

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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# The BEGONIAN

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## To Be—Or Not To Be This Is No Question!

By Your Editor

● If we do, we are safe, if we don't we'll be sorry—and possibly worse. Of course, it would be foolish indeed, to tear down lathhouses, muslin shelters, tear down trees that are all important and take so many years to grow to shelter us, and pull up shrubs, in order to make more open-sunshine ground available in which to grow vegetables. We

need the shade garden with all its colorful beauty as much as we need the fruit, greens and root vegetables, and we must not be rash. Anyone, however, who has the space, and the time, surely is out of balance and out of the running—in the preservation of our resources, of our freedom, our good health and self defense if he is not making good use of the opportunity of helping himself and his country.

VICTORY DEPENDS ON EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY—NOT ON OUR NEIGHBOR'S EFFORTS, BUT OURS!



The tall plant in the middle is *B. Templini*. It is 59 inches tall. At left is *B. manicata aurea maculata*, in front of it is one of its offspring, hardly as big as one of its leaves, but with two flower

clusters. On the right is *B. haageana*—3 feet across. In the front centre is *Rex Lord Palmerston* more than 3 feet across with some leaves 15 inches and more in length.

## THAT DELIGHTFUL DISEASE

By PHILIP MALCOLM POST  
Worcester, Mass.

**A**CQUIRING and growing begonias is a particularly virulent and incurable sort of contagion. I've certainly got it for keeps. Three years ago my entire collection consisted of four kinds of semperflorens, *President Carnot*, and *Weltoniensis*, crowded with numerous other things in a window-greenhouse. That summer I decided to solve the problem of growing space for all time, and built an 8½x16½ foot lean-to greenhouse. For a time I grew anything and everything, and made lots of mistakes, but I gradually got to specializing, so that now the bulk of my plants are of two groups, both dangerously contagious—begonias and geraniums (sweet-scented and unusual). They don't go

well together, so the greenhouse is dominantly begonian, while the geraniums for the most part have to spend the winter in various places in the house.

Now I am in grave and imminent danger of having to go commercial to support my collection. A small lathhouse I built last year will relieve the situation when warm weather comes, but I know very well I can't even begin to house my plants next fall if I keep only one of a kind, and heaven only knows to what proportions their numbers will grow by that time. I have a lot of new ones coming soon, and in the fall I like to take in the beautiful tuberous ones

(Continued on page 83)

# LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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

The following is an extract from Chambers Encyclopedia printed in 1870 and is quoted to show what a long way we have come since then:

"The order (Begoniaceae) contains about 160 known species all of which have pink flowers. They are almost tropical plants, and some of them are often to be seen in British hothouses, but a small species ascends the Himalaya to at least 11,500 feet, often growing on the trunks of trees. The leaves of Begonias have a reddish tinge, the leaves and young stems are succulent and acid and those of *B. Malabarica*, *B. Tuberosa*, and other species are used as pot-herbs or in tarts. The juicy stalks of a large species found in Sikkim at an elevation of five or six thousand feet are mentioned by Dr. Hooker as employed to make a pleasant acid sauce. This and the small Himalayan species already mentioned would probably succeed in the climate of Britain. The roots of some are used in their native countries as astringents and some of the Mexican species are used as drastic purgatives."

To finish with authorities, Bailey's Encyclopedia is The American Begonia Bible and contains a good article on Rex Begonia culture signed with the name of a horticulturist internationally known in other fields; years ago he visited my gardens and I queried him on Begonias saying I had read his article in Bailey's and he said "I don't know anything about Begonias", however some one did who wrote The Rex article.

I have also a pamphlet by E. D. Merrill describing 59 species of Begonia native to the Philippine Islands. It has a pink cover but the sight of it makes my face red for it is couched in such superbotanical language that I can't understand a word of it which is all the more aggravating because it includes a Begonia *robinsoni* (notice the small "r" in *robinsoni*). I have made marginal translations of a lot of the adjectives but even then cannot get a picture of the plant. The reader may be better equipped so to give him a chance I quote. "*B. robinsoni* is suffruticose, dentate, glabrous, pubescent, apiculate, acuminate, axillary, fasciculate, reticulate, trincate," — but what is the use! Anyone who can speak this kind of language won't have bothered to read this far.

On two occasions I have been the recipient of voluntary offerings of seed and plants from the Phillipines. Of the plants nothing, but seed of two species arrived under number. One of these grew but proved to be a small shrubby thing with insignificant white flowers, and I went no further with it.

The U. S. Government at Washington also expressed a desire to help me in my search for more and better Begonias and said it would instruct its explorers to be on the look out for members of this family. From this lead came one specimen, Chinese, and when I unpacked the dried specimen, I laughed aloud for it was my oldest acquaintance, *Evan-siana*, the hardy tuberous, native to a wide area in the Orient. In my youth it grew in a tub just inside the front of my home, and with the tuberous and bedding type, formed the only three Begonias I ever saw in my native County of Norfolk.

I am sure I have now taken up more space than the law allows in this anecdotal detour and will try to be more direct.

Professor Baily called the Begonias, "one of the most interesting and diversified of all the families of ornamentals." (I quote him to give a tinge of authority to this literary ramble.) It certainly is varied from every point of view. It embraces varieties that are scandent and others that are veritable trees with everything between. In foliage, it ranges as far, from the fern-like *foliosa* to the immense leaves of the Rex. In bloom every color and shade except blue, and here, size is as varied as are the leaves. Moreover it has a blooming season covering the whole year. There are winter, spring, and fall bloomers. The tuberous are frank imitators and among their blooms can be found counterparts of camelias, roses, peonies, carnations, poppies, daffodils, etc.

