

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Garden*

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# The BEGONIAN

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## Special Award For Best Tuberous Begonia

● An extra inducement to show your best tuberous-rooted begonias in the Hollywood Begonia Show on September 16th, 1944, is offered by Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Drummond in the form of a trophy which will have to be won three times before the winner may keep it. This will be keenly contested since the show is timed for this date particularly so that the tuberous begonias may have a good part of the floor, but the more the merrier. BE SURE TO BRING YOURS.

An innovation of the convention will be the interesting and novel music of the Victor-Theremine (electrical cello) by J. Stanley Robson in the lobby of the Banquet Hall prior to the dinner. We are sure this will be enjoyed. A fine welcome awaits you all. Bring your garden pictures to discuss with . . .  
Your Editor

● We hope Mr. Clarence Hall, our National President, will bring for exhibition a new seedling he has developed that is very DWARF. Actually it was a volunteer rex. It now has thirteen leaves about one and three-quarter inches wide. They are spotted with silver on green. The whole plant is in a two and a half inch pot. Have you any dwarf rex that might compete?

# Reminders From the Chairman of the Sixth National Begonia Show

By MRS. KEM WEBER,  
6707 Milner Road,  
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

Rule 6: All entries must be made according to the schedule, by class.

Rule 7: All entries must be in place, ready for judging by 11:00 a.m. on September 16th, 1944. Entries received after 11 o'clock will NOT be judged, but may be exhibited with the entry card marked "Not in Competition."

Rule 8: All exhibitors will report to Show Headquarters, Plummer Park, Hollywood, and make out an entry card for each exhibit, which will be placed in a sealed envelope at the time of placing the exhibit, allowing same to remain sealed until after the judging. No other card or label will be permitted.

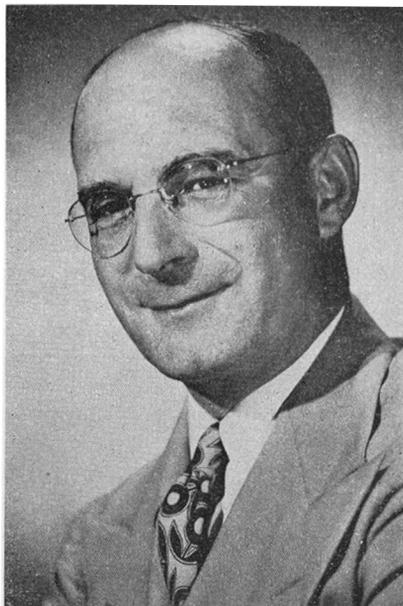
Mr. George Lawrance, Chairman of the Flower Show Rules and Points Committee, is very kindly arranging for especially well qualified judges to give us their time and services on this important day.

Remember the fact that your plants will take no prizes at home. Bring them out to meet the world. The company will be of the best, yes, but because of that, the prizes will be the more to be cherished.

We shall be looking for you. We have plenty of room. We are also ready to accept your plants on Friday evening in case you cannot get them to us on Saturday morning by eleven o'clock. You see, there are few excuses left for you. Even the street car will bring you practically to the door on Santa Monica Blvd.

PLUMMER PARK ADDRESS: 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., or from center of block on Vista Ave., just north of Santa Monica Blvd., about six blocks west of La Brea Blvd. Large parking lot just north of the Victory Garden Lot.

MASONIC TEMPLE address: For 6th Annual Banquet of the American Begonia Society on September 16th, at 6:30 p.m., with music entertainment in the foyer at 6 o'clock. Come to 6840 Hollywood Blvd., OPPOSITE GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE, Hollywood. Special parking facilities near by.



CLARENCE A. HALL  
President, The American Begonia Society

• Most men would fight any measure which removed them from important office before the time is really passed. Mr. Hall actually helped to plan amendments by which he would be deprived of over three months as President so that the new officers should be installed at the Annual Convention from now onwards.

Do not misunderstand from these words that he might want to shirk any duties; on the contrary. Mr. Hall has been one of the most active men on the Board for years and to all intents and purposes he will continue to be most active for the good of the organization whether in office or not. These few months work under his leadership have been all too short, always interesting and full of action, always striving to achieve a better and more efficient Society that all Begonia and shade-plant lovers everywhere, may have better times.

Those of our members who are within traveling distance of Hollywood will know him almost at his best during the convention, though his close friends say that he is finest as host in his garden.

Let us make Mr. Hall's last day as President, this time, a memorable day. And give Mr. "Art" Nelson a warm welcome.

## Branch News

**Inglewood Branch:** The round-table discussion led by Messrs. Tanner, Tomkins and Slatter was greatly enjoyed and instructive. The plant sale tables were loaded with lovely plants. The proceeds of the sale were donated to Hollywood Branch to help defray the expenses of the Annual Convention. Mr. Tomkins won the door prize, a beautiful Bird's-nest fern. Three new members were enrolled.

This Branch is planning to have a comprehensive exhibit in the Inglewood Flower Show to be held Sept. 2nd and 3rd at the High School in Inglewood. Any member who cares to join in this or have individual displays, is invited. Ribbons will be awarded. This is always a good show; come and see it.

**East Bay Branch:** The July meeting took place at the home of the President Mr. H. L. Swager. The tables were decorated with tuberous rooted begonia blossoms, some of them of Camellia type at least nine inches in diameter. Mr. Swager specializes in fibrous begonias and has one of the most extensive collections excepting that on display in Lakeside Park. Having moved recently, he now has a large lathhouse and a small greenhouse for propagating. Mr. Swager fed his plants this Spring thusly: one week with ammonium sulphate, the next week with cottonseed-meal, and the third week with a dose of aluminum sulphate. He waters them every day in the late afternoon whether they need it or not. See separate part account of the in between meeting picnic.

The next report will be of the meeting held at the home of Mr. M. L. Boyd.

**Parent Chapter:** This Branch invited the following societies to join with them to see six of the most beautiful gardens in Long Beach and near-by towns: The Fuchsia Society, North Long Beach Branch, Bellflower Branch, and the California Heights Branch. They all greatly enjoyed the outing which finished with a good supper in Houghton Park. Each visitor received tickets at each garden for the plants available later.

The August meeting was made very interesting by the program offered by Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, the founder of the American Begonia Society, on Hybridizing. He explained the process in detail with many plants in various stages of development for illustration.

