

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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# The BEGONIAN

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## Man Proposes . . . And God Disposes

● We hear of two widely separated accidents that make us stop to consider the effect they will have in their respective fields. On the West Coast: A nationally known Begonia grower, Everett Vetterle of Capitola, Calif., was killed in an automobile accident while on a trip to San Francisco. We all know Mr. Frank Reinelt in particular, of the Vetterle & Reinelt firm.

We shall miss this experienced man, Mr. Everett Vetterle, and we are grateful for what he has contributed to the beauties of the floral world. To the members of the firm and their families we extend our sincerest condolences.

On the East Coast: A serious fire broke out in a group of greenhouses

connected by a building which housed important records at the New York Botanical Gardens. It destroyed the houses and a great number of plants and records, among them hundreds of exotic specimen which may not be possible to replace until after the war. Some 40-50 plants of Begonia Socotrana were saved. Important, as this species served as a parent to the development of the Winter-flowering Begonias. This species came from the Island of Socotrana in the Indian Ocean and is little known in cultivation, therefore it is gratifying that some of the stock was saved. Many hundreds of other Begonias were lost. This Editor wonders, entirely unofficial-

(Continued on page 35)

## Let's Go To Meetin'

by DR. C. H. LAUDER  
Director of Public Relations

"Meetings Suspended."

Ominous words—occurring all too frequently as I look over the schedule of Meeting Dates and Speakers in The Begonian.

I am not gilding the lily when I say I'm just as patriotic as my neighbor; and I would be the last in the world to suggest that meetings on such earthly things as flowers should take precedence over earthly matters such as war.

Yet, was there ever a time when we needed deliberate detours—in our thinking, in our reading, in our social contacts—to stay sane in this mad world?

It's more than social relaxation to get together and talk Begonias. It's a mental vacation; a tonic to war-weary hearts and minds. For a few fleeting hours we become immersed in a subject in which there is strong, natural kinship; a subject that makes us feel all the light and sweetness has not been swept out of the world.

I know—we have Red Cross work to do. We have Civilian Defense work to do. We have this war effort and that—all good, all necessary. But we must also maintain morale. We must also do something for ourselves to better cope with these martial "musts."

So please—all you "branch managers"—PLEASE make every effort to keep up your usual schedule of meetings. In the long run you will find you will have accomplished just as much in other quarters; and, in addition, you will have maintained your meeting-momentum.

True, Begonias will bud and blossom in our gardens whether we go to meetin' or not. But the Spirit of Begonias will bud and blossom better if we don't use war and gas rationing as excuses to "shut up shop."

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### Man Proposes . . . And God Disposes (Continued from page 34)

ly, but nevertheless seriously, if we of the American Begonia Society can do anything about these losses, something that will help replace some of the lost plants? This disaster is estimated at the monetary sum of \$50,000. There are several things we could do, and we all know what a little help from many can attain.

The Editor

## A Message From the Board of Directors

The Board is wondering if you Begonia fans realize the opportunity you are overlooking to get real information.

Our Research Department belongs to you. Why not make use of it. Mrs. Bridges is more than anxious to do her part but she can't help you if she is not familiar with your problems.

Do not hesitate to write to her. She will answer you and the information she gives you will be authentic as it will come from reliable sources.

Give her a chance to answer a few questions by taking or sending your Begonia problems to her.

Write to Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges, Director, Clayton M. Kelley Research Department, 1824 B Street, Hayward, Calif.

J. L. Baily, Pres.  
El Monte, Calif.

---

Dear Jim:

Did you see the February issue of The Begonian? Wasn't it a humdinger? Sure it was and you were one of those who questioned the advisability of paying \$1.50 per year, for magazine and membership. . . . Why, man alive, the Lathhouse articles that have been running the past year will, alone, sell for more than that when put in book form.

And then the line drawing and description by Mrs. Clark, you learned something there.

