

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

By MARIA WILKES
Los Angeles, Calif.

WHAT a surprise! And yet we expected it to be the outstanding success it was, for we know to what extent of enthusiastic effort all the responsible members of the San Gabriel Branch had been working. Very early Saturday morning, October 2nd, members began to arrive with their best Begonia plants and this gathered in momentum until the Judges went into action. The whole of the covered portico of the large patio was crowded with the ultimate in Begonia specimens of all

kinds. The exhibit from the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial had to be staged in an open corner, which, though rather warm, gave it the room necessary.

One corridor was used to display the many plants brought by Mr. Hixon, Chairman of the A.D.R. Memorial and Captain Dere which they sold at a very nominal sum for the benefit of the already named Memorial. They realized

(Continued on page 204)

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, 1943

SOME progress has been made in the year and a half that the ABS library has been in my charge, although there is still much to be done in the way of research and collecting source material for the begonia library. There is so little material for the beginner or general reader that it makes one wish for more books on the subject to send to this type of inquirer.

Correspondence has been carried on with over one hundred members throughout the United States and Canada. Loans of eighty-five books and pamphlets have been made through the library. Most of these loans have been sent by mail. Considering the limited collection, it can readily be seen that the books nor the library have been idle. There has been a waiting list for Fotsch's "Die Begonien" and its English translation most of the time although we have two copies of the original and four of the translation.

An exhibit of the ABS library was made at the convention last year. The enthusiasm and interest of the members in the collection made another exhibit advisable this year and this has been done at the request of the national board. Orders for Buxton's "Begonias and How To Grow Them" were taken, cultural bulletins of the ABS were sold, and requests for loans of library books and pamphlets were taken to be filled later. It is interesting to note that loans are most brisk of the books and pamphlets not available for purchase while orders continue to pour in for the few books that are available for purchase as each begonia grower prefers having his own information whenever possible.

Accessions to the library this year include the photostatic copies of Gause & Bissell's "Catalog of Flowers," published 1892-1905. This has been described fully by Mrs. Bridges in the July and August "Begonians." "The Naming of Horticultural Varieties" from the Arnold Arboretum of the Harvard University was received by the library and published in the September and October "Begonian" at the suggestion of Mrs. Helen Krauss, nomenclature chairman, fibrous division.

The list of references to the literature on begonias from the New York Botanical Garden containing over four thousand begonia names was bound, also the typewritten copy of Merrill's "Philippine

By ELEANORA CROWDER
Librarian, The Clayton M. Kelly
Research Dept. of the ABS
Gardena, Calif.

Species of Begonia" and three copies of the 1942 Begonian.

As noted in the last year's report an effort has been made to secure copies of periodicals containing articles on begonias listed in these references and other bibliographies. A start has been made toward collecting these periodical references.

An accession record has been completed of the holdings of the library and a list of books and pamphlets has also been made. Bibliographers on begonias have been solicited and have been received from outstanding botanical and horticultural libraries and authorities throughout the United States. Practically all the listings are out of print and difficult to secure.

Anyone having begonia material no longer needed by them is asked to send it to the society library where it will be made useful to all the members of the organization. It is the ambition of the librarian to collect and have ready as much information as possible for all members whether they are novices or research workers in this "royal hobby" and any help in the collection of printed information is always welcome.

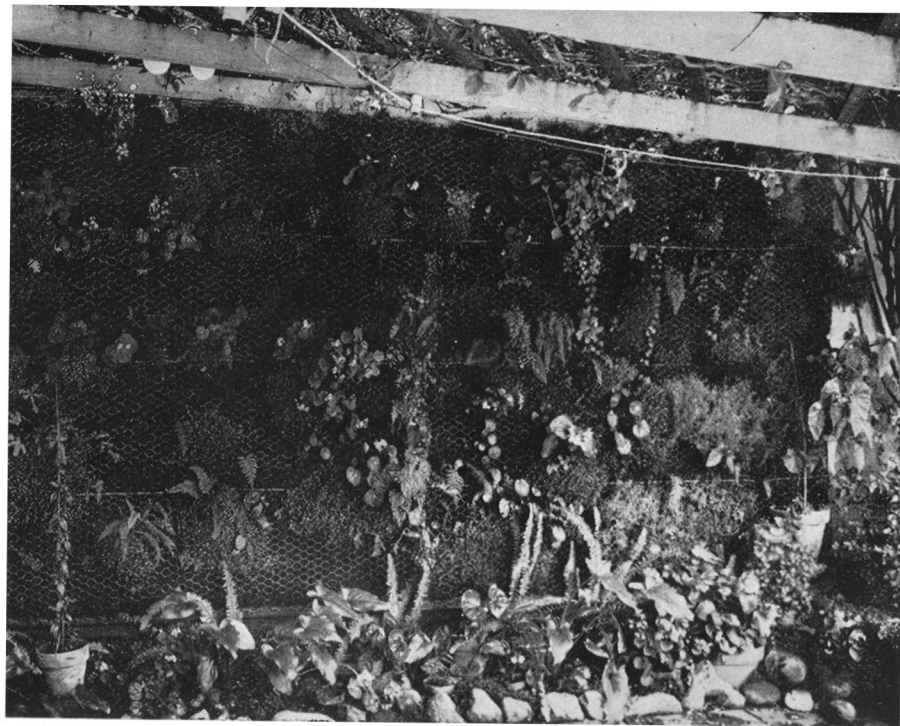
Mrs. Harriette Bridges, director of the Clayton M. Kelly Research Department, has been a most enthusiastic and untiring leader, working under the handicap of never seeing her deputies as all work must be done by correspondence. It has been a pleasure to work with her in this department.

