

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Our Begonian: Your Speaking Voice

• Entering upon a third year as Editor of this magazine fills me with a sense of deep gratitude to each one who has contributed to its success and thus reflected some glory on me who deserve it least. The Begonian is decidedly a growing concern and we all have taken part in the building of it. Mr. Clarence Hall, President of the ABS, said recently: "The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial is a living monument to our Society." I look upon The Begonian as the breathing and speaking voice of the people of the Society. That is why we

should hear from any and all of you in turn. Each one has something to offer the other Begonians and we are truly appreciative of the least contribution.

Remember, there are many beginners in our midst and anyone able to help them through our magazine should not withhold that aid, but send it NOW to your grateful Editor.

A HAPPILY VICTORIOUS NEW
YEAR TO EVERYONE

from Maria Wilkes.



Legend: *Begonia Herbacea*. Brazil — Curtis Botanic Magazine, 1875. 1. Leaf natural size; 2. Stamens; 3. and 4. Anthers; 5. Ovary; 6. Transverse section of ovary.

Begonia herbacea

By BESSIE R. BUXTON
Peabody, Mass.

• Another comparatively unknown Brazilian *Begonia* is *B. herbacea*, from the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro. Only the flowers suggest that it is a *Begonia*,

as the serrated green leaves, from 4-6 inches long, lack the typical *Begonia* shape. They spring in a cluster from the
(Continued on page 246)

A Two-Way Road For Begonia Seed

• A surprise is being worked up for you and your friends. Already several members "in the know" have donated mixed Begonia seed for a purpose that HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SEED FUND. If you have some very fine seed of particular Begonias, save it for the special Seed Fund that is administered by Mrs. Clarissa Harris. She is now on a trip to Mississippi and may be doing some special collecting en route, but she needs all the fine seed you can supply her of named varieties of Begonias. Send it, as usual, to her address, see front page.

IF YOU HAVE SEEDS of this and that Begonia that beginners can grow easily, then send this seed to Mrs. Jessie Poole, see address on the front page. She will tell you all in due course how this is going to benefit many people. A nice vial of seed was received from Mr. Jack S. Williams of the Parent Branch of Long Beach and a fine lot from several Begonia lovers whom Dr. and Mrs. Drummond visited in San Diego recently.

Branch News

Santa Maria Branch: For some time now, we have not listed this Branch in the news nor in the Calendar. The reason was that we had been notified that they could not carry on meetings during these troublesome transportation times. Now we hear that while they have not as many members as they would like, they do still do all they can to keep together and resent being left out of the big family. We like to hear them speak thusly, and we hope they will send us some real news once in awhile that we may keep their name amongst those who are active—in spite of difficulties. Contact Mrs. P. Melschau, Box 12, Nipomo, who is Secretary-Treasurer. We wish them lots of good luck for the year.

Pasadena Branch: The Editor was unable to attend the last meeting but is grateful for the news received just in time to be slipped under the dead-line for this issue. Mr. Harold Hart spoke for a short time on the care of Caladiums at this time of the year, illustrating his talk with a splendid collection of beautiful leaves. He had another en-

Book Review

By E. CROWDER
Librarian, ABS

Garden Islands of the Great East

By DAVID FAIRCHILD

(Scribner, 1943)

• A charming account of a seed collecting trip from the Philippines to the Netherland East Indies in 1940. Those who enjoyed the author's "The World Was My Garden," published several years ago, will be equally pleased with this new book for David Fairchild is a distinguished botanist and an excellent story teller.

The expedition set out in the specially built Chinese Junk "Cheng Ho" and the cruise takes in much of the South Pacific territory that is now so prominent in the war news. The war did overtake the plant hunters and their trip was hampered somewhat by restrictions, however, the beautiful junk visited many strange harbors and came back with over five hundred different kinds of plants to be introduced to American horticulture.

The book comes with a map of the route of the expedition, the many photographs as well as a good index add much to the enjoyment of the book.

agement for the same evening and so will return to this Branch again in May. The President, Mr. Clarence Hall, from Ventura, was there to present the Branch Charter. Several other members of the Board of the ABS were there to lend weight to the occasion. They all enjoyed a most instructive talk by Mr. William Jonson, of the Destruxol Corporation on "Soil Conditioning." He pointed out that it is generally taken for granted when one plants in good soil and the plants thrive nicely. If they do not, then it is pretty sure that the soil is at fault and it should be reconditioned by resorting to one of the simplest and best ways by adding soil sulphur at the rate of two and a half pounds to each one hundred square feet to which most soils will react shortly. The soil will respond noticeably to this activator of soils, the water will make the food in the soil more easily available to the plants and the plants will grow strongly. Mr. Jonson also advised the use of Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts to you) added to the spray material used on the plants, on the leaves and all over the plant. One will soon

(Continued on next page)

Greetings to Everyone

By CLARENCE A. HALL
President, ABS
Ventura, Calif.