For many years, following the introduction of the first Begonias in 1777, their culture centered in France, Germany, and England, but since the opening of this century, with little exception, these countries have concentrated on the tuberous and small bedding type and the hub of Begonia culture has shifted to California, where climate and the lath-

house have combined to make them happy.

I should like here to pay tribute to some of the early growers of the Begonias in California, and among the first I must place Mrs. Ed. Waite of San Diego, whose experience with them goes back into the last century. I remember very distinctly getting from her my first *Corallina Delucerna*, an astounding six foot plant in a small six inch box. Not long before this variety had been introduced to the States by Gause and Co. of Richmond, Indiana, and among my authorities I should have mentioned the illustrated catalogues of this firm put out in the nineties, and in which I found the long sought origin of this Begonia to be referred to later. Mrs. Waite, who still retains her love of Begonias at a ripe old age, fired others with her enthusiasm. Mrs. W. L. Fevert was a conspicuous example and to her and her husband we owe the development of the back yard into the intimate out-door garden. From the living room one entered a glass house and outside it went into a series of lathhouses which had served as stables and out-houses. The open spaces were delightfully treated. Another grower conspicuously successful was Mrs. Orrell Fleetwood, who grew the *Lucerna* seedling "Orrell." When Mrs. Fleetwood changed her residence I bought her Begonias and their influence on my collection is very marked even today. Mrs. Fleetwood had a very wonderful specimen of the trailing Begonia *Glaucophylla Scandens*, running over a mound and one day a greenhouse man from the public Park of a neighboring city came to see it and asked if he might have a few cuttings, a request at once granted. The next day she was away from home in the morning and when she returned at noon found that three quarters of her large *B. Scandens* had gone away in a suitcase in the guise of a few cuttings. This was the origin of the lock on the Fleetwood Lathhouse. Mrs. Fleetwood also raised our first *B. Ecuadoriensis* from seed produced by Miss K. O. Sessions. Miss Sessions had a correspondent in Ecuador to whom she wrote for seed and that is how *Ecuadoriensis* came to California. Here it has never attained the dimensions claimed for it in its native land.

I now move out of San Diego to Ventura where Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd specializes in Begonias and one

of her achievements alone, the introduction of Marjorie Daw, should enshrine her memory in the hearts of all Begonia devotees. It is a common occurrence that a person's fame rests on a twisted tradition and so it is with Mrs. Shepherd who is now widely known as a developer of Petunias. As a matter of fact it was her daughter Mrs. Francis who worked with Petunias, and her mother, Mrs. Shepherd, was a Begonia devotee. This will no doubt be disputed but my informant was Mrs. Francis herself, and early in the century I bought many Begonias from Mrs. Shepherd, a number of *Lucerna* seedlings under names, but they were not sufficiently different to survive.

Then there was Mrs. Bullard of Los Angeles, who always would have the variety one could not find anywhere else and was most generous in sharing, and Dr. Arthur Houghton whose botanical knowledge was so great that when he visited my lathhouse I went to meet him, like a school boy painfully aware of lack of equipment to face the coming examination. Dr. Houghton made me nervous, he changed the names of my plants so often that he upset the family entente. It was reputed that he had all Begonia knowledge boxed up in a card index but afterwards specialized in Cactus and Succulents. There were probably others who should be on this honor roll but I did not contact them. Among those whose acquaintance I made later on, must be mentioned Mrs. Eva Gray of Pacific Beach whose Nellie Bly and *Diadema* seedlings are very much worthwhile. Mrs. Gray also got out a Begonia Book doing all the print-

(Continued on page 74)

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# RAMBLINGS—Physical and Otherwise

By JACK L. BAILY  
El Monte, Calif.

ON SUNDAY, March 28th, your President, accompanied by Dr. Lauder, Past President Neels, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Davis, Betty Powell, Dr. Lauder's sister Mrs. Gripp and Mrs. Baily, journeyed to San Diego to attend a joint meeting of the Branches in that district. The meeting was held at Rosecroft Gardens in a most appropriate setting of Begonias and Wisteria. Mrs. Clark, who acted as Chairman, with Mrs. Robinson and all of the members present were most gracious and cordial.

To your president's surprise no program had been arranged. The Chairman introduced your president and turned the meeting over to him. We consumed considerable time in trying to explain the work of the Board of Directors of the A. B. S., the writer being very ably assisted by Mr. Neels and Dr. Lauder. A visit was made to Montalvo Gardens and Dr. Lauder was the recipient of numerous specimen plants for the Robinson Memorial. Each member of the visiting party who made the trip was exceedingly happy at the reception accorded the group and for the generous contributions to the display in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, Calif.

## LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

(Continued from page 73)

ing job herself and has been a regular contributor of interesting items to the Floral press.

In the nineties I was a constant visitor to the Siever's glasshouses at the foot of Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco, where were good Rexes and a special strain of tuberous. The tuberous were loosely double but held their blooms erect and had excellent branching habit, and I should be happy to have some of them today. These made a grand exhibit in the summer in the Conservatory in Golden Gate Park.

With the organization of the American Begonia Society and its ever increasing number of branches, many note-worthy amateur hybridizers have appeared; but theirs is a story of another generation, with its new hybrids and improved Lathhouses, making the raising of Begonias, indeed, a "Royal Hobby."

On Thursday April 1st, Dr. Lauder and your humble servant attended the meeting of the Orange County Branch at Santa Ana. Again we were enthusiastically received and heard a splendid talk on hanging baskets by Mrs. Floy L. Rinehart of Rinehart Gardens in Santa Ana. Mrs. Rinehart knows her baskets and her Begonias. From Santa Ana we returned with another fine contribution to the Robinson Memorial.