Now Jim, why don't you round up a few of your neighbors, and you have many who are Begonia and shade-garden minded, and organize a branch? It will do you and them good this Summer to discuss Begonias after a hard day at the plant, wrestling with the Personnel Dept. or Stores Dept., and then look, I'm letting you in on a secret—Its rumored that this Summer we shall designate one Sunday each month on which all the Begonia fans will gather in Lincoln Park at OUR Greenhouse to have a good old-fashioned picnic. No set speeches but just a friendly gathering and discussion of our common problems. What say? Are you and your gang with us? Be seeing you soon. —Joe

P. S. Watch for the April issue with its increased size and new features.

# LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON, Dec.  
Lately of Point Loma, Calif.

## CHAPTER V — Continued

Every gardener has the ambition to produce something of his very own, whether that ambition lies hidden, never to be even admitted, it still is there. Only to the few whose names are with Ben Adhem's in *The Book of Gold*, is it permitted to realize this desire, and then realization is apt to come from so unexpected a source, as to induce modesty rather than pride. A decade or so ago I sat at the feet of one of the world's greatest horticulturists and plied him with questions and the thing that has remained indelibly in my mind as a souvenir of three precious afternoons, is the ease with which the great man said, "I don't know." I am proud to have reached the point where instead of talking about "my creation" I can refer to the new things as having happened while I was around. This is not modesty but honesty.

I shall not take much space to consider the matter of hybridizing or saving of seed, because with most Lathed Garden subjects, seed is very small and produced in large quantities to the pod, which means that all these hundreds must be grown to the flowering stage to determine if any are worth while. In spite of all scientific research it remains a mystery why in hybridizing experiments, only a few, if any, of the resulting seedlings show the influence of the cross and there is no test to tell which these are except to grow them. I used to save seed of a great many plants, choosing as parents the most outstanding specimens, but I became convinced that the **strain** was of even more importance than the specimen and that in cases where I could buy a seed of a well established strain, to save my own seed, was to practically ignore the labors of others in the field. If you wish to save your own seed, don't let this discourage you, but don't ever say I told you to do it.

One of the problems I put up to the eminent horticulturist referred to in a paragraph or so before this, was as to the behavior of some seed from a special cross. I had planted it twice in the same soil and under the same conditions of

heat, moisture, light, etc., and nothing resulted, then at a third trial, still under exactly the same treatment, except as to season, it sprouted like grass. Prefacing his reply by "I don't know," the horticulturist went on, "but there are certain plants so seasonal that only at the appointed season will they show activity, and he instanced many plants, the seeds of which await their time before germinating. I have since had a similar experience with other seed and have another possible explanation. This seed was very small and had to be sown **on** rather than in the soil which was very light and porous. On the third trial, after planting, I left the pan, covered with glass, soaking for 48 hours; and the seed germinated splendidly in a few days. I offer this diagnosis. The soil being porous, the seed small, and on the surface, moisture drained away from the seed too quickly to allow germination.

Another angle to this seed business has been the cause of much experimentation and still fills the advertising columns of the Garden Journals, and the shelves of the seed stores, that is the treatment of soil for sowing seed. A legion of nostrums for sterilization, prevention of damping off, etc., have come and gone and I have followed along and on my discard shelf are half filled bottles and cans, the labels of which promise immunity from every trouble to which seedlings are heir. Now I use the soil, generally leaf mold, just as I get it, and my emancipation I owe to another nationally known horticulturist who said, "I figure that if I use anything strong enough to destroy all enemies in the soil I must also kill all my friends there, and I have a **dead soil**." I find a very general acceptance of this theory among growers of large quantities of seedling, and my experience endorses it.

I am stressing this seed angle because it features the beginning of operations and emphasizes a vital side of true gardening, which is, that in operation the picture must always be kept from six months to a year in the future. To make myself clear—I have in midsummer, seed of the winter and spring plants, just coming up in flats. **—J** One of the

hardest jobs is to grow the things for bloom in the cool weeks of spring, in the hot days of mid-summer.

Most gardeners have the Diary habit, and it is a good one, except that in general it is a simple recording of what has happened whereas its usefulness lies really with what has to come. For years I have been advocating two diaries, one for the current year and the other for the year ahead. In one I would put down all those things that have happened, in the other suggestions based on current experience. For instance, I find that pansies are two weeks later than I hoped to have them, so looking up the date of planting the seed, I make a note two weeks earlier in my next year's diary for the operation. When I put the idea of these two diaries up to the sellers of diaries, they said why not make a note of it? To which I countered, "where?" and then have to remember I have the note and hunt it up, but if it is in my diary which I am posting daily, I can't miss it even if I wanted to. This would mean buying two diaries for only the first year, as after then, it would be only the one for the year ahead. I have tried to buy this year diary "ahead," but have been unable to find one anywhere. I don't want one diary for two years, to function according to my idea each year must have its separate book and the only difference between this idea and modern practice is to have the diary for the year ahead.