Beginning with the September meeting, each member bringing suitable

shade-garden plants for the sale will receive a ticket without charge.

**San Diego Branch:** The following officers were elected to serve the next fiscal year: President, E. D. Brooks, 3461 Olive Street, San Diego, Calif. Vice-President: Dr. C. E. Collins, 3793 Ray Street, San Diego. Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Geo. S. Breiford, 1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach; with Directors: Mrs. Geo. Campbell, Rt. 1, Box 518, National City; Mrs. Harold Schilling, 4747 Lenore Dr., Rolando, San Diego; Mrs. A. L. Stone, 3668 Pershing Dr., San Diego; and Dr. Robert K. Schiefer, 3203 Grim, San Diego, as National Representative.

Mrs. John G. Clark, who writes and illustrates such readable and fine articles in the *Begonian*, amplified her article on the small-leaved, easy-to-grow begonias of the May issue at the July meeting. Specimen plants of all covered by her discussion made identification so much easier for correct nomenclature.

Mrs. Clarence E. Moore reported on pilgrimages made and plans for the future.

**Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch:** Because of transportation difficulties due to the war, the members of this group are never quite sure where they are going to hold their monthly meetings, but they are always held on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month.

**The New England Branch:** This Branch was planning to hold its first meeting in two years, at Worcester, Mass., on August 20th, at which time an election of new officers was to be held. When we receive the report, we shall be happy to print it.

**Bellflower Branch:** The last meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. McElhinney, 534 Darnell Ave., Bellflower. The patio and lathhouse were the scene of the meeting and the program was a general begonia discussion by the President, Mrs. Haller. It was done in the form of a contest with begonias as prizes. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J. T. Doty, 817 Laurel Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

(Continued on page 394)

### AIDS TO PRONUNCIATION

The "ana" group continued:

·WORTHIANA: worthy-ah'na or ay'na.  
·KNOSLEYANA: nausley ah'na or ay'na.  
·LYNCHEANA: Lynch-e-ah'na or ay'na.  
·MARTIANA: Marsh-ee-ah'na or ay'na.  
·EVANSIANA: Evans-ee-ah'na or ay'na.

# Our Sixth Annual Begonia Show and Twelfth Annual Convention

By MORRIS R. EBERSOLE,  
Hollywood, Calif.

• Welcome to Hollywood—the home of the Glamorous Begonia Show on September 16th, at Plummer Park. We know how precious gas is, so “gang up” in parties and come along bringing your best plants to compete for the valuable war stamps, prizes and the distinctive ribbons offered in all classifications shown in the August Begonian. If it is more convenient for you to bring your exhibits on Friday evening, you may do so, as we will have someone at the Plummer Park Exhibition Bldg., to receive, classify and keep them for the show on Saturday.

Mrs. Murray Hawkins, 1307 Sierra Alta Way, Los Angeles 46, would like to hear in advance from any members planning to stay overnight, that they may be accommodated in the homes of our members. We hope you have bought your Banquet tickets, as we have to account for them in cash in advance to the Caterer. J. R. Scherer, 3222 Larissa Drive, Los Angeles 26, is in charge of tickets, and there is a limit!

A grand exhibit will be shown of Literature, Cultural Bulletings and Library Books of great value to members and growers. We will also have a very special display and plant sale for the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial, and it might be easy for you on the way to or from the Convention to visit this famous shrine which is in Lincoln Park on Valley Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. Then being in Hollywood, we do expect to have Begonia seedlings named for Movie Stars and among them Barry Fitzgerald, the flower loving old priest in “Going My Way.”

Arrangements are being made for vis-

iting some of the outstanding private gardens of Beverly Hills and Hollywood. Mr. Murray Hawkins, General Chairman, will provide directions.

In the morning: Registration, 8:30 a.m. Receiving, classification, and placing of exhibits.

Garden visitations followed by luncheon.

Inspection of exhibits and listening to the musicians who have graciously offered to perform for your enjoyment. Mrs. Scott, Director of Plummer Park, tells us Marlene Folkz will play the piano.

The National Society business meeting will be held at Plummer Park at 2 o'clock, after the adjournment of which we shall go to the Masocnic Temple on Hollywood Blvd., for the banquet by six o'clock so as to hear and enjoy the music of a particularly gifted member of the Society and member of the Inglewood Branch, Mr. J. S. Robson. This will be a prelude to the symphony of color to be provided by the magnanimous gift of tuberous begonias from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reinelt of Capitola and arranged for us by a special Committee with Mrs. W. C. Drummond and Mr. Ray Wilson in charge.

The feature speaker will be Rudolph Ziessenhenne of Santa Barbara, Calif., who will tell of his experience in the preservation of rare and valuable plants during war time. The banquet is in charge of Mrs. W. C. Drummond whose energy and enthusiasm guarantee a memorable evening—SO—“gang up” AND COME!

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## BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 392)

**The San Francisco Branch:** Reports an enthusiastic meeting for August. Everyone was delighted with the program of colored slides shown by Miss Sydney Stein. The subject covered various seasonal potted plants in bloom throughout the year at the Golden Gate Conservatory, of which Miss Stein is the Chief Gardener. Being a fully qualified Flower Show Judge, she gave a detailed account of the method employed in judging flowers and plants. With the advent of San Francisco Flower Show August 30th and 31st, that was a timely subject indeed. This Branch always strives hard and succeeds unusually well in the production of a good show. We shall report on this later.

The September sixth meeting will be in the hands of Mr. Harry L. Swager as speaker who will tell of The Culture of Fibrous Begonias.

**Riverside Branch:** The August meeting was a family affair with a fine dinner at the Fairmount Park and a handkerchief shower for Mrs. May. There was no special program, but they tell us they discuss the pronunciation of words and have a fine time trying to say them correctly. September will be celebrated as the Third Anniversary at the T. E. Topham home, 4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, where three years ago Mr. Dyckman helped them to organize their group and they all planned to build more and better gardens for shade loving plants. They are all sure the exchange of experiences has made it all worth while and been an inspiration toward real enjoyment of their homes and gardens.