At the April meeting of the Board it was decided that the officers and Directors would attend the next meeting of the Inglewood Branch on May 13th. You realize of course that with the restrictions on gasoline and rubber it is increasingly difficult for your officers to visit the various Branches. It is our desire, however, to meet personally as many of you as we can and we shall devote the remainder of the year in reaching as many Branches as it is humanly possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully thank each and every one of you who have been so helpful in the past few months. It has been a trying time and your encouragement and faith have been the only things that have carried us on. It is impossible for me to write to each one of you individually and I trust you will accept this as a personal "THANKS" from me to you.

We are going into the second half of the year and must begin to look toward our Annual Meeting. Now is the time to start to train those plants for the Show and now is the time to begin to lay plans to be in El Monte this Fall.

Again let me express to each of you my appreciation for your support, helpfulness, confidence and co-operation.

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MARIA WILKES

158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

# Cuttings Tuberous Begonia

By FERD P. NEELS

• Why propagate Tuberous Begonias from cuttings when they are readily propagated from seed?

The answer to the question is that out of the many seedlings that are grown there is always an outstanding plant that one does not want to lose during the resting season or of losing the tuber during the growing season.

When the tubers have grown 6-8 inches high the tip may be cut above a joint with a narrow and sharp penknife. Having taken the cutting it should be inserted in a three inch pot in a mixture of equal parts of leafmold and sand. (Never plant a wilted cutting) The pot should then be placed in a propagating frame or your favorite spot where you start your cuttings; a temperature of about seventy degrees is about the temperature they like.

In about four weeks the cuttings will be rooted. At this time they can be potted into a larger pot. Some of the first cuttings will make blooming plants this

fall; they will all produce tubers of irregular shape.

It is possible to strike cuttings until early autumn, the later cuttings being left to ripen their tubers in the pots in which they are stuck.

**FIBROUS**—These plants are now making satisfactory growth. If you do not want them to grow too tall during the summer they can be cut back, now, that the danger of frosty nights has passed. If your cuttings were started in sand get them into some good rich soil.

**SEMPERFLORENS**—Set out seedlings and pinch back if they have become leggy.

**REX**—These plants are begging to be repotted now. Use as small a pot as possible as this forces the growth to the top. They like good drainage so use a porous soil. If you want more of some favorite plant start some leaf cuttings. This is the most popular method of propagation—cut the leaf in wedge shaped pieces with the point of the wedge just below the vein junction and insert in flat of leafmold about 1/2 inch. Do not plant these straight up, but at a slight angle, as the small plants come from the bottom part of the wedge. Keep warm and moist, but not too wet.

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## Special Design Gavel for A. B. S.

Reported by MARIA WILKES  
Los Angeles, Calif.

• When Mr. Baily, President the A. B. S., called the Board meeting to order on April 12th, he was much surprised to be interrupted immediately by Mr. A. E. Nelson, who got to his feet and commanded attention by well chosen words in the presentation of a particularly suitable and very well built gavel to the President. This gavel was designed and made by Mr. Carl Crouch of the Semi-Tropic Fruit Exchange, of Sunkist Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif. The form is a little pot with a handle attached. The head is made of Apricot wood and the handle of California Greasewood, both beautifully polished to show the attractive grain of the woods. Mr. Baily in accepting the gavel for the American Begonia Society, responded with a warm appreciation and proceeded to use the symbol of authority through the ensuing meeting.

It was unanimously decided at this meeting that all Presidents of the American Begonia Society be automatically made life members of the Society upon retiring from the Presidency, as a little mark of grateful acknowledgement of a year's faithful service to the Society. Mr. Dyckman is already a life-member, and to the list we shall now add: Messrs. Dr. W. N. Casely, Frank Harrison, Ferd P. Neels.

◆  
• Are you using a novel idea to boost your branch finances? Tell us about it?

◆  
• Too many gardeners have a fault they do not realize. When watering potted plants, they apply enough water to saturate the soil. Any excess water drains through the soil and leaches the nourishment from the plant. As Tuberous Begonias are heavy feeders, much growth can be impaired, as well as cause a disturbance of the bloom in so doing.

Courtesy The Begoniagram, Long Beach

# FANCY-LEAVED CALADIUMS

By HAROLD W. HART  
Glendale, Calif.

**I**N THE last issue of the *Begonian*, I gave the names and a short description of a few of my favorite Fancy-Leaved Caladiums. The following are some more which I like very much and which can be obtained from most of the dealers handling Fancy-Leaved Caladium bulbs.

**Itacapus.** Entire leaf dark red of a rust shade; narrow border with red dottings.

**John Peed.** Shining bright metallic red center on moss-green ground.

**Lord Derby.** Transparent rose with dark ribs and narrow green edge.

**Mary Queen of Scots.** Mottled dark green and grayish green; maroon ribs; spotted scarlet.

**Mrs. Edith E. Mead.** Erect snow-white leaf (not transparent) with red ribs and narrow green edge.

**Mrs. Sanders.** Roundish, dark green leaf heavily blotched transparent deep rose.

**Macahyba.** Dark moss-green leaf profusely spotted lilac; heavy scarlet ribs.

With proper feeding and forcing, the Caladiums are very prolific, producing a large number of beautifully colored leaves which may be used for bouquets or flower arrangements. When the stems are placed in water, the leaves will last anywhere from a few days to three or four weeks. I recently gave some leaves to a lady who told me that they lasted five and six weeks. She said she occasionally changed the water and would cut a little off the end of the stem every few days.

