

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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The BEGONIAN

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A Very Happy Holiday Season to Everyone from Every Officer and Committeeman

For little children everywhere
A joyous season still we make;
We bring our precious gifts to them,
Even for the dear child Jesus' sake.
Phoebe Cary—*Christmas*.
I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of Peace on earth, good-will to men!
Longfellow—*Christmas*,
Golden Legend. Pt. III.

THE EDITOR'S NEWS

• At the last moment, before going to press, the Editor was so lifted with the good news received from the Author of the Forthcoming Book on Fuchsias, Oliver Kehrlein,

that it is placed at the head of this news column. Mr. Kehrlein has consented to write a monthly page on FUCHSIAS for The Begonian. Since Fuchsias are natural companions of Begonias, we shall find ourselves using them to better advantage through the writings of this protagonist. Look for the first article in January issue.

Whittier Branch

• All the garden and flower minded groups of Whittier united in the production of a Flower Show on October 26th. Shade plants were very well represented through both the Whittier Begonia Branch and the Fuchsia Society. The begonias and shade plants exhibited by Messrs. P. J. Miller, Fred Bradford and William Meyn with others were of such fine calibre that all three groups won a special award besides regular competitive honors. Mr. and Mrs. Miller also staged a large table filled with begonias as a special display in the lobby.

ABOUT NEW BRANCHES

By MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

Director of Public Relations, American Begonia Society

• Never at any time in the history of the world was the need greater for organized groups as those connected with and interested in the knowledge and growth of plants. It is an ideal way of promoting a better understanding amongst people of the real purpose of life. It is the greatest opportunity to become personally better acquainted in your own immediate community, thereby forming a chain so strong that it will withstand any test that might be made to break it.

A group of ten persons in any community can start an American Begonia Branch of their own. The members of existing branches, if they are sincere in their purpose, will, each one, become an apostle of the good work and who can deny the work of the American Begonia Society is not only good but superb. It's very growth since it's inception is sufficiently indicative of it's popularity and merits, both from an instructive and a social point of view. Members come from far and near to participate in the activities of the society. The cream of the Horticultural world is part of the American Begonia Society, and the wealth of information given at different times makes the nominal sum of membership dues act as a mirrored accusation to any who pass up the opportunity to participate in these benefits. The "Begonian" a monthly publication is devoted to the culture of all begonias and

shade plants. The appeal, then, is made by your Director of Public Relations, to each and every existing member, to study the possibilities in his or her community or adjacent neighborhood, as to the advisability of forming a new branch which would serve the immediate environs better than by having to travel long distances to attend other branches.

Let us keep in mind that there is great satisfaction derived from being a pioneer in any worthwhile project and let us not be restrained by thoughts of failures or inaptitudes.

Upon request I will mail to any one who is desirous of forming a new branch a copy of "Suggestions for Organizing a New Branch." Address: Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, 1246 No. Kings Road, Hollywood 46, California.

The war is over, but the need for greater understanding between mankind the world over and particularly on the home front is just beginning and here is the chance to get in on the ground floor and forge another link into this wonderful chain of endeavour. The work of the American Begonia Society is Nation-wide and International, being now started in Africa and Australia.

WHAT DO YOU SAY FELLOW MEMBERS? LET'S GO.

One exhibit consisted of seedling Rex begonias which had been grown from seed this year. Included were samples of seeds of begonias, and plants in various stages of growth which proved especially interesting to the visitors from everywhere.

The Whittier Branch now meets on the SECOND Tuesday of each month.

Through a mutual friend, it is understood that Miss Mina Roth of 418 W. Jefferson St., Morton, Ill., is a great Begonia enthusiast. We wonder if she and her friends could get together and form a Branch in that suburb of Peoria? We know of nothing that would please Mrs. Drummond and all the other officers so well.

Inglewood Branch members are getting ready to study SHADE PLANTS from A to Z with the establishment of their own library supplemented with the books from the National Library. They will start with an

expenditure of \$50.00 and the donation of several books from Mr. Louis Schirmer and Mr. Tanner. HOLLYWOOD'S Mr. Edward Flynn could take prizes with Chrysanthemums as well as he does with his fine tuberous begonias. At the August show of Begonias in Los Angeles he had some very fine specimens of begonias plus a centerpiece of tuberous begonias embedded in green moss arranged in a rockery of semi-precious stones and petrified woods.