**Glendale Branch:** The July meeting was held outdoors in the grounds of The Old Adobe, and being next door to the Hart's, everyone enjoyed a short visit there seeing the fine garden lathhouse and greenhouses. Mrs. Maria Wilkes spoke on "Unusual shade-loving plants" which are available to create more colorful gardens. The August meeting was to be held back in the Exhibitorium with Mr. Clarence Hall, our National President as speaker with all of the

members of the National Board specially invited.

The Sept. 20th meeting is sure to be most interesting with Mr. Stanley Keane as speaker. He is a recognized rose authority and horticulturist of note.

**Ventura Branch:** Mr. Harold Hart was the guest speaker with one hundred and thirty-two members to enjoy the evening with him. Mr. Hart enjoys talking and does it beautifully, the while covering his subject very ably. The President, Mrs. Knecht, had the members of the National Board and visitors at her home for a delicious Buffet Supper previous to the meeting and the Branch served refreshments again later.

**Hollywood Branch:** The August meeting was undoubtedly one of the best yet. Miss Gladys Bullard from Long Beach came with a wonderful array of colored cards of the large scrap-book size on which she had attached large samples of the tips of the Fibrous-rooted begonias with proper cuttings or leaf sections ready for propagation below. Each was inscribed by hand with the history, characteristics and propagation of the specific begonia . . . of which there were fifty. A monumental work for one evening's talk. Her explanation of her special success in propagating may not be in this issue because of lack of space, but it will certainly be published as soon as possible for all to read, learn, mark and digest for their own good.

BY THE WAY: MISS BULLARD HAS CONSENTED TO REPEAT THE EXHIBIT FOR THE ANNUAL CONVENTION. THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE SHOW.

**California Heights Branch:** The July meeting of the Branch was held as a progressive party. After gathering at the Signal Hill City Park as guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Poe and partaking of fresh fried hamburgers and cold sliced watermelon, the group adjourned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Randall, where the business session of the evening was conducted.

(Continued on page 402)

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# Is This the Way You Do It?

By AN AMATEUR

(Continued from the June issue)

• The easiest method of increasing stock of any variety of the fibrous begonias is by stem-cuttings; yet some preference may be given to propagation from leaf-cuttings, especially if you do not wish to mutilate the parent plant by making a stem-cutting.

*B. Cathayana* lends itself admirably to propagation from its leaves as do the thick-stemmed procumbent or rhizomatous types. *Sunderbrucki*, *Ricinifolia*, the so-called "beefsteak" begonias, *Feasti*, *Bunchi*, and the *manicata* group all strike very easily. *B. phyllomaniaca* (meaning "crazy leaf" and better known as "Jessie") and its variants, *Paul Bruant* and *Templini*, may be propagated from the tiny adventitious leaves and plantlets produced on the leaves and stem of the parent plant.

We emphasize that in propagating the fibrous begonias it is much simpler to do so by using stem cuttings, but for those who wish to propagate from leaves we suggest the following procedure:

Prepare the cutting bed as outlined in the article on stem cuttings which appeared in the June issue. Select matured leaves, full grown but not too old or withered, the petiole or stem of the leaf should be placed in the cutting medium to a depth of approximately two inches. Bottom heat or a temperature of 70 degrees is required. To prevent "damping off" or rot use either the 4% solution of water and household bleach or, if you prefer, powdered charcoal may be sprinkled on the sand.

When the new growth appears the leaf may be shifted into a soil mixture as previously recommended for stem cuttings, and from this point on the culture is the same as for young plants obtained from other methods of propagation.

Some experimenting is being done with propagation from seed in a growing medium of finely sifted sphagnum moss. There seems to be no reason why such a medium should not be equally advantageous for propagation of stem or leaf cuttings and should prove an interesting experiment for those inclined to try it.

## Rhizome Cuttings

The many plants belonging to the rhizomatous groups, while sometimes propagated from leaf cuttings, can be started from sections cut from the rhizome and will give you a good strong specimen plant in a much shorter time.

Prepare the cutting bed as previously outlined. With a sharp knife cut strong, clean sections from the rhizome, each section should have two or more nodes. Plant this section, or cutting, by placing it on its side and insert it about two-thirds in the sand leaving the upper third exposed. Do not worry about which of the nodes to put in the sand and which to leave out as that short, thick section of rhizome knows more about how old Mother Nature will act than you do, and before you know it, from the buried nodes will come good strong new roots and the exposed nodes will show the bright new green of baby leaves.

When the roots are well established and the new leaves are uncurled it is time to transplant into pots following previously outlined method for potting.

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# BEGONIA RICHARD ROBINSON

By ALICE M. CLARK,  
San Diego, Calif.

**W**HEN discussing begonias of the semi-tuberous type, one treats a difficult subject. There have been so many crosses and variations that it is hard to tell where one begins and the other ends. Then, when the plants are finally sorted out and identified, one is quite likely to discover that new developments have uncovered a different name. But it is all good fun and a challenge to keep our mental arteries fluid instead of fixed and hardened. The more flexible we are in adopting a qualified name, new or old, the sooner our begonia consciousness becomes streamlined and up-to-date.

B. Richard Robinson, our subject this month, belongs to this semi-tuberous group. It is reputed a rare and difficult plant to grow. I was fortunate enough to find some fine specimens in two of our local nurseries. Necessarily, I selected the smallest for my sketch. It extends just six inches above the four-inch pot and is about ten inches across.

The story behind our model's origin is one that illustrates the patience and persistence of a true hybridizer. Dregei, var. McBethi, which used to be known simply by the latter name, is a plant of unknown origin. Mrs. Buxton informs us that it was listed in Gause and Bissell's 1892 catalog with no further elucidation. Out on Point Loma in the Rosecroft Gardens, Alfred Robinson deduced that McBethi was a species, as all of the seedlings were alike. He undertook to further the proof of his theory by growing a thousand plants from McBethi seed. He found that they all came true—except one. What could be more appropriate than that he should name that single, "one in a thousand," for his own father, an English Magistrate, Richard Robinson! This begonia first appeared in the Rosecroft catalog for 1925. The fact that it is almost twenty years old argues that it

has not been too delicate to preserve and has certainly been worth the effort.