Care should be taken when picking the leaves that you do not cut the stem so low down that you will cut a new leaf which might be coming from the base of the stem. I never cut a stem until the new leaf starts to show. Sometimes the new leaves might be fully ma-

tured at which time the two stems will start to separate, and it is very easy to cut the old leaf with a long stem without disturbing the new growth. Cutting the leaves does not seem to hurt the plant in any way, nor will it injure the bulb for the next season's growth.

In a dry climate such as we have here in California, you will have difficulty in keeping cut Caladium leaves the same as you have when growing the plant. That is, during dry weather, the leaves will have a tendency to wilt down and will remain that way until moisture is added artificially. Sometimes during a dry day the leaves will show a tendency to wilt, and if there is an increased humidity in the air during the night the leaves will revive. If the leaves wilt, you can take them and wrap them up in wet newspaper. The best way to do this is to wet the newspaper and lay it out flat, and then take the leaves, several leaves at a time, lay them out on the newspaper with the stems parallel to each other, roll them up inside the newspaper, place the stems in water and let them stand packed up like that overnight. The next morning the leaves will be bright and perky without any appearance of wilt. I have taken a vase containing leaves that have wilted and have placed them in my hot house which has a high humidity with the ventilators closed and in a very short time the leaves will brisk up and look just as good as ever.

Sometimes through the year the leaves will seem to last for days and show no tendency towards wilting but just the minute we have an extra dry day, the leaves will show it and have a tendency to droop.

If you are growing a number of different varieties of Caladiums, picking one or two leaves from each Caladium and placing them together in a vase makes a very colorful bouquet. I have seen some very beautiful flower arrangements in which Caladium leaves have been used. The leaves may be cut and arranged in different designs and the various usages for this purpose is only limited by the originality of the arranger.

• How many new members have joined your branch this year?

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## Branch News

**San Francisco Branch:** We are glad to hear from Mr. Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary of this branch that not even anti-aircraft practice deters members from attending the regular meetings. In order that the newer members may keep up with the work and attendant joys in the shade garden. Part of the program was dedicated to Begonias, of course, but the greater part of the evening, attentive listeners marked every word Mr. Ray Milani had to say on Victory Gardening. Mr. Milani is Superintendent of School grounds for the Board of Education of the City and County of San Francisco and Director of Victory Garden activities for School Children, besides being a master of his subject. This Branch considers itself really fortunate in still being able to hold its monthly meetings, particularly as they are held in the Social Hall of the President, Mrs. Paula Schoenholz where they enjoy every moment and are able to entertain members as well as visitors with refreshments and follow through with fun in the drawings of plant material donated by the members. KEEP 'EM GROWING is their slogan, which is equally applicable to Begonias as to Victory Gardens.

**Inglewood:** The May meeting will be held at the Woman's Club in Inglewood. THE SECOND THURSDAY in the month, May 13th, at 8 P. M. . . . Note the change of evening and time—which was found to be the best time to suit the majority of the members. Nobody wants to miss these meetings, yet it is difficult to suit everyone, since so many members are engaged in various important activities. Mr. Ferd Neels, Past President will speak and no matter what his subject, he is sure to be interesting. As the members of the National Board are anxious to visit all the Branches within their limited powers when possible, arrangements are being made to club together and attend this meeting en masse, if possible.

**Glendale Branch:** After the side trips into Victory Gardening and last month into the land of sunny flowers, the old fashioned, fragrant and eternally attractive Carnation, this Branch will return to the first love, the enduring Begonias and their companions in the shade-garden. The speaker will be Mr. Chester Baake, who will also show his very fine

pictures in color of the beautiful old gardens of the old South. All who have seen these pictures have accorded them the highest praise. A treat is in store for members and guests.

**The Bellflower Branch:** Regretful news is heard from this Branch. Mr. Teaney has had to resign his office as President of the Branch, as he has to be away from Bellflower. He has been a most valuable leader throughout the immediate community the while maintaining a business in the town of Bellflower where he will be gratefully missed, as well as in the surrounding communities, where he found many things to do.

The May meeting will take place in the home of Mrs. Zola Jump, 1159 Palm St., Bellflower, on the first Tuesday.

**San Gabriel Valley Branch:** Officers of this group have had some difficulty in finding a fairly definite place in which to meet, but now it is decided the May meeting will be held in the FELLOWSHIP HALL at the Presbyterian Church, 304 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte for May 28th, 1943 (Fourth Friday). Mr. Davis, National Representative, told us that the March meeting was one of the most encouraging they had had for some time. There were many visitors with a very fine attendance of members, and they were looking forward to a particularly instructive and interesting meeting in April.

**Hollywood Branch:** Through the courtesy and initiative of the Hon. John Anson Ford, Supervisor, and the indefatigable Mrs. Vera-May Lewis, Director of Plummer Park, members of this Branch and the Hollywood Garden Club as well as the apartment dwellers of the community, a splendid Victory Garden project is being carried on in this old, historic and attractive little PARK. Mrs. Jay C. Jenks, member of both Clubs mentioned, is very active in the actual guidance of the gardeners.