The Hollywood Branch will celebrate Christmas at the December meeting. Visitors are welcome. Bring a gift for exchange.

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TO BEGONIANS EVERYWHERE

from HELEN C. BAILY, Pasadena, Calif.

• With Miss Gertrude Lawson, Jack's Aunt, I want to express the gratitude we feel for the great number of kind messages, thoughtful deeds, cards, letters and beautiful floral tributes that were received in memory of my husband. We shall always cherish these things for we have always greatly prized our friends of the American Begonia Society. "In The Garden," was Jack's favourite Hymn.

I come to the garden alone,

While the dew is still on the roses,

And the voice I hear,

Falling on my ear,

The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks
with me,

And He tells me I am His own;

And the joy we share as we tarry there,

None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice

Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,

And the melody

That He gave to me,

Within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me, and He talks
with me

And He tells me I am His own;

And the joy we share as we tarry there,

None other has ever known.

Congratulations and Good Wishes to the 1945-46 Hollywood Branch

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Adventures In Improving Begonias

By W. D. HOLLEY

University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

PART I

• Our work with begonias started in 1941 when we obtained some plants of Geneva Scarlet and Geneva Rose. Previous to this we had Begonia Westport Beauty and had learned to grow it fairly well. Shortly after we received our first stock of the Geneva double begonias I gave, as a class project in plant breeding, the problem of crossing Geneva Scarlet with a single red variety of Begonia semperflorens. The student who had this problem did not work very diligently at it so did not obtain the cross. About six months later I gave another student the same problem and this student, Peter Moore-novich, was successful in obtaining seed which he later sowed, growing some hundred or more seedlings from this cross. Since this was a true F_1 generation between two pure parents all the seedlings were alike, being single flowered and red as the male parent had been.

The F_1 generation was self-pollinated and eventually an F_2 generation was flowered. In the F_2 the double flowered plants reappeared along with many singles and all gradations of semi-doubles. In this F_2 generation and a number of others which we have grown in later work, the ratio has been approximately 13 singles, two semi-doubles, and one double. To check this we have crossed the F_1 single which carries 50 per cent of its inheritance from the double parent, onto doubles and have raised the ratio in this backcross to nine singles, four semi-doubles, and three doubles.

Double flowered plants crossed with various semi-doubles have given very close to 50 per cent of each in the offspring. Semi-doubles self-pollinated have varied a great deal in their progeny, leading us to think that perhaps there are a number of different types of semi-doubles genetically speaking. It seems that some carry a high percentage of doubleness while others carry less. We have obtained all the way from 16 to 35 per cent doubles from self-pollinated semi-doubles. There is quite a difference in the appearance of the various semi-doubles but this alone is not an indication of the amount of doubleness which they carry. A good example of that is shown by some of the white flowered lines which we have used in crossing. Almost always the white semi-doubles have very few petals in the center even though they carry up to 25 per cent doubleness in their genetic make-up.

An earlier paper published on tuberous begonias in England concluded that at least with some tuberous begonias there was a matter of sex linkage involved. This, to explain briefly, was because they had crossed the tuberous species Begonia Davisi on double flowered plants and the progeny was all double. However, when they self-pollinated Begonia Davisi it gave only singles. This led to their conclusion that at least with the Begonia Davisi doubleness was linked to the male side. Now to check this in Begonia semperflorens is a simple matter of making reciprocal crosses. Reciprocal crosses made between an F_1 hybrid and a semi-double red flowered variety gave us almost identical counts of singles, semi-doubles, and double offspring. Therefore, we would conclude with this material at least there is no evidence of sex linkage in the inheritance of doubleness.

Another little side issue came into the picture when begonia seedlings were separated in the seedling stage, that is at about the age of six weeks to two months or transplanting size. All the weak seedlings were put into one lot and the strong seedlings into another. These were planted separately and cared for to prevent the loss, especially of the weaker seedlings. When these seedlings came into flower they were all about the same size. In the seedlings which were selected as large in the early stage, there were 58 and 2/10 per cent doubles and in the lot of smaller plants, there were only 41 and 8/10 per cent doubles.