• In visiting the various branches during this past year, I have obtained a clearer picture of why and how our Society is what it is today. I have been amazed at the enthusiasm and determination with which the officers and membership of the branches go about their affairs, whether it be in the process of arranging educational and enjoyable meetings, or be it in the full weight of their abilities in furthering their branch success, and in the general welfare and advancement of our interesting hobby. It has been aptly said, "Some men make the world, the rest just come along and live in it." But not so the ABS member. You'll find him or her up in the front, leading and pitching for a better branch and a better society.

As we enter the new year, the entire membership of the Society can find comfort in the strength of our organization, working towards a fuller enjoyment of living, the building of morale on the home front, by the means of creating and giving beauty a chance at home, around our homes, giving us all that much needed "lift," and assuring those loved ones who are away in the armed forces that "home" will be just as beau-

tiful, just as attractive and enchanting upon their return as it was when they left.

There is just one more thing that you can do this coming year. Tell your friends of your Branch activities, and what the Society means to you. Lend them your copy of the *Begonian*, and convert that non-member into an active and enthusiastic member. Invite him or her to your next meeting. Let him look at that panorama of planned enjoyment, so successfully undertaken in the past, and at the contours of our field of endeavor of the future. Let him or her partake of and fit into this scheme of the all important future—our job of maintaining and enhancing morale at home.

The purpose of this message is to laud this monument that your enthusiastic efforts have erected. It is more to remind you that you, as an individual member, are a most vital part of our Society. It is to ask for your whole-hearted cooperation during this new year. To assist your branch and its officers towards a larger and enthusiastic membership, and in so doing, help yourself to new-found friendships, and to a greater enjoyment of living.

see a greening of the foliage, as the Magnesium Sulphate is one of the basic parts of the structure of the chlorophyll in plant life.

Mrs. Jessie Poole won the very beautiful *Begonia haageana* that had been brought to the National Board meeting the evening before. A plant with great bunches of large, waxy and very delicate beauty, which she said she would place in The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, of which she is now the Director. Everyone of the thirty-five present went away with plants and some lovely Spitzenberg apples.

Mr. Fred Willard will speak on the growing of Primulas on January 11th, at the Pasadena Public Library, 7:30 p.m.

To our surprise we read in last month's *Begonian* when it returned from the printers that some 5 were present the previous month. They just dropped the cipher 3—which should have made it 35. Anyway, that was a good way to get the Branch talked about and have a little extra publicity thereby.

North Long Beach Branch will meet on January 10th, 1944, at 42 E. Market Street, at 7:30 p.m. The following officers have been installed for 1944: Mrs. Mary Crawford, President; Mr. Louis Wendle, Vice-President; Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secretary; Mrs. C. B. Tarhet, Treasurer; and Mrs. Ruby Liedler, National Representative. We wish these officers a most successful New Year and happy meetings every time.

The San Gabriel Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall, El Monte, on the usual fourth Friday evening. Miss Charlotte M. Hoak, well-known Horticulturist, writer, speaker of note, will talk on The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial, of which Committee she is Secretary and will review memories of the man for whom the Memorial was established. This should be interesting to any person inclined toward any form of gardening and we predict a fine attendance.

Inglewood Branch: We have no news for December from this Branch, so we
(Continued on page 242)

Nelly Bly

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, Calif.

• If the San Diego Chamber of Commerce should ask for a good recommendation for our climate, I would show them this plant of Nelly Bly. Those of you in the East may question my veracity, but it was obtained from a fellow Begonian, Annibel Barry, who raised it in a pot under her pepper tree. The originator of Nelly Bly, Eva Kenworthy Gray, has lived here a long time, pioneering in Begonia culture when plants were few and precious and giving many splendid new seedlings to the world. She continues her busy round even now at the age when most of us would seek a comfortable rocker. In August she wrote that she had returned from a trip with so much fruit to can and, of course, new plants, that she would answer my questions later.

True to her promise, a month ago, in clear, firm hand she sent the information I sought. Incidentally, you may want to add this item to the discussion of Neely Gaddis in the September Begonian. I had asked Mrs. Gray where her plant acquired such an odd name. It seems that her uncle, Cornelius Gaddis, who was killed in the War of 1860, had a daughter named for him, called "Neely" for short, who was Mrs. Gray's twin cousin. They played together as children in Iowa until an accident ended her life at the age of six. This little story adds to our fondness for the namesake plant.

Equally intriguing is the reason for the name "Nelly Bly." Mrs. Gray had a sister, Nelly, who at the age of four years sang the old song of that name so much that they called her by it. When Mrs. Gray's new seedling, back in 1924, developed pretty red flowers she was reminded of the young sister who was so partial to that color, hence the name! Mrs. Gray says "she was the cutest little girl, with brown curly hair and gray eyes. I wish her picture could be published when that of the plant comes out." So here it is! See page after picture of "Nelly Bly."

