

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Slight Change: The Editor

● The azaleas have been blooming for over three weeks and the shade garden is changing its dress. We cannot do that with The Begonian yet. However, due to the pressing need of space in The Begonian, the listing of the names and addresses of the new members will be discontinued. It will not be possible for your magazine to be enlarged until after the war is over and paper is more readily available, therefore it is one way of giving our members a little more material which we hope will be of a helpful nature in maintaining lovely shade gardens. Anything we can do to lighten the burdens of the times, is helpful in countless ways.

The list of the prize-winners in the Hollywood Begonia show will be held over until next month for the want of space in this issue.

Potted plants are going to be rarer than heretofore this holiday season; they make lovely gifts for almost anyone, and for friends in apartments there is hardly an equal for inexpensive joy bringers. For our soldiers and sailors everywhere in all the places where they are housed—what sweeter reminder of home and devoted regard is there? Primroses, malacoides, obconica and english are all easy, Christmas begonias, clivia hybrids, lachenalias, poinsettias, ferns and cinerarias are some of the plants that may still be planted in time. Think of the Dish gardens that can be made at odd moments.



Mrs. Bessie Buxton in front of some of her begonias at her home in Peabody, Mass.



A. E. Nelson in main begonia greenhouse New York Botanical Gardens

Botanical Gardens. I noticed in the August 1944 issue of *The Begonian* that, at the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch June meeting, Margaret Gruenbaum selected as her topic: "The S. P. Miller Collection Which was Described over the Radio January 28, 1944." Mr. Miller was getting ready to move his begonias into a glassed-in porch for the Winter.

Having read Mrs. Bessie Buxton's book on begonias, I was very anxious to meet her, and I was very pleasantly surprised when I called her from Boston one afternoon and she said she was coming in to get her sister late that after-

noon and would pick me up and take me out to Peabody. On the way out to Peabody, we stopped in to see some of the local begonia enthusiasts. I had a very pleasant evening with Mrs. Buxton and her husband and thought that many of you would like to see what she looks like, so I took the accompanying picture of her with some of her begonias.

I enjoyed these contacts with eastern begonia growers immensely and hope that some time in the near future I may have the pleasure of showing them how we raise begonias in California.

East Bay Branch: The September meeting was held in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Thorpe of Berkeley.

In recognition of Mr. Chester Nave's donation of his entire plant collection before entering the Navy which instigated the display in Lakeside Park, the membership individually is raising a plant for him to start his new garden when he returns, possibly two years from now. In the meantime, the group sends him *The Begonian* while he is stationed in Honolulu on the service of his country. All those attending the meeting signed a letter which was sent to him.

The election of officers took place with the ceremony which ensued.

President: Mrs. Geo. Reed, Richmond, Calif.

Vice-President: Mr. H. L. Swager, Oakland, Calif.

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Ruth Utter, Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. Swager, representative to look after the display in Lakeside Park.

On October 1st this group met in the lovely garden of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gilkey. Mrs. Wm. Ahrens presented a very interesting report of the Annual Convention in Hollywood and expressed

an opinion that the exhibits and show were outstanding.

The next meeting will be held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, 2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley. There will be a named plant sale for the plant fund. Mr. H. L. Swager reported that the tuberous begonia display in Lakeside Park was excellent at this time, and that these with the fibrous begonias were attracting much attention just now. The Society has recently obtained cuttings of many begonias for the glass house.

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BRANCH NEWS

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch: Mr. Clarence Hall, past president, spoke extensively and instructively on Shade Gardening, including appropriateness of plants, their propagation and culture.

Pointing back to the pictures we recently printed of his garden, he had a concrete example to use as a basis for his fine talk.

Member Floyd Shaw was singled for attention on his 87th birthday with the presentation of a boutonniere of miniature orchids and to his lovely wife an orchid corsage, then the group sang "Happy Birthday" for him and served ice cream with small cakes in their honor.

Mr. Hall reported that when he went to speak at the San Diego Branch Meeting he saw some really remarkable tuberous begonias particularly in the garden of Mrs. Hazard. He also mentioned that the San Diego Branches are making much use of the ABS Library and wonders why the other Branches have not yet sufficiently realized the great benefits to be gained by studying the fine books available.

Mr. Hall would like everyone to realize that the Long Beach Branches are generally more interested in begonias per se, than the other Branches he has visited seem to be, and to try to give Long Beach a run for the money in the next Begonia Show.