I meet a great many people who apparently take pride in being casual gardeners, they say, oh, I just garden in the Spring or the Summer or the Fall, as the case may be, and the rest of the time my garden must take care of itself. Or they are specialists and don't bother about any flowers but their particular fancy. These are not Gardeners, for though gardening is one of the foremost of all forms of recreation, it is like a jealous mistress and will not stand for neglect, it demands love and attention all the time and the work for the best in the garden is largely done, when there is nothing to show for it.

What has been said about foresight in seed operation applies equally in making cuttings. The mere rooting of cuttings though interesting, has little relation to gardening, unless it is done with the picture in mind of the resulting blooming plant. By using artificial aid, such as applied heat, glass protection, etc., cuttings of most things can be rooted almost at any season, but it is entirely different and more specialized as to season when considering the grown specimen.

I have no intention to make this book a complete guide to all garden operations, I hope to awaken a desire to go garden adventuring, and there can be no adventure unless the unknown element is present, further, there is no one and only path to success. It is the universal practice of seedmen to print instructions for sowing, etc., on every package of seed so they'll germinate, grow and bloom, and therefore the directions they give for culture may reasonably be considered the best they know or can find. Of course the trouble lurks in the fact that so many purchasers never read the instructions. Also there are excellent books on all phases of propagation and our government and colleges will supply on application and postage more material than one can absorb, and in them is a lot of most valuable information. Among these latter are bulletins, on insect pest and diseases, the subject being dealt with from every point of view—except that of the insect.

I have always found it difficult to acquire information by way of the printed word and imagine there may be others equally unfortunate; to these I would say go and watch some good propagator in action. Address him as Archie, Fritz, or Hans, possibly John, but by no means Sam or George, and if you want to play absolutely safe call him Mac. Mac will show you how it is done, for no real expert talks or even thinks about secret processes as applied to his art, for art it is, and generations may well have been concerned in its acquisition.

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# FANCY-LEAVED CALADIUMS

by HAROLD W. HART  
Glendale, Calif.

**I**N writing this article I do not want to give the impression that I am an expert or a professional of any kind, as I am purely a novice at growing shade-loving plants.

Not quite three years ago, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Glendale Branch of the American Begonia Society. Up until that time I had never grown a potted plant, but after I attended the meeting I got the Begonia "Bug." Since that time I have had a lot of fun, work and exercise in my new hobby and have raised quite a number of different varieties of Begonias and numerous other shade-growing plants.

Shortly after starting my first begonias, I saw some Fancy-Leaved Caladium bulbs advertised. I bought twelve bulbs of as many different named varieties and put them in a heated Muslin House at a 75 degree night temperature. It didn't take many days to convince myself that I had at last found something that would satisfy my impatience at waiting for slow growing plants to become fully grown. In less than two months, I had beautiful ornamental plants with bright-colored foliage from a foot and a half to two feet high. At the present time, I have sixty varieties in my collection.

At certain times of the year, Caladiums will grow much faster than at other times, and bulbs started in the first part of the season will not mature as fast as those later in the season. I started some bulbs in which the eyes were just beginning to sprout on the twenty-second of September of last year and in eleven days they were fourteen inches tall. One could almost see them grow.

To my knowledge the commercial bulbs are grown in Florida, Louisiana, and Porto Rico, for I have obtained bulbs in these places. If they are grown in other localities, I have not heard of them, but if any reader of the Begonian has any information pertaining to other sections, I would be glad to learn of them.

I have seen pictures of several acres of Caladiums growing out in the sun in Florida. However, they will not stand the full sun here in California because of the severe heat and lack of humidity. In fact this lack of humidity makes growing

Caladiums in Southern California much more of a problem than in localities of a tropical or semi-tropical climate of warmth and moisture in the atmosphere. In the city of Glendale where I grow my Fancy-Leaved Caladiums, the humidity must be furnished artificially to get best results. For this reason I grow my best plants in a Glass House, and I only have fair results in the out-of-doors under the trees and in semi-shade. Plants in the garden are very colorful, and satisfactory results can be obtained if I start them in the Glass House and place them in the garden when they are matured.

Caladiums like warmth and our nights are too cold for good results even in the summer, as many times the temperature will fall to 50 degrees. This is true of most California localities, and since the weather is so dry, many times the leaves will show a tendency to wilt. Several different times this summer, I left the ventilators open in the Glass House on the hottest days and at three or four o'clock in the afternoon the leaves on the Caladiums would have wilted down. I would close all of the ventilators and in two hours the Caladiums would look as fresh as ever. The closing of the ventilators increased the humidity, but even though it raised the temperature to as high as one hundred and ten degrees, the Caladiums freshened up.

I do not recommend placing the matured plants in the open here in California until June. If the bulbs are started in the open, I would not place them in the ground until May.