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OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM IN SHADE WITHOUT TREES

By PEG JEWEL
Pasadena, California

LAST month we dealt with the front of our house at 2227 E. Villa St., Pasadena, Calif. Now Maria Wilkes wants us to work backwards along the driveway as if you were visiting with us and I were showing you to the back garden for breakfast, luncheon or dinner—in Summer.

There is never a time that this driveway is not attractive. As usual, in a narrow and small lot like this, the planting space is just about 12 inches wide against the house wall, held in by the cement floor of the driveway, but in that strip the Dainty Bess Rose climbers that are espalliered carefully, do remarkably well. The branches are fastened laterally or horizontally as they grow and so at least three roses are produced from each node on every branch, the stems are long and strong, just like so many soldiers lined up along the levelled-off branches. As the growth goes up high enough to miss the passing car, then it is allowed to ramble a little more freely. The side-entrance to the back apartment and the kitchen is framed by a luxuriant Madeira Ivy which, with the roses also frames the windows. Violets and other low growing flowers are on the ground level. At the end of the house there is

a fine Bignonia cherere which has made itself at home all over the high part of the North of the house and draped itself quite uniquely on some wires that run between the house and the garage. When this vine is in bloom in Spring it frames the whole of the back garden with a rich curtain drop of lilac blue flowers that is really astounding in effect.

We must have some color slides taken in the Spring—if possible.

In the back garden there are three features that make for unusual charm and plenty of color all the time, with enough shade yet lots of sunshine. The center is open lawn. The Arizona Cypress hedge that for awhile gave us some privacy on the west soon looked much the worse for wear after the Belle of Portugal rose which covers the dining corner pergola kept the sun from it. We could not very well remove it. Our neighbors need it, and it still is passably good on their side. We suddenly decided to build a vertical garden against it, and no sooner said than done. My husband and I got busy and in ten hours—there it was, as you see it in the picture. Naturally it looks well settled now and little of the wire netting shows. The so-called Moss Wall or Vertical Garden deserves an article by itself sometime.



Let it be said here, though, that we do not know why we did not have this before. It is so delightfully pretty always, Mr. Jewel and I call it our wall hung with jewels. In a few hours, what had been a most discouraging sight had been turned into the most restful spot in our garden.

Feature number two: Our neighbor's garage wall very fortunately had a little window in the middle of it, still looked unfriendly, so we got permission to build a trellis against it with a strong pergola, promising not to let our Dorothy Perkins roses climb all over their roof. As soon as the roses were tall enough to bring forward from the wall, we trained them flat over the pergola. This is in reverse to the general way of doing it. See the picture and you will also see feature number three: Because the garden is very small, and we love lots of plants and much color, we had to devise ways and means to have it permanently attractive and allow for overnight change in case of special parties. On the three sides West (continuation of the moss wall), North boundary and East, we built up elevated, tiered beds which are clothed with creeping plants that are permanent. Here and there are ferns, perennials and small shrubs so that there is a fair background always in order. In these semi-circular beds the ground is rich and loose and very well drained, which it would be, with dry stone walls holding them up. In this semi-circular series of three beds (ground level, second story and third plane), we can, at any time, replace what pots are sunken there

with others more colorful and fresher. Any color scheme can be carried out in no time at all, and it is great fun to see how ingenious we can be in keeping things growing in pots to be in readiness for the changes that have to be made. Many times we have to make quick raids on the nurseries to help us out, but in this way we build up our stock of plants continuously. The little lathhouse against the back of the garage is packed with all sorts of things—for you will remember that in the entrance patio of our home we have hanging baskets that also have to have a change of flowering pots in season—nested into the green growing shell of asparagus fern or Helxine or other creeping plants that hang gracefully.

We have no space to more than mention the pretty pool we have at the dining corner of the back garden, it adds so much life and action to the whole homey atmosphere. Our friends love to come and sit down with us to enjoy all times of the day. The garden is exacting, yes, but not to a great degree. We still have plenty of time for many other activities especially during these times when there is so much to be done. That is why we do not have too many loose pots around. They dry out too soon in our hot country. But being imbedded in hanging baskets, or in these raised terraces, they look natural and are protected. The boxwood hedge gives the whole of the back garden a trimmed tailored look that is not too formal, but actually hides little imperfections in the maintenance of the

(Continued on next page)

Fifth National Begonia Show

By G. G. LAWRENCE
Ch., Begonia Show, Alhambra, Cal.

•The Begonia Show held in connection with the annual convention, at El Monte on October 2, 1943, was a success both from the standpoint of entries which totaled 219 and the quality of the plants exhibited.

The division winners were as follows:

Division A — Fibrous Begonias

Best — Mrs. K. G. Smiley, of the Pasadena Branch

Second — Earle Wiltse, of the Inglewood Branch

Third — Mrs. H. V. Zechiel, Glendale Branch.

Division B — Rhizomatous—Thick Stem or Procumbent Begonias

Best — A. E. Nelson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Second — F. P. Neels, of the Inglewood Branch

Third — John Crowder, of the Inglewood Branch.