Many of you will be pleased to see an old favorite on the next page, instead of so many strangers. Nelly Bly is one of our most valuable hairy fibrous because its smaller leaves, always so rich with their deep shining green, make it more graceful and its fine branching habit

adds to its favor as a "filler." In addition, its profusion of colorful flowers, fluffing out at every branching tip, make it gay and bright wherever placed. If not cut back it grows as high as five feet, but it is better if encouraged to bush out more freely. Where it is especially healthy, the leaves are from five to six inches long. They have white hairs, which are fine enough to give a frosty appearance to the dark olive surface and the deep red backs. The main rib of the leaf is usually off-side. The leaves seem to branch in pairs and strangely enough, the narrow part of the leaf is usually on the inside to balance the pair. This is not so apparent in the sketch as, since the cold weather, the larger leaves have fallen off and the smaller ones do not show the veins as well, and of course, the plant as a whole is not as attractive.

Nelly Bly shows little relationship to the parent *Viaude* being so much smaller in both flower and leaf. The flower stems are short so they tie into the plant instead of pulling it down. The male flowers are about an inch over but the female are little hairy triangles of a lovely shade of ripe watermelon red. In bud, the stem and petals are thick with red hairs making them a glow of color but, as the larger flowers open, they show a paler interior and lighten the effect. The flowers remind me of *metallica*, though in larger clumps, but the leaves with their long points and ruffled edges are more graceful. It makes a fine brunette cousin to our blonde "*Marguerite*." It would be nice though if we had a similar small-leaf type with the all-white flower of *Neely Gaddis*.

But who am I to be wishing for more Begonias when we have as beautiful a subject as Nelly Bly to begin our New Year with. This should be a fine time to start appreciating the blessings we already have, particularly in Begonias, and to do our best to preserve them for the peaceful future we hope is ahead. A good "growing" year to you all!

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NELLY BLY

The Meeting of the Board of the ABS

• In all there were twenty-three present at the last meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society for 1943, with Mr. J. L. Baily, President, in the chair.

Various reports were presented and duly ordered filed with the Secretary. Mrs. Harker, Membership Chairman, told of a nice increase in membership during the last month and asked that members be reminded of the cultural Bulletins which are available.

Mrs. Wilkes, Editor of The Begonian, gave credit to the Advertisers for the support given our publication. She reported that new stationery would be available for distribution early in January. For this and other reasons, it was stressed as vitally important that every Branch Secretary send to Mr. Clarence Hall, President, the names and addresses of their newly elected President, Representative Director, Secretary and Program Chairman. This information plus



Evva Kenworthy Gray and Sister Nellie, for whom the Begonia "Nelly Bly" was named

that of the name and address of the Secretary-Treasurer of each Branch should also be sent to the Editor as quickly as possible for the Branch News and Calendar.

Further business was dispensed with due to the importance of other affairs, and Mr. Baily made an address of appreciation to all who had worked so faithfully through the year for the betterment of our Society and expressed his regret that the year was over because he had found it thrilling to work with such enthusiastic support from every one. He praised Mr. Clarence Hall's integrity and competence, his many abilities and eagerness to serve, and then commended to each member the carrying forward of the banner with Mr. Hall, so that The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial be improved consistently, that The Begonian be made finer as the time progresses, that the other proposed projects be carried through for the benefit of all members and then presented the symbols of the Society to Mr. Clarence Hall and finally the specially designed and beautifully made gavel. To which dignified and earnest address Mr. Hall responded eloquently and enthusiastically, assuring Mr. Baily and each member that with the cooperation of each individual many fine plans would be put into effect, besides creating a still closer relationship between Branches.

A resignation was regretfully accepted from Mr. Ferd Neels as Chairman of the Questions and Answers Department due to lack of time.

Col. Gale, President of the Pasadena Branch, with Mr. Willard and Mr. Harrell brought a very beautiful plant of Begonia haageana which was to be the main door prize at the next evening's gathering of their Branch members, as special incentive for all to attend the meeting of the presentation of the Charter, and the visitation to be made their Branch by the Board members.

Every member interested is welcome at the Board meetings.

IF IT'S A BULB and IT'S SEASONABLE
I think you'll find it for your sun or shade
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at

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1415 Echo Park Ave.

Los Angeles

California

Looking Forward With Enthusiasm

By JESSIE ANN POOLE
Director, Public Relations and
Director, The Alfred D.
Robinson Memorial

• It was with a great deal of hesitancy and an equal amount of surprise at my own temerity, that I agreed to take the appointment of Director of Public Relations for 1944. I am approaching the amazingly large task ahead of me with honest humility and the intent to give a full measure of my time and effort to make this year one to be worthy of your praise. I shall not expect to take the place of Dr. Lauder, as I know that would be presumptuous, since I would not have had the courage to accept the post when our President Clarence Hall offered it to me, without the knowledge that I would have the full cooperation, not only of Dr. Lauder, but that of all my fellow members in the American Begonia Society.

Remembering the many phases of the work involved, I shall not, at this time, go into any detail of the plans for the coming year, as I am not fully prepared to do so.

The first report for 1944 pertains to that most important activity of our Society, The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial. This is, and it should be, the outstanding pleasurable work of the current year, and with the completion of plans started in the last part of 1943 the Memorial should prove to be a show place for Begonia and all other flower lovers alike.