I am told that the flowers are white and not very noteworthy, blooming late, if at all. Its chief beauty is in the gracefully cut leaves with what the Rosecroft guide describes as white variegations, which look silvery to me. The individual leaf is much larger than either Dregei or McBethi. Like them, it has four to five pointed lobes arranged unequally, three on one side of the slanting main division, which is four inches long when mature, and two minor sections on the other side. The notched and finely toothed edges, combined with the silver spots, give the leaves a very sprightly pattern.

Like Dregei, there is a marked red zone at the junction of stem and leaf but there are no red veinings either front or back. A major variation is a sanding of tiny white hairs on both sides of the leaf and a tufting around the leaf axil, showing white against the red. The veins are indented on the surface, raised and faintly red-tinted beneath. The upper leaf color is the shining green of a fresh pea pod, duller below. The silver splashes are most irregular—usually large between the main nerves and stippled out toward the edges. These spots and hairs give the plant every appearance of a miniature rex, though the texture is much thinner.

The main stalk is a green-brown, with the thick swellings characteristic of the semi-tuberous type. It has the compact, bushy habit of McBethi rather than that of Dregei. The center never grows very tall, but a well-raised, spreading plant may be at least eighteen inches over and a foot or so high. The internodes of the stalk are short. The new leaves, rising from them are encased

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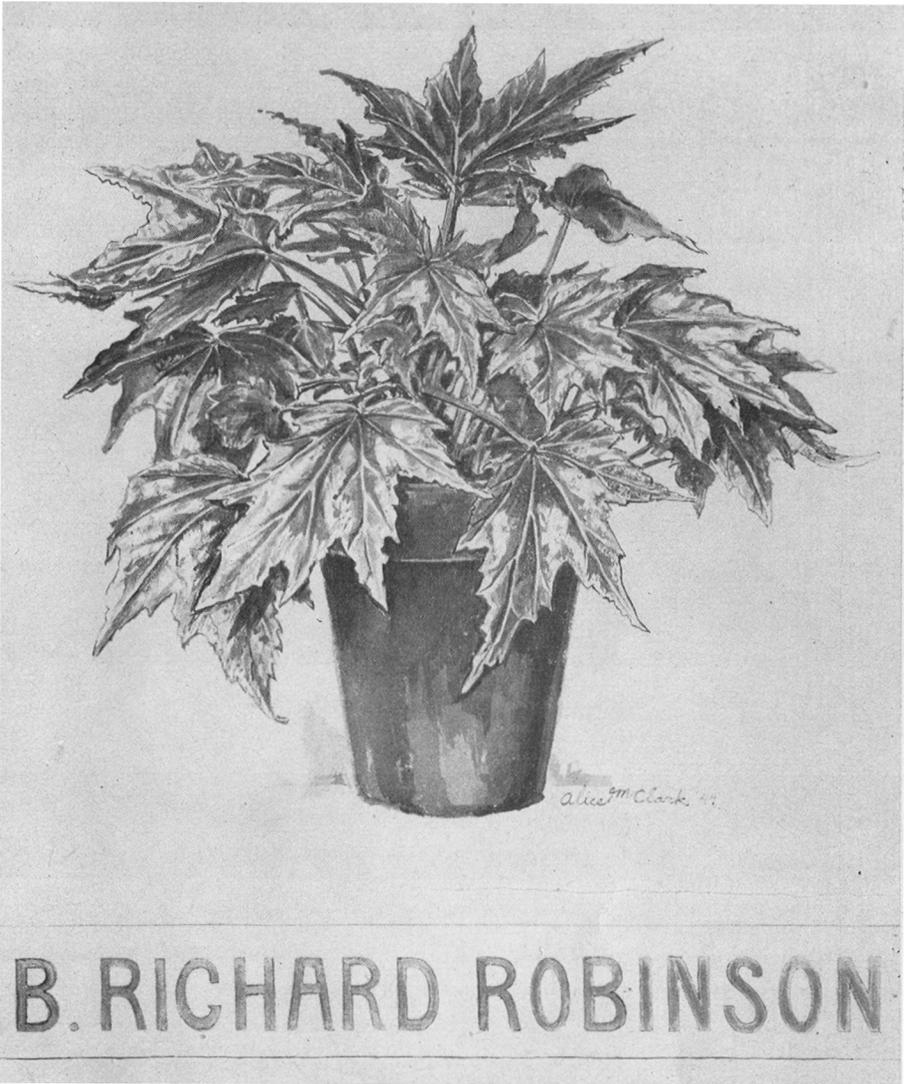
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*Gladiolus carinatus*. Very early, very scented lavender blue flowers.....50c

### MARIA WILKES

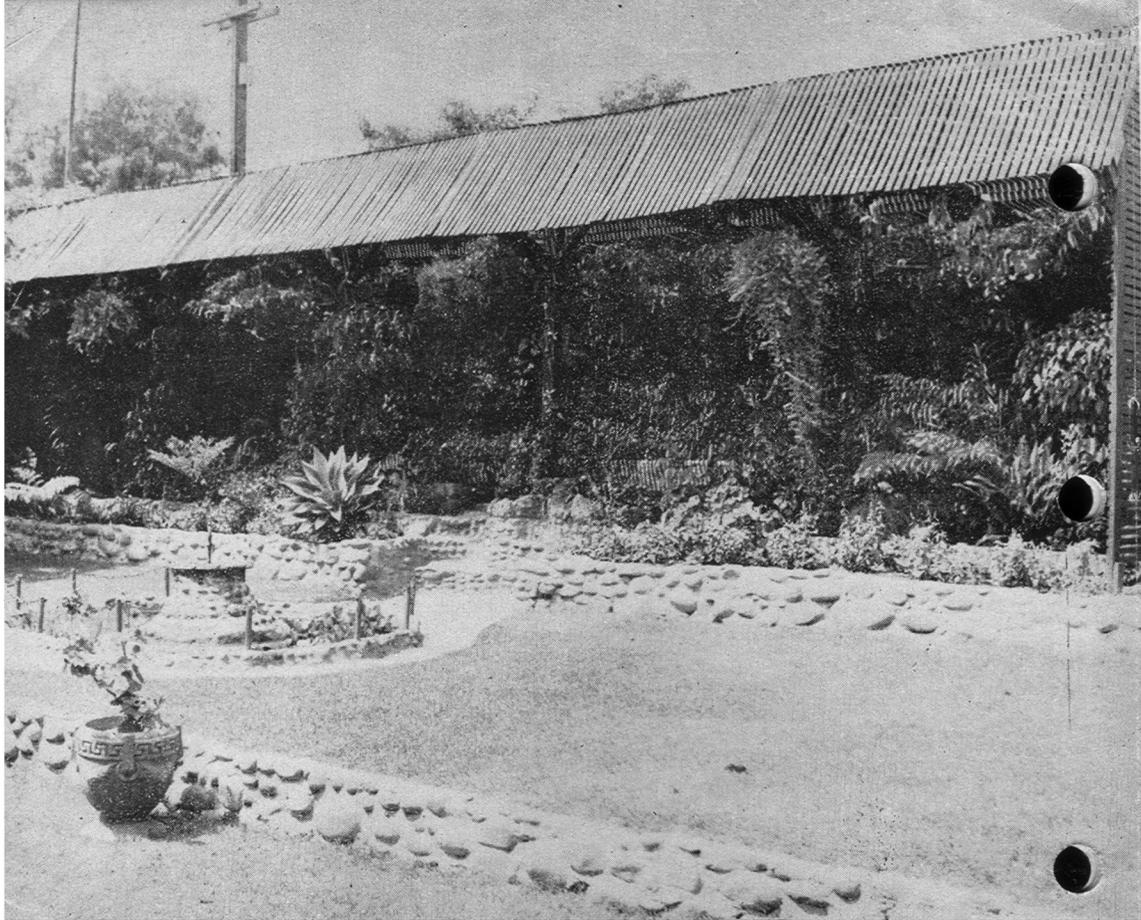
158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.