Division C — Rhizomatous — Rex Begonias

Best — Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch

Second — A. E. Nelson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Third — Clarissa Harris, of the Inglewood Branch.

Division D — Tuberous Rooted Begonias

Best — A. E. Nelson, of the San Gabriel Branch

Second — F. P. Neels, of the Inglewood Branch

Third — No award made.

Division E — Hanging Basket Begonias

Best — J. L. Baily, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Second — Clarence Hall, of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch

Third — Mrs. Anetta Lorenz, of the Glendale Branch

Division F — Odd or Rare Begonias

Best — Clarissa Harris, of the Inglewood Branch

Second — Marie Turner, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM

(Continued from page 193)

special beds. Of course we use a great many shade plants with many Begonias; you know them all. Just let your conscience be your dictator.

Third — Mrs. George L. Johnson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch.

Division G — Cut Blooms and Flower Arrangements

Best — Mrs. Ralph Davis, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Second — Mrs. Earl Dodson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Five dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the best begonia in each of the above seven divisions.

Three dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the second best begonia in each division.

Two dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the third best begonia in each division.

Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch, was awarded five dollars in War Savings Stamps for the best begonia in the show. This plant was judged the best Rex Begonia in the show and Mrs. Grigsby was therefore awarded the Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup, which is a perpetual cup and is awarded for the best Rex Begonia in the shows held in connection with the annual conventions of the American Begonia Society.

Mrs. Clarissa Harris, of the Inglewood Branch, was awarded ten dollars in cash for the best new seedling in the show. This was a Rex Begonia which she named Dr. Lauder, in appreciation of Dr. C. H. Lauder's work for the Alfred Robinson Memorial.

Mrs. Marie Turner, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, was awarded five dollars in cash for the second best new seedling in the show. Both of these seedlings were donated to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial.

A. E. Nelson, President of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, and President-elect for 1944 of the American Begonia Society, won the Sweepstakes Cup which was awarded to the individual winning the most points in the show.

Inglewood Branch won the Sweepstakes Cup awarded to the branch whose members won the most points in the show.

Looking forward to bigger and better shows, let each one of us start now to plan on exhibiting at the Sixth National Begonia Show, to be held in connection with the annual convention next fall at Hollywood. May each show continue to improve not only in the number of entries but also in the quality of the Begonias.

Begonia LOMA ALTA

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, Calif.

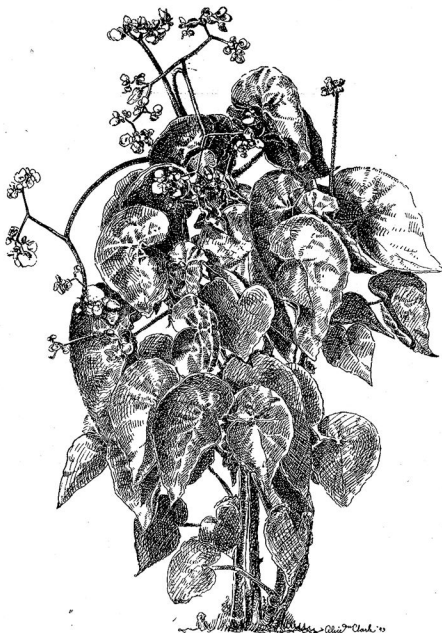
• This month we depict Loma Alta, the product of Ella Marguerite Fewkes, one of our San Diego hybridists especially famed for her success in raising extra fine specimens of Fibrous and Rex Begonias in the ground at "Montalvo," Ocean Beach.

Her articles, well known to readers of the "Begonian," are full of plums of practical knowledge gained from years of work with her favorite plants. She is generous in helping garden clubs with her stimulating "know how" talks and we are sorry to have missed her discourse at the annual banquet in El Monte. The happy association of Mrs. Fewkes and Mrs. Krauss and her eastern trip last year has, we feel, established a closer tie between Begonia fanciers across the country.

Those of you who have been reading this magazine since its early days may wish to turn to the issue of September, 1937, and re-read Mrs. Fewkes' own description of the appearance of Loma Alta in a batch of Scharffiana seedlings planted in 1935. One of these was larger and faster growing than the others, right from the start. In one year a plant in the ground grew to be five feet high and four feet wide, with leaves twelve inches long and seven inches wide. From that original plant have come all those we have today, as it never seems to set any seed pods.

The Loma Alta of my sketch is in a pot and was raised from a slip started in May, 1941. It is now a nice, bushy plant, about three feet to the top of the leaves and close to two feet wide. My plants are never given much coddling or extra food and, of late, do not even get repotted as they should, so it has not made the progress of the original, but at that, looks very happy. The largest leaf is nine by six inches, which does not compare with the amazing growth of the splendid plants that Mrs. Fewkes raised at Montalvo.

The leaves, when young, are laced and puckered like the tongue of an old shoe and retain the soft downy surface of Scharffiana. When older they are not quite so hairy. They round out like the parrot but add a long point to make an



LOMA ALTA

oval or heart-shape. One of the noticeable characteristics of the leaf is that where the two curves of the leaf lobes begin, they overlap a little. The veins show a definite light-red tinge at the center and are firmly marked on the leaves, puckering it somewhat and causing a slight cupping so attractive in the red-backed types, showing a contrast of dark facing against rich-green surface color. The white hairs, longer beneath than above, give a fuzzy effect without diminishing the sheen of the green leaf which is as stiff as Scharffiana but much thinner in texture.