Bulbs may be started in a heated Glass House any time that bulbs can be obtained. I have them growing the year around and have started them at all times of the year. Just as soon as a plant shows a fading of color and looks as though it has passed its peak, I let it go dormant, dry out the bulb and start it again after a three or four months rest. Bulbs are seldom lost from rot, if the pot is thoroughly dried. If the bulb remains in damp soil it will rot and become worthless. I generally place them in full sun on the south side of the house which has overhanging eaves to prevent rain from getting on them. As

## NOTICE TO BEGONIAN SUBSCRIBERS!



IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO STOP MAILING THE BEGONIAN  
TO ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES.



IN ORDER NOT TO MISS THE APRIL ISSUE DUES SHOULD  
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soon as they are dry, I dump the soil into a coarse screen and screen the soil through, leaving the bulbs. I then place the bulbs in open paper sacks after writing the names on the outside for identification. If a small amount of Naphthaline flakes is put in the bottom of the sack, the moths or insects are kept away, and then the sack can be put away until the Caladiums are ready for re-planting.

I start my bulbs in flats in a mixture of 1/3 coarse sand, 1/3 Oak Leaf Mold, and 1/3 coarse-poultry charcoal. I cover the bulbs about 1/4 of an inch and place them in the Glass House which is kept at a 75 degrees night temperature. If I wish to force them, I sometimes raise the heat to 80 or 85 degrees, keeping the plants fairly damp but not watering too heavily. When the leaves show color, I transplant them into a mixture of 1/3 loam, 1/3 oak leaf mold, and 1/3 rotted cow manure. A large enough pot should be used that will leave an inch or so between the edge of the bulb and

the pot. If the plant gets large and the roots crowded, they should be re-potted in larger pots. I use a liquid commercial fertilizer on the first and the fifteenth of each month, but if a good commercial is not obtainable, liquid cow manure will give good results.

During growth give plenty of water. You do not need to be afraid of drowning them. I usually water every morning filling the pot to the brim.

I will give more information in the next issue of The Begonian about growing hints, treatment of bulbs and names and descriptions of favorite varieties.

If any reader would like to ask any questions, send them to the Editor and I'll do my best to answer.



Q. Should a Polypodium Knighti be cut back while it is dormant, or what is one to do for it at this time?

Ans. If it goes dormant early in the Winter it is a sign it needs transplanting. This should be into a wire hanging basket. If already in a hanging basket and it is practically dormant, cut off shoots down to the moss lining BEFORE new shoots appear and then mulch with cow manure.

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# Encouragement Given and Sought

by CLARENCE A. HALL  
Ventura, Calif.

• One of the most important offices of the National Executive Board is that of Membership Fees Chairman. Mrs. Harry Harker, who is so capably handling the detail and tremendous amount of work attached to that office, submitted a very interesting and enlightening report at the February Board meeting.

She states that since the first of the year many new membership subscriptions have been received. This is phenomenal when present day conditions are taken into consideration; is very encouraging and speaks well for the continued growth and success of the Society.

She stated that much detail work could be eliminated if members who have changed their addresses would so advise her direct, or if preferred, through the Secretary of your branch. Prompt notification in this manner will assure the delivery of the Begonian at the time it is usually expected and will save much work and detail than if the correction is received from the Postal Authorities.

In giving her report, Mrs. Harker extended compliments and thanks to many branches for their promptness in remitting and mailing of dues. One note of regret was expressed in that it appears a few branches are not as prompt as the majority. No doubt, those members who have not as yet paid their dues, will do so at the next meeting of their branch, or sooner. Your local secretary will be happy to do his or her part, and mail the lists as promptly as possible. This assistance from you will also help the National Membership Chairman to realize her ambition of having 100 per cent "paid for" memberships by April. While we realize paying of dues is one of those things that can be so easily put off, your cooperation and promptness will be greatly appreciated.

Why not visit your National Board meeting? The next meeting will be held on the second Monday of March in the Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Association, 417 S. Hill Street, Los Angeles, at 7:30 P. M. You will receive a hearty welcome, and will prove to be an interesting evening for you.

# Heard By Dr. Lauder At the National Board Meeting

• Resume Meeting National Board, American Begonia Society held February 8th, Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Association, 417 South Hill, Los Angeles, California.

Ralph Davis, the newly elected Representative Director from the San Gabriel Valley Branch, and Mrs. Davis were present for the first time. President Baily has made it quite clear that he indeed was pleased to have representatives from any and all branches attend these meetings and thus be able to report to their branches such items of news and legislation that they deem of interest.