in pale green stipules, inconspicuous even when they dry up. When the young leaf begins to unfold, its long points look like a medieval dragon's claws. The petiole is a pale green, grooved along one side.

The red spots and silver splashes on Richard Robinson make it similar, on a small scale, to Mrs. Fewkes' *Silvadore*, which is a seedling of *Rigida*, whose old "handle" was *Ecuadoriensis*. It too, is hard to raise. The Robinson variety requires a warm location. Sometimes it is temperamental, drooping and losing its leaves for no apparent reason. I have drawn it in a pot for I doubt if it is ever risked in the ground.

All the articles in the *Begonian* on what Eastern members can raise are intensely interesting to us on the West Coast. They also aid me in selecting plants to sketch that will be more helpful to them. It was nice to learn from Phillip M. Post's fine July contribution that he shares our enthusiasm for Richard Robinson and is able to grow it successfully in Worcester, Massachusetts. We would welcome further news of its blooming and continued good health. Owning this exotic beauty is an exciting experience. It has been a pleasure to present to you one of the treasures among Rosecroft Introductions.



This is the piece-de-resistance of the Clarence Hall Garden

• The view of the lathhouse from the house . . . made more attractive by the fact that one looks upwards at it over two wide, low terraces. Important to notice is the manner in which the afternoon sun is tempered by the out-and-downward slope of the lath-awning. Most of the hanging baskets easily seen are fuchsias. The lovely, misty trailing plant in the one at right center is lotus

bertholeti.

We hope to have a more comprehensive description of these two pictures in the next issue, by Mr. Clarence Hall, himself. He is too busy with the affairs of being President of the National Begonia Society and the coming Annual convention in Hollywood to have it in time for this issue.

## Mrs. Buxton's New Book

• We hear from Mrs. Henry H. Buxton, that her new book is almost ready for the press but that it is delayed somewhat because of the difficulty of getting paper that is good enough and metal for the picture cuts. As everyone knows, the Massachusetts Horticulture Society is particular about publications and it is asked that Mrs. Buxton's friends have the patience to await our announcement of the book's arrival off the press. This will be done as soon as it is possible.

**Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Report,** by Mr. Harold Hart, Chairman: The plants are looking particularly well and if you have time to stop on the way in town or when you are homeward bound do stop at the Conservatory in Lincoln Park and ask for admission to the greenhouse by calling the attendants at the back of the first glassed section.

Naturally, if you have some particularly fine specimen you desire to exhibit at the show and then donate to the Memorial, it will be a great joy to add it to the growing collection.

There will be a sale of duplicate plants from the Memorial at the Plummer



Lengthwise view of the Clarence Hall Lathhouse Garden, Ventura, California

• The left, as well as both ends of the lathhouse make a solid wall of moss which is well dressed with baskets and pockets containing a great variety of plants. The setting is rendered informal by the raised bed of solidly built field stone wall, the same as used for all the

terraces leading up the hill to the lathhouse, also by the easy and natural planting achieved. Note the stag-horn fern, the many rex begonias, various ferns and tuberous begonias. Also note the wealth of hanging baskets.

Park. The funds raised thus will be used for the upkeep of the memorial to Alfred D. Robinson who did so immeasurably much for the begonia and shade plant lovers all over the United States and beyond.

**Report of Visit to Ventura:** On August 1st, a group, consisting of Mrs. Mary Crawford, Pres. of the North Long Beach Branch, Miss Gladys Bullard, Prog. Ch.; Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Sec'y., with Mr. Earl Crawford and Mr. Christensen, drove to Ventura for the special meeting of The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch. We visited many beautiful gardens, amongst them the famous "Sidewalk Garden" by Mr. and

Mrs. Cochrun. Another, "Haven of Rest & Beauty," was the garden of our National President and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hall. Their garden and lathhouse are truly an expression of art in the horticultural world. After visiting the gardens we gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knecht for a most delicious and plentiful supper to which the hungry crowd did full honor. The meeting of the Begonia Society which followed was a most enthusiastic one splendidly highlighted by a talk from Mr. Harold Hart, National Treasurer.

The Coast route home, with a full moon shining on the Pacific, ended our trip and the end of a perfect day.

# Notes On the Effect of Temperature and Humidity On Growth of Tuberous Begonias

Temperature and Humidity of  
Capitola, Calif.

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

All of the figures given were made available through the courtesy of the U. S. Weather Bureau in the Whitehall Building, New York City. While they do not have a record of the climate of Capitola, they do have a temperature record for Del Monte, situated at a distance of about twenty miles from there, across Monterey Bay. Both cities are practically on Monterey Bay, and the Weather Bureau assures me that their climate is almost identical.