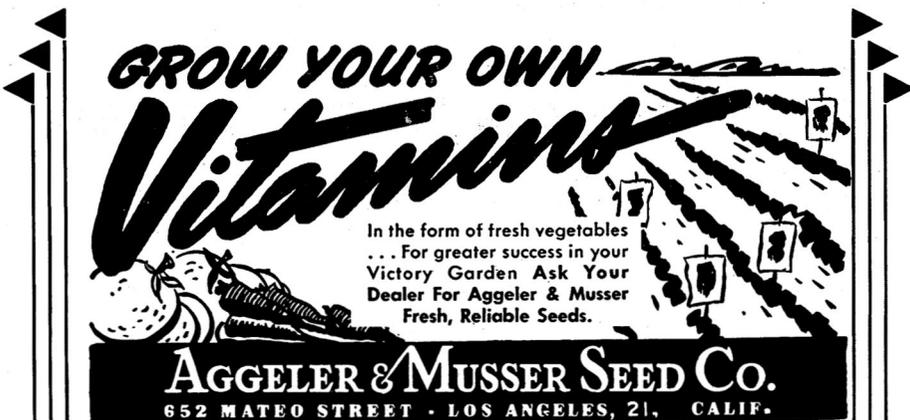
San Gabriel Branch: This group holds meeting now in The American Legion Hall, 716 No. 1st Street, on the fourth Friday. Visitors are always welcome. Time: 7:45 p.m.

San Diego Branch: The speaker for the September meeting was Fred T.

Thorne, inspector for the El Cajon district, department of agriculture for San Diego County. His talk on Soil Tests and Pests was interesting and instructive and he gave different charts for correcting soil conditions. Clarence A. Hall, past president of the American Begonia Society, was a visitor and spoke of the convention and the plans for a great future for begonia clubs. Of course, reports Mrs. Moore, we are much elated over the well earned honors of the American Begonia Society convention bestowed upon Russ Eaker, past president of our group. No one has worked harder for its success. Mrs. J. A. Hegel, plant chairman, has been appointed chairman of the "what to do this month" committee. Each member of the club will be asked to furnish a specimen plant, alphabetical order, reversed, to help swell the funds for the ABS Convention in San Diego, come peace.

Lathhouses visited in September were: Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hall, and Dr. and Mrs. Robt. Schiefer.

Glendale Branch: The members of this group enjoyed the talk given by Mr. Stanley Keene. Mrs. Korts had a plant display for the edification of all present and Mr. Arnold acted as Questions and Answers chairman. Thanks are due to generous members who donated plants for a very successful miscellaneous sale held before the meeting. Mr. Keene also spoke on orchids. The big points he brought to light were the importance of fertilization, and how to water plants. He praised the use of humidifiers in the glass or cloth houses to maintain humidity in our dry atmosphere. A fine meeting, as usual.



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Your Questions Answered

By HELEN R. BAILEY,
San Diego, Calif.

Q. In planting tuberous begonia seeds we have been told that the seed pan or flat should be covered with a piece of paper, which in turn is covered by glass. Does this mean that the seed pan should be so covered as to keep out all ventilation? With most other types of seeds, where glass is used for covering, it is suggested that one end of the glass be raised slightly to allow for some ventilation. Would this raising of the glass be in order for begonia seeds?

From M. F. M., Oakland, Calif.

A. My method in raising begonias from seed is to fill the seed pan to within about a quarter of an inch of the top, then place the paper covered with glass directly on top of the pan but pushed to one side just enough that fresh air may enter. I remove the paper as soon as the seed have sprouted and the glass from one to two weeks later. Miss Constance Bower makes a tight collar of window screen around her seedpans and rests the glass upon it. She regulates the ventilation by raising or lowering the collar.

Q. Will you tell me how to prune my Hydrangea?

From Mrs. A. D. W., Altadena, Calif.

A. Hydrangeas should be pruned during the dormant season. I am told that the best time in Southern California is quite late in the Fall. The growth of the previous year should be cut back to one to three pairs of buds. Light pruning gives more—but smaller—flower clusters. Heavy pruning gives the larger panicles but not as many of them.

Q. In reference to making slips of the young shoots appearing in Spring on Begonia Tubers, it has been suggested that the shoot should be taken with the basal ring attached. Is this basal ring merely a portion of the tuber which is nearest the shoot or is it a definite part of the whole tuber? In taking it about how much of the tuber should be attached to the shoot?

From M. F. M., Oakland, Calif.

A. The basal ring on the tuberous begonia shoot is the juncture with the tuber. Therefore it is necessary in taking your cutting to take a small portion of the tuber. Take as little as possible with a very sharp knife and fill the hole in the tuber with charcoal to prevent rot. You will find dipping the cutting in Rootone very helpful.

Q. Do you have any information on cloth houses? I am experiencing considerable trouble in maintaining the proper humidity for my begonias.

From Mr. H. L. B., Los Angeles, Calif.