Dr. Lauder gave a rather encouraging report of the plants at the Robinson Memorial and stated a group met there and repotted many of the begonias; also that the fibrous plants were blooming and really making quite a show though more plants are badly needed and there is much available space. Different branches are just waiting to send in plants and as soon as a plan for transportation is completed many additional plants will be on the tables. Plans are now underway to hold several picnic meetings at the Memorial during the summer to which all members of all branches will be invited—a general get-together.

Louis H. Seeger can be found at the Greenhouse most any time of the day and will very gladly show the exhibit.

Discussion regarding an increase in the size of "The Begonian" resulted in the general opinion that this should be done with the April issue or as soon as possible thereafter.

Charter was issued to the Alfred D. Robinson Branch at San Diego. This branch is most enthusiastic and going places.

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# "Vedderi,"

## By Rosecroft

by ALICE M. CLARK  
San Diego, Calif.

• The "Vedderi" of this sketch is about eighteen inches high, and was acquired a little over a year ago as a small plant. The drawing does not do credit to the delightful sheen of the leaves, a lighter green than some others, darker in the center, perhaps due to the shadow caused by the very short stems (from one-half to one inch long), which crowd the leaves together, one of its most distinctive characteristics. There is a fine toothing and scallop on the wavy edge. The veins show lighter on the right side than the leaf color but on the back they are red against a gray-green ground. The leaf is given extra width by a triangular jog opposite its center. At its widest in the picture it is three inches by a length of six inches, but does grow larger. It is somewhat hairy but has had a "closer shave" on the front than the back.

The flower stem is rose-tinted with tiny hairs that also color the small buds, giving a soft pink effect. When fully open the male bloom is only an inch across. The whole appearance of the plant is quite close-coupled. It branches well from the base, so is a nice bushy type, but is just a medium grower for height. The stems are rather succulent and green except for the flower stalk. The stipules get dry and brown but are well hidden by the leaves.

This plant was first listed in the Rosecroft Begonia Guide for 1933, simply as "Vedderi." When the San Diego Branches were looking up local hybrids for their exhibit, Montalvo Gardens had another plant by the same name, (which is now in the A.D.R. Memorial Exhibit) that is quite different. It is naturally a tall grower. The branches are reddish and the back of the leaf has a deep red flush that does not extend clear to the edge of the leaf. The leaf has the same satin texture, but is a fairly dark green. The stems of the leaves are longer so they do not have the quaint, bushy appearance of the one in the sketch. The leaves are long, but lack the extra width of the Rosecroft variety. The flower is about the same.

Constance Bower who knew the original plant and persuaded Mr. Vedder to



name it, had never seen the one of the sketch, so it would seem that the plant in Lincoln Park is the Original "Vedderi" and the one depicted here is Mr. Robinson's version. Miss Bower says the one she knew appeared about 1922, and it is listed in Mrs. Gray's Begonia book. There it is described as "one of the finest kind, with an odd-shaped leaf tapering down to a point. The color on top is a shaded green and the lobe is deeply serrate. Underside is prominently veined with deep red and tinted a lighter shade. Flower is of Cyprea type, pinkish white and hairy."

There seems to be no data on the parentage of Mr. Vedder's seedling, but the Robinson catalog states that the one listed there is "a seedling of Compta but much smaller grower, with leaves broader at base and shorter, also lack-

(Continued on page 44)

## SHADE GARDEN PROBLEMS

Q. In starting Tuberous Begonias, what type of soil do you recommend? I have used peat exclusively, and am about to try half peat and half sand.

Ans. First recommendation is peat, second: leaf mold, third: leaf mold and sand.

Q. Is this a good time to start propagation of Rex from leaf cuttings? Does the Rex bulletin as advertised in the Begonian tell what kind of soil to start them in?

Ans. 1—Yes, with bottom heat. 2—Yes. Are there any types of vegetables that will grow successfully in partial shade on the border of my lath house?

Ans. Lettuce, Celtnce, Chard and Rhubarb Chard, also Sorrel, Tarragon and Chervil.

Q. Is it too late to plant Tuberous Begonia seeds? Please recommend the most reliable place where I may purchase good reliable seed that will grow.

Ans. 1—No. 2—See advertisements in Begonian.

Q. In the Fibrous Begonia article in last month's Begonian it is recommended to cut them all the way back. I want mine to grow tall. Will it be OK to cut mine back and still get them to grow tall?

Ans. Yes.