The flower stems are extra long. In the drawing they are shortened a bit to keep them on the page but in life they are at least fifteen inches long before they begin to branch; dark-red and white-haired. They are stiff and strong, with an angular habit of branching instead of the usual grace of this type. Unlike Scharffiana, the hairs on the white flowers are a deep bright pink, most attractive in bud. As the flower bract grows out and sub-divides it is apt to display a single flower, an inch or more over, much larger than the others, on its own short stem, right at the branching junction. This same flower takes on a pink tinge as it ages, and then a

(Continued on page 202)

HEATING HOT HOUSES WITH NATURAL GAS

By HAROLD W. HART
Glendale, California

IN writing this article I am aware that these are War times and that in many localities, gas may not be used for other than essential uses. However, some are able to get gas and by hook or crook are able to obtain the necessary equipment to properly heat a hot house. The information I am giving is not for the large commercial grower but for the small "back-yarder."

You who live in the East or colder sections will realize that I am writing about climatic conditions such as those found in California or other similar climates where a large amount of heating is not required and where inexpensive natural gas is obtainable.

The same method of heating may be done with manufactured, butane or propane gas and will work in any section of the country no matter how cold the weather. The added costs of these fuels above that of natural gas usually makes it prohibitive. If these other gases can be obtained at a comparative price of natural gas or cheaper fuels, they would be practical to use. Any of the liquefied petroleum gases, when used with proper equipment, will give good heating results.

The type of heater I recommend is of open-flame combustion of the circulating type with automatic thermostat control. By open flame, I mean a heater that does not have a flue but one that has a burner which will burn all the gas and which the products of combustion dissipate into the room or compartment being heated. By circulating, I mean a heater that has a metal jacket around it in which the cooler air will go in the bottom of the heater and the warmth of the burner will cause the air to rise with enough velocity to cause the circulation of the surrounding air. This circulating type will give a more even distribution of heat in all sections of the hot house than other types.

Immediately when one mentions the open-flame combustion the question arises

as to gas poisoning, carbon monoxide, etc. "Won't the gas kill the plant?" This of course will occur with a faulty heater. With very little effort one can fix almost any ordinary heater so that it will function properly and give a good heat with good results. I raise maiden-hair ferns, fancy-leaved caladiums, orchids, and germinate many varieties of seed in a hot house with an open flame gas heater using natural gas as a fuel and have excellent results.

Many cold nights, the ventilators of the hot house are completely closed and yet no harmful results come from the gas. In fact I am of the opinion that the plants obtain some food from the products of combustion given off from the burner. Plants breathe in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. A gas heater will burn oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. In addition to this, the products of combustion will produce moisture which aids in keeping up the humidity which is beneficial, especially here in California where we are subject to so much dry weather.

One of the main reasons for faulty combustion, and the thing that causes carbon monoxide poisoning is an impingement. That is, the flame touches clay or metal before it is completely combusted. This causes unconsumed gases to escape, which are the gases that do the harm. I repeat, you can take almost any gas heater and make it over to give good results. This, of course, is with the assumption that the burner has the proper burner ports, secondary air, and primary air mixture.

If you have an old radiant type heater, or can obtain one from the second hand store, you will find that it will work very well providing it has enough heat capacity to heat your space and you do the following:

Remove all of the clay and any metal the flame might touch. The clay does not help combustion and on many of the old style heaters the clay is more of

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a hindrance than a help and in many instances is responsible for gas poisoning. The purpose of the clay is for the looks, and it does have the faculty of radiating the heat in a certain direction which in many applications is beneficial, but for the purpose in question has no merit.

By placing a piece of sheet metal around your heater, you have something just as good without the looks of a modern circulating gas heater. The metal should be as high as the heater, or better, a little higher. The higher the metal jacket, the better or more forceful the circulation.

The best position for the heater in the hot house is not always convenient due to lack of space. One generally places the heater under the bench to be out of the way. This does not afford the best of circulation, but does give good results. The best location would be in the aisle-way or in some open location where the full advantage of air circulation would be obtained. For houses too large for one heater a multiplicity of heaters may be used.

The gas thermostat should be of the modulating type. That is, one that will gradually change the flow of gas to the burner and one that will not snap on and off from a full flame to a low one, or vice-versa. A thermostat with either bellows or wafer control lends itself to accuracy, dependability, and is quite inexpensive.

The position of the thermostat should be where the most accurate control is desired — usually just above the bench and in a convenient place for adjusting. The gas line is run to the thermostat and from the thermostat to the burner. The thermostat should be equipped with a by-pass adjustment so that the burner may be set at a minimum flame to act as a pilot light. A separate pilot light may be used for the convenience of lighting but should not be depended on to take the place of a minimum flame. Most burners will back flash and ignite at the orifice when a very small amount of gas is being used. Also, many burners will not be completely ignited at the burner ports which will cause escaping of gas

WILLIAM ROSS

BEGONIA GARDENS

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in the room. To overcome this a small portion of gas must be by-passed through the thermostat, and then the thermostat will control the flame between a low minimum flame and the high flame. If the minimum adjustment gives too much heat on warm days, the gas should be shut off completely, and when heat is again needed, turn the gas on, light the burner, and when the temperature is at the desired degree, the thermostat will automatically maintain it.