A. Here is a description of the cloth house of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schilling of San Diego who have quite a reputation here for their many gorgeous tuberous begonias. It is built on a slight hill with a minimum height of eight feet. The framework is two by fours with braces about three feet apart. The bottom four feet is of lath. Above the lath it is covered with the lightest weight muslin obtainable. This muslin may be stitched together to the proper size or just tacked to the supporting two by fours. Above the lath base are a number of cloth-covered windows (each three feet wide—the width of the muslin) which are dropped in the heat of the day for ventilation and to lower the temperature.

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Begonia Orrell

By ALICE M. CLARK,
San Diego, California

• One of the most enthusiastic begonia fanciers in San Diego, years ago, was Mrs. Perry M. Fleetwood. She was a personal friend of the Robinsons and when she moved to Santa Barbara in 1918, Mr. Robinson was happy to acquire her collection. Some of you may have enjoyed hearing him tell how Mrs. Fleetwood took the time, before leaving, to coach him in the exact care of her pets. Among them was a box of seedlings. These he grew on to maturity and one very promising specimen he called "Orrell," the first name of his earnest "teacher."

[It proved to be a wise choice as it was listed in his first and last catalog under "Rosecroft Introductions." Mrs. Buxton mentions it in her Begonia book and bewails its failure to keep its beautiful leaves under eastern in-door culture. The New York Botanical Garden calls it "very decorative." Before making my drawing, I was fortunate enough to contact Mrs. Fleetwood, now in Pomona, and have it in her own words that: "Orrell is a seedling of Corraline Lucerne (Lucerna). I used pollen from the begonia Argenteo Guttata and also from Metallica, then covered the clump of bloom with a netting." The chances are that it was introduced in 1920.

The plant I have drawn is not Orrell at her best, but does serve to show her essential characteristics. A beautiful plant was sent to the Robinson Memorial in the original collection from San Diego. Obviously, this month's model belongs to the cane type. It follows the upright habit of its Lucerne parent instead of branching as freely as Argenteo Guttata but is more like the latter in height; that of our sketch is only 27 inches, tho' it does reach three to four feet. The center stalk is old, dark and woody in color. The other young shoots are a smooth, light green, stippled with tiny white dashes, reddish at the joint sections and with wee red horns above the leaf scars.

Seemingly there is no trace of Metallica in this plant. Its leaves are ruffled and finely cut on the edges, like its silver forbear but they are larger and longer, like Lucerne, tho' narrower. The top curve is squared off the same way but the undulations and points make it less obvious. The general size is more

like Coccinea. The leaf point curves back, giving a graceful line that must come from an earlier strain. The foliage of my plant, beneath the average size, should be at least seven inches long. The warm green color on top, with large and small silver spots scattered freely between the light green nerves follows the Lucerne pattern. (The painting of them almost cured me of my fondness for polka dots!) The reverse side is a dull light green, with red tinted veins and margins, in marked contrast to the dark-red leaf lining of both of its parents. The short leaf petioles are a shining red. A large colorless stipule on the tip of a stem soon falls, disclosing the enamel-like rosy horn of the young unfurled leaf.

The flower panicles rise from the ends of the branches, which are never very long, on one, or two-inch, reddish peduncles. There are fewer blooms in a spray and they are only about a half-inch over, but they are more upright than Lucerne. The rich ruby color is most distinctive. The male buds are the usual heart-shaped lockets, whose two main petals are a deep red, inside and out. When open, two small narrow petals are revealed, framing a flat yellow center. There were no female blossoms on the plant sketched.

Mrs. Fleetwood will be pleased, as I was, to discover that her hybrid is mentioned in Chevalier's "Les Begonias," published in Belgium in 1938. He refers to it in a paragraph at the end of a description of B. x Lucerne, Hort. Freely translated from the French, it reads:

"A seedling variety, Orrell, was noted in 1934 in the United States. The leaves were a great deal smaller (than Lucerne) of a clearer green and equally as silver-spotted. Flowers, cherry-rose."

So another of our local hybrids claims its just share of interest abroad! Perhaps Pfc. Rowland Hager will chance to visit the Botanical Garden Conservatory of the University of Liege, in Belgium, if either of those institutions are now existent, and present our felicitations to Mon. Chas. Chevalier for his excellent work on "Les Begonias." He might find a few more copies of that precious book for our Begonia Library. He might even be in a position to locate Fotsch's "Die Begonien."

Seems to me, Pfc. Hagen should be appointed our International Begonia Representative with portfolio and purse. How about it, President Nelson?



B. ORRELL

BRANCH NEWS

San Francisco Branch: Mr. Harry L. Swager was the guest speaker at the October 4th meeting. He displayed many varieties of fibrous begonias telling of their soil requirements and general care thereof as well as discussing some of the outstanding characteristics of the plants. He encouraged the tuberous begonia growers to become interested in the fibrous group so that they might have all year bloom thereby. The November 1st meeting will be devoted to an open discussion on what to do now with out begonias. The nominations and election of officers for the next year will take place.