Q. Some of my Tuberous Begonia bulbs are soft, not rotten—just soft. Others are hard. What is the cause of this difference?

Ans. If the soft bulbs are shriveled, it is from lack of moisture while dormant.

**Note:** Send your questions or your answers to any special question in which you can help further, direct to chairman of this department: Mr. Ferd P. Neels, 426 E. Maple Ave., El Segundo, Calif.

## Branch News

**Alfred D. Robinson Branch:** The place of meeting has had to be changed to the home of the President, Mrs. John G. Clark, 3026 Freeman Street, San Diego, Calif. Time, 7:30 p.m. of the "Fourth Friday Evening" until further notice. Mrs. Clark is planning to comply with our request for a drawing of some one of the Begonias each month with the description from a layman's point of view. She will take in turn, most of those that were sent to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Greenhouse in Los Angeles, which will make these plants doubly interesting to one and all. There will be some questions you will want to ask, if so, please write directly to Mrs. Clarke.

**Hollywood Branch:** This Branch has growing pains and setting an ambitious goal for itself. The plant sale this month will be carried out with more than the usual enthusiasm because the proceeds are to be donated to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Committee for incidental expenses. (Dr. Lauder and his Committeemen will like that—won't you, Dr.?) So as to have more time to enjoy the company of the members, everyone is asked to bring a BOX SUPPER and be on the spot by 6 p.m. for a fine evening. All members are asked to check up on their FERN troubles as the speaker of the evening is an outstanding specialist on Ferns as well as an authority on Horticulture and Floriculture in general. Mr. Alfred W. Roberts is in charge of these departments at the University High in West Los Angeles, and Secretary of the So. Calif. Horticultural Institute. He will speak on "The Propagation of Ferns."

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# Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG  
Hollywood, Calif.

• Let's discuss another of the Primulas. The Primula group offers so much, that the discussion could be endless. We seem to have jumped to the conclusion that many of the Primroses are not for Southern California, yet there are many who grow these with perfect results. Those we have adopted we grow in abundance, but the general gardener shies at the others.

Primula polyantha is not grown enough. Its perennial nature and being a hybrid combines for our enjoyment the best of several of European varieties. The range of color is wider than many commonly grown primulas in California. Here we have browns and russet-tones, blues, reds, yellows and whites in most pleasing variations.

Primula polyantha flowers here in February, March and early April, even later. In the ground it provides a colorful, low-growing attractive plant that is reasonably easy to grow even from seed, though it may test your patience before it flowers, yet it provides a good grower's subject in either greenhouse or outdoors. It is a fine plant for pots suitable as decoration for many occasions, however, a bed of several hundred in flower under our California blue is worth remembering.



**Riverside Branch:** Mesdames McPherrin and Mansperger will aid Mrs. C. S. May when their members will meet at the home of Mrs. May, 3121 Mulberry Street, Riverside, for the usual meeting of the month.

**North Long Beach Branch:** The next meeting is sure to be well attended with the present enthusiasm for Orchids. You would be surprised how many back-yard gardeners with nice little Victory gardens and Begonia collections are going in for Orchids. Mr. Rapella who has a well-known Orchid establishment in Hawthorne, Calif., will be the guest speaker. He returned not long ago from yet another collecting trip and the pictures he is to show may depict some of the prizes he went after. The meeting is to be at the usual 7:30 p.m. hour March the 8th, at 5780 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach.

**Santa Barbara Branch:** How nice it was to hear from this Branch through Mrs. Sommerfield, the Secretary. Regular meetings have been attended only by a few because of many things, so now they keep in touch with each other without setting a special date. Mrs. Frey especially likes to keep abreast of what the members are doing in the field of Begonia culture. The officers are due for election the next meeting. They are all anxious to continue regular meetings as soon as conditions permit.

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**Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch:** We should like to have heard Mr. Bert Kallman's talk on Camellias. There are so many very lovely types of Camellias in bloom at this time that a talk about them is most timely especially so as many gardeners think these evergreens are difficult to grow. Let us have some of your special guiding thoughts and suggestions, Mr. Kallman; we are told you KNOW.

**The Margaret Gruenbaum Branch** will be entertained by Mrs. Alfred Boysen at her home in Glenside, Pa., on Tuesday, March 23rd.

**Glendale Branch:** Renewed impetus was given this group again through the instructive talk by Dr. Reynolds and the election at the previous meeting of the following officers: President, F. R. McCullough; Vice-President, Mrs. M. B. Dewar; Treasurer, D. H. Winans; Secretary, Mrs. C. C. Cook; National Director, Mrs. F. W. McRae; and Director, Mrs. R. M. Dickey. The past officers can look back on a particularly splendid and worthwhile year and the new officers are planning many fine things for the current year. Congratulations to all and good luck.