In establishing humidity conditions at Capitola I was forced to take those of San Francisco, which is about sixty miles north of Capitola. Humidity at these cities is controlled almost entirely by the fact that they are right on the Pacific Coast where the prevailing Westerly winds, after having traversed a wide expanse of ocean, sweep almost continuously over both of them. The Weather Bureau assured me that the humidity of these cities would be very similar.

The temperature of San Francisco has been added as a matter of interest. A comparison shows that the climate of both cities is very similar. I do not know how begonias grow in San Francisco, but if there is any great difference in their growth there, as compared to Capitola, it must be attributed to the fact that the atmosphere of all large cities contains a small percentage of two gases, namely: sulphur dioxide and ethylene, which are toxic to plants. Sulphur dioxide is produced in the burning of coal and fuel oil while the exhaust of all automobiles contain a certain per-

centage of ethylene. Exactly what percentages of these gases have a harmful effect on begonias has not been determined, but it is safe to say that plants in general grow better in less densely populated areas. The Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, of Yonkers, New York, has published some very interesting information on the effect of these gases on plant life. They have discovered that one part of ethylene in ten million of air affects some plants and that six parts in ten million of sulphur dioxide are harmful. These percentages are often exceeded in large cities.

In the following records, average temperature is the average of night and day temperature.

Average maximum temperature is the average of the highest temperature attained each day, and usually occurs an hour or two after mid-day.

Average minimum temperature is the average of the lowest temperatures attained each day, and usually occurs just before dawn and at four or five o'clock in the morning during the summer months.

The highest temperature and the minimum temperature are the highest and lowest temperatures ever reached over the period on record.

The periods on record are those taken over a number of years, and in the case of New York City, the period is fifty-one years.

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The Temperature and Humidity of  
Capitola (Del Monte)

Average Temperature: June, 60.4°; July, 61.8°; Aug., 62.0°; Sept., 62.6°.

Average Maximum Temperature: June, 67.7°; July, 68.7°; August, 69.0°;

Sept., 71.0° (reached about 1:00 p.m.).

Average Minimum Temperature: June, 53.0°; July, 54.8°; Aug., 54.9°; Sept., 54.3° (reached about 4:00 a.m.).

Highest Temperature: June, 83°; July, 84°; August, 86°; Sept., 90°.

Lowest Temperature: June, 39°; July, 40°; August, 44°; Sept., 41°.

It is interesting to note that although the sun reaches its zenith in June, the highest average daily temperature for Capitola is reached in September. In New York City it is entirely different, for the hottest period is during July.

Humidity: The humidity figures given are those of San Francisco which, according to the Weather Bureau, should be similar to those of Capitola.

	5 a.m.	Noon	5 p.m.
June	88%	64%	70%
July	91%	69%	75%
August	92%	70%	77%
September	88%	63%	70%
October	85%	58%	67%

They are the averages taken over a long period of time. As a possible matter of interest, the temperatures of San Francisco also are given:

	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Average	59	59	59	61
Average Maximum	65	65	65	68
Average Minimum	52	53	53	55
Highest	100	98	92	101
Lowest	46	47	46	45

It will be noted that the temperatures at San Francisco are just a little (about three degrees) lower than at Monterey Bay. It will be seen also that the highest temperatures on record are higher for San Francisco than for Del Monte (Capitola). This may be attributed to the fact that the records for San Francisco are for a much greater length of time, and possibly not characteristic of the city.

However, the occasional hot and cold spell is of extreme importance. I am given to understand that their duration along the Pacific Coast is only a matter of hours, and hence usually not harmful to begonias. In contrast to this, occasional hot spells in New York City last for several days. There was one spell last summer, for example, when day

temperatures rose from a maximum of 95° to 102° F., with minimum night temperatures around 75° F. Such hot spells are too much for most tuberous begonias unless special precautions have been taken in their growth, which will be discussed later.

To complete the record of Capitola, it is interesting to note the average temperature of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California. These temperatures are as follows:

June, 53.8°; July, 54.9°; August, 55.6°; September, 55.5°.

It becomes evident that the minimum night temperatures of Capitola and San Francisco are practically the same as the temperature of the Pacific Ocean. An average summer day at Capitola would therefore start with a temperature of about 55° F. at 5 a.m. and with a humidity of 80% or 90%. Temperature would then increase and humidity decrease until 1 p.m., the temperature would be 68° F. and the humidity 60% or 70%. Between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. the temperature would start to fall and humidity would slowly begin to increase until the conditions at 5:00 a.m. would again be reached. These conditions are assured with remarkable uniformity over the Summer months, through September, and are caused by the Pacific Ocean acting as a very efficient heat reservoir, taking up the heat over the Summer months and returning this heat over the Fall and Winter months. The Pacific is truly pacific when it comes to growing begonias.

(To Be Continued)

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## BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 394)

With the assistance of material received from Director of Public Relations Mrs. Jessie A. Poole, the committee appointed to revise the By-Laws went to work in earnest and soon they will be presented for adoption.

President Ann Haller of the Bellflower Branch was asked to give an impromptu talk on the difficulties she had encountered this year in keeping her yard and garden growing, and to advise of the pitfalls into which so many of us stumble. Her talk was greatly appreciated and our faith in nature was partly restored.

Miss Joann Smith entertained the members and visitors with several selections played on her accordion.

The September meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo L. Sisson, 6025 Gundry Avenue, Long Beach 5, California, at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, September 8th, 1944.

**Pasadena Branch:** The July meeting was held at the home of Col. and Mrs. C. M. Gale, 40 N. San Rafel Ave., in the form of a picnic. There were over 90 people present who brought their own food and the society furnished coffee and ice cream. Mr. James Giridlian showed pictures, mostly Kodachromes of the lily family which proved to be very interesting and educational to all present.

The August meeting was held at the Public Library, Pasadena, with Mr. Harry H. Haworth of the Pasadena Public Schools, supervisor of the Library and visual service department. Four films were shown with sound of plant life, fungi, seed growth, and one in color of the farmer feeding the multitude. Everyone enjoyed the films very much and expressed a desire to have others soon.

Seventy-five or more people were present and a very good plant sale was inaugurated for the benefit of the Hollywood society, host to the Convention in September. All of the tickets sent were sold.