It is a pleasure to report that through the cooperation of our good friends in the Park Department of the City of Los Angeles, we are able to employ, part time, two attendants who are vitally interested in the memorial and whose daily work keeps them on the grounds at Lincoln Park. In the very short time since they took over the care of the plants in the exhibit, there has been a marked improvement, and the exhibit today is in a far better condition than heretofore.

This work is all done on their own time and through the generosity of the various Branches in contributing a small fund each month, we are to pay these men for their services.

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AT GARDEN SUPPLY DEALERS

- The Begonian can only be as interesting as you make it for us. Do tell us how you have succeeded with your plants under special difficulties. Share your helpful hints with the other members.

I did not intend to give as much of a report now, but my enthusiasm seems to have got ahead of me. I have hopes of giving you some really worthwhile information next month which I know all of you will want to hear.

Pioneers Who Blazed the Trail Which Culminated in Standardized Botanical Methods

By HELEN K. KRAUSS

Director, The Clayton M. Kelly
Research and Nomenclature Depts.
Wynnewood, Pa.

SYSTEMATIZED botanical methods were slowly evolved over a period of many centuries. The naming of plants was the first step, taken in the fourth century B. C. when only a fraction of the people on earth were known by given names and most of those were unaware of the possibility of surnames.

Theophrastus, the Greek botanist and disciple of Aristotle, was the first who began the naming of plants. And strangely enough two words were used for a species. Tropical plants beyond the deserts and mountains of Africa were then unknown, possibly because the prevailing opinion that vegetation could not grow in the "burning zone." Whether penetration into the jungles by the cultured Greeks was too hazardous because of the wild beasts and barbarous aborigines or whether they were prototypes of our modern isolationists and thought nothing worthy of consideration beyond the perimeter of the Mediterranean remains conjectural.

In the quest for medicinal plants throughout the centuries when physicians were obliged to know them, both known and new plants were named by each individual as he felt inclined regardless as to whether the specific plant had been named once or a dozen times previously. Names became exceedingly unwieldy and frequently attained the length of sentences or phrases, most of the words being of a descriptive character.

Caspar Bauhin, the first nomenclator, took the second major step. He enumerated about six thousand plants and their synonyms which was published in his *Pinex Teatri Botanici, Helvetia* (Switzerland), 1623. The cumbersome names in general use were reduced. Joseph Pitton Tournefort, who established the genus *Begoniaceae* which was discovered in 1690, supplied the descriptions for the genera that had been listed in Bauhin's book.

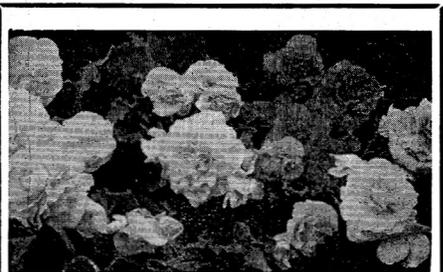
Meanwhile, physicians and botanists of the Nordic countries and in a smaller way the clergy of the Latin countries contributed to the general fund of knowledge. The medical colleges and universities of Holland, Scotland and

England maintained physic gardens for the use of instructors and medical students. As more and more plants were introduced, many of which had no medicinal value, these medicinal or physic gardens evolved into botanic gardens.

Carl Linne' (Linnaeus), physician and usually called the father of botany, coordinated all of the usable knowledge of the past; devised his sexual system of determining all genera by their flowers and fruits; reduced the names of all species to two names, one for the genus and one for the species. This was all summed up in *Species Plantarum*, 1st edition, 1753, and was welcomed by botanists all over the world. Linne's orderly system is still the authority for us today.

Since it is our purpose to conform to the rules by keeping nomenclature simple and uniform it becomes necessary

(Continued on page 241)



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A TRAY FOR BEGONIAS

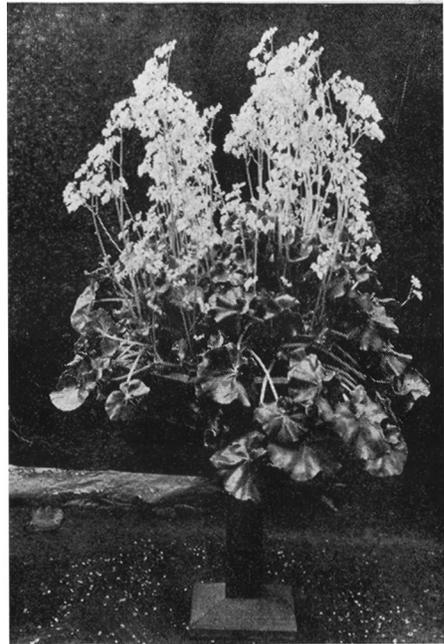
By ALFRED D. ROBINSON, Dec.
Point Loma, California

THESE have been a large variety of flower and plant containers all alike in one particular, their unfitness for the job. There seems little excuse for grass sprouting all over a pig, flowers blooming out of a duck's back, or roses, even if of the baby kind, springing from a slipper or a cradle. We are all familiar with those pairs of huge tall colored vases with small mouths that, making their first appearance, are proudly displayed on each side of the front door to be demoted from spot to spot till a kindly accident relegates them to the junk pile, but this writing has more to do with plant containers and was inspired by a wondrous specimen of Bunchii Begonia that appeared for years at our local flower show growing in a shallow round galvanized washtub. I have these washtubs, for they are perfect for soaking and carrying small pots, but they are too nearly related to the tin can, which I have always abhorred as a plant container, so from a tub I got down to a tray and herewith submit pictures and particulars of a final model, the outcome of many experiments though it looks such a simple thing.