• TO THE SECRETARIES: PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE, watch for mistakes on your place of meeting, date and time, etc., names connected with your group or other things you do not desire repeated. Let the Editor know—RIGHT AWAY—a penny post card will do, and no offense will ever be taken. The Editor dislikes making mistakes (of course, if she did not make mistakes she would not to be amongst those living), but how is she to know if you do not tell her?

## BEGONIA TUBERS

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**Santa Maria Branch:** Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secretary-Treasurer of this Branch, is most enthusiastic about the culture of Begonias and has a splendid collection of fine plants the while growing a lot of them, we mean many hundreds, from seed for the sheer joy of the growing. She held a Begonia anniversary meeting at her place last August, and plans, willy-nilly, to have another this year to commemorate the organization of this Branch, where it was brought into being. Mrs. Mehlschau, is concerned about one thing. Since great distances and coast regulations prevent regular meetings, she wants to have ideas from our readers on how to hold a far-flung group together with real interest. This help will be greatly appreciated by her, and we would suggest that you write her direct: Box 12, Nipomo, Calif. She loves visitors, so do stop, if you are near, and enjoy Begonias with her.

## "VEDDERI," BY ROSECROFT

(Continued from page 41)

ing the gray center but with wavy edge." Whether that means that this version was derived from Compta, no one seems able to say, certainly it bears even less resemblance to it than the original plant. Would that more questions had been asked earlier! At any rate, both plants are a credit to their San Diego location, and the one illustrated has always had a special appeal for me as the "cut of its jib," to use navy parlance, is so jaunty. It is rather scarce here now but as soon as warmer weather permits a rooted cutting will join its cousin in the Los Angeles Greenhouse. That's a promise, Dr. Lauder!

• Please do send in material to reach the Editor not later than the tenth of the month.

## NEW VEGETABLES

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## THE CHARMING LITTLE SAINTPAULIA

Photo by A. E. Rippey

by CLARISSA HARRIS  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**T**HE indoor gardener need look no further than the Saintpaulia for the ideal house plant. In fact the best plants are those grown in the house rather than those grown in greenhouses. Here is where the amateur, with a few do's and don't's, can easily surpass the professional. For the invalid who loves growing things here is the answer.

The Saintpaulia is a native of the Usambara district of East Africa, and was discovered many years ago by Baron Walter von Saint Paul of Silesia, after whom it was named.

When first introduced into Europe this plant enjoyed the popularity accorded few others. In the brief period of two years it had been featured in more than five horticultural publications, but after a few years it seemed to pass into obscurity. This was likely due to the inability to find just the right conditions under which it should grow. Now, here in America, this lovely plant is again coming into its own and there are some very wonderful new plants on the market today.

There seems to be a record of only four original species. *S. ionantha*, Wendl. with varieties *grandiflora*, Hort. and *variegata*, Hort.; *S. Kewensis*, Clarke; *S. pusilla*, Engler and *S. Goetzeanam*, Engler is lost to the culture.

Here is a plant that will flower for at least nine months of the year, if placed where it will get plenty of light but does not like the direct sun during the summer months, yet is quite tolerant of the winter sun. One of the don'ts is that it will not stand drafts, so don't let your plant stand in a drafty place. Another is that the exposure is not as important as the amount of light received thru the windows. Always keep in mind that too much shade will cause your plants to stop blooming.

The two most important factors to deal with in the raising of healthy plants are soil condition and proper watering. The root system of the Saintpaulia is very fine and therefore it needs a very porous soil. Watering should be done every two or three days and never allow the water to get on the leaves as water under certain conditions will cause the leaves to spot, or in the crown of the plant as this will cause crown rot. Submerge the pot in water about two inches deep and allow it to remain there only until the water has completely saturated the soil. If you find you have too many plants to water in this manner, then with care use a long spouted watering can, being sure the water runs in around the outer edge of the pot and never over the crown.

Saintpaulias do not require frequent

repotting. Plants may remain in the same sized pot for several years. In fact a slight crowding of the root system induces more bloom. When repotting is necessary be sure to use only a size larger pot. The soil mixture should consist of a compost of fifty per cent organic matter, such as leaf mold, rotted manure, well rotted bermuda grass sod, or peat moss, with one part sand and a good sandy loam. The leaf stems are very brittle and care should be exercised in the handling of the plants or the leaves will break off.

