This material with the aid of bac-

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teria, microbes and fungi is reduced to soil or humus.

The lowly worm again plays an important part in the building up of our soil. Most insects, in some cycle of their life, are carnivorous, attacking and devouring other insects and worms, leaving parts of the remains to turn into soil. The spider, with its delicately woven web, will catch as many as one hundred insects in twenty-four hours, which are only partly consumed, the remainder returning to the earth as additional material for the soil. The busy ant carries fruit, seeds and insects down into the soil, eating only a small amount, the balance forming humus. The microbe, so minute that the naked eye cannot see it, plays another important part. Whenever a plant is watered, you have deposited multiplied thousands of these crustaceous creatures upon the soil surrounding your plant. They only live a few seconds while exposed; their bodies forming a lime, quickly taken up by the plants. Such deposits as celite, chalk, coral and lime are the remains of myriads of these microbes. Through the aid of erosion they have become mixed with humus and sand and the results are the soil of today.

It is interesting to note that sixty per cent of ocean sand is marine life, and contains lime in quantity.

Insects and worms are the fifth columnists of our garden. They are our best soil builders; we destroy them to meet our needs, as they attack our growing plants, but in so doing we again return them to the earth to help build up the soil.

• Rex cuttings may be started in heated frames now.

Official Notice For Seeds

• The Arm Chair Explorers are about to take off on another journey in quest of seeds. Anyone wishing to join this expedition may do so by sending in ONE DOLLAR to the Treasurer, Mr. Nutter, or to Mr. Day, the Research Director. This sum entitles the occupant of an Arm Chair to seeds of various species that are collected and distributed during 1941.

Since the inception of this plan many new and interesting begonias have been grown by the members.

It will be very much appreciated if the old members as well as those on their first adventure will send in their money as promptly as possible. This will enable us to make our plans for seeds now instead of late in the Spring and give you the advantage of much earlier planting.

Branch Organization

• Much gratification comes from the formation of new branches in the East, where climatic conditions are so adverse to the growing and culture of Begonias. The enthusiasm of these people should certainly be emulated by us Californians.

It is a constant marvel to the writer, to read letters from these members, which so graphically describe the difficulties under which they labor, yet which are written in a tone of certainty as to the final results they expect to obtain from their efforts.

—CLARENCE H. HALL,
Public Relations Director.



Seasons Greetings

We extend Christmas Greetings to you, our Begonia friends, and thank you for your patronage during this past year. We shall continue to serve you with our best.

WILSON'S BEGONIA GARDENS
862 WEST FIRESTONE BLVD. DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA

POTTED PLANTS FOR THE LATHHOUSE

by E. C. KENNEDY



DOST of our greenhouse potted plants do just as well in California, and some even better, under lath as under glass. Of course, it is more difficult to time them for holidays, but this is more than made up by stronger, sturdier foliage and increased size of bloom. This fact gives the Southern California commercial greenhouse operator a great advantage over those from other sections in cost of production. The crops we are raising are cyclamen, primula obconica, double poinsettias, Easter lilies, ferns, Saintpaulias and caladiums. These plants are all suitable for lathhouse culture.

CYCLAMEN

We start our cyclamen from seeds about the middle of August using a mixture of half leafmold, a quarter sandy loam, an eighth sand, and an eighth peat. The seeds are sowed separately in rows about an eighth inch deep and covered just enough to fill the indentations. The flats are kept heavily shaded until the seeds have started to germinate, after which the shading is gradually reduced. When the plants have developed two or three leaves they are transplanted into flats using a little heavier and richer soil. From this stage on they are potted up and moved on as the roots require. The final potting should be finished by August if the plants are wanted in full bloom for Christmas.

Cyclamen respond well to small applications of most commercial fertilizers but caution is necessary not to overdo this feeding. In hot weather sprinkling the walks and leaves is beneficial. Most people keep their plants too wet causing them to rot. Cyclamen are a good house plant and the bulbs can be planted in the ground for bloom the succeeding year.

PRIMULA OBCONICA

Obconicas are one of the best subjects for the amateur grower. They bloom continually for years with the proper care and attention. Their seeds are very small and should be just pressed into the seed pans. Keep the pans covered with glass and heavily shaded until the seeds germinate. Obconicas should be kept evenly moist and should never be allowed to hang from dryness.

During the Summer they do best in the lathhouse protected by a thickness of cheesecloth, which should be removed as soon as the sun cools down. A pinch of blood every

so often is helpful. We use a mixture of one-half sandy soil, one-fourth year-old cow manure, and one-fourth leafmold plus bone meal for the final shift. Don't keep the yellow leaves picked back too closely as the loss of sap checks them. We clean off the yellow leaves only when repotting and before selling. In my estimation they are the ideal house plant. Close control must be kept over sow bugs, worms, and slugs or the flowers will be eaten as fast as they appear. Most failures can be traced to sow bugs and improper watering.

FERNS

Our potted ferns are all grown in the lathhouse except for a finishing-off period under glass. We find they do best potted in leafmold with pinches of blood about every six weeks. Most people keep their ferns too shaded. They need some sun to make them bushy and full.

SAINTPAULIAS

Saintpaulias take considerable care and attention. They can be propagated by division, from seeds, or from cuttings. Leafmold is the best potting material for all stages of their growth. They must have enough sun or they won't bloom but too much will spot and burn the foliage. Most people overwater their plants and cause the growth to go to foliage rather than to flowers. Saintpaulias are heavy surface feeders and need feeding at intervals. Keep water off the foliage and don't put them into too big pots. Their culture is very similar to that of gloxinias, a plant with which they work in very nicely.

CALADIUMS

For lathhouse growing better results can be obtained if some bottom heat is given to fancy leaved caladiums while the bulbs are sprouting. We start them in flats at a temperature of 75 degrees at night. Lower sprouting temperatures cause bulb-rot if great care is not used in the watering. A mixture of leafmold and a little sand is used in all stages. After the bulbs have sprouted they can be grown in any partially shaded spot, either in pots or in the ground. Their foliage is especially useful in setting off the flowers of other plants. They work in especially nice with ferns, obconicas and begonias.

A lathhouse can be a very beautiful place indeed with the proper use and rotation of just these plants I have described and any of them can be profitably used to beautify the home.

Jerry Starr Elected Branch President

• At the regular November meeting of the Herbert P. Dyckman branch election of officers for 1941 was held. Here are the results:

- Jerry Starr.....President
- A. Liebman.....Vice-President
- Ann Smith.....Secy.-Treas.
- Floyd P. Blades.....Natl. Rep.