**San Gabriel Branch:** At the July meeting this group made \$67.50 from the sale of plants which they turned over to the Hollywood Branch for the Convention Fund. Many other Branches have done the same fine gesture, and Hollywood is grateful. The August meeting was to be held in Glendora with Mr. Ferd Neels as speaker, of which we shall tell later.

**Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch** met at the home of Mrs. Frank Oehrle, Hatboro, Penn. The chairman of the day had a most unusual program. Each member was given a sheet of paper covered with the following letters:

aaaaaaaaabccddddddeeeeeeeeggh  
iiiiiiiillmmnnnnnooooooprrrrrrrsss  
ttuuuuuvvvy.

From these letters we were to find ten begonia names. It was great fun and not too easy even with the following hints: three six-lettered words, one of five, one of seven, one of eight, one of nine, two of ten and one of twelve. With these additional hints would you like to try it?

(1) Hardy begonia, (2) peltate fuzzy leaf, (3) large peltate fuzzy, leaves blistered and puckered, (4) like a star, (5) hybrid introduced by Mrs. Gray, (6) dull, dark green leaf, flowers white, (7) tropical species, emerald green, (8) cyprea and sanguinea, (9) pointed green leaf silver spotted with silver tips, (10) likes an acid soil.

**North Long Beach Branch:** The July meeting was the most outstanding of the year. Our guest speaker, Mr. Clarence Hall, the National President, was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Other National members were the National Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Hart; Mrs. Harry Harker, Membership Chairman; Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, Life Member. Among visiting members were: Mr. Ed Christensen, President The Parent Chapter; Mrs. Walter Knecht, President The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch; Mrs. Grace Dewar, President Glendale Branch; Mrs. Ann Haller, President The Bellflower Branch, and Mrs. Ann Smith, President of the California Heights Branch.

The August meeting is to be the Birthday Party to be held in Houghton Park with a pot-luck dinner preceded by a tour of several fine gardens. This Branch is much to be congratulated on the winning of a beautiful, large trophy in recognition of the best Garden Floral Display of the Victory Garden Show held recently in the Auditorium in Long Beach, Calif.

### SEED FOR SHADE

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# ALL HOUSE PLANTS COME INSIDE NOW

By MARY DUNCOMB,  
Luverne, Minn.

SEPTEMBER rings the gong for all house plants and all tender bulbs in Mid-West gardens. They must come in, and soon. Frost has often caught us napping to say nothing of totally unexpected snow in the latter part of the month. Of course the Christmas cactus and poinsettias, both red and white, come in first, also most of the begonias. The latter, if in full bloom, should be placed at North windows until the first shock of transplanting is over. They will finish their blooming period, but must not be expected to go on producing blooms if they have done so all Summer. A well needed rest is in order—but with watchful care, not too much water, and the minimum of fertilizer they will do nicely.

Young budded plants, on the contrary, will now take up the delightful task where the older ones left off and may be encouraged to do their best. A few slips from the begonia *semperflorens*, taken from the base of older plants where new growth began and rooted now very easily in a glass of water in a sunny window, will produce nice blooming plants for Winter. Young plants may also be started in pots. A window full of these bright blooming plants is a beautiful sight in Winter weather or late Spring, as many a farm woman can testify. Begonias which bloom in tempered sunlight also like our cool wartime-heated rooms. Some will lose their leaves for awhile and will not enjoy being in the public eye, so put them somewhere back from view, but do not forget them. They are only resting in their own peculiar way, in a sort of withdrawal. If properly cared for they will wake up again toward Spring. Rexes are most prone to do this in the middle West, a fact which accounts for their not being popular here. Many, thinking they are dead, discard them for other plants which hold their leaves better. Some Rexes do not have this habit and these are the ones most seen in our country homes.

The larger potted cacti can go in the basement for the Winter with very little water to go on. The orchid cacti or *Epiphyllums*, however, which have been kept growing all Summer should have only a short rest, about a month

after flowering and then given a place in filtered sunlight. Succulents had better stay upstairs. A week of below zero weather often penetrates the best of basements in our part of the world and many choice succulents have been lost. These will need some light, but go easy on watering them—especially in non-drainage pots.

Scented geraniums do well wherever begonias thrive. Do not crowd them closely together, they need plenty of air space. Give them frequent sprayings of clear water to keep them free of aphids.

Shade-loving plants such as *Star of Bethlehem*, *campanula isophylla* and *tolmiea menziesii*—the pick-a-back-plant—should be brought in. Scattered reports tell that they sometimes winter over here if well protected with mulch, but so far, I have not been successful. If one has several plants it would be an interesting experiment. This native of the North-West Coast has an endearing habit of offering you a new plant on its outstretched leaf. It can tolerate rather dark, cool rooms.

Fuchsias, after being brought in and adapted to house conditions, can go rather dormant. After Christmas they will be encouraged to wake up and live, usually being in full bloom by Mother's Day.

Bring in all the tender bulbs: the rain lilies (*Cooperia*), in their dishpans or kettles; the Peruvian daffodils dug and stored with as many roots as possible. Start as many varieties of tender vines, such as Grape Ivy (*Cissus rhombifolia*), climbing lemon (*Cissus acida*?) madeira vine (*Boussingaultia baselloides*) and the various ivies. Their greenery will bring Summer nearer than anything else when Mid-winter reigns supreme. Tuberous begonias may continue to bloom indoors for a time if they have summered in pots or boxes, they, too, may be stored as other tubers.

It is better to start new cuttings of *Coleus*. Start these annuals late for Winter pot plants and make cuttings to put in the shady border next Summer: *salvia*, *lantana* and dwarf blue *ageratum*.

Safely housed inside, and given loving care, these plants will prove to be one of the best solace while we continue to live in a war-torn world.

**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

HELD at Room 901, Edwards Wildey Building, 609 S. Grand, Los Angeles, Monday, July 10, 1944.  
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:45 p.m. with President Hall presiding.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Harker, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Scherer, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Messdames Wilkes, Jenks, Poole, Hartwell, McArae, Harris, Bayer and Marek. Messrs. H. Hart, G. Lawrence, M. Hawkins, and Dean from Pasadena. Mrs. Gongaware, President of the Southern California Fuchsia Society of Santa Monica was welcomed as a guest.

REPORTS OF THE TREASURER, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER, AND MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMAN were read. Motion on each report to accept as read, seconded and carried.

REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS from Glendale, Pasadena, San Gabriel, Parent Chapter, Inglewood, and Hollywood each reported on their branch activities.

Mrs. Poole, Public Relations Chairman, presented the AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SAN GABRIEL BRANCH. Motion to accept, seconded, and carried.

Mr. Hart, Chairman of the A. D. Robinson Memorial, reported on PROGRESS MADE AT THE MEMORIAL. Picnic being planned with a tentative date of October, where all members may gather and meet at the Memorial and obtain a first hand view of the activity there. A definite date will be set later. Correct naming of all plants is one of the many things to be done.

THE SEED FUND CHAIRMAN, Mrs. C. Harris, advised that the seed stock is now depleted, and she is negotiating for a further supply.

Mr. H. Hart as Chairman of the Committee of NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, read the CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS as suggested by his committee. Moved that the Committee's report be accepted with the changes as submitted and that they be published in the next issue of the Begonian. Seconded and carried.

Moved, seconded and carried that the COST OF A LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ABS be \$50.00.

Mr. G. Lawrence, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the names of CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT ELECT, TREASURER AND DIRECTOR. Moved that the report be accepted and the names placed on the ballot.

Request of an Eastern correspondent for INFORMATION REGARDING THE RULES FOR JUDGING OF BEGONIAS AT SHOWS, referred to Chairman Lawrence of the Rules and Judging Committee for reply.

Mr. J. R. Scherer speaking for the Hollywood Branch Convention Committee urged that purchases of Banquet tickets be made not later than September 10.

Mrs. Gongaware spoke briefly on the activities of the Fuchsia Society, invited everyone to attend the meetings, and expressed her pleasure at being able to attend the ABS Board Meeting.

President Hall gave a CORDIAL INVITATION to all members of the National Board TO ATTEND THE AUGUST 1st MEETING OF THE VENTURA BRANCH, and expressed the hope that a representation from each branch would be able to be present. Mr. H. Hart to be the speaker at the meeting.

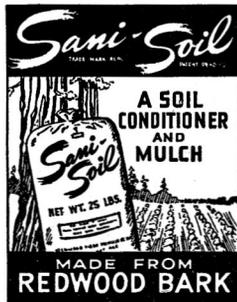
The MEETING ADJOURNED until August 14, to meet again at the same place, same time.

• You might still be able to get Banquet tickets from Mr. J. R. Scherer, 3222 Larrissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

To My Friends and Customers:

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# Plantly Speaking — In the Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG,  
Hollywood, Calif.

• I was deeply impressed by the charm of another plant while on a visit to the Huntington Botanic Gardens in San Marino, recently.

*Dianella tasmanica* is a tender perennial rhizomatous plant belonging to the Liliaceae. The leaves are grass-like two to three feet long. The flowers, in large, loose panicles, show off a beautiful blue, a real blue in color. The berries which follow these flowers, however, are the real attraction of this plant. These charming, deep blue berries are carried in great numbers. They are oval and almost three quarters of an inch long, hanging by almost thread-like stems which makes them altogether ornamental. I should say—they are just a bit different from the average run of berried ornamentals. The berries hang on for several weeks after coloring. I found them growing very well under the oaks just beyond the Azalea garden, with every indication of "belonging" and happy to be there. You may have trouble in finding it, for I do not believe it is very well known in this country as yet.



*Dianella tasmanica*

**Please note:** The Board of the National Begonia Society will meet as usual on the **SECOND MONDAY** of October, but at **THE UNIVERSITY CLUB**, 614 So. Hope Street, Los Angeles, at 6:15 o'clock for dinner. They will then adjourn to the usual place: Room 901 Edwards & Wildey Bldg., 609 So. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

There will be no meeting for the Board other than the Convention for September.

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• Our National President Mr. Clarence Hall suggests that we keep a file of gardens to see in the different cities of the United States so that when we travel again we shall have many delightful visits to make.

The Editor suggests that we start by listing those places we have pictured whenever possible in *The Begonian* and shall continue to bring to you as time progresses. Help us to gather more of these pictures with stories of delightful shade-garden makers.

# 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 September American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Plummer Park, Hollywood, California, at 2:00 p.m.

## **THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 5th, 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, September 5th, 7:30 p.m.  
Anniversary Dinner at The Topham Home  
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,  
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

## **BELLFLOWER BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 5th, 8:00 p.m.  
At Home of J. T. Doty,  
817 Laurel Ave., Bellflower, Calif.  
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,  
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

## **SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

Wednesday, September 6th, 7:45 p.m.  
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church,  
% 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.  
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,  
2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Harry L. Swager  
Subject: Fibrous Begonias

## **ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**

Thursday, September 7th  
Laurance Archibald, Secretary  
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

## **DOMINGUEZ BRANCH**

Thursday, September 7th  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

## **CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH**

Friday, September 8th, 8:00 p.m.  
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,  
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.  
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo S. Sisson,  
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

## **NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**

Monday, September 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secy.,  
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

## **PASADENA BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 12th, 7:30 p.m.  
Pasadena Public Library  
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,  
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

## **LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**

Wednesday, September 13th, 7:30 p.m.  
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Miss Cecille Block, Secy.-Treas.,  
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

## **INGLEWOOD BRANCH**

Thursday, September 14th, 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 37, Calif.

## **HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**

September 16th, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,  
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Annual Convention

## **EAST BAY BRANCH**

Sunday, September 17th, 2:30 p.m.  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## **EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH**

Monday, September 18th  
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,  
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

## **PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH**

Thursday, September 21st, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## **ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH**

Friday, September 22nd, 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**

Sunday, September 24th, 4:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary  
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

## **SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

Monday, September 25th  
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**

Tuesday, September 26th  
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

## **GLENDALE BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 26th, 8:00 p.m.  
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,  
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.  
Speaker: Stanley Keane

## **SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

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

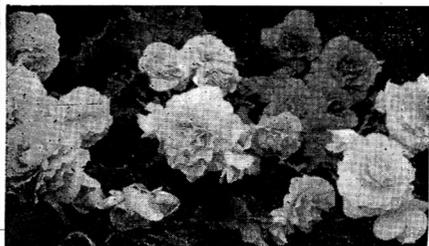
## **NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**

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

## **SANTA MARIA BRANCH**

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,  
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