The Saintpaulia thrives in a temperature of 60 to 75 degrees. With the conserving of the fuel, our homes this winter should be ideal for the growing of this plant.

One may obtain young plants by three methods of propagation: by leaf cuttings which usually form in from six to seven weeks after placing in sand, and have been known to bloom in from six to eight months under ideal conditions. When the plants become too crowded, it is advisable to divide them into several smaller plants rather than repotting to a larger container. Smaller plants are much easier to handle as house plants and seem to bloom better. Then lastly there is the method of propagation by seed, which requires much patience and is another story.

The varieties most familiar today are S. Blue Boy, a very popular dark blue flower with light green leaves. S. Viking and Admiral also have dark blue flowers but their leaves are much longer and are of a dark green color. These last two are especially good summer flowering plants. S. Ionantha (a species plant) has light blue flowers and dark green foliage, it is a very robust grower and a most generous bloomer. There are two new Saintpaulias on the market this year which are certainly well worth mentioning. There is a sport from the old dependable S. Blue Boy, which has the same dark blue flowers with heart-shaped, variegated leaves, with a much better growing habit. This plant is known as S. Blue Girl. S. Pink Beauty is surely to be admired. If there ever was a dainty plant here it is, with its crystalline-pink blossoms it will capture your heart. Its habit of growth is just what is to be desired in a potted plant, besides being a profuse bloomer. There are several other plants that should be named as they have individuality both

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as to growth and color but at present such information is not at hand.

As a rule the Saintpaulia is not attacked by insects if used as a house plant. Aphid and Mealy-Bug are the enemies that most generally attack them but if the plants are kept healthy and growing these insects are seldom present.

• WHAT TO DO IN THE BEGONIA GARDEN THIS MONTH? You will soon be reminded by none other than the Past-President Mr. Ferd Neels, next issue. The Begonian is to be enlarged. These will be maintained as long as we can procure really interesting material for you. We need your cooperation, your pictures, and your experience-stories.

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# Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

Note: The March (2nd Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., March 8th, 7:30 p.m.

## PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, March 2nd., 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, March 2nd  
Home of Mrs. H. S. May,  
3121 Mulberry St., Riverside, Calif.  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, March 2nd, 8:00 p.m.  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:30 p.m.  
American Legion Hall,  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. George Fitch, Secy.-Treas.  
70 So. Hurst Ave., Ventura, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, March 3rd  
1060 Francisco St.,  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,  
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, March 4th  
Dominguez Casualty Station,  
2171 So. Alameda St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, March 4th  
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.  
917 N. Main St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.  
No. Cambridge St., Orange, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, March 5th, 7:30 p.m.  
Mesa Ballroom  
3404 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary  
1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Wm. Ross  
Subject: "Rex Begonia Culture"

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, March 8th  
4037 39th Ave., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,  
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, March 8th, 7:45 p.m.  
Washington School,  
60th and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings  
Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.  
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, March 8th, 7:30 p.m.  
5708 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. E. Van Hook, Secy.-Treas.,  
6774 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Rapella  
Subject: "Orchids with Pictures"

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, March 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,  
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Alfred W. Roberts  
Demonstration: Propagation of Ferns

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, March 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. S. Algeo, Secy.-Treas.  
1712 Gardena, Long Beach, Calif.

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, March 12th  
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,  
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas.  
3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Meetings Suspended  
Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,  
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, March 15th  
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,  
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, March 18th  
11228 Atlantic Ave.  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, March 23rd  
329 No. Brand Blvd.,  
News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Milford Ave., Phone CITrus 17517

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, March 23rd  
Mrs. M. S. Prince, Secy., Hatboro, Pa.  
Home of Mrs. Alfred Boysen, Glenside, Pa.

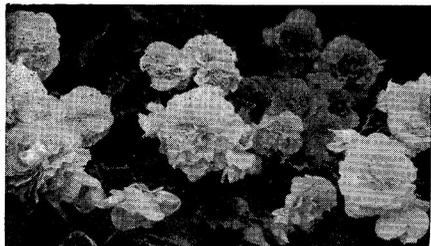
## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday Evening, March 26th, 7:30 p.m.  
123 E. Lime St., Monrovia, Calif.  
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary  
419 South Ynez Ave.  
Monterey Park, Calif.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, March 26th, 7:30 p.m.  
Home of Mrs. John G. Clark,  
3026 Freeman St., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. George S. Graves, Secy.-Treas.  
2922 Evergreen St., San Diego, Calif.

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