Mrs. Jessie Jenkins gave a short talk on semperflorens showing some nice specimens of Geneva Scarlet Beauty and Westport Beauty.

Mr. Shearer, City Park Superintendent of Long Beach, gave a wonderful talk on lath house arrangements, shrubs, trees, etc.

A very profitable plant exchange was held and refreshments were served.

The December meeting will be in the form of a Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Collins.

—MRS. JESSIE JENKINS.

Annual Report of Corresponding Sec'y.

• I have attended every Board meeting of the National Begonia Society, during the year, and have acted as secretary at all these meetings.

I have answered approximately ninety cards and letters of information, besides the dues and requests for Bulletins which I sent on to Mr. Nutter.

I also have sent eighty packages of seeds to new members, and twenty-five packages of seeds to local new members.

I received during the year five dollars for stamps, of which I have 30 stamps on hand, and one dollar in cash.

Respectfully submitted,
RUBY W. LIEDLER.
Corres. Secy.

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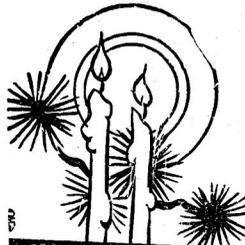
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BEGONIA xABEL CARRIERE by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Director of Nomenclature

BEGONIA xABEL CARRIERE according to "Revue horticole" 1878, page 83, and 189, page 13, is a cross between *Begonia discolor*, R. Br. (Evansiana) X *Begonia rex*, Putz. The plants were crossed by Svahn in 1876 and the plant was produced in 1877 in Bordeaux, France. It was placed on the market by the firm of Bruant. Abel Carriere is sometimes called *Argentea erecta*.

This plant is cultivated in the same manner as the *Rexcultorum* group. It may be used as a basket plant if trained, but the natural habit of the plant is to grow erect. Propagation is most easily accomplished by means of stem cuttings either of new growth from the base of the plant or lower stems; or, a little more difficult, leaf cuttings may also be employed by utilizing bottom heat.

To my knowledge Abel Carriere has never been used in hybridizing. I have never seen a female flower and the male flowers drop without opening, thus leaving the pollen immature.

Description: Root fibrous. Base of stem much thickened, joints greatly swollen, deep brown red with greenish white spots. Upper stems quite long-jointed, red with small narrow, long, greenish spots. Stems free of hair. Stipules wide at the base, tapering to a point, twice as long as wide; they remain on the plant a long time. Leafstem: from one-fourth to as long as the leaf blade, round, dull red, slightly hairy. A few small, long, narrow, greenish lines. Leaf: slanting heart-shaped, margin toothed and ciliated; upper side sparsely hairy, veins green, tinged red near the petiole. Irregularly green along the main veins, occasionally spotted silver, the rest of the leaf surface silvery, mature leaves taking on a rose-purple color when they are exposed to filtered sunlight (in my shaded glasshouse they do not take on this color but under lath they do). Under side, all but tiniest veins red, hair on veins, a few scattered hairs between veins, area between veins green but gradually becoming tinged rose-red with age as the upper surface takes on color.



Begonia xAbel Carriere — 24 inches tall

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*New Members Brought In

Flowers produced in clusters from the axils of the top-most leaves. Under lath the flowers are deep pink, the male flowers are ball-like and droop; they do not open but at the tip of the two outer petals they curl inward at each side. Two vertical petals as long as wide, round, cup-shaped with only a suggestion of a dull point. Stamens very numerous, yellow-green. Anthers all connected to a slightly raised base, slightly longer than wide. The filaments as long as the anthers.

Seed Offer Still Good

• The response to a request for new members has been exceptionally good. Mrs. Ruby Liedler, corresponding secretary, who so generously offered a packet of begonia seed to all new members and those listed on the Honor Roll has received many requests for seed, and will send them to those listed in this issue of the Begonian.

Please remember to send a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED envelope if you wish to receive the seed. Her address is 5858 California Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

More on Tuberos Begonias

• Mrs. Halstead of the Bernheimer Oriental Gardens will address the members and friends of Inglewood Branch at 8 p.m. December 6 in the Inglewood Woman's Club.

Election and installation of 1941 officers will take place.

• FERNS OF ALL KINDS

Many Rare Varieties

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• FUCHSIAS

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"The Eastern Home
 Of Rare Begonias"

Winter Flowering Hanging Basket Types
IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Booklet describing more than 225
 Varieties of rare begonias—50 cents

Begonia socotrana

ITS PROGENY AND THEIR CULTURE

by JAMES G. ESSON



WHEN *Begonia socotrana* is in bloom it is among the most colorful and free-flowering of all *Begonia* species.

It was on the island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean, far from the vegetative haunts of most of its family, that Professor Isaac Bailey Balfour found the first specimen of it in 1880. In the "Botany of Socotra" we find these words of his: "A plant of the higher regions of the Haghier Hills, under the shade of granitoid boulders."

Was it Balfour's flair for rock plants, so evident in later years, that inspired this description? Who would associate a begonia with boulders! Yet here it was, found in such a habitat; this species that was destined to be the forerunner of a race that every year fills thousands of square feet of greenhouse space and in winter gives cheer to thousands of homes.

B. socotrana has further distinctions. It is the only species that has been described as developing bulbs or bulbils. These are formed in a cluster and some writers have referred to them as buds or bud clusters, while others have described them as closely set scales or suppressed leaves. With such peculi-

Specimens of Begonia hiemalis in one of the greenhouses on the estate of Mrs. Roswell Eldridge at Great Neck, where Mr. Esson is superintendent. The leaves in the foreground are those of Begonia Rex.



arities it is not surprising that the season of growth of this species is also unique, commencing in September and flowering from late December until the end of February.

That this was a remarkable species was quickly noted. In the *Gardeners' Chronicle* January 1, 1881, Hooker writes of it as having flowered in December at Kew. In *Hortus Veitchii* we are told that the stock passed into Veitch's hands and was distributed in 1882. As a flowering potted plant it was considered of much value.

Culture of the Species

As far as cultivation is concerned no begonia needs less care when its particular needs are understood and provided for. A minimum winter temperature of 55 degrees Fahrenheit will be necessary. Well drained loam and leaf-mold make a good potting soil mixture. Small clusters of bulbils should be planted near the surface of the soil no later than September 1. Until the bulbils become established and show signs of growth, they should be watered only when the soil is very dry. Afterward, however, they may be watered freely. They are best grown under light shade in a house where the atmosphere is humid.