With this material there was a significantly higher percentage of doubles among the plants that were more vigorous in the seedling stage. If this is true with other begonia crosses, roguing out the weakest seedlings will materially increase the percentage of doubleness. Herein may lie the reason for lack of uniformity in progeny counts in some of our earlier work, since not all the seedlings were grown to maturity in every case and it is natural for one to select the more vigorous seedlings if transplanting only a few.

When crosses between doubles and semi-doubles eliminated the singles and gave a high percentage of doubles in the progeny, the possibility of producing doubles from hybrid seed was suggested. These hybrid seedlings

(Continued on Next Page)

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Suggested by FRANCES DOWNING

305 No. Mason, Bowie, Texas

• I will be glad to conduct a Trading Post for BEGONIAS as a separate department to help members obtain varieties not usually found readily in nurseries. It often happens that only one person in an entire County grows rare begonias. Will those who have small plants or cuttings send a list of the kinds available to me, and those who desire special types or varieties should do likewise. In this manner I shall be able to make the connection with, it is hoped, happy results for both parties. I shall be looking for letters which will give me the reaction of fellow members to this suggestion.

More Round Robins

• An African Violet and Gloxinia Round Robin is in the making with several openings for those interested. The Director for this Robin is very eager to have the flight started.

"Growing Begonias From Seeds," has been asked for. This will be an interesting Robin for those who take this phase of begonia growing seriously and for the members of the Seed Fund too, maybe. It might be important to remind would-be members that they should be endowed with patience and an eye for recognizing unusually worthy and outstanding traits in plants so that the next step will be hybridizing. The most popular Robins to date are Fibrous Clubs of which there are six flying over fourteen states today. Next in popularity is the Rex.

"Hybridizing of Begonias" has been asked for. WHO will be the DIRECTOR for this? Please let me know.

Adventures In Improving Begonias

(Continued from Page 225)

are insect and disease free and much more vigorous than clonal stock. We have tested a number of male and female parents for this seed production and have excellent parents for hybrid seed in the red color. Selection is continuing on parents for hybrid seed in white begonias.

(End of first part)

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Christmas Window Garden



By BESSIE BUXTON, Peabody, Mass.

• The days grow shorter and colder as the sun rolls southward. This month brings the shortest, darkest days, and the sun has little warmth to urge our begonias into growth. Many are resting, half dormant, waiting for the sun to turn north again to awaken them. But a faithful few still bloom for us and with these we can plan our Christmas windows. Once more there is peace on earth, and we may say it with flowers and candles, forgetting the sad days of black-outs.

Instead of trimming my house on the outside with ropes of evergreen and electric lights, I enjoy filling the windows with flowers. One of my front windows will be arranged in red and green, with red or white candles, the other in pink and white with pink or white candles. Vines will frame the windows. English ivy (*Hedera helix*) gives the best effect, although *Cissus adenopodus*, *Pothos* or other vines are good. Strings may be used to hold the vines in place, or Scotch tape will hold them securely and invisibly to the window frame. A row of red and white *semperflorens* in green pots fits snugly on the window sill, and behind them on a wire plant stand the plants are placed. The lowest shelf of the stand is a bit below the window sill, so I choose tall plants for that, so that the height is properly graduated. I set smaller plants on the other shelves and take a critical look from the outside as I work to detect the errors in placing.