The conventional method of heating a hot house with gas or other fuels is to use pipes and hot water or steam. This, of course, is very satisfactory, but much more expensive to install and will take a greater amount of fuel than the open-flame method.

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This view looks across the house horizontally toward the crane. Looking closely right above the border, one can see several of the miniature Evansiana and Rex crosses. It is believed that this small plant will be of value to Eastern gardeners who should be able to grow them to perfection in terrariums where they will not become so rank as the large types, which quickly outgrow the case.

My Hillside Rex Lathhouse By MRS. HENRY FLAITZ Ojai, California

• I have been asked by the Editor to write a little about our garden.

Mr. Flaitz and I did not know that Rex Begonias existed until 1936 when we went to a nursery to purchase some cacti and spotted some small Rexes in the nurseryman's collection. We were so impressed by their beauty that the nurseryman suggested we talk to Mrs. Alice Murphy, one of the Santa Barbara "Begonia Twins," whose exquisite garden inspired many a grower. We were invited to visit the Murphy-Worden garden and came home to our Ojai hillside, where in our first lathhouse, 15 by 15

feet, we tasted the first full satisfaction of growing Rex Begonias. We had been told we could not grow Rex Begonias in Ojai valley with its cold winters and hot summers. However, we have been fortunate during the winter to have practically a frost-free spot, and the summer heat, which normally would wilt the precious plants, has been licked by the careful use of water and proper soil preparation.

Each year we increased the size of the lathhouse until its present dimension, 50 by 65 feet, was reached. It is built on a hillside with an eastern exposure, be-



Looking up the path at the waterfall and crane. Below the post are Rex seedlings, and above, in the same bed are the Picta-Rex crosses. Of this latter cross, I discarded all those that went dormant, being tuberous like the Picta parent; of those retained, there is one which is particularly good, having the identical markings of Picta, and yet is evergreen, and of a much sturdier growth. The clump this year has proved very vigorous, compact and bushy, with lovely pink flowers similar to Picta.

neath the native scrub oaks, from which we have, in the neighboring grove, a constant supply of leafmold. Each spring, when the rains have lessened and the frost danger is over, the old plants are all taken up, the old rhizome and leaves removed, and after dipping the crown in a solution to check pests, it is replanted in a freshly prepared bed. While this job is being accomplished, we often think of the late Alfred D. Robinson's remark: "Keep your garden small and be happy!"

I started hybridizing about 4 years ago, my first interest being to create spirals. I have over 100 plants from this start, of which Ojai is one of the most outstanding. This plant was described by Mrs. Helen Krauss in the December, 1942, *Begonian*.

During the second year of hybridizing, I tried two crosses, Evansiana and Rex, and Picta and Rex. Frances Kay, one of the products of the Evansiana cross, was described by Mrs. Krauss in the same issue of the *Begonian*.

The third year cross was Rex with the Indian Spotted begonia. About one-half of these are spiral and seem to have the upright habit of the Indian Spotted.

None of my own seedlings have yet been released. As soon as I make a decision to release any of them, I will place a notification in *The Begonian*.

(Two other pictures will follow in subsequent issued — The Editor.)

Branch News

San Diego Branch: 'Way down here in San Diego in October we had a very interesting meeting Monday evening following the national convention. Eighteen of our members attended and enjoyed that convention, and we wish to thank those members whose hospitality solved a difficult housing condition.

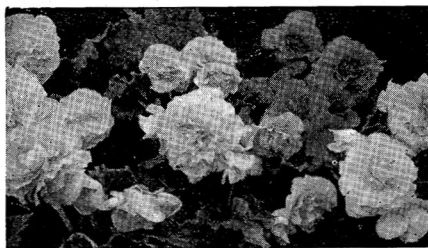
Reports of the convention were given at our meeting and about a hundred people listened when Russ Eaker, president, presented our C. I. Jerabek, horticulturist at the navy hospital. With a background of twenty-five years with the city park nurseries, it was natural for him to speak authoritatively on the "Reproduction of Lath-house Plants" with a wealth of plant material to demonstrate the talk. Commander Barker was transferred to Key West so we regretfully said good-bye for the present to Mrs. Barker, our efficient secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Geo. S. Breidford will fill out the year as secretary-treasurer.

As usual, beautiful plants were raffled so our rent will be paid in the big, modern hall we now hold our meetings.

The six hostesses, drawn alphabetically from the membership, liked the roomy kitchen, and the tables and chairs were better than our laps to balance coffee and cake on. Mr. Tom Ross, of Glendale, will speak to our group on November 1st, on Rex Begonias.

The North Long Beach Branch of the American Begonia Society held a rummage sale in September and the entire proceeds are being used for radios and magazine subscriptions for the boys in the U. S. Navy Hospital in Long Beach. To date fourteen radios have been delivered to the hospital for use in the new wards adjoining the main building. There are hundreds of boys in these wards who greatly appreciate these radios, for the new wards are not equipped with ear phones to each bed as are the wards in the main building. The boys through their chaplains Bell and Doyle, have asked for several magazine subscriptions which also have been ordered. We feel this is a very worthy work and we hope to continue with it.

Riverside Branch: The November meeting of this Branch will be held at the home of Mrs. Jessie Topham. Mesdames Twomley and May, as co-hostesses, will take charge. Mrs. Topham made



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such a glowing account of the National Annual Meeting that everyone who missed it felt sorry and has resolved to come to the next Annual Meeting, if possible.