Bellflower Branch: There was a fine attendance at the home of Mrs. Fouse on October 3rd with Mrs. Ruby Liedler as speaker on How to Raise Ferns and Their Subsequent Care. She demonstrated her talk with some lovely specimen plants donated by Mrs. Haller.

NOTA BENE: This branch will now meet on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month in the **COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Sunday School room on the corner of Orchard and Mayne in Bellflower at 7:30 p.m.

California Heights Branch: Few people realize that each month in the year is so different from another month, and that each has its own particular problems which must be met if one is to realize the utmost from his gardens, and full compensation for his efforts.

At the September meeting this thought was fully emphasized by the speaker, Mrs. Gladys Bullard, when she spoke on the topic, "What we should be doing in September." She discussed seeds, cuttings, bulbs, plants, foods, fertilizers, sprays, expected weather, unusual conditions, and antidotes for the unexpected. Her talk was very interesting and greatly appreciated.

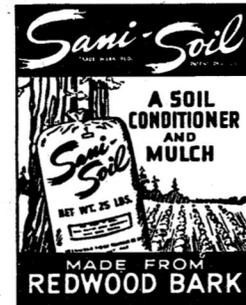
The November meeting of the branch will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Stocks, 4127 Walnut Avenue, Long Beach 7, California, on Friday the 10th, at 8:00 p.m.

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Notes On The Effect Of Temperature And Humidity On Growth Of Tuberous Begonias

By ALFRED HELLER,
New York City, N. Y.

PART III

Swans Island, Maine

As previously mentioned, this island lies off the coast of Maine. It is about two miles wide and five miles long. The prevailing winds during the months of June, July and August are from the southwest. During the rest of the year they are from the northwest. Reference to a map of Maine shows that southwest winds would have to travel over many miles of the Atlantic Ocean before reaching Swans Island.

The nearest point of mainland is a cape about five miles to the West. However, except for this cape, the Atlantic Ocean extends twenty to thirty miles even in a westerly direction. It is hard to conceive, therefore, that the minimum night temperature of an island so small as Swans Island would be anything else than that of the surrounding Atlantic Ocean. The conditions are almost identical with those of Capitola. In both cases, temperature and humidity are controlled by moisture-laden winds having passed over a wide expanse of ocean.

The temperature of the Atlantic Ocean at Swans Island is as follows:

June—49°; July—56.5°; August—59°; September—58° Compare these with the temperature of the Pacific Ocean at Capitola; namely — June—53.8° July—54.9°; August—55.6°, and September—56.5°. It is apparent that there is not much difference.

With an island so small as Swans Island one would expect no great increase in day temperature at any time, so that the occasional hot spells (of short duration) of the Pacific Coast should not occur.

Unfortunately, the Weather Bureau has no record of the temperatures or humidity at Swans Island, and a comparison with the records of any point on the mainland would be misleading.

All of the islands off the coast of Maine have their morning sea fogs similar in manner to the fog belt of the Pacific Coast. An overcoat is quite welcome during the early morning hours on these islands.

As a whole, the temperature and humidity fluctuations on Swans Island should be very similar to those of Capitola. They should continue to be com-

parable while the prevailing winds are from the southwest, which is the case over the critical months of June, July and August. Even during the month of September, there should be no great difference, because of the large expanse of water to the Northwest, and the generally cool weather experienced in Maine during September.

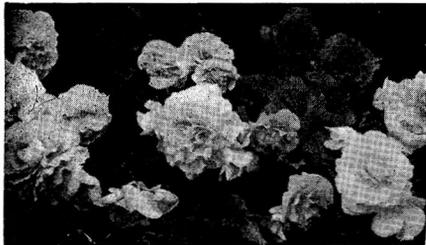
With the change of direction of wind to the Northwest beginning in September, and with the increasing intensity of the wind during the Fall and Winter months, this similarity would soon change, and one should expect a late Spring and an early Fall on Swans Island. This is found to be the case, for usually there is a killing frost about the middle of October. For these reasons, Swans Island has rapid temperature changes during the Spring and Fall, and in this respect has not the advantages of the Pacific Coast where temperature changes are gradual over the entire year, as the winds are always in the direction of the Pacific Ocean.

Lake Placid, New York

Lake Placid is a Winter and Summer resort situated in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains, and has an altitude of a little over 2,000 feet. The Weather Bureau has an accurate record of temperature variations for this resort, but unfortunately no record of the humidity. This, however, must be quite low because of its altitude, and because there is no large body of water near.