This tray is hexagonal, the individual

sides are fifteen inches by twelve, six inches deep, one inch thick, which makes a pleasing flare without so much of one as to prevent pots being arranged close to the edge. The bottom is put UNDER, not IN the sides so as to carry the weight and extends beyond the sides one inch. The standard was more trouble than the tray, but evolved as a four by four inch upright with a foot square top and bottom, the ends are made by sawing 4x4's on the bias so as to have lengths tapering from three to one inch and this is mitered to fit round the upright and nailed on so as to leave the upright half an inch short of level which offsets any tendency to rock on an uneven surface. These standards are made in three heights, two feet, thirty inches, and three feet, anything higher calls for a hanging basket. Both tray and standard are made of rough redwood, unstained as the object is to feature the plant not the container, however a pleasing old age grey effect can be had by brushing with a THIN mixture of ordinary cement and water.

Though the illustration shows Begonias in these trays they are admirable for displaying a great variety of plants which



only show off to best advantage when massed, such as *Primula malacoides* (have you seen the newer real pink variety and the doubles); *Saintpaulias*, the so-called South African violet, the double *Lobelia Kathleen Mallard* and even the ubiquitous *Pansy*. Pots of these rounded up to the center padded in with moss are most effective, and replacements are only a matter of minutes. When possible, it is better to use potted plants rather than planting direct in the trays because of the considerable increase in weight, but for the best effect with the *Begonias* next to be considered, direct planting must be practiced.

Of this group of low growing *Begonias* the best known is *FEASTII*, which under different names such as *Edmondsi*, *Beefsteak*, *Water Lily*, etc., is in thousands of homes throughout the United States. Its thick leathery foliage is very resistant to insect attack or injury from changes in atmospheric conditions. Though varying somewhat in flowering season, they may all be classed as winter or early spring bloomers and they have two definite periods of growth, one in the summer when they develop their leaves, and the other the flowering season. During the summer leaf production they enjoy a shaded cool situation. Contrary to a widespread belief they can be well grown without leafmold, a good turfy loam **FREE FROM ALKALI** with one quarter coarse sand and a free sprinkling of small charcoal will do admirably. Good drainage is absolutely essential and a fine silt-like soil is anathema. Hard water can be softened by the use of alum, one-half ounce of saturated solution to the gallon of water. Let stand overnight and use water from the top.

The soil in the trays should be rounded up to the center and have at least an inch of drainage material at the bottom. Five plants from four inch pots will be ample as too-crowded leafage will cause stem rotting. Half the leaves on the *conchaefolia* illustrated had to be removed to let the flower stems come through. It was equally handsome before it bloomed.

In the one group there are *Feastii*, *Bunchii*, not so called because of its frilled foliage but from its introducer *Bunch*, *conchaefolia* (*B. warszewiczii*) shell-leaved, and *heraclei-cotyle* (*Mrs. Townsend*) the last with the darkest and almost chocolate flowers, and the last to bloom.

The two *manicata* *Begonias*, *manicata* plain, and *manicata aurea*, yellow and

green variegated, have lighter green and thinner foliage and the leaf stems have rings of reddish hairs, the blooms are smaller and daintier than the other group; they are not so hardy though needing the same culture.

In true trailing *Begonias* there are the two *scandens*, *Alba* with white sprays of bloom like pearls, this will climb by roots along the stem like an ivy, and *glaucophylla* with coral blooms edged with white.

Then there is the large assortment of so-called *Bedding Begonias* that are charming subjects for this grouping, and so arranged are much more appealing than in large plantings out of doors.

There is no thought of putting over an all-purpose plant stand, but an offering of the result of much experimentation to find a cheap, effective and fitting method of massing the smaller plants for in or out door display.

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- Mrs. Harry Harker suggests that you, individually, check your Membership Card so that you will know when your membership becomes due again, and that you advance the time a little to avoid having to be notified by post card. This will be a good deed that will be appreciated indeed.

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PIONEERS WHO BLAZED TRAIL

(Continued from page 238)

to review some of the begonia names in current use. The following names will serve to illustrate:

Begonia fuchsioides, a Mexican species known for its fuchsia-like red flowers is frequently listed with the descriptive word *coccinea* (meaning red) appended. Hooker named this plant *B. fuchsioides* and any additional words are without authority.

B. scandens, a species indigenous to the wet forests along the Atlantic in tropical America is scandent in habit. It was first described in English by Jonas Dryander in 1791. We frequently find it listed as *scandens alba* or *alba scandens*. *Alba*, meaning white, should be deleted.