The Hollywood Branch will enjoy a visit from Mrs. "Cactus Pete" as speaker of the evening on May 13th, the subject, of course, will be: Epiphyllums. Judge Pope, a member and an authority on Avocados, will also speak at this time, with a view to helping home gardeners produce a better crop of the luscious and valuable fruit this year and onwards. This Branch is mimeographing highlights of the speaker's subjects,

(Continued on page 84)

# New Varieties of Begonia Incarnata

REVUE HORTICOLE, 1875

By E. A. CARRIERE

(Translation)

WHO does not know Begonia incarnata, that old plant that one finds in nearly all greenhouses, not only because it blooms freely—the flowers are a pale rose—but because of the abundant bloom which lasts from December to January? Struck by the resources that one could draw for ornamenting the greenhouse and for providing the market, and above all for making bouquets, from a plant which flourishes at a time when flowers are as precious as they are rare; if one only could succeed in making the colors deeper and purer, M. Schmitt, horticulturist, has had the happy idea of hybridizing this species with tuberous varieties of deeper color. Not only has he succeeded, but the result has surpassed his hopes. The colors obtained are very remarkable: one may find again perfectly, those of *B. sedeni*, *B. E. Deconnink*, *B. Corallina*, etc. as one can see by those in the illustration which are only three varieties of the eight which he obtained. 1 *B. Fanny Giron*, 2 *Mme. Thibaut*, 3 *B. Caroline Schmitt*. It is a new, and without doubt, a very fruitful road opened to a genus already so rich. In fact, in the fall, when the large, brilliant flowers of the tuberous begonias disappear from the gardens, one finds them again as brilliant in the greenhouses, and probably very soon, by repeated hybridizing we shall obtain varieties as large as those which we find in the tuberous begonias. And undoubtedly we shall welcome a series of remarkable varieties when M. Schmitt releases them to commerce, which will take a worthy place among the little group of plants which flourish in the winter such as: camellias, azaleas, heather, etc.

The new introductions of M. Schmitt, as well as those established by different growers who have set a high standard in flowers, have in part, kept the characters of the foliage markings and the manner of growth; some subjects, which are nevertheless, better branched, with thicker foliage appear to have much greater strength. The only obvious difference exists in the flowering, which instead of lasting a relatively short time, like the species, is prolonged during the greater part of the winter.

The flowers are borne in clusters and do not fall as easily as most of the other species of varieties of begonias; their shortest duration is from 12-14 days, so that the same cluster is full of flowers for more than a month. As to culture, it is exactly like that of *B. incarnata*; a well moderated greenhouse, a place near the glass and little water in winter. If one grows it in the open ground, its vigor is much greater, the flowering more abundant and the flowers are also larger and more beautiful. The freshness and transparency of the coloring of this novelty makes description very difficult; so we content ourselves by describing briefly those varieties shown here: they will be released to commerce, with some others, this coming May, by M. Schmitt, horticulturist at Lyons.

**No. 1. Mme. Fanny Giron.** A vigorous plant, clusters held well above the foliage and formed of 12-15 flowers of deep orange-scarlet.

**No. 2. Mme. Thibaut.** A dwarf plant, well branched, with many flowers about 4 centimeters in diameter, of a clear salmon color.

**No. 3. Caroline Schmitt.** A dwarf plant, of good form and carriage, the large flowers 4-5 centimeters in diameter, of the purest white in the greenhouse, lightly tinted with rose when exposed to the air.

Besides the varieties shown here, M. Schmitt has obtained a number of others, equally meritorious, which have been judged as worthy as those herein described and which will be released to commerce at the same time in the coming month of May. They are: M. Victor Lemoine, M. L. Van Houtte, M. William Butl, M. de Bouchard de Bussy, and M. Henry Truchot.

1936

Now let us read what Arthur Bessie Buxton says about this particular Begonia in her book 'BEGONIAS and How To Grow Them' (by courtesy and permission of The Massachusetts Horticultural Society).

*Incarnata*, brought from Mexico in 1822, is more interesting for its children than for itself. It is a tall, shrubby plant, with very delicately shaped leaves which



Courtesy  
The Curtis Magazine

1—MMÉ. FANNY GIRON

2—MME. THIBAUT

3—CAROLINE SCHMITT

are long, slender and pointed, with serrate edges, rather a light green and quite thin. The pale, pink flowers are small. It is much like *B. polyantha*, also from Mexico. *B. incarnata*, var. *sandersi* is a much handsomer plant, tall and shrubby, with leaves six inches long and rose-pink flowers nearly two inches across. This variety was produced thirty years ago by Charles Sanders, gardener to Professor Sargent, first Director of the Arnold Arboretum. No attempt was made to market it and it remained in the hands of a few private gardeners who grew it for cut flowers, because it was a free bloomer.

One of the gardeners told me he thought it was produced by "Old Charlie Sanders," but could not tell me whether he was still living. After many inquiries I found him at the ripe old age of ninety-one, still engaged in his life-long occupation of gardening. A little old man, with bushy white beard, like a benevolent Santa Claus, he sat transplanting seedlings of a new everbearing strawberry. In his garden he proudly showed me choice *Rhododendrons* he had grown from seed collected in the garden of the Grand Lama in Lhasa, Tibet and *Eremurus* from Persian seed. Every plant he knew and loved but wondered, sadly, what would become of them when he was gone, for his family considered them just so much "trash." When he was shown the photograph of the *Begonia* which now bears his name (unofficially) he hesitated no longer than a man half his age. "*Begonia incarnata*," he said, "Oh, yes, I worked on that more than thirty years ago. I noticed one plant in a batch of *incarnata* seedlings that had somewhat larger flowers than usual. I grew that plant to perfection and planted seed from it. Again, I chose the best plant in that generation for seed and, so continued until I was satisfied with leaf, flower and blooming qualities. I haven't seen it for years. I did not keep it, but gave it to the boys that wanted to grow it for mid-Winter cut flowers." Stock is still scarce.

## REX Weekly Lunch Formula

by A. E. RIPPEY  
Los Angeles, Calif.