Begonia lovers will take pride in filling their windows with their favorite plant, to interest the passer-by as to its variety and decorative possibilities. However, no one would object to the use of other plants with the begonias, and if you have a large plant of *Poinsettia* or *Jerusalem cherry* it would make a fine center for the window arrangement. Mme. Fanny Giron has ideal color for such a window, with its dark green leaves and scarlet flowers. Getting the lady to bloom at this time of year is another story, but it can be done. The *calla lily begonia* is even more chancy than Mme. Fanny, but its green and white leaves flecked with scarlet flowers light up the sombre greens of the window beautifully. If you can get a large plant of *Bertha du Chateau Rocher*, (also known as *Corbeille de Feu* and *Vesuvius*) it would make a showy centerpiece, for its form is fountain-like and the stems as well as the flowers are red. *Corallina de Lucerna* is a fairly constant bloomer, as is *Pres. Carnot*,

although the blooms of the latter may prove too pink to look well with the other plants. Mrs. Robinson's *Dianna* usually has a profusion of good sized flowers, *Sachsen* and *Jinnie May* bear quantities of small red flowers, and the tall red *Rubras* would be effective at the sides.

Use as many white flowered plants as possible, for white lights up the window garden as well as it does the outside garden, especially at night, when red recedes into the background unless well lighted. *McBethi*, *Richardsiana*, *Dregei* and *Acuminata* are all good white flowered kinds. All have small flowers, (*Acuminata* has the largest)—but bear them in profusion, and they are very effective interspersed with the red flowered kinds. A plant in a hanging pot adds to the beauty of the window. If you are fortunate enough to have the white flowered Christmas cactus in bloom at this time, it would be ideal, but the flowers of the more familiar *Zygocactus truncatus* are magenta, and should not be used in this window. The white Italian bellflower (*Campanula isophylla alba*) would be most appropriate, if you can manage to keep it in bloom until Christmas. This could be done by taking late cuttings, in March or April, and pinching them back until late August, so forcing a later blooming season. Failing this, use the *St. Augustine* grass, (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) the green and white variety. This droops gracefully and lights up well. *Oplismenus hirtellus* (Basket Grass) is another green and white grass, very delicate and airy in a hanging pot. The green and white *tradescantias* are good also for this place.

When the arrangement of the window satisfies you, set two tall red or white candles among the plants, placing them so that the wax will not drip on the leaves. A row of small red and white candles on the window sash will add to the brilliancy of the window.

For the pink window, use a large plant of *Melior*, *Marjorie Gibbs* or any of the pink flowered Christmas begonias, (children of *B. socotrana*) for a centerpiece, and a row of pink and white *semperflorens* on the window sill. Mrs. W. S. Kimball is usually in bloom for Christmas and one of these tall slender plants, dripping with pale pink flowers, on each side of the window would help to frame its beauty. *Corinthian pink*, *Annabelle*,

(Continued on Page 234)

B. GREY FEATHER

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego

● In the booklet on begonias issued by the New York Botanical Garden in January, 1940, Grey Feather was first named and authentically described, accompanied by a photograph of it beside *Compta*, of which it is presumably a seedling.

My earnest endeavor to trace the origin of the plant of my sketch has been fruitless. It has been in San Diego for many years but none of the authorities know anything definite about it. Many thought it was one of E. K. Gray's seedlings, but she does not claim it.

If we discuss *Compta*, supposedly the parent of Grey Feather, there is still much confusion. Mrs. Buxton has sketches of three variations of this begonia in her first edition of "Begonias." One of them is similar to my *Compta*, but none are exactly like Grey Feather. Mrs. Buxton says that *Compta* came from Brazil in 1866. The N.Y.B.G. mentions that a species of this name is listed in Index Kewensis, but does not indicate if it is the same plant. Neither of our modern German or French authors mention *Compta*. However, their photographs and descriptions of *B. Angularis*, Raddi, another grey-veined species, correspond to one we have of the same name in this country (also known as *Zebrina*). All agree that *B. Angularis* was discovered by Schott in Brazil in 1822.

In the Curtis Botanical Magazine, Hooker says that, according to A. De Candolle, the *B. Angularis* that was introduced to England in 1845, (just 100 years ago) came from San Gabriel in Brazil and that some specimens in the Kew Herbarium were from other parts of Brazil. Hooker notes that the plant he describes differs from that of A. de C., in having smaller male petals and larger capsules. Later, Chevalier, in Belgium, wonders why Hooker did not remark the hexagonal stem his begonia has. All of which makes me guess that the plant first introduced into Europe in 1822 is the one we still call *B. Angularis* and that the more pointed leaf type, described by Hooker in the English magazine, is our *B. Compta*, with the smooth stalks.