As a matter of fact, the atmosphere of the Lake Placid region is crystal clear, and one never sees the haze caused by high humidity which is so common around New York City during the summer months. The prevailing winds are from the West. Many of the Summer colonists at Lake Placid grow some fine begonias. While from the standpoint of size they cannot be compared with those grown on the Pacific Coast or on Swans Island, they do have that rugged, healthy appearance caused by growing begonias dry and hard. They are very much better than anything grown around New York City.

(To be continued)



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Capitola, California

Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch had a delightful meeting at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Mather, Hatsboro, Pa.

Mrs. Anna Oehrle, Program Chairman, arranged and numbered fourteen flower clusters and thirty-eight leaves on the dining table to be identified and listed by the members. Recognition of the foliage proved to be easier than that of the flowers. The only help given by the chairman was to hold up the flower sprays to show how they grew on the plants. At the expiration of the allotted time the corrections were made, followed by a lively discussion.

The members gladly accepted Mrs. Oehrle's suggestion that each one keep a record of the Summer growth and development of the common varieties of Begonias and to report results later.

Riverside Branch: The October 3rd meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Thacker. The November 7th meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. C. F. Lackey, 3043 Pine Street, Riverside.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. We have been trying our luck at starting Rex begonias from the leaves. A good percentage come up but after the leaves form on the new plants, they dry up and fall off. We started some in sand and some in leafmold with the same results. Can you tell us what causes this to happen.

From L. F. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

A. Since you have used two different soil mediums, we can't blame a soil condition for the loss of the leaves. Unless you have allowed the young plants to dry out too much between waterings. I am inclined to blame your trouble on the very hot weather. Young Rex like to be consistently moist—but not wet—and in a cool, well shaded location with good humidity. If these conditions are met, I think you will find your young Rex will stage a satisfactory comeback.

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FERTILIZERS OR PLANT FOODS THEIR COMPONENTS AND USES

A Paper Prepared for Presentation Before the Begonia Society,
San Diego Branch, May 22, 1944

By PAUL E. BLOOMER, San Diego, Calif.

MAN has known of and derived benefits from fertilizers for some 3,000 years, most of which time he has been totally ignorant of what was happening or what made it happen. He simply knew that it did his plants good. Our early American Indians placed a fish at the bottom of each hill of corn. We do not know how he found out but in some way he discovered that in doing this he increased his plant production greatly. He was not interested in the fact that he was supplying one of nature's finest combinations of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium; he was just satisfied to get more and better corn.

Scientists have studied and analyzed the actual happenings and transformations that take place in the actions of various fertilizers but the explanation is so complex that only an advanced student of chemistry can grasp it. So we, the amateur gardeners and propagators, by following the advice of professional horticulturists and experimenters have proved to our own satisfaction that certain procedures produce certain wanted results. Being shown such, some of us, like the Indian corn grower, are satisfied but I believe that the majority of us amateurs are possessed with a curiosity that makes us want to know "how and why."

Fertilizers are divided into two classes, namely: Organic and Inorganic. The organic group is made up chiefly of animal manure, fish meal, bone meal, blood meal and tankage. Strictly speaking, organic fertilizers are composed of animal substances, but for the sake of convenience, the animal manures and cotton seed meal will be included in this group. All possess plant foods in varying quantities. The animal manures common to our usage and readily obtainable are: steer manure, chicken, rabbit, and sheep manures. Of these, steer manure, well rotted, contains the least amount of plant food but due to its bulk and easy conversion into humus, is probably our most valuable source of organic plant food. Considering the fact that practically all soils are lacking in humus its value becomes at once apparent. Because of its bulk and moisture retaining

qualities it proves of wonderful benefit as a soil conditioner. Liberal quantities can be safely used and will assist in making our most stubborn soils friable.

Chicken manure, well dried, is a more highly concentrated form of plant food but on account of its small bulk should be considered safe to use only after it is thoroughly worked into the soil, this with the addition of generous waterings. The same can be said of rabbit and sheep manure. Tankage alone is seldom offered for sale but is used as a slow break-down in commercial fertilizer mixtures.

Bone meal is a valuable source of plant food and used extensively in potting mixtures. It is very safe to use, breaks down slowly and produces fertilizing action for a long period of time. Fish and cotton seed meal are also high value plant foods and usually added to pots and baskets of well established plants, usually a small amount at the outer edge of the container just previous to the blooming period.

Blood meal, while a good source of food should not receive too much consideration due to the fact that it tends to attract insects and promotes fungus growth.

Bases in Fertilizers

Practically all organic fertilizers contain in varying proportions, the three bases which are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and are always expressed in that order when their values are given. So when we hear an expression like this: 6-5-2, we know that that particular fertilizer carries 6% available nitrogen, 5% available phosphorus and 2% available potash. All organic fertilizers are very low or minus in potash for which reason they are not considered a complete plant food.