• The phrase "lunch on liquid cow" sweetened up with different assortments of commercial and liquid stimulation" called forth some requests for further elucidation.

I am perfectly willing to share any and all of my meagre knowledge of *Begonia* culture with *Begonian* enthusiasts. As you note in your letter, I wrote in the January issue on *Begonia magnifica*, I sweetened up the liquid cow with various assortments of commercial and liquid stimulation. This perhaps did sound a little mysterious. Liquid cow, as you know, is very low in nitrogen, averaging only 9 lbs. to the ton of dried manure. By the time you get this in liquid form, you can see the nitrogen content of the liquid is quite low. In *Rexes* we are striving for foliage and nitrogen being a foliage builder, I kept this in mind when fertilizing. For each 10 quarts of liquid cow each week, I added one-half teaspoonful of nitrate of soda, or one-half teaspoon of potassium nitrate, and occasionally a weak solution of urea for its hormone content. Once in a while a weak solution *Likwid-Gro*.

This fertilizing also gave excellent results with a *Fire Flush*, a picture which may appear later in the *Begonian*.

Note, though, do not use the above on your maidenhair ferns, as I did, and have most of the fronds lying down outside the pot,—“they just can't take it.”

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# Notes By the Artist

By ALICE M. CLARK  
San Diego, Calif.

• Thanks to Mr. Whitaker for correcting my mistake in the February issue, where I described one of the probable parents of begonia, "Mrs. Scripps" as Scharffii, instead of Scharffiana, which is the plant I had in mind. My excuse is that I was leaning over backwards to use the names as authenticated by Mrs. Krauss but for some reason I thot Scharffiana, instead of Haageana, was properly called, Scharffii. It is sad that the same mistake ocured again in the March issue, regarding the parent of Pink Neely Gaddis. Will all good Begonians hasten to correct my deplorable error, please?

I am glad the portrait of B. Mrs. Fred Scripps was made in February. The stem of that little bud in my sketch has shot up and branched out more than half as wide as the plant and burst forth into thousands of tiny pink blossoms. In addition there is a second panicle of bloom almost in full flower. I am sure I would never have had the courage to attempt to draw the sky-rocket effect they make.

May I explain that I became interested in making these begonia sketches because of the appeal of isolated individuals who had no feasible way to identify their plants. It seemed only fair that, living as I am fortunate enough to do, in the midst of a Begonia Paradise, I should try to share my advantages with others.

It is unfortunate that I am not a year ahead with my drawings so they could be used on the same page, when they are described by expert growers and hybridists in these columns. The artist must depict the plants when they are in their perfection of growth and bloom which does not always coincide with the time of a nomenclature article. I started out to describe the local hybrids in pen and ink, partly because they were the nucleus of the collection in the A. D. R. Memorial, and Mr. Robinson's inspiration was the source of my interest, and partly to act as historian to these varieties which are also pretty well-known the country over.

I trust the readers will consider the "blurb" that accompanies my sketches, just as a "curtain-riser" to the real de-



scription the proper authorities will give in these pages later. My word pictures are those of the movie-fan in admiration of the Star of the Month, to whom she is all glamour and quite without fault. I like to give a bit of family background because it is always fun to figure which side of the house she takes after and I mention her sponsor to add a touch of human interest.

This month I have chosen Morgana, another of our San Diego hybrids, because it is particularly handsome right now. It is a member of the hairy fibrous group and was produced by Henry Morgan of Pacific Beach, about 1937. He raised Begonias as a hobby in his spare time and is also responsible for the one we know as Morgan's Haageana, considered by some to be better than the old original. Mr. Morgan had trouble with salt-water seepage in his garden, so had to give up raising Begonias, a loss to him and us, both. The plant of my sketch stands about twenty-seven inches above the pot, but in the ground, where Mrs. Fewkes raises it, its growth is amazing. She will describe it soon.

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

## Keeping An Old Promise Rex: Begonias

By ELLA MARGUERITE FEWKES,  
San Diego, Calif.

• About a year and a half ago I promised Ferd Neels I would write about Begonias. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. Always had the excuse I was too busy, but now I cannot fall back on that and the finger has been put on me, so here I am you poor people.

First I wish to give credit to Mrs. Helen Krauss for without her co-operation I would not be able to give you the origin of many of these varieties and I am sure it makes it that much more interesting to know just where the critters came from.

Secondly my descriptions are as they grow at the Montalvo Garden. Colors will vary in different localities especially where they have to be grown in darker places, under glass or crowded together where they do not get an even distribution of light.

There is a most important factor to be considered for the sturdy healthy growth of your Begonias and that is food and they don't need ration cards either. Now isn't that something. If you ate pie, candy and cake what would happen? Poor health. Right. Just like us humans, plants need a balanced food and you won't find it in quick acting fertilizers—I mean something you shoot to them every two weeks or so. What they do best on is a food that extends over a period of 6 months or so. Potted plants, of course, need either transplanting or feeding by the end of 6 months. If transplanting, incorporate the fertilizer in the mixture, but otherwise always have on hand a bucket of cow manure tea. If fresh, use as is, but otherwise dilute.

That brings up another phase. With us here, Begonias are dormant for a period of three months: January to March. At that time we do not make excuses for their looking like something "the cat drug in," just allow them to rest.

Now when you prune, do a good job. CUT UNDER THE GROUND all old growth. Pruning the tops or cutting one joint above the ground doesn't help that plant to put up new sturdy growth from way down under, but merely forcing the old growth to continue its merry way producing smaller and smaller leaves, less blooms and finally petering out entirely and then you say—"woe is me, wonder what happened." Another suggestion is to keep covering a little higher on the stem each year making new joints go to work. That can be done only by using larger containers or if in the ground, using a liberal amount of leaf-mold.