After the flowering season the leaves begin to assume a yellow appearance and then the plants must be gradually dried and thus kept dormant until the growing season returns.

Propagation is best accomplished by division at planting time. New clusters should consist of not less than five or six bulbils.

The Hybrids of Begonia socotrana

X *Begonia hiemalis* (Fotsch)

I suspect it was the proclivity for winter blooming that impressed the gardener of the early eighties with *B. socotrana*. John Heal, a famous plantsman of the time, employed by the firm of Veitch, was the first hybridist into whose hands our species fell. In 1882 he used *B. incarnata* as the seed-bearing parent and crossed it with *B. socotrana*. The resulting hybrid was named *Autumn Rose*, but it does not seem to have existed for very long. Heal was familiar with the work of his contemporary John Seden, who had done so much with species from the Andes, creating many varieties of what we now know as *B. tuberhybrida*. With such a background it was natural for Heal to see the possibility of crossing *B. socotrana* with these summer-flowering hybrids, thus producing a winter-flowering race with the colors and size of flowers of the summer types.

According to *Hortus Veitchii* several hybridists commenced work about the same time and in 1883 a new kind of hybrid was evolved by Heal and named after himself. It was the product of *B. socotrana* crossed with the summer-flowering hybrid tuberous variety *Viscountess Doneraile* (vermillion red). This and two others that were named *Adonis* (a hybrid of the second generation) and *Winter Gem* were among the earlier of Heal's successes. All are said to have been carmine or rosy pink. He tells us through the medium of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* that he had less success with *B. socotrana* as a seed parent than he had when using the tuberous varieties as such. In a few short years he proved this from some of the fine varieties that Veitch placed on the market.

About 1912 the firm of Clibran in England brought to the public eye some varieties that were considered by many as a distinct improvement. They were described as "eye openers"; some were perfectly double and of different

shades and with greater vigor. During late years new varieties have been placed on the market by the firm of Baardse, in Aalsmeer, Holland. I think that they in turn are an improvement in color and freedom of flower.

In 1933, Fotsch, in "Die Begonien," grouped all forms of this hybrid, describing them from a basis of the two varieties *Ensign* and *Elator*. He gives the group the appropriate new name of *Begonia hiemalis*.

Since the introduction of the variety *John Heal*, *B. hiemalis* might be said to have had a rather checkered career. Although gardeners everywhere acknowledge its superiority as a potted plant when well grown, yet, for a number of reasons it has never reached any degree of universal popularity. In the past, young plants have been scarce commercially and consequently expensive. The bugaboo of a rest period, which often resulted in the loss of the choicest varieties, deterred many from proceeding further. Propagation by means of leaf cuttings, which is so simple with the *Gloire de Lorraine* type, has led to failure with many varieties. The lack of knowledge of cultural needs, especially in the control of begonia mite has been a common reason for disappointment.

It would appear that in the last few years, nurserymen and gardeners have closely studied the cultural needs and have experimented more persistently, so that today *B. hiemalis* is grown with a larger degree of success.

Culture of Begonia hiemalis

During the first two weeks of November the main batch of cuttings should be dibbled into sand. While it is true that some varieties will respond to the leaf-cutting method, I would recommend eliminating such practice when propagating this type. Many leaf cuttings that may make roots are too slow in forming bud growth and many make weak growth. Leaf-bud cuttings—which consist of the lamina and petiole with the axil bud and part of the stem attached—may be a good vegetative method of propagation. I have not had sufficient observation of this to recommend or condemn it.

Stem cuttings, made by using terminal growth 2 to 3 inches long, seem to give the best results. It may be necessary to sacrifice a few good plants of each variety for propagation. That will depend on the quantity needed. As a general rule a sufficient number of cuttings can be obtained without seriously damaging good flowering material.

Cuttings must appear healthy and free from disease or insect pests. They will root readily in sand on a bench, in flats or in other containers, in a temperature dropping to 60 or 62 degrees at night. When rooted, they may be potted in 2½-inch pots, keeping the base of the stem as near to the surface as possible, and using a soil mixture that is three-quarters peat and one-quarter sand. The pots may be plunged rather closely in peat on the bench and shaded from bright sunshine.

By March the little plants will show signs of growth and new shoots should appear at the base from a small tuber that will have formed. If the roots, upon examination, appear plentiful, the plants may be repotted into a 4-inch size, using one-third loam, one-third peat or leafmold and one-third sand. To every bushel of this medium, a 7-inch pot of finely screened dry cow manure and a 4-inch potful of superphosphate 20 per cent should be added. After the plants have reached the 4-inch size it is not necessary to plunge, but simply to stand them on the bench, keeping each variety grouped together. By May, it will be possible to pinch out the top growth. This will encourage the formation of a branching plant. These top growths may be

(Please Turn to Page 200)

Christmas
Greetings
to all



Lovers
of
Begonias

Margaret C. Gruenbaum
BRANCH

All The
Pleasures of This
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
SEASON



SAN GABRIEL BRANCH



JOY TO YOU

May you all enjoy the same deep feeling of happiness and gratification over the continued growth and success of our society as we have.

Officers and Members

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

May

Christmas

Bring You CHEER, HEALTH, and Lasting

HAPPINESS



SANTA BARBARA BRANCH of the American Begonia Society

MERRY



As 1940 draws to a close and new officers replace your past, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the many who have tributed their time, talent, effort and money to build upon the foundation laid by our past officers and members.

It is gratifying to see, as one group after another take over this organization, the same spirit that originally inspired the formation of the American Begonia Society.

Mutual interest and group study is one of the most effective ways of cultivating an appreciation of friends old and new.

What has the American Begonia Society meant to you? Have you learned anything about Begonias? Do you know more of your plants by name? Do you recognize more by sight? Have you learned anything about the hothouse? Have you made a friend through your Begonias? I hope that your 1941 officers will receive the same loyal support that the past officers have received. There will be no limit to what the ABS can do in 1941.

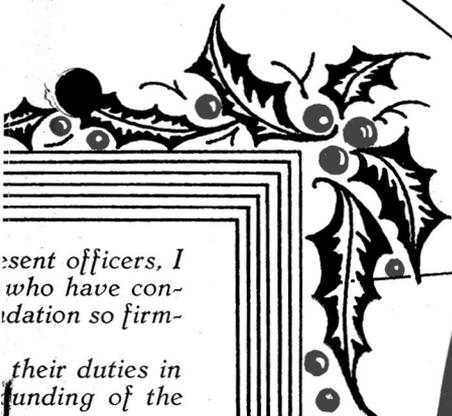
I deeply appreciate the confidence shown me in being selected as president of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY this past year.