Their value to plants or what they do: **Nitrogen** promotes healthy luxuriant growth or vegetable activity. This is no doubt the most valuable of the three bases: **Phosphorus**: Its main function is to ripen tissues formed by nitrogen growth. In so doing it tends to produce larger and better leaves and flowers, the appearance of which is just one stage of the ripening process and whether growing for flowers, seed, bulbs or

tubers, it insures a good end result. **Potash or Potassium:** Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the value of this base. It is the substance that enables nitrogen to assert its powers to the fullest extent. Nitrogen without potash is seriously handicapped. Its value seems to lie chiefly in its ability to act as an agent in the formation and transference of starches and related substances to their proper places, also to make good strong plant cells, which contribute to strong stems. It assists in forming a good leaf color.

In speaking of materials of vegetable origin a few remarks on Peat Moss seem appropriate at this time. Peat Moss enjoys, and rightly so, a fine reputation among plant growers. As a soil conditioner, moisture retaining agent and acidifier it is one of the best, but by no means should it be considered a plant food. A plant placed in pure Peat Moss is most likely to die of slow starvation.

Neither can leaf mold be classed as a true fertilizer, although if it is sufficiently decayed to the point where it has become humus, then it does have some food properties, but leaf mold as we usually find it is merely a soil conditioner and acidifier.

It is true that tuberous begonias will grow in pure leaf mold but the addition of plant foods will most certainly produce a healthier, stronger and better flowering plant.

The fact that a tuberous begonia will seem to thrive in pure leaf mold is due to the fact that there has been sufficient food stored in the tuber itself to carry it through.

(To be Continued)

The library of the American Begonia Society is a fundamental part of the organization. It functions quietly and it is not until the summary for the year is made that one realizes how much information and service has been given to our far flung membership.

Loans of 104 books and pamphlets, thirty now out-standing, sales of approximately 75 items and much correspondence has been done since the last report was made. This is a substantial increase over the previous year, including an increased awareness of the library and its usefulness.

At the Convention at El Monte last year, the librarian prepared an exhibit and took orders for all books and pamphlets available for purchase and loan. Over fifty copies of Buxton's *Begonias* were mailed later. This was the final order as the first edition was completely sold out. Mrs. Buxton is working on a second edition which will be bigger and better, with corrections made, additional information, the new *begonias* described and many more pictures. The progress on this new edition is slow due to the lack of paper and cloth for binding. Everyone is anticipating with pleasure the publication of this new edition. There are rumors of other books on *begonias* in the making but this is the only book at the present time in English on the subject.

Dr. C. M. Tompkins of the University of California at Berkeley was responsible for some valuable pamphlet material on *begonias* being added to the library this year. After the appearance of the list of library holdings in the December 1943 *Begonian*, he sent a list of pamphlets concerning scientific studies on the diseases of *begonias*. These were sent for and are now in the collection.

Mrs. Helen Krauss presented a typewritten copy of the chapter on "Nomenclature of plants from Willendow's 'Principles of Botany'; also a typewritten copy of De Candolle's *Begonias* of Central America and Ecuador in Latin.

The *begonia* section of the *Index Kewensis* and all its supplements was photostated for the library. This is a basic work on nomenclature. Several members have requested copies for their personal libraries.

The photostat copy of Gause and Bissell Catalogue of Flowers 1892-1905 on *Begonias* was bound and is now in a most satisfactory form. Copies of this photostat were also ordered for individuals. Three volumes of the 1943 *Begonian* were bound. It is interesting to note the circulation of the back volumes of the society publications. It has been particularly heavy this year.

There is still much that can be done to strengthen and enlarge the library in order to give more information and technical knowledge to our members. With the cooperation of all those interested in this grand hobby we will continue to grow and all look forward to the time when there will be more books for *begonia* lovers.

Respectfully submitted,

ELEANORA CROWDER,
Librarian, A. B. S.



North Long Beach: The members have been contemplating a change of date for the meeting, for the time being it will be held as usual but at 7:45 instead of 7:30 o'clock p.m.

It was reported that the last meeting was enjoyed to the limit with the interesting talk given by Harold Hart, now our President elect.

Everyone is looking forward to hearing Mr. "Scotty" Hudson speak on *Tuberous Begonias* on November 13th.

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Notice — Due to lack of help we will not be able to ship or answer letters till further notice.

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• A terrarium can be made easily by obtaining a large (two gallons or more), clear glass bottle from which the base is cut and the edge is filed smooth. Procure a sheet of glass to cover it but cut square so that it may be left partly open if desired. Fill the neck with a loose wad of coarse shredded redwood bark or other material that will hold the soil mixture back yet allow for free drainage of the soil mixture which will be placed for about three to five inches in the upside-down bottle. This in turn, may be stood in an empty pot which will hold it steadily.