Regarding soil mixture,—they say each one of us has pet theories—mine is Begonia soil. Have found over a period of many years, that a fluffy, loose soil produces the best results. We use here an oak mold and with this finely chopped bean straw. This combination insures prolific growth and prevents plants becoming lanky. For potting in 4" or smaller containers, sift through 1/4" mesh screen. Larger containers use as nature provided it—and do not grow because there are a lot of leaves in it because that is what you want. While these leaves are disintegrating they are feeding that plant. Now for the members back east. The cry went up—"where do we get bean straw?" Victory gardens sure are popular and nearly everyone has sweet peas. Alright save that straw from the peas and keep your lima bean straw too. Mix them together and by spring of the next year you will have a swell elegant pile of straw. Simple? You bet. Anyhow try it. Would suggest this though to those in a hot climate, do not use fresh straw, but mix the two (leaf-mold and straw: 1 part leafmold and 1/4 part bean straw) and allow to stand for a month or two.

Editor's note:—Now that leafmold is very scarce, Sani-Soil will prove itself a good substitute.

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## THAT DELIGHTFUL DISEASE

(Continued from page 71)

from the lath-house. My only answer is an addition to my present quarters. I'm afraid that's what it will have to be. Thank goodness the boiler is big enough to heat it.

I try to be more discriminating now in my choice of new kinds than I was at first, but the trouble is they are all so lovely, so individual, and their pictures and descriptions so enticing, that I just can't resist getting more and more.

The trouble is that for me they grow almost too well, and I can't throw them away just because they grow magnificently. Besides, many Begonias are never at their best unless they are allowed to become specimens. *Templini* is nearly five feet tall and has been all covered with lacy pinkish-white flowers. *Haageana* has, in a year and a half from a cutting, become about 3 feet by 3 feet. *Corralina Delucerna* has six fine clusters of buds and flowers and I have to tie its tops down to keep them from being frozen against the glass of the roof. Some of my *Rexes* are monstrous, especially *Lord Palmerston*. I've been delightfully surprised to find I have two very fragrant ones—*Adrian Schmidt* and *Queen Wilhelmina*. I like fragrant things, and with that in mind bought *Odorata alba*, but alas, though its flowers are lovely, they haven't a smell. *Undulata* was another surprise from the point of view of fragrance. My mother finally discovered it after a man who visited us wanted to know what smelled so sweet. She didn't think we had anything fragrant then, so she went around smelling everything, until she found that the perfume of *Undulata's* many white flowers could be noticed several feet away. I saw a picture of it in *DIE BEGONIEN*, with many canes looking like *Deutzia* or *Mock Orange* bushes. I'm afraid mine is headed in that direction.

I have 105 kinds now, and have the prospect of half as many more before long. I can see a mental picture of a series of additions to my greenhouse, and then some, ad infinitum. I dream of being able to grow all those I like with lots of room, letting them get just as big and beautiful as they want to. I am a professional horticulturist and have worked with all sorts of plant material, and I am convinced that there is not

## Mrs. Stella Vosburg

By The Editor

• For sixteen months now, we have enjoyed the monthly articles on shade material by John S. Vosburg, of Hollywood. At first there were no illustrations, then some done by one artist and another until he inveigled his gifted mother to do his drawings though she lived a long way from him. We have enjoyed Mrs. Vosburg's sketches and we have appreciated the articles that went with them. As John Vosburg's time is overcrowded with other important work, we shall miss them, but more than that, we have lost Mrs. Vosburg, for she passed away into the land of eternal flowers in the last few days. To Mr. John Vosburg our deepest sympathy, and to the dear memory of his famous artist mother we pledge our efforts in keeping our gardens as delightful and colorful as possible—always, for she has spent her life collecting the most beautiful flowers everywhere she went and besides drawing them for all to see their charm, she also pressed and mounted many collections for educational institutions far and wide.

another group of ornamental plants which presents such infinite variety of form, foliage, or flower, or such an enduring appeal as do Begonias.

• Past President *Ferd P. Neels* is very busy growing a collection of *Tuberous Begonias*, hybrids and species, for the *A. D. R. Memorial*.

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# Au Revoir But Not Good-Bye

Dear Friends:

After many happy years of service to you, sharing your troubles and your successes, Rosecroft Begonia Gardens is closing its doors. This is not because we want to, but because the necessities of war make it imperative.

We shall earnestly look forward to that time in the future when we may, again, be privileged to devote our time to Begonias. Until then, let's guard our plant treasures well, and keep our friendships renewed through the pages of our *Begonian*.

Sincerely,  
ANNIE C. ROBINSON

## BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 77)

so that members may have correct notes to refer to at leisure. The proceeds of the plant sale of last meeting \$13.50, was donated to the A. D. R. Memorial.

**Long Beach Parent Branch:** Elsewhere in this issue a report is being made of the fine contribution made by individuals of this group to the A. D. R. Memorial for which everyone is grateful. This group is quite ambitious also, the newest activity is a very interesting sheet called *The Begoniagram*, published for the members of the Branch, in which very special local reminders are entered in educational form. The Editor is none other than the President, Mr. Bulgrin. The May meeting will be well attended we are sure, as Mr. Harold Hart is to be the speaker of the evening on the subject of *Caladiums*.