Frank Harrison



From the National Board

American Begonia

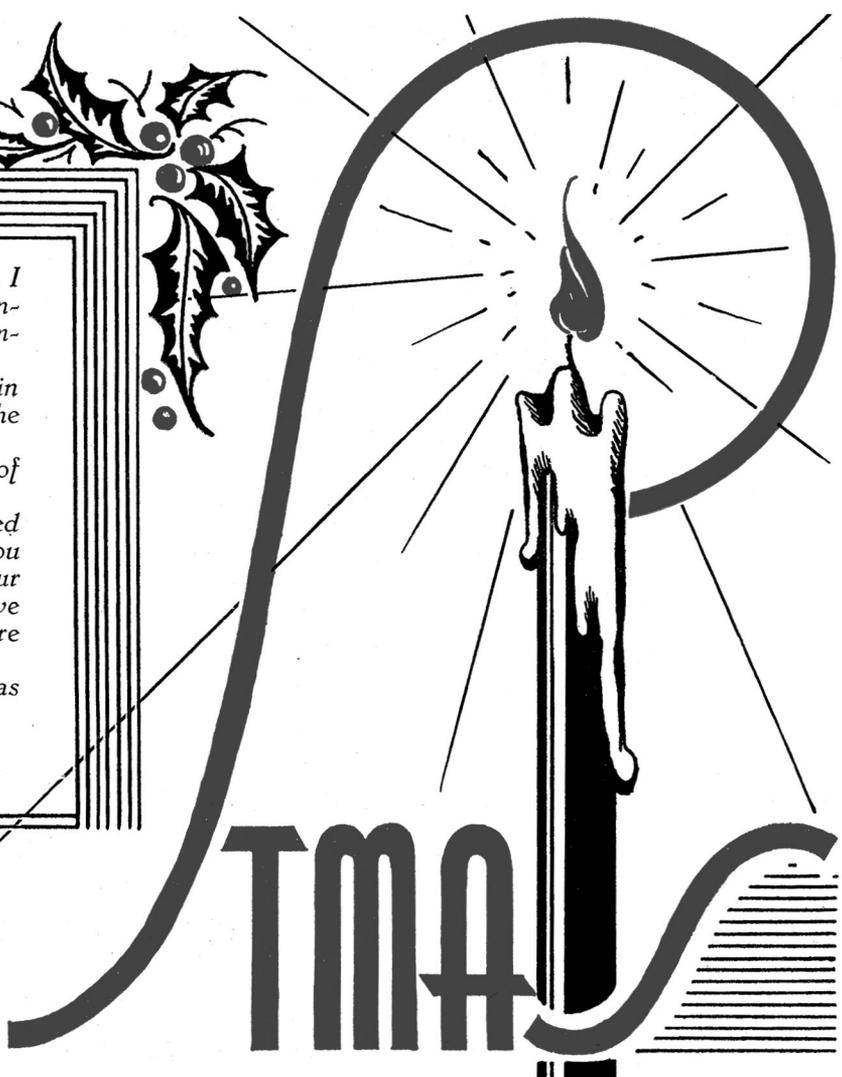


present officers, I
who have con-
sideration so firm-

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fulfilling of the
effective ways of

we you learned
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if you will give
enjoyed, there

dedicated to serve as
next year.



CHRISTMAS



of the

Society





The Begonian Staff



Season's
Greetings
"The Perleys"
Ventura

What a Christmas of Good Cheer
What Happiness the coming New Year
If in the Grind of Every Day Events
We are Moved by the Fine Sentiments
Presented in these Cherished Pages.



Greetings To All

CLARENCE A. HALL
Public Relations Dir.



Christmas Cheer

Officers and Members of the
EAST BAY BRANCH
Berkeley, California

From The
Officers and Members of the
THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.
Ventura, California
—(See You in '43)—



Officers and Members
of the

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

SEND

BEST *Christmas* **WISHES**

Glendale to Organize Branch

• Members of the ABS and anyone else interested in shade-loving plants living in Glendale, California and surrounding vicinity are cordially invited to meet at the home of Mrs. Anna E. Marek, 604 North Orange Street, Glendale, at 8 p.m., Monday, December 2. Her telephone number is CI 2-7161.

Eureka!

• We have found a few extra copies of 1940 Begonians for which we had to substitute other numbers a month or two ago. If you wish to complete your volume VII, just send 10c a copy for each missing number and we will send them to you at once. Address envelopes to J. N. Nutter, Treasurer, 1050 East 19th St., Long Beach, California.

Santa Barbara Plans Christmas Party

• The meeting of the Santa Barbara Branch on December 17 will be in the form of a Christmas party at the home of our vice-president, Mrs. Frey. Each member will bring a gift pertaining to the sheltered garden. All gifts are to aid the Royal Hobby.

At our sixth meeting we discovered we had twenty active members, some with enthusiastic husbands or wives. After voting on National officers, the members told how, when, and why they became interested in begonias, and their success with their hobby.

Our November meeting was held at the home of Mr. Wait, where the care and cultivation of fuchsias was the main subject.

—LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER.

Help!!

• The January number of the Begonian goes to press December 16. In determining the size of this issue, we have to make a wild guess as to how many renewals we are going to receive. If we spend more than one-twelfth of the year's income we shall have to decrease the size of succeeding issues.

So, if you can spare the dollar for renewal NOW, it will be greatly appreciated.

—J. N. NUTTER, Treas.

Trailing Types Topic

• The Philadelphia and its Vicinity Branch met at the home of Mrs. Bishop last month where a surprise awaited the members.

After the business meeting Mr. Whitaker talked on trailing varieties of begonias and exhibited large specimen plants of Glauco-Daw, Glabra, Glaucophylla Scandens, Marjorie Daw and Sanguinea. Also mentioned the beautiful Braemar.

Mr. Whitaker explained that the trailing types required more moisture and less sun than many other varieties and the leaves would be dark green and glossy if this treatment were followed. For artistic arrangement and hanging basket use the Glabra and Glaucophylla Scandens are unsurpassed.

Now for the surprise. Mrs. Bishop invited us to her dining room for tea and behold, two huge windows were filled with beautiful specimens of rare begonias in a perfect state of cultivation, including the Calla begonia.

When begonias are properly marked and cared for as Mrs. Bishop's are, they are indeed a "Royal Hobby."

—MRS. SOPHIA E. WHITAKER.