B. glaucophylla, named, described and illustrated by Hooker Fils, was thought by him to be a species. The consensus of opinion among botanists is that it is of hybrid origin. Occasionally we come across writers who suggest that the correct name is *Limminghe* or *Comte de Limminghe*. There is sufficient evidence to credit the origin of this begonia to the gardens of the Belgian Count but literature has not revealed a description under that name which applies to it. The earliest description under the name of Comte de Limminghe applies to a tuberous hybrid which voids this name or a similar one for the begonia under discussion. We frequently find the words, *scandens* or *splendens*, appended to *glaucophylla* which are superfluous and without authority.

When botanists find that there is not enough difference between two species to warrant a new name it is referred to as a variety of a particular species. The following illustrations are examples:

B. Dregei var. *McBethi* has more deeply cut and greener leaves than the type which is a native of Africa.

B. Dregei var. *rubronervis* has blunter leaves than the type and as the name implies has reddish veins. This plant is usually referred to as *parvifolia*. Literature reveals a number of unrelated begonias by the latter name covering a period of about one hundred years. Because of the confusion created by this name, and which A. DeCandolle questions, it has been discarded by present-day authorities.

B. imperialis, a Mexican species, has green leaves marked with brown along the veins. The word *maculata* is often

erroneously appended.

B. imperialis var. *smaragdina* is similar to the type except for its plain emerald green leaves.

B. manicata, a Mexican species, with plain green leaves is notable for its cuff of coarse red hairs where leaf and petiole meet.

B. manicata var. *aureo-maculata* is similar to the type except for the yellow and rose blotches on its leaves.

B. manicata var. *crispa* is similar to the type except for the heavily crested margins of the leaves. It is often called *cristata* which means the same thing but the original name given is *crispa*.

B. manicata var. *aureo-maculata crispa* has not been found in literature in such cumbersome form. This begonia is usually referred to as "a crested form of *manicata aureo-maculata* which evades the issue. Perhaps Mr. T. H. Everett of the N. Y. Botanical Gardens will give us an authoritative answer to this one.

B. manicata var. *tenuifolia* is of more recent introduction. It is similar to *manicata* but lacks the interesting cuffs. It was named by Dr. A. D. Houghton and described in his Thesis at the University of California in Berkeley.

B. malabarica, one of the earliest known begonias, is indigenous to the moist, cool valleys of Ceylon and somewhat rare.

B. malabarica var. *dipetala* is erroneously called Mrs. W. A. Kimball, Mrs. W. Kimball or Mrs. Kimball. It was found growing in greenhouses of Mr. Manda in Orange, N. J. Mr. Manda imported tropical plants from all over the world. This is probably a duplication of similar introductions in the past where seeds were introduced in the soil of other plants or in orchid sheathes. A *dipetala* seedling is available which is easier to grow than the species.

B. maculata from Brazil was the first spotted leaved begonia introduced into Europe. Several years after it had been named by Raddi it was renamed

(Continued on page 242)



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FUCHSIA VICTORY

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 233)

are happy to use that of the previous month which had to be left out because of lack of space and the length of the report. This Branch was truly proud of having been the one to win the Sweepstakes for having been given most winning points in the Begonia Show at the Annual Meeting. It can be imagined all the members will work hard to repeat this performance this year.

Mr. Chester D. Tanner of Los Angeles was the speaker of the evening. His subject: The most intriguing of all Begonias — The Tuberous rooted Begonias. He told of the simple care two beds of these Begonias in his garden needed through the Summer. They were seedlings and though they faced West, they had the filtered shade of two large Pine trees. At noon, however, they had to stand the full blast of the sun for almost one and a half hours, so he made a muslin awning over them at the height of the window ledge which detracted not a whit from the good looks of the house facade, and yet shaded his beloved plants adequately until the trees softened the glare. They bloomed beautifully and stopped many a passer-by with the gay show.

(Continued from page 241)

argyrostigma by Fischer but the first name given is authoritative.

B. maculata var. albo-picta is a smaller edition of the type. It was introduced by Wm. Bull, an English nurseryman, in 1883. We frequently find it listed as picta alba which is most confusing. The tuberous species, picta, is from India and the above name implies that it is a white flowering form of the it, which it is not.

B. scandens var. rotundifolia is a species from the same environs as scandens, commonly known as glabra. Glabra is a synonym for scandens which was thrown into the discard after more than a century of misuse. Casimir DeCandolle, the learned botanist and son of the illustrious Alphonse DeCandolle, clarified this for us in the French publication, Bulletin De l'Herbier Boissier, 2nd series, page 325, 1908. It is unfortunate that so many years had to elapse before detecting this information as habits of long standing are sometimes difficult to correct.