**Orange County Branch:** We have a delightful letter from Mrs. Perry V. Grant, of Santa Ana, Calif., President of the Branch, in which she tells us how much *The Begonian* is enjoyed every month; how greatly the visit by the members of the Board was appreciated and how much was gained from the meeting. They sent, very happily, some fine specimen plants to the A. S. R. Memorial. Because the membership is scattered over much of the County, they try to meet in the North half of the County part of the time. The May meeting will thus take place near Fullerton at the home of Mrs. H. G. Meiser, 1½ miles South Spadra. The subject will be *Tuberous Begonias*.

# Your Questions With Answers

By FERD P. NEELS  
426 E. Maple Ave.  
El Segundo, Calif.

**Q.** The leaves on my *Calla Begonia* turn brown on the edges and the plant finally dies. I find very little information regarding this plant.

**Ans.** The *Calla Begonia* belongs to the *Semperflorens* Group (bedding type) and should be treated as such. The best *Calla Begonia* plants are raised from seed in preference to plants that are grown from cuttings. The best results can be obtained from the *Calla Begonia* by treating it as an annual.

**Herbert P. Dyckman Branch:** Meetings are now held at the home of the President, Mrs. Jessie Jenkins. March attendance was gratifying. Mr. D. A. Stocks gave a very interesting and amusing entertainment. Tickets for plants were sold and many nice plants and tuberous *Begonias* found new homes. St. Patrick was the theme for refreshments.

## WINDFLOWERS

Among the most valuable perennials for the shade, *Anemone japonica* bears its lovely blossoms in great masses in late summer and fall, when other flowers are scarce. We have a wonderful collection—*Alice*, large rose pink; *Marie Manhard*, semi-double pure white; *Kriemhilde*, double rich pink; *Queen Charlotte*, semi-double La France pink; *Richard Arends*, largest shell pink; *Prince Henry*, double rosy red; *Whirlwind*, large white; and *Hupehensis*, dwarf rosy mauve.

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# The President's Mail Bag

Dear Mr. Bailey:

My tour of six weeks around the country was so full of happy experiences and I am most appreciative of the kindness and hospitality shown me by you and Mrs. Bailey.

It was of great interest to me to learn of the Society's problems from the California angle and how you are trying to meet them. I wish you every success.

You have a wealth of material at hand (I mean each and every one of you) waiting to be seen and studied and written up for those of us who may not have the privilege of visiting California to ferret them out. It almost startled me to hear that few, if any of you, had visited Roy Berry's lath house, the Flaitz' gardens in Ojai, the Lewis Begonia gardens in Rivera and others.

If every one I met at the Directors' meeting would describe one Begonia a year we would have something that is sorely needed. Southern California is the only spot in the country where Begonias really grow rampant. Then, too, new hybrids of real beauty are being constantly developed of which you may feel proud.

I have discussed the matter of the Begonia herbarium with my fellow collector, Mrs. Albert H. Gere. She has very kindly offered to share in the work. If this is agreeable to you I would suggest that you send the equipment at your earliest convenience so that when we plant our Begonias out of doors in May we may make herbarium specimens of parts that we would ordinarily cut out and destroy. Mrs. Gere and I will be partners in this work and the printing of the names will be done by Mrs. Gere, who is an artist with her pen. I will supply the names and the authorities for the names.

At our Philobegonia Branch meeting yesterday, (which was specially called because of my return from California), I outlined what you are trying to accomplish and we agreed that we have every hope of seeing a bigger and more informative Begonian in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

HELEN K. KRAUSS  
405 Cotswold Lane,  
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• To increase your membership, be sure to invite your guests to join. We know of one granch whose President gives the guests a hearty welcome, followed by a "sales talk" on the advantages of being one of The Royalty. In consequence, enthusiasm is increased amongst the members and guests, resulting in almost 100% renewal memberships and an unusually large amount of new guests, so far for the year.

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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 May (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., May 10th, 7:30 p.m.

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, May 4th—7:30 P. M.  
American Legion Hall,  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. George Fitch, Secy.-Treas.  
70 So. Hurst Ave., Ventura, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, May 4th, 8:00 p.m.  
Home of Mrs. Zola Jump,  
1159 Palm Street,  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, May 5th  
1060 Francisco St.,  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,  
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, May 6th  
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, May 6th  
Home of Mrs. H. G. Meiser,  
1½ Miles South Spadra, Fullerton, Calif.  
Geo. A. Barrows, Secretary  
1111 Louise St., Santa Ana, Calif.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, May 10th, 7:30 p.m.  
5708 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. E. Van Hook, Secy.-Treas.,  
6774 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, May 10th, 7:45 p.m.  
Washington School,  
60th and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, May 13, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club of Inglewood  
325 No. Hillcrest  
Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary  
1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Ferd P. Neels

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, May 10th  
4037 39th Ave., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,  
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,  
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Speakers: Mrs. Cactus Pete  
On "Epiphyllums" and  
Judge Pope on "Avocados."

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, May 13th, 7:30 p.m.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.  
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.  
Speaker: Harold Hart  
Subject: "Caladiums"

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, May 14th  
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,  
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas.  
3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, May 17  
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,  
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, May 20th  
11228 Atlantic Ave.  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday Evening, May 28th, 7:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall,  
304 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif.  
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary  
419 South Ynez Ave.  
Monterey Park, Calif.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, May 25th  
Home of Mrs. Ann Comly,  
Hatboro, Pa.  
Mrs. M. S. Prince, Secy., Hatboro, Pa.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, May 25th  
329 No. Brand Blvd.,  
News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary,  
1345 Virginia Ave.,  
Glendale, Citrus 2-6603  
Speaker: Chester Baake  
Subject: "Shade Plants"

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, May 28th, 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.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