The soil may be quite sandy with a mixture of more than half of leaf-mold, with equal parts sharp, clean sand, fine shredded redwood bark and peat moss. In this mixture the Saintpaulia violet will flourish with periodic liquid fertilizer applications and need very little attention.

THE SHADY GARDEN

(Continued from page 431.)

leaves. Its custom is to go dormant for a while, but it makes an interesting plant to watch as well as unusual. The one sent to me was much more beautiful in the shady garden outside than in the house. Its leaves became a grayishgreen color veined with white lines.

Old fashioned smilax is easily grown from seeds and may be cut for greenery for bouquets during the Winter. Other vines also easily grown and simple to procure are thunbergia alata (Blackeyed Sunsan) and the morning glories. We, of the Northern States often like to try our hand at growing tropical vines in the house for the thrill of watching something different develop. A new vine (to me) which I am trying for the first time, is ivy arum, (Scindapsus) also known as pothos, which hails from the Malay peninsula where it is a perennial. The flowers are said to be similar to the arums, but the leaves of this plant are large, divided into three deeply-cut lobes bright green, with the pressed edge so characteristic of many tropical plants. This, I am told, climbs by stem rootlets.

Something old, something new in our windows forming delicate tracery of green, will frame a window for us which portrays a snow-scene outside making a charming contrast.

Don't forget to water the hanging baskets containing the vines.

Q. What soil and fertilizer is best for Saintpaulias?

From Mrs. A. D. W., Altadena, Calif.

A. A good soil mixture is one part sand, one part soil, and two parts leaf-mold. In fertilizing, before the war we used to use a Plant Tab once a month but now they do not seem to be so satisfactory and you will probably do better with a good liquid fertilizer. There is a good article on the Saintpaulia in the March, 1943 Begonian, page 45.

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MINUTES SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes Sixth Annual meeting and Flower Show American Begonia Society, held Sept. 16th, 1944 in Plummer Park, Hollywood, Cal. under the auspices of the Hollywood Branch, A.B.S. Mrs. Drummond, President.

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. with President Hall in the chair before an audience of two hundred members. Chair announced the recent passing of Jos. Hayden, Honorary Vice President of this Society, and spoke of the assistance this member had given the Society over a period of many years. Dr. Ray C. Harker, First M. E. Church, Hollywood, gave the invocation. Introduction of Board members followed and Mr. Dyckman was called to the platform to receive tribute paid him as Founder of the Society. His remarks were brief but to the point.

Minutes fifth annual meeting A.B.S. read, approved as read and ordered filed. Seated around the Directors table were Pres. Hall, Prest. Elect Nelson, Past Pres. Bailey, Dr. Dunkle, Mrs. Jenks, Mrs. Poole, Treas., Mr. Hart, Editor Mrs. Wilkes, Membership Fees, Chairman Mrs. Harker, Secretary Mrs. Hartwell, Mr. Dyckman, Dr. Ray E. Harker.

Treas. Hart read his report for the year showing a balance on hand Sept. 1st, 1944 of \$1,012.74; of this amount \$167.17 belonged to the Alfred Robinson Memorial Fund and the balance of \$845.57 in the General Fund of the Society. This report was accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Membership Fees Chairman Mrs. Harker gave a detailed report of the activity of her office, which report showed the September mailing list to members of 1944, said report carrying the following comparison:

Total membership reported at 1943 convention (12 months)—1433; total membership reported at 1944 convention (11 months)—1684.

Sale of back numbers of the Begonian and Cultural Bulletins, Back issues Begonian 1943 report 414; 1944 report 594. Cultural Bulletins 1943 report 545 1944 report 929. Dr. Dunkle moved report be accepted as read and ordered filed.

Business Manager and Editor Mrs. Wilkes gave a report of her office for the year. Motion made that report be accepted as read and ordered filed.

Mrs. Crowder, as Librarian, read a most interesting report of her department and had on hand for distribution a leaflet "American Begonia Society Library." Librarian's report was received with much interest and members were invited to use the library whenever occasion arose. Report received, accepted as read, and ordered filed.

Mr. Hawkins, Ch. Speakers Bureau, reported list of speakers had been sent to branch secretaries; had a few additional names to be added to list, and soon a supplementary list would be sent to the branches.

Mr. Nelson, as Ways and Means Chairman, reported the addition of life membership clause to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Mrs. Poole, Public Relations Director, stated she was working on organizing new branches and thought at least two would be ready to report soon.