We wish all our friends and Begonia fans a very Merry Christmas and more prosperous New Year. We thank each and every one of you for your loyal support during the past season that we might carry on toward perfecting better Begonias.



We have a fine lot of hybrid Rex seed this season; enough for several hundred thousand plants from which some grand new ones should come. Seed for sale.

We have worlds of seed of tuberous crossed with various types of rex and fibrous but the seed comes so sparingly and the chances of a good plant run so low that the amateur hasn't too good a chance to get a plant worth-while. We have some very interesting results. Everblooming doubles.

We have seed of Manicata Aurea, Sunderbruckii, Coral Rubra, Coral Rubra x Glaucophylla Scandens, New Rex Hybrids, Double camellia tuberous, Basket hybrids, Crested tuberous, Gloxinia, Streptocarpus, Gesneria cardinalis. Any of above varieties at 25c per packet.

Plants For Sale:— Pet, Odorata Alba, Manicata, Sunderbruckii, Sutherlandii x Lucerne, Sunderbruchii x Verschafelti, Semperflorens, Streptocarpus, Gesneria cardinalis and dozens of others with many new varieties. Low winter prices.

Leslie Woodriff

(Fairyland)

205 So. Inglewood Ave. Inglewood

Begonia socotrana (Continued From Page 194)

used at this time as cuttings that will make small flowering plants for the Fall.

Repotting must be done from time to time up to the end of August as appears necessary to the grower. The final shift will be into an 8-inch size pot for the best specimens of November plants. For the last potting a soil that has incorporated in it a large quantity of humus in the shape of leafmold or peat seems to be best. I believe in placing enough drainage material in the bottom of the pot to assure a free passage of water. When potting, the soil should not be packed firmly. It is better to pound the pot on the bench hard enough to settle the soil around the roots. Pinching or stopping of terminal growth may be done as required, with the aim of obtaining a plant with from six to ten leading shoots. With the exception of some red varieties that have a tendency to flower early, pinching should be discontinued after August 15. Varieties that run to flower early, however, may be pinched for a month longer.

It is necessary to shade the plants throughout the growing season. Red-flowered varieties seem to require a heavier shading than do any of the others. It is a mistake however to shade too heavily. Although the broad peltate structure of the leaves denotes plants that prefer to grow in shade, we must yet remember that Balfour says that *B. socotrana* was shaded only by rocks, and we may presume that a fairly strong light was available. Darkness with humidity usually means dankness, no matter how carefully the pots have been drained, and the result may be an unhealthy condition of the soil. Shades that can be lowered or raised as occasion demands are ideal, yet it is possible to get excellent results by shading the roof glass with white lead mixed with gasoline to the consistency of thin paint. When the latter plan is followed it is advisable to leave a narrow band of clear glass down the center of each row of panes. This can best be accomplished by placing a plaster lath on the glass while the shade is being applied. Strips will thus be left where sufficient light may enter the house at all times.

Paths, walls, and every bare surface in the house should be moistened several times daily, depending entirely upon the drying conditions of each day. Overhead spraying should not be used. From June to September liberal ventilation is required, but draughts must always be rigorously avoided. During the summer, top ventilators must be left open at night, but when colder nights arrive, it will be necessary to close the house to maintain a temperature of 55 degrees. When flowering season comes the temperature may drop to 50.

As growth demands it, stakes must be used, and it is a work of floral art to stake a begonia well. These stakes may be of galvanized wire, split bamboos, or thin wood. They should on no consideration be seen when the plant has completed its growth.

Feeding with weak liquid farmyard manure or with one of the many recognized complete greenhouse fertilizers will give excellent results if applied after the roots have penetrated the soil in the final potting. Nitrophoska, if no stronger dilution than 1 ounce to 1½ gallons of water is used, has much to recommend it.

Nothing is more important in begonia culture than the control of disease and insects. Diseases such as gray mold rarely occur unless cultural conditions are very bad. Insect pests are more troublesome. Many gardeners have had disappointments with these plants by failing to control thrips, mite and nematodes. Signs of mite or thrips are crinkled leaves and a general unhealthy condition of the plant. They are easily controlled by using every ten days during April, May and June, Cyanogas fumigant specially prepared for green-



Above is *Emily Clibran*, one of the choicest of the hybrids of *B. socotrana* which are known by the group name of *B. hiemalis*. The plant was grown by James G. Esson.

house use. On a calm evening it may be sprinkled on the path and the house closed for the night. It is important to apply no more than is recommended by the maker, and also to have the foliage thoroughly dry; otherwise much damage may result. Humidity in July and August makes the use of Cyanogas a dangerous practice—at least this is true on Long Island. At this time Nicofume tobacco powder may be used to control thrips.

Nematodes sometimes feed on begonia roots, causing the plants to wilt and die. Sterilization of the soil may be necessary. Sometimes control can be effected by soaking the roots in a soil disinfectant as soon as symptoms of their presence are observed.

If it is desired to carry over plants for a second or third year, it will be essential for their resting period that a house be provided where the temperature can be maintained at 50 degrees at night and where it will not be necessary to water often. A growing condition must be avoided, but at the same time the roots must not be allowed to become dry. The rest period should continue, with part of the old stems persisting, until some time late in March, when the old soil may be shaken out and a fresh start in a smaller pot can be made. Growth will soon commence and cuttings of scarce varieties may be secured. These older plants may be grown into specimens 3½ feet and more across at flowering time.

Illustrations of Emily Clibran and view of greenhouse and permission to re-print article on Begonia Socotrana was granted through the courtesy of the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden and Miss Carol H. Woodward, editor.

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Begonia VENOSA

—Limited Quantity—

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AZALEAS Plants FERN S

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Anniversary Meeting Margaret Gruenbaum Branch

• A very happy meeting in celebration of our First Anniversary was held on October 8 at the home of Mrs. Frank Mather where our first group met a year ago. Mrs. Mather prepared a delightful luncheon for our regular members and invited guests which numbered eighteen.

Our President gave a resume of the advancement of our club since its inception and informed our guests of the work we had been doing. Each member was asked to tell what we had learned during the year and what outstanding impression we felt we had gained regarding the growth and knowledge of begonias. There were some very interesting answers. A deeper appreciation and love for begonias was expressed by all.

We hope our guests may become so interested they may sometime form a new club of their own.

—AUGUSTA H. PAXSON.

Get-Acquainted Meeting

• East Bay chapter held its regular meeting at the Berkeley Council Chambers which will be its regular meeting place in the future.