Hollywood Branch: The President, Mrs. Drummond was back from her trip East to preside over this ambitious group. Ambitious, since this group is to entertain the 1944 Annual Meeting of the ABS, and plans have to be started 'way in advance, if the affair is to be a success. The Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Waldref, is also back from her trip in Mexico. Mr. Chester Baake delineated the procedure of Begonia growing with enough history to add to the general interest of the fine talk. Though he is a professional he admits he could lose himself in the collecting of Rexes — if the time and a few other things could be combined to offset a few difficulties. Mr. Baake also passed in review some of the ferns, Cyclamen, Primroses, Cinerarias and other shade plants in vogue at his time. The next meeting of the Hollywood Branch will be a joint program between an old favorite speaker, Wm. Ross, and a new one who is well versed in the fine art of fern growing, Mr. Fred Kay, both of Glendale. Their subjects: Rex Begonias and Ferns, followed by a round-table discussion.



This is a general view of left side of the Flaitz Lathhouse. In the background are curls, results of the first year of hybridizing, except for the large-leaved one in the center, which is a cross of Tingley Mallet and Rex. This plant has proved to be lovely in hanging baskets, having the Tingley Mallet coloring, with the large leaves of the Rex.

Glendale Branch: The meetings are held so late in the month that by the time they are reported in *The Begonian* they are over a month old. The September gathering was so outstanding however, that it must be told. A delegation came from Ventura, a truckload of them, and to do them honor, nearly all the National Officers were present and visitors came from several near-by branches. Mr. Baily, National President, was asked to preside, but he turned the gavel over to Mr. Clarence Hall, President-Elect, and both of them held the floor just long enough to tell how greatly the force of our groups is being felt in their various centers, and to make a strong plea for the continuance of this enthusiastic furtherance of shade-garden making which will react on the general welfare of everyone in the land. Col. Gale, the new President of the resuscitated Pasadena Branch, and his wife, were presented. He told that already they had some forty paid-up members, and intend to grow with the times, maybe even sufficiently to give Ventura and Glendale another challenge. Dr. Robert Leach, Bio-organic chemist at Cal-Tech, Pasadena, spoke simply but with telling clarity of soil fertility, the functions of hormones, etc., in conjunction with successful Begonia growing.

Mrs. Florence Zechiel of Glendale came to the El Monte meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hart. As they called for her, Mr. Hart saw no plants ready to take with them. "What, no plants?" Mrs. Zechiel intimated she did not have anything outstanding. Mr. Hart went into her garden and picked out two and they went into the Begonia Show. Result: two blue ribbons. Should Mr. Hart be given an interest in those ribbons? Anyway, he knows good Begonias when he sees them.

Alfred D. Robinson Branch: We hear from Mrs. Alice Clark that she suffered the loss of her beloved father a few days after the Annual Meeting which explained why she could not be with us. We extend to her all the sympathy of understanding friends in this bereavement and thank her with great warmth for her faithfulness in following through with her contribution to our *Begonian*, even under such stress. Mrs. Clark wants to know which of the two types of portraiture of Begonias is preferred. The wash drawing of *Druryi* in October issue or the others that have been running for months. Let us hear from our readers. See her address on the Calendar page.

(Continued on next page)

Pasadena Branch: Miss Charlotte Hoak held a meeting in her home on September 14th when with the help of Mr. Baily, Pres., and Dr. Lauder, Director, Public Relations of the ABS, this Branch was reorganized. The officers elected were: President: Col. C. M. Gale, 40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena, Calif.; Vice Pres., Mr. J. W. Bailey, 803 Woodbury Road, Altadena; Secy.-Treas., Mr. Lester F. Harrell, 668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena; and Director at Large, Mr. Fred Willard, 85 Fulton Ave., Pasadena. The first reorganized meeting took place at the home of Col. and Mrs. Gale on October 12th. Several of the officers of the Board with representatives from several Branches were there to wish them happy times. Mr. Wm. Ross of Glendale spoke very helpfully and interestingly on Rex Begonias, illustrating his remarks with fine specimens. It was easy to see why Col. and Mrs. Gale are so interested in Begonias. The Patio of their hillside home was delightfully arrayed with potted plants of all kinds, most of them Begonias. We welcome this branch back most happily. We are sure that they will, one and all, combine their efforts into making it one of the finest of our Western Branches. Their regular meetings will be held in the Pasadena Library at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

Inglewood Branch: About 70 members and friends came to hear Mr. Albert W. Roberts speak interestingly and instructively on hardy ferns. It was nice to have our past President Mr. and Mrs. Tyler who have been absent for some time. We gained three new members through the evening, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Witman, and Mrs. Held. The winners of honors at the El Monte Begonia show were announced with every one proud of Mrs. Grigsby's achievement. Two of the winners are very new members of the branch. Among the winners were Mrs. Clarissa Harris, Seed Fund Administrator, Mr. Wiltse, Mr. and Mrs. Crowder, Mr. Robson, and Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Neels. Since ours was the first Charter granted to a branch of the ABS five years ago, it has been decided to display the framed document at each meeting. The plant sale was entirely donated by the members and the men of the Branch arranged and served refreshments in celebration of the fifth anniversary. Mr. Tanner will speak to us on Tuberous Begonias in November.

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B. LOMA ALTA (Cont. from page 195)

greenish cast before it turns brown, thus spoiling the freshness of the ensemble. As before stated, the flowers are usually all male.