Now that I have pigeon-holed *Compta*, at least to my own satisfaction, we can examine its seedling, or sport, *B. Grey Feather*.

My model is 2½ feet tall, (it does not go as high as *Compta*). It is quite bushy, sending up several smooth succulent reddish stems, flecked with white. It branches freely in an angular way from nodes 2½ inches

apart. Keep the stems trained up for best effect. The petioles, 1¼ inches long, are slender, fleshy and deep red where it joins the leaf. The leaf has a high wing on one side, slashed down on the other. About 3 inches at its widest part, the ruffled, lobed and scalloped edges taper down 7 inches, more or less, to a fine point. The reverse of the leaf is a bright red all over. The outstanding feature on its lead-green surface is the ¼ inch whitish stripe that outlines the center nerve and all its slanting arterials.

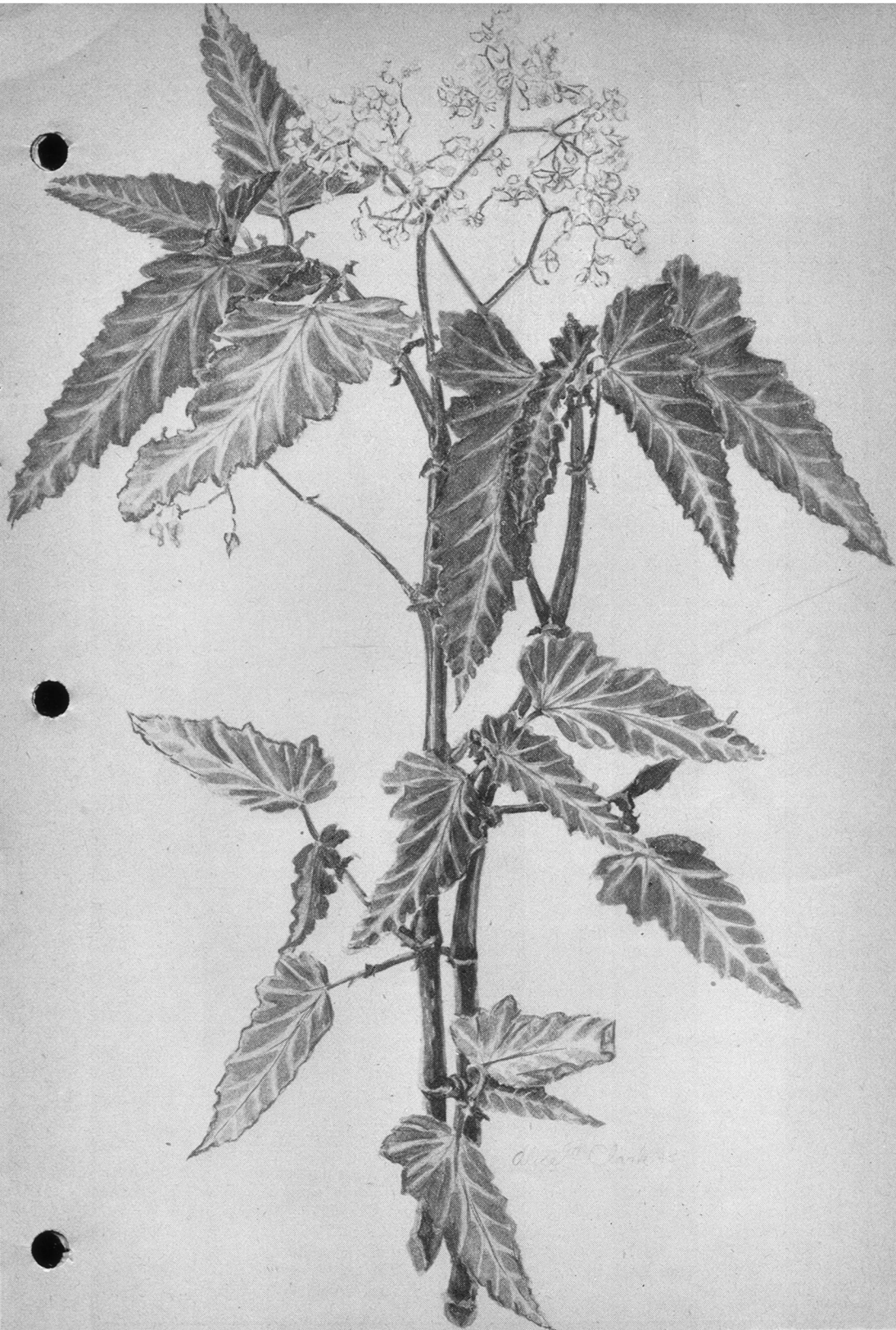
If you look closely you can see where the white stripes feather into the dull-green body color as if brushed in by a painter. The final accent is given by the etching of the thin dark veins over the lighter part with the delicate precision of a penman of the "Gay Nineties." A leaf to inspire a designer!