After the regular routine of business there was an exchange of unusual garden plants and rare seedlings. Each member bringing a plant was asked to give a description of its habits and growth. It turned out to be a very interesting meeting and everyone became well acquainted.

—GEO. PASCOE.

Ventura Notes

• The November meeting of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch was held as usual in the Coca Cola Hall. An instructive talk was given by Mr. Clyde Vaughn of Pasadena on insects and their control, and on results with Liquid Grow B1 on plants. Vice-President Hall, in the absence of President Kemper, who is touring the East, gave a resume of the flower show and convention and thanked all the officers and members who helped to make it such a success.

—WALTER J. KNECHT.

Report of the Research Department for 1940

by L. E. DAY

• The Society now has four bound volumes of *Die Begonien* in its library. Four New York Botanical Garden bulletins on begonias and three on ferns. One copy of *Sunset's Complete Garden Guide*.

A complete set of the *Begonians* are bound with the exception of volume V. The first six issues of this year are being copied so that they can be bound to conform with the present size of the publication.

Three new projects have been started this year which are incomplete at the present time. A new bulletin on lath, cloth and glass houses is being prepared. A Bulletin describing the various soil mixtures for shade plants of all kinds and other useful information will soon be available.

There seems to be less information obtainable on begonias than perhaps any other popular group of plants. A total of but six books have been published on the subject and four of these are in foreign languages. None of these books fully describe the species. The most authoritative information is contained in the *Curtis Botanical Journal*, which lists and describes with illustrations but 6 species. *Bailey's Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture* and the *Garden Magazine* lists and describes a few additional species.

Much confusion has arisen and at times a single species may be found growing under several names. For this reason we are beginning the task of photographing the species and worthy hybrids and filing them for study and identification purposes. In this manner it is hoped that eventually order may be brought out of the chaos now existing.

This work is being carried out with the cooperation of the Nomenclature Department. Arrangements will be made so that members who wish to obtain prints for study purposes may do so at a nominal charge.

This work has only been made possible because of a donation to the Research Dept. by the Inglewood Branch of the Society. It is to be hoped that other branches will help in the carrying on of this worthy program.

The "Armchair Explorers" or members of the seed fund have been handicapped in obtaining seeds this year due to the war conditions. Few expeditions are now being sent out in search of new plant material. Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain seeds of species every effort is being made to keep up a supply. Letters were sent out to all Government Bureaus, Universities, Botanical Gardens, and Agricultural Centers in

countries where begonias are known to exist. Some two hundred letters were sent out and it is hoped that eventually some dependable sources may be built up. We have some very interesting replies.

Everyone belonging to the "Armchair Explorers", received a minimum of 21 packets of seed. This brought the cost of seeds to members below five cents per packet. Most of the seeds germinated well and we have some very fine looking plants to pay us for our trouble.

The following is a list of the begonia seeds distributed this year. Mexican tuberous species: This turned out to be a rhizomatous species instead of tuberous. It makes a very lovely potted specimen and carries its flowers well above its foliage. *Nigricans*, *Boliviensis*, *Peltata*, 1041 (Fragrant orange tuberous), Tuberous varieties of single and double flowers which turned out poorly. 1773 (*Bractiosa*), *Scharffiana*, *Andersonii*, *Ovatifolia*, *Gigantea*, *Satrapis*, *Cathcartii*, *Laciniata*, *Roxburghii*, *Gigantea* No. 10, Bhotan species, *Xanthia*. Panama Species Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. These last were received too late for any further identification.

• Keep dead branches and leaves picked off your fibrous begonias.

Fresh **STREPTOCARPUS** Seed

Very Choice — Limited Quantity

Mixed: 50c

—Plant In Fall For Spring Flowers—

MRS. A. D. ROBINSON

530 Silvergate Ave. Point Loma, Cal.

A Nursery That is Different

Gogoensis

Polypodium in Variety

Winter-Blooming Tuberous

Geneva Beauty

Double Pinks and Reds

Luxuriance — 15 Var. *Billbergia*
SPRAYS — FERTILIZERS

Palstine's General
Nursery
1226 E. 7th St. Long Beach, Calif.

Result of The Election

• Here are your 1941 National officers decided by the ballots cast at the national convention November 2 in Ventura:

Herbert P. Dyckman.....President
 H. L. Weitz.....President-Elect
 J. N. Nutter.....Treasurer
 Miss Lena Higgins.....Director—1 year
 Miss Edna Ziesenhenne.....Director—2 years
 Dr. C. N. Moore.....Director—3 years

Frank Harrison automatically becomes a member of the Board as Past-President.

The following appointments by the Board have been made for a term of one year:

Mrs. Ruby Liedler.....Corres. Secretary
 Mr. L. E. Day.....Research Director
 Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenne.....Nomenclature Dir.
 Mr. Clarence A. Hall.....Pub. Relations Dir.

The appointment of an editor and business manager has not yet been made.

Observations on Begonias

(Continued From Page 185)

The duplicating of the same climatic conditions that the plants are accustomed to in their native habitat in some instances may present somewhat of a problem. Fortunately we can fudge a little and still obtain satisfactory results. The plants need plenty of indirect light, and high humidity. The air should be bouyant although the plants should not be subject to too much draft. We will seldom get into trouble unless the temperatures become too high or too low. Excess moisture is particularly harmful at low temperatures if there is no circulation of air. If in doubt about a particular plant you are playing safe if you will hold back on the water. Water sparingly and only when needed.

Study the individual growth habits of each specimen. If one has large leaves, with thick succulent stems the chances are that it is a rapid grower and will require lots of water and plenty of pot space to be at its best. It may be fertilized more often. A plant that has small leaves does not require a great deal of water for its circulation system. As the water from the roots flows to and is partially released from the leaves it is obvious that the larger the leaf the more water that it will set free. Plants with hard woody stems grow much slower and require less attention. In general they will stand more sun and extreme temperatures.

Pay attention to the story that the leaves on your plants are telling you. They will give you an idea when to water, and if they are receiving the correct amount of sun and shade. The coloring or lack of it in the leaves will also serve as a guide in feeding. The lack of certain elements necessary to the growth of the plants show up in the leaves and so it is well to familiarize oneself with this phase of culture.

Fortunately for us, begonias that are healthy are subject to very few diseases and seldom will you ever find a diseased plant where growing conditions are good. However, should this misfortune happen to you it would be well to remove the plant from your collection as early as possible.

We are not the only ones that enjoy begonias, as it seems as though a great many bugs can't live without them. During an infestation the plants should be sprayed every other day for three times and then about once each week or ten days. Watch the leaves closely for insect life as damage is often done before we know it.