The strong growth of Loma Alta makes it tend to become "leggy," so it should be tip-pruned and carefully tied back to keep it growing straight. It is exceptionally healthy and easy to grow. If staked, the flower stems and leaves are delightfully upright giving a sturdy, self-reliant air to this very worth-while offspring of the Scharffiana family, which has been preserved for us, thanks to the observing eye of Mrs. Fewkes.

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Sparaxis (Wandflower); per doz.49c
Ixias; orange, red, pink, yellow and mixed; per doz.49c
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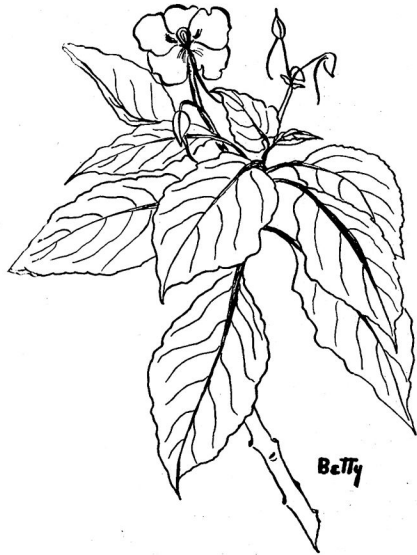
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Plantly Speaking — In the Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, Calif.

• *Impatiens sultani* contributes much to many of the shaded gardens of California and particularly in Southern California. It is a succulent stemmed, even rather fleshy-leaved plant growing from twelve to thirty inches high, according to variety, with an ever-blooming habit which makes it deserve all the planting space devoted to it. It is frost-tender, which means that one living in areas where frosts are usual, one should be protected by having cuttings made at the Fall season to carry over and plant again in the Spring for earliest warm weather growing. It is inclined to dominate its planting positions but it is generous enough in flower to warrant its demands. The color of the original form is a rich scarlet but hybrids



and sports have increased the color range through the pinks to a royal pe-tunia color, a lovely orange tone and a very fine white. The white seems to be quite delicate and touchy, but it is worth while if one can keep it from dying out.

The name indicates the nature of the seed pods which burst open with the slightest of pressure when ripe, making the harvesting of any seed a tricky task.

Growing requirements are not unusual. A good soil quite rich in leaf substance and ample water will produce plants with color in riotous waves. It is not a bad pot subject either, only remember it will need feeding if in a small pot, or give it a roomy pot, as this is one plant that does not like to be restricted. There are two outstanding types of Annual *Impatiens* also available. They both are charming subjects with their butterfly-orchid type of flowers. The old one that may be grown anywhere in shade is easily self-sown, the larger one which attains the height of four feet even in half day sun is very rare and seen only in collector's gardens. This last comes from Kenya Colony in Africa and must be seen to be thoroughly appreciated, it will also take shade, but in that case it might grow quite large.

The sketch of the perennial *Impatiens* accompanying this notation is done by "Betty," a fine young college girl of Eagle Rock, California.

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11th ANNUAL CONVENTION, ABS

(Continued from page 190)

from this sale the sum of \$50.00, a nice sum, thoroughly well earned. This, with a collection taken later of \$63.07, netted the A.D.R. Memorial the wherewithal with which to pay for incidental expenses plus the purchase of materials for the care of the splendid plants.

The Flower Arrangement room also housed some of the much rarer Begonias such as Gogoensis specimen, African species and others. The arrangements demonstrated what a diversified field is open among Begonias alone, to anyone with artistic tendencies.

The entrance corridor housed the Registration Committee and also a fine exhibit from Mrs. Crowder, the Librarian, who shared her space with some of the original drawings done by Mrs. Alice Clark for the Begonian, one being the Loma Alta of this issue.

Of course, all types and kinds of Begonias were exhibited which made it most interesting for visitors and members to learn much from the well-labelled and well arranged show, thanks to Mr. G. G. Lawrence and his very efficient committee. The Garden Tour was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Mrs. N. H. Powell, Chairman, had provided maps for the drivers of the cars, and the owners of the gardens were delightfully cordial to each relay of visitors. There was barely time to snatch a snack luncheon before the business meeting was called to order by Pres. Mr. Jack L. Bailey in a large hall which was well filled by interested members.

In due course the various reports will be published by the time the fiscal year is completed. Mr. Bailey introduced with pride, the "Grandad" of the A.B.S. Mr. Herbert Dyckman who spoke appreciatively of the fine work done by the organization since the early days and voicing the hope that none would let down the banner now or ever, but keep on maintaining the spirit of beauty for everyone. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Clarence Mets with Col. Gale and Mr. Eaker, were asked to check the ballots and report their findings to the gathering. The results were as follows:

President-elect for 1944: Mr. A. E. Nelson

Treasurer-incumb. for 1944: Mr. Harold W. Hart

Director for three years: Mr. M. B. Dunkle.

Dr. C. H. Lauder, as Director of the

A. D. R. Memorial and Chairman of Public Relations reported happily that though the Robinson Memorial is just a year old baby it is doing rather well — considering all the circumstances. He praised the members who have given of their valuable time to go to the Lincoln Park Greenhouse to work on the care of the plants and especially Mrs. Ken Webber and her Committee from the Hollywood Branch, which gave him the idea that all Branches might with benefit to themselves and to the Memorial appoint a Representative who will make up a Committee of members who will do the many things that plants require in such an establishment or act otherwise as Ambassadors (if from too great a distance to take a working part in the maintenance) of what is hoped will be the finest collection of Begonias anywhere, in due time.