An artist is further thrilled by the shower of tiny white flowers that burst forth from the 8 inch, upright, much-branched peduncle. It starts two or three nodes from the tip of the branch, extending its ruby stems well above the plant. The bud of the male flower, about ⅛ inch across, looks like a tiny poached egg for an elfin queen, the yellow of the yolk showing faintly thru the white mound in the center. Within, the cupped hollows disclose tight-packed golden stamens, with a slender tongue-shaped petal on each side. The female flower is larger because it has 5 even white petals and an all-white ovary, with one wing longer than the other two. As the seed-pod ripens it turns green and pink and the peduncles darken as do the numerous dried bracts on both leaf and flower stems. The flowers are slightly smaller than *Compta*.

Mrs. Buxton says that this plant is difficult to start in the east and temperamental in blooming. It seems to be quite rational in California and, whether blooming or not, is always noted by visitors.

I wanted to add a few leaves of *Compta* in my sketch so you could see that they were more of a long oval in shape, thicker and darker green, with the "zebras" not so wide or pronounced. However, they would have detracted from the charm of "Grey Feather," so the artist defeated the botanist who is sulking around the corner, knowing full well that it is far more important to be intelligent than beautiful, but the artist smugly thinks it's wiser to be dumb.

Give "The Begonian" for Xmas



B. GREY FEATHER

Setting Up and Maintaining Flower Show Exhibit

By J. STANLEY ROBSON, Los Angeles, Calif.

● Setting up and maintaining a flower show exhibit is a lot more complicated than it appears to the spectator. The time taken in planning and organizing before the show is largely responsible for making the exhibit a success. Smooth cooperation and harmonious personalities of committees and workers and willing generosity of members make the event a pleasure. In the case of the Inglewood Branch of the American Begonia Society exhibit in the Annual Flower Show of the Inglewood Dahlia and Floral Society a splendid example of careful planning and organized cooperation produced a splendid exhibit and a pleasant time for all who took part.

The purpose of such an exhibit is fourfold; first, to cooperate with the community; second, to inspire and educate the visiting public; third, to give branch members a chance to show their plants and to have some of them judged; and fourth, to bring the Branch Society favorably before the community. The following paragraphs will indicate how these factors can be realized.

The Inglewood Branch called a special meeting of interested members with the executive board. Committees were formed, guards were assigned for each hour the show was to be open, and a general plan was formulated indicating what would be needed. This meeting was followed up by a certain amount of contacting members who were going to enter plants for the exhibit or for competition. The Dahlia Society has a helpful ruling that allows specimen plants entered in the group exhibit to be entered for awards also.

The hard work came during the twelve hours before the show was turned over to the judges. Mr. Frost was chairman of the Inglewood Begonia Society group exhibit of begonias and other shade plants. The space allotted was about thirty feet of covered tables. Mrs. Leah Cella was chairman of the flower arrangements on other tables. Both worked together with a number of other members and everything went along smoothly and with dispatch. The members of the branch are very generous and loyal and there was no difficulty in getting a nucleus of officers and members to help centered around the leadership and direction of the very efficient secretary, Mrs. Alice Witman, and the co-chairmen. Every effort was made to help members to bring in their exhibits and to give assistance where needed, through the

formalities of registration of the plants they wanted to specify for general competition.