GREETINGS

ROCKERY BEGONIAS
 NIGRICANS (Sunderbruchii)
 POINSETTIAS—Single and Double
 PELTATAS PRIMROSES
 Choice Mixed Gloxinia Seed 25c

G. A. BARROWS

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SEASON'S GREETINGS



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TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

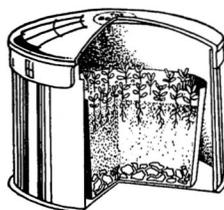
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Spray to Build Plant Tissue — Not Destroy It

by ALFRED DINSLEY, M.C., F.R.M.S.

(Editor's Note: The author, a leading authority on colloidal chemistry, comes from a family which has contributed much to horticulture and botany in general. His father, William Featherstone Dinsley, spent most of his active life lecturing and teaching botany in British universities, and at the age of 85, still takes a keen, active interest in horticultural developments at the Victoria University Experimental Grounds, Fallowfield, England. The author's first articles were written in 1912 when he was the pathologist on the staffs of popular garden and poultry magazines published in London. Since then much of his research efforts have been devoted to colloidal chemistry in the medical and horticulture field. Rose culturists are destined to hear more about this subject which he has so splendidly covered).

THE USE OF COLLOIDS IN COMBATting PLANT DISEASES



THE increasing demand for fungicides and insecticides, non-poisonous to man for controlling plant diseases has intensified the search for such materials. Colloids now appear to provide the solution of this problem, for in this form the desirable agents such as copper, sulphur, mercury, etc., may be used in sprays, without danger of injury to tender plant tissues. In this colloidal state these ingredients leave no poisonous residue, nor do they have any of the characteristic dangerous and unpleasant effects on the operator or pets.

In a recent issue of a national publication devoted to roses, I read about someone in New York who is losing sleep worrying about the pores of his rose bushes being clogged by sulphur he has put on them to control some disease. Very few rose growers realize that this condition really does frequently exist; however, I sincerely hope this discourse will help, rather than interfere with the peaceful slumber of rose lovers.

In this modern age, chemistry is contributing much to the improvement of man's health by scientific handling of the known elements of which he is composed. It is most interesting to know also that chemistry is contributing to the health and beauty of our own plant life—not only the plants that feed the body, but the flowering plants which contribute so much to the beauty of the earth and the satisfaction of the esthetic sense of every normal human being.

Physicians for many years have been using special chemicals in the colloidal form. A good example is "argyrol," which is a silver colloid possessing the advantages of the non-colloidal silver nitrate without the several disadvantages.

Prepared colloids fall into two classes—those produced by electricity and those produced chemically—the latter being the most stable. Then there are several varieties of the colloidal state—namely, emulsoids, suspensions, and the true colloids—the latter

being where the mineral or metallic salt or other factor has entered into true chemical combination with the colloid base. The advantage of this colloidal state is that it releases its medication slowly giving effective treatment over a longer period of time. The colloidal state permits chemicals to be used which usually are corrosive until made into this colloidal form when there is no danger of leaching, burning or physical damage when applied to animal or vegetable tissue. Due to the size of the colloid particles, vegetable tissue is able to absorb the effective ingredients over a long period of time.

Recently I had the opportunity to examine and test a proteinate of mercury, sulphur, copper and iodine which has been developed as a fungicide by J. A. Barfoot, of Los Angeles. I found this product to be a true colloid, exhibiting the usual physical and chemical characteristics of the colloidal state. That this combination forms a very effective fungicide cannot be disputed and while it is very effective, extensive tests disclosed that it is also "kind" to plant tissue.

There is still another very important factor to consider here. It is the effect excess spray material has on the soil under the plants being treated. Most true colloids have an organic nitrogenous base which is very beneficial to the soil as an available source of nitrogen, whereas, aromatic and poisonous sprays often harm the soil.

If you spray to build the plant tissue and the soil in which it grows you will also effectively combat these rose bush diseases such as mildew, canker, golden rust, black spot, and you will see a marked improvement in the quality of the new growth and the appearance of your flowers and foliage.

Rex Beach, the author of the article "Modern Miracle Men" in the *Cosmopolitan* magazine, dealt at length with the work of Dr. Charles Northen in Florida who has been using colloids to remedy deficiency diseases of plants.

In conclusion, it can be stated in general terms, that colloidal solutions offer many

San Gabriel Valley Branch

• At the november 15th meeting held in Arcadia City Hall, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

- Mr. Arthur Nelson, Arcadia.....President
- Mr. A. Bailey, Temple City.....Vice-Pres.
- Mrs. A. Hartwell, Monrovia.....Secretary
- Mrs. Earl Dodson, El Monte.....Treasurer
- Dr. Clark Lauder, Arcadia.....Dir.-at-Large
- Miss Lucine King, Covina
.....Executive Board Member

Newly elected National President Herbert P. Dyckman, and National Treasurer, J. N. Nutter of Long Beach were present, and each gave interesting talks.

Mrs. Hartwell and Mrs. Harrington reported on exhibits of the society at recent Flower shows and Mrs. Hartwell exhibited the blue ribbon won in one of these events.

On behalf of the organization Mr. T. A. Dodson expressed appreciation to Miss King, retiring president, for her splendid work during the last year.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Neil Campbell of Campbell's Seed store of Pasadena, gave an interesting talk on bulbs, accompanied by beautiful slides in color. All members are looking forward to the Christmas meeting as surprises are in store for all.

—MAUDE A. FOX.

advantages over non-colloidal solutions—of similar composition, in that the effectiveness of the colloidal solutions last for a more lengthy period and exerts a beneficial influence for a greater period of time than the non-colloidal solutions which are almost always fugitive in effect.

Moreover, the physical phenomena exhibited by colloids, namely, the electric charge of the colloidal particles, has distinct advantages over the non-colloid when applied to the conditions arising in the pathology of plants and animals. But it must be understood that the benefits to the plant and the effect on the diseases by the use of a colloidal solution cannot be readily seen due to the fact that it does not change the outside appearance of the plants, but brings this about slowly over a period of a few days.

Reprint from the Spring, 1940, issue of the Pacific Rose Society News.

THE COMPOST PILE

From
The
Editor's
Mail
Box



• From S. S. Harshbarger, Pasadena:—
"Please renew my subscription to the Begonian. It has certainly made great strides this last year".

* * *

• From 2nd Lt. Walter Shalaeff: "Enclosed please find \$1 for next year's membership fee. I have been ordered to Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., for a year's active training. Please send the magazine to the above address until I can give you a more definite one."