Mr. Hugh Hixon, as Chairman of the A.D.R. Memorial, has gathered a splendid Committee with Miss Charlotte Hoak as Secretary, 1125 Stratford Ave., So. Pasadena, Calif. They will welcome inquiries and contributions from Branches and individuals. They started a year ago with fifteen beautiful plants donated by the Glendale Branch after the Annual Meeting. These plants were brought from the San Diego District Branches and formed the nucleus that now numbers some three hundred and fifty plants.

Very soon the Los Angeles Park Department will arrange to have the Greenhouse open to the public on most days. At present one may enter by calling one of the men working for the Park Dept. in the rear of the greenhouse, only between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Dr. Lauder told of some new Branches in the making, and we shall hear about these after his return from his trip east.

The President then asked for invitations for the next Annual Meeting. This was promptly responded to by Mrs. W. C. Drummond, President of the Hollywood Branch, who made an eloquent bid for the honor of entertaining the Twelfth Annual Convention. Mrs. Ruby Liedler again asked for the same privilege as she had done in the name of the Long Beach, Calif., Branches last year. The President of the San Diego Branch, Mr. Eaker, made an advance bid for the first year after the war with such fervor that we are sure it will be definitely remembered. When the matter was put to the vote, Hollywood won, and thus you may all be assured of a happy reunion in 1944. We know it will be ~~has~~ surpass

the setting and the combined hospitality of El Monte Chamber of Commerce, President Mr. Baily in his own hometown and Mr. Arthur Nelson of Arcadia, President of San Gabriel, Host Branch, but it will be worth your while planning to be there. With a vote of thanks to Long Beach, not forgetting the deferred invitation to San Diego, the business meeting was adjourned.

The short interval after the business meeting was spent in reviewing the exhibits in the Begonia Show and visiting with the many friends from far and wide. Those who could not be with us missed a wonderful sight when the doors were thrown open for the Banquet. The tables, row upon row with one long cross table were all laden most artistically with superbly beautiful Tuberous Begonias of all kinds and colors. Who sent them? From where did they come at this time of the year when So. California had seen the best of these pass on just recently? They were sent with regrets at not being able to be with us by Mr. Frank Reinelt, of Vetterle and Reinelt in Capitola, Calif. One table was all shell pink mammoth blooms, another all rich and vibrant reds, others were in mixed tones of Apricot, yellows, orange with purest whites here and there. The speaker's table had some of the finest blooms imaginable in various colors with a centerpiece of white Sweet Peas and Maiden-hair ferns. Mrs. Laura Whitehead, Chairman of Table Arrangements and her Committee must have had a glorious time with the blooms that gave everyone such a thrill. They were truly enjoyed, appreciated and carefully gathered to take home at the end of a perfect day. Thanks to Mrs. Ralph Davis, Ch., and Committee a very fine dinner was served to three hundred and one. The record attendance so far. The largest delegation, strangely enough, came from San Diego, after San Gabriel, of course. From the youngest member, a 14-year-old boy from Long Beach, Calif., to the oldest couple present, the program seemed most enjoyable from the attention given to each speaker.

Notes of the speaker's discourses will be published soon.

A set of Bailey's Encyclopedia was presented to Pres. J. L. Baily by Mr. Neels, Past President, on behalf of the American Begonia Society, and then Mr. George Lawrence made the presentations for the winners in the Begonia Show. Let it be noted here, all ye Begonia growers, that Mrs. Harold Grigsby of Gardena, Calif.,

upon being presented the Gonda Hartwell Gold Cup for the Best Rex Begonia in the show, said that she intends to KEEP that cup by winning it three times. Here is a real challenge. Those who saw the magnificent specimen of Rex Emperor knows that whoever runs in competition with her, will have to start grooming the best of plants from this minute onwards. This lady from the Inglewood Branch has a certain way with her Rex Begonias.

It must have been gratifying to all who had worked so hard, to see every one going home with the happiest of smiles and, we are sure, worthwhile recollections. Recognition for fine arrangements in their various Committees are also due to Mr. Robert N. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Dan White, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Johnston, and Mr. A. E. Nelson.

Though 303 were served at dinner, 348 had registered at the peak of the day's attendance.

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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 November (Second Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in the Director's Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 8th, 1943.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, November 1st
Vasa Club House,
3094 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Olive Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Speaker: Wm. Ross
Subject: Rex Begonias

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

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

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, November 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Jessie Topham
Mmes. May and Twomley, Co-hostesses
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, November 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, November 2nd
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.
Next Meeting: October

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, November 3rd, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco, Calif.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, November 4th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, November 4th
Geo. A. Barrows, Secretary
1111 Louise St., Santa Ana, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, November 8th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Claire Jackson, Secy.,
6017 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Speaker from Swift & Co, on "Insect Control."

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, November 8th
Washington School,
61st and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, November 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, November 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.
Speakers: Messrs. Kay and Ross
Subject: Ferns and Begonias

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, November 11th, 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. Tanner
Subject: Tuberous Begonias

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Second Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, November 12th
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, November 15th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

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

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, November 23rd
Mrs. Alfred Boysen, Sec'y.
25 Tyson Ave., Glenside, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, November 23rd
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary,
1345 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, November 26th
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, November 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.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

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