Chairman Robinson Memorial Mr. Hart. Mrs. Poole had charge of the Robinson Memorial up to a few months ago when she resigned and I was appointed to head the committee and I submit herewith a report dating from January 1st, 1944:

Balance on hand Jan. 1st, 1944.....	\$87.59
From branches of the A.B.S.....	\$289.00
Other sources	5.00

Total receipts	294.00
Total receipts inc. Balance on Hand	
Jan. 1, 1944	\$381.59

DISBURSEMENTS

Wages	\$200.00
Fertilizer & Leaf Mold	14.42
Total disbursements	\$214.42

Balance on hand Sept. 1, 1944.....	\$167.17
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Receipts from Branches of the A.B.S. Jan. 1, 1944 to Sept. 1, 1944:

Riverside Branch	\$ 5.00
Hollywood	28.00
Ventura	24.00
Long Beach	20.00
San Gabriel	65.00
San Diego	17.50
North Long Beach	14.00
Pasadena	12.00
Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch	15.00
Inglewood	27.00
Bellflower	6.50
Alf. D. Robinson	10.00
Orange County	10.00
Other receipts:	
Santa Monica Fuchsia Society	\$5.00
Previous Receipts:	
Glendale Convention	\$56.21
Dan B. White	5.00
Ferd P. Neels	5.00
Plant sale El Monte Convention	50.00
Collection El Monte Banquet	62.79

Mr. Hart gave a short sketch of the Robinson Memorial and the work done by Dr. Lauder in securing the glass house at Lincoln Park to house the exhibit; also the plant donations made by the branches and he outlined plans for the upbuilding of this Memorial and his endeavor to get as many different varieties of begonias as possible and to really make this an exhibit of outstanding merit to the Society at large.

President Hall gave a verbal report of some of his work during the past year for the good of the Society, and thanked all members of his Board for their cooperation and support, without which he assured them his term of office would have been unsuccessful. He also made a plea for better attendance by the Representative Directors at the monthly Board meetings so that they could take a report back to the branch. In that way the membership will be in closer touch with the National Board. He also urged the branches to take advantage of the Speakers Bureau and call upon the various speakers when in need of them.

The President called for bids for the 1945 Convention and Flower Show. Mrs. Crawford, Pres. North Long Beach Branch, immediately took the floor and gave a most cordial invitation to hold the next convention in Long Beach, in which all of the Long Beach branches would join.

Motion made, seconded by Mrs. Wilkes that we accept the invitation of the North Long Beach Branch to hold the 1945 convention in Long Beach. Carried.

At the opening of the meeting Pres. Hall appointed Mr. Christianson, Parent Branch Long Beach, Mrs. Knecht of Ventura Branch, and Mrs. Brooks, San Diego Branch, as a committee to tally the ballots; and at this time Committee reported they had completed their tally and begged to report as follows: Mr. Harold Hart, President Elect; Mr. Murray Hawkins, Treasurer; Mrs. Kem Weber, Director for three years. Amendments to the Constitution — Yes.

Committee was thanked and newly elected officers were introduced.

SUGGESTIONS:

Mrs. Marek suggests we have a new way of voting.

Mrs. Leidler asked if it would be acceptable to have the next Convention (1945) on a Sunday, instead of Saturday as heretofore.

San Diego Branch wants the Convention the first year after the close of the War.

President urged members to send in more articles for publication.

Mrs. Clark, from San Diego, introduced and thanked for the fine work she is doing with articles on special begonias accompanied by very fine drawings.

Pres. Nelson called a meeting of the Board immediately following adjournment, of the newly elected officers to consider the naming of appointees for the appointive offices.

Meeting adjourned at this time to give members a chance to view the flower show to visit more gardens, and prepare to meet at the Masonic Temple about 6 for music interlude, the banquet and installation of newly elected officers

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.**

The November American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Room 901 Edwards-Willey Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, November 13th, 1944, at 7:45 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, November 1st, 7:45 p.m.
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church,
7/19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,
2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Discussion: Begonias in November

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, November 2nd
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, November 2nd
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, November 5th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. & Mrs. Carlson,
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
Each one bring a named plant for sale.
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

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

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, November 7th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. C. F. Lackey,
3043 Pine Street, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, November 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Community Presb. Church
Sunday Schoolroom
c-o Orchard & Mayne, Bellflower, Calif.
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, November 8th, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecille Block, Secy.-Treas.,
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes
Subject: "Colorful Shade Plants"

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, November 9th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Speaker: Mrs. W. C. Drummond
Subject: Flowers & Corsages

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, November 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, November 10th, 8:00 p.m.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.
Home of Mrs. D. A. Stocks,
4127 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, November 13th, 7:45 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.
Speaker: Mr. "Scotty" Hudson
Subject: Tuberous Begonias

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, November 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, November 16th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, November 20th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, November 24th, 10:30 a.m.
Hall Point Loma Community Church,
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, November 24th, 7:45 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
716 No. 1st Street, Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Tuesday, November 27th
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Monday, November 27th
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, November 28th, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.
Round-table Discussion

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. David Finley, Secretary
New Canaan, Conn.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
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