* * *

• From Margaret Gruenbaum Branch:—
"You have our good wishes, our earnest cooperation, and our deep appreciation for the contents of the Begonian."

* * *

• From A. H. Weisberg, Missoula, Mont.:
"It seems to me that if the Begonian would print a condensed summary of the talks made it would do the subscribers more good than the mere announcement that such a talk took place or will take place."

From the editor: Articles similar to all these talks have appeared at different times in the pages of the Begonian. I have tried to keep in mind this year, the viewpoint of the member-at-large in the selection of material for the Begonian. It is true that a branch member is favored by being able to hear these speakers, however. The branches, through the generosity of their members who support them, have materially aided the Begonian, and in that way ALL members of the American Begonia Society.

* * *

• From Mrs. F. W. Haasis, Carmel Calif.:
"Here is my second new member. Please send all 1940 numbers of the Begonian and accept subscription for 1941."

WE COVERED THE CONVENTION

by OPERATIVE U-2

The convention got under way auspiciously and we wish to go on record right now that when Ventura does something—it is really done. City officials joined with the Ventura officers and members in welcoming the society to the hospitality of that city which acted as hosts for the occasion.

National President Frank Harrison lost no time in getting the meeting underway and stuck closely to the scheduled program,

rounding out his year with the despatch and success that has marked his tenure of office.

The master of ceremonies for the evening meeting and dinner was Mr. Harry C. Green, president of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce who kept the meeting moving in a light vein much to the satisfaction and enjoyment of our members and guests.

Norvelle Gillespie, garden editor of *Sunset* magazine, made a point of showing his silver-plated badge designating his membership in the Screwball Club. He also explained that the Mrs. was unable to be present as she was busy raising a new Gillespie seedling.

The Begonian was represented by three lovely ladies in the persons of Mesdames Clarissa Harris, business manager, Pauline Ney, editor and Harriette Bridges, northern representative and member of the East Bay branch. We looked but couldn't see the staff photographer, Mrs. Martha Green.

Mr. Nutter, in keeping with the time, ran and was re-elected for the third consecutive term. His first request was for fan mail containing one dollar or its equivalent for the 1941 dues.

Our good friend, Mrs. Annie C. Robinson, was being greeted and sought after by a host of friends.

The speaker of the evening, Frank Reinelt, was accompanied by his charming wife and gave a splendid talk which held the rapt attention of every one present. It is not often we have the opportunity of hearing a man who has had such success raising Tuberous begonias.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne after a little difficulty was introduced and made an interesting report. The master of ceremonies tried to skip the introduction but was finally persuaded to go through with it and did a very good job of pronunciation.

Mr. Lambert Day gave a timely and informative talk on the work of the research department. And Mr. Clarence Hall, public relations director, reported that our branches thus far have increased eight over the 1939 period and that about four others would make the break before the end of 1940. We suggest a big hand for his hard and fruitful work.

● Do not over-water your plants at this time of year. Be sure that drainage holes in the pots are not clogged.

CHRISTMAS JOY

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Open Sundays 9 to 5:30

A Christmas Hybridizing Tale

(Continued From Page 183)

Another true story. As a breeder of exhibition Barred-Rock chickens the writer had considerable success. Over a period of twenty years he bred them, going to school on the subject, he corresponded with judges and breeders all over the country and attended all the shows he could reach, critically examining all the entries, handled every one of the thousand birds he raised every year, in short did all he could to know Barred-Rocks, becoming an authority.

One year he had a hen of great merit but falling short of his ideal, and at that time attended the show in Los Angeles, looking for a mate for this hen, he had a picture of what he wanted and the bird was there, he had to have him. He bought him and to cut this story short, the next season got a pullet, the highlight of his breeding effort, which breeders and judges alike regarded as impossibly good. He did have a picture.

This is not altogether serious; how can it be when it is founded on a postulate, not an accepted fact, but it may do for a weird Christmas tale.

Leaving horses and chickens, let us return to Begonias. There is a danger that all this might lead some to suppose that wishful dreaming is all that is necessary to become a Begonia Burbank or wizard. So let it be added as a finale that Burbank never got beyond the thousands for one method, and in spite of claims by others, never himself said that he had any other practice. Nature has still many locked-up secrets.

Merry Christmas

From The Begonian Advertisers

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(Editor's Note:— Please number the January issue beginning with 2 on the inside cover. Page 2 of the FEBRUARY issue should be changed to 10. Re-number from there. The Begonian is indebted to Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné for the compiling of this index).

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Merry

Christmas

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HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, December 3, 7:30 P.M.
4116 East Sixth Street.
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer.
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 P.M.
1060 Francisco Street.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, December 6, 8:00 P.M.
Woman's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd.
Mrs. V. StrKeglan, Secretary.
413 West Ellis Ave., Inglewood.

PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BRANCH

Monday, December 9, 2:00 P.M.
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Sophia E. Whitaker, Secy.,
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

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Tuesday, December 10, 8:00 P.M.
Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

No December Meeting
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,
Willow Grove, Pa.

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LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 P.M.
Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,
520 East Esther St., Long Beach.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 P.M.
1820 Laguna Street.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Secy.,
246 No. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Thursday, December 19, 7:30 P.M.
1644 East 55th Street
Miss Betty Wisker, Secy.
5800 Lime Ave., Long Beach.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, December 20, 7:30 P.M.
Arcadia City Hall, Arcadia.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, December 23, 7:30 P.M.
Berkeley Council Chambers
Geo. Pascoe, Secy.-Treas.,
2125 McGee Ave., Berkeley.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

Richard C. Atwood, Secy.-Treas.
1405 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

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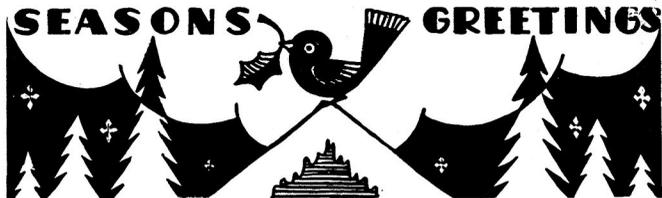
Secretary—Mrs. B. W. Skinner,
Lynnfield, Mass.

Another PENNSYLVANIA Branch

For information write to
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

• The newly-elected national officers will meet with the present Board Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at 141 West 53rd St., Long Beach.

SEASONS GREETINGS



TO OUR
BEGONIAN FRIENDS

— from the —

BARFOOT TRIO