(To be continued)

While he was ill the past Summer he read Mr. George Otten's book on Tuberous Begonias and also Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton's book then followed up by recuperating at Capitola, California, where he spent two weeks as "extra" for Mr. Frank Reinelt. Many of us would not mind being ill, if we could recuperate thusly? He learned that the soil mixture is of paramount importance in the production of very fine Tuberous Begonias, and next is the proper amount of shade, but they will do well as long as they do not get direct sunlight. For large foliage and fewer but larger flowers: 1 part top soil, 1 part coarse sand, 2 parts leaf mold, preferably oak, 1 part steer manure, and 1/8 part bone meal. For smaller plants but lots more and very fine flowers: use two parts soil instead of one.

If the soil should be on the alkaline side, a little cottonseed meal will correct it, and this should be mixed into the compost well in advance of planting time, say November or December, and let it stand.

Mr. Tanner finds the growing of Tuberous Begonias from seed even more fascinating than from tubers. Naturally one should provide the very best of seed and start it in seed pans about the first of January. He likes one inch of peat moss at the bottom, then half peat moss and half medium coarse oak leaf mold screened through a 1/8" mesh and finally a layer of the same proportion but screened fine and soaked. On this the seed is sown after the mixture arrives at an even, slightly over-damp stage.

Mr. Tanner has a small germinating box which he keeps at 60° F. until the seeds germinate then at 50° F. until the seedlings are about 1/8" high with two leaves at which time he transplants them into boxes with the same soil mixture minus the very fine screening. These seedlings are dampened with an atomizer overhead spray twice a day until three leaves are developed and then transplanted into the soil mixture they will have in the flowering beds, but still in flats for awhile from which they will go into pots or beds and kept in the lath-house.

As for tubers which are now tucked away in such a manner that they have remained plump and full, clear, and on the dry side. When they are taken out for planting it is much better to grade

(Continued on page 244)

Plantly Speaking — In the Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, California

• Occasionally I hear that *Browallia speciosa* has become a weed in some gardens. Those same people, however, will admit it is a very pretty and floriferous weed and that it is not hard to control. Anywhere it is seen it is admired. It will grow where most other plants refuse to make themselves at home. Some of them will get rather shrubby at the base if allowed to develop to the full five feet in height, yet they can be kept very neat in appearance, if properly pinched back. The flowers are made up of a one-inch tube with spreading five-lobed limb. While they are to be had in blue, violet or white, it must be admitted that blue is generally preferred. I find *Browallia* very useful in those spots that are neither shaded nor in full sun. Those spots where the sun in its full intensity creeps in just long enough during the day to have left its mark on some particularly choice plant. I have grown this plant in those spots and its own shade has provided enough shelter to make possible the growing of some smaller, choicer shade plants.

It is not particular as to soil, developing to its finest in a good leafy loam. It flowers continuously in many locations, but particularly attractive amongst the pinks and coral colors of the Begonias, and amongst Fuchsias. It may be grown



as a pot subject if pinched back quite often to make it bushy and fed liberally because of its rapid growth.

Index in Preparation

• An Index for 1942 and 1943 is now in progress of preparation and should be ready for the members of the American Begonia Society sometime late in January or early in February. — The Editor.

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BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 242)

the sizes and plant those of a size together so that a more uniform blooming show may be obtained. Place them in flats (the commercial propagating box about 3" high and about 24" x 22") in half peat moss and half Oak leaf mold even with the soil, spray them lightly until they have sprouted about three leaves and formed a good root system after which they may be placed in pots or in the beds where they are to flower, remembering that the leaf-points should be toward the front as that is the side on which the blossoms will appear to best advantage.

In preparing the pots, be sure of drainage and just below the center of the pot place a small handful of fish-meal which must be covered with the soil mixture then the rooted tuber may be placed so that it is just about over half in the soil. These plants will prefer to be watered by light overhead sprinkling until the blooms appear after which time it is best to water them at the root. This will avoid brown edges and the flowers will be more perfect. If these are grown in a lathhouse, they can be greatly improved by having a muslin covering to protect the flowers from burning. His flowers last on the plant from two to three weeks and still look nice. By planting successively one may have flowers well along into the late part of the year. At the time of speaking, November 11th, 1943, Mr. Tanner still had a bed of about 185 seedlings in bloom and one, a very loosely ruffled Salmon, also a beautiful white still 6" across. These he planted out with seedlings in August.

Mr. Tanner tried to impress on the mind of his listeners the importance of staggering their plantings so that they would have lovely flowers through a longer season.

It may be mentioned here that Inglewood Branch is well known for the splendid plant sales they have. A great many of the plants are donated by the members and eagerly taken up by the winners.

Timely Notes and Suggestions: Examine the tubers of your Begonias before planting and remove any rot that might be started with a clean knife. Sprinkle some sulphur on the cut and let it dry before planting.

Tuberous rooted Begonias may be started in Southern California about the 15th of January and every fifteen days

thereafter keeping them at 50° F. or in the open about March 15th.

Tuberous rooted Begonia seed maintains viability for two years anyway. Mr. Tanner grew his 1943 crop from two-year-old seed.

Hollywood Branch: The Xmas party held in December was a very successful affair financially and artistically. The plan of having a table of plants specially for sale proceeds of which are for Robinson Memorial may be a happy solution to getting a nice contribution painlessly each month. Of course "angels" give the plants and the rest is easy. The President, Mrs. Drummond, presided from a beautifully arranged Xmas table, and various extras for sale were most attractive. The speakers: Mrs. Margaret Hoffman spoke of her trip to Mexico; Mr. Ray Wilson spoke briefly but concisely and informatively on several special shade plants and Mr. Eversole on Begonias . . . but in his own way, so that from now on each month included in the program will be a short ABC lesson on Begonias. January will be the Birthday party. Come and buy your supper; 50c for the most delectable Chili and Beans and Birthday Cake.

The officers elected for 1944 were: President, Mrs. W. C. Drummond; Vice-President, John Parker; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Kem Weber; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ada Brown; Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Cocke; Board Advisor, Mrs. Della Otto; and National Representative, Mr. Murray Hawkins.

Bellflower Branch: The January meeting of this Branch will be held in the home of Mrs. H. Radle, 920 Flower Street, Bellflower, Calif.

Riverside Branch will meet in January at the home of Mrs. C. S. May, 3121 Mulberry Street, with Mesdames Topham and Porter as co-hostesses.

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Primulas and Primroses

By FRED G. WILLARD
Pasadena, Calif.

(CONTINUED)

• One of the most interesting groups of Primroses for Californians, and I have no doubt almost anywhere else in the United States, is the polyanthus group and its close relatives, cowslip, oxslip and English Primrose. The polyanthus has many flowers to a stem but the Primrose has only one. Sometimes, however, the same plant will produce both polyanthus and primrose type of flowers. These are hardy plants easily grown from seed and from divisions of roots. The color range is the most complete found in any flower. It embraces all gradations of pink, crimson, maroon, scarlet to delicate lilac-blue merging into murky purple, also white and yellow. The most popular flowers in this group are single.

These plants undoubtedly do best in locations that resemble their native homes, not too shaded and left alone for several years. They make wonderful edgings for shrubs where they are not exposed to the full glare of the sun. They make an effective display when planted by themselves in mixed colors.

The best time to plant divisions or seedlings is in July or August. Set them six to nine inches apart. Seed should be sown early in the Summer for best germination. If not able to do this, then procure plants when they are in bloom as potted plants, or young flowering plants from flats early in the year which will enable one to create definite color schemes right away. It is wise to mark the colors of seedlings when they bloom so as to increase the ones liked best. The *Primula polyantha* group may be cross bred, if one has time, to produce better and more novel coloring. The more decorative species are *Primula sinensis*, *P. stellata*, *P. obconica*, *P. malacoides* and *P. kewensis*.

P. sinensis can now be had in all shades of crimson, coral pink, blue and white. The flowers are large and decorative, rich in color and foliage. *P. obconica*, now extensively hybridized, look little like their original parents. The color range has been extended to pink, lavender, red, white, blue and all colors

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in between. It has one drawback in general cultivation. The glandular hairs found on the underside of the leaves cause an irritating and dangerous rash on the skin of some person who touch the plant. Turpentine and zinc ointment are said to be good remedies for it.

Primula obconica objects to high temperatures or rapid changes in temperature. It flowers over a long period and may be had in bloom all the year around.

Probably the most decorative of all is *P. malacoides*. Since its introduction from China by Forrest in 1908, it has been intensively developed to increased size, to better colors, greater height and to double flowers. It well deserves the name "Fairy Primrose." Its culture is the simplest. It is a perennial and blooms for several months; but it is better to treat it as an annual.

The outstanding yellow-flowered one is *P. kewensis*. It is not a species but a hybrid of *P. floribunda* and *P. verticillata*. From handsome silver-green foliage six or eight inches long, rise tall yellow flowers with three or four whorls on a spike. It is rather fragrant and is covered with farina.

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BEGONIA HERBACEA

(Continued from page 231)

end of a creeping rhizome, as thick as the little finger, and are shaggy with root fibres and old stipules. The white male flowers are borne on stems a little shorter than the leaves, and the female flowers are sessile in the axils of the leaves below, where the pollen from the males will fall and fertilize them. Several magazines described this Begonia in 1873-4, but not a word since then. Why not?

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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 January (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., Jan. 10th, 1943.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, January 3rd
Vasa Club House,
3094 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Braidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

BELFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, January 4th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mrs. H. Radle,
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.
Miss Esther Elthinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, January 4th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. C. S. May, 3121 Mulberry St.
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, January 4th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, January 6th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, January 6th
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, January 10th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, January 10th
Washington School,
61st and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.
Speaker: Mrs. Fred Willard
subject: Primulas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, January 12th, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, January 13th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.
Speakers: Three Members
Subject: Various

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, January 13th, 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.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, January 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, January 17th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, January 20th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

VICTORY BRANCH

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

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, January 25th
Home of Mrs. Howard Comly, Hatboro, Pa.
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, January 25th
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary,
1345 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, January 26th, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco, Calif.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Pres.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, January 28th
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.
Fellowship Hall,
304 S. Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif.
Speaker: Miss Charlotte Hoak
Subject: Alfred D. Robinson and Memorial

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, January 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.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.

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