During the initial period of setting up the exhibit it was found that flat tables made it hard to show the plants to best advantage. Mr. Frost went home and dismantled his own lath house and set up his attractive white stands of three or four shelves, each on the back of the tables. This gave a workable foundation providing height as well as depth for a well-arranged display. Mr. Frost and Chief Wiltse extensively supplemented from their own lath houses the plants brought in early by other members. Before the show time the general exhibit was so well contributed so that several members had special tables assigned to them for individual displays, notably Mrs. Grigsby, the cup holder, and Mr. Voss who always has an attractive exhibit.

During the two days of the show Mr. and Mrs. Frost and Mr. and Mrs. Wiltse stayed on the floor most of the time. Other members took their turns as guards and to help contact the visitors. Because of this there was practically no damage to any of the plants.

A. B. S. folders and special Inglewood Branch cards were handed out to those interested. Many interested persons asked numerous questions about specific plants and the society and there were always members to help them. The magnificent ferns of Mr. Frost and the ten-inch pots of streptocarpus of Mr. Wiltse stimulated much comment as did Mrs. Dressel's two of the only three tuberous begonias entered in the whole show. However, each plant of the many in the ex-

(Continued on Page 238)

Exhibit of the American Begonia Society, Inglewood Branch at Inglewood Show, September, 1945

Photo by S/Sg. Wm. L. Frost, Los Angeles, Calif.

● The collection partly displayed above was exhibited by many members and several also had beautiful separate exhibits. Collectively this display won several ribbons with special awards.

Among other plants will be discerned many fine ferns, diverse groups of begonias: rex, tuberous, fibrous and semperflorens. Some outstanding shade plants such as streptocarpus hybrids (See Chief Wiltse's article on these in September Begonian). Note also the demonstration exhibit of rex begonia cuttings in various stages of development in a flat and another done in a glass jar, not visible.



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BOB ANDERSON
1415 Echo Park Ave. Los Angeles (26)

SAN DIEGO INVITATION

By HAROLD H. HART

*President of the American Begonian Society,
Glendale, Calif.*

• We thank Ambassadors Mrs. Hegler for appearing personally to present such a welcome invitation, and the members of the A.B.S. Branches, especially the San Diego Branch, who are sponsoring the Convention for 1946.

In offering the invitation to the National Board of the A.B.S. for the Annual Convention of 1946, Mrs. Hegler promised that the San Diego Branches would give the members and their friends a very full and interesting time with many lovely gardens to see and other entertainment.

The acceptance was unanimous and enthusiastic. We all know that it is going to be the best convention yet. There are now three Branches in San Diego proper and one in La Jolla. In all these there are several outstanding garden makers and it will be a wonderful opportunity to see and learn much.

San Diego bespoke the first Convention after the end of the war and we are all happy that it is to be possible for us to convene in that City. The time and place with arrangements will be publicized in *The Begonian*, but prepare yourselves and your best plants for a really worth while meeting next September.

There was only a little note of regret in the voice of Mrs. Hegler. She had to miss the meeting of her own Branch in order to be present in Los Angeles. It seems she has missed no meetings since she joined excepting one through illness. We hope the pleasure she and her party brought us will recompense her for breaking her record.

Nine Month's Bloom from

ARCTOTIS speciosa, very large daisies in crimson, orange, deep red, cinnamon or yellow. 4" blooms on one-foot stems over a fine mat of soft grey foliage. Excellent cut flowers. Stands frost. Per packet.....50c

See *Former BEGONIANS* for other rare flower seeds

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158 S. Oxford Ave.

Los Angeles 4, Calif.

• Excerpt from a letter: from Mrs. E. E., Burbank, Washington. "Will you please see that I get the last month's magazine? It must have gone astray. I surely do not want to miss the article by Bessie Buxton or the rest of them either. I will pay extra for a copy if mine was lost in the mail.



Exhibit of The Centinela Garden Club at Inglewood Show

Photo by S/Sq. Wm. L. Frost, Los Angeles, Calif.

• Since many of the members of this club are also members of the A.B.S. it was interesting to see that their exhibit ran practically into one hundred per cent shade material and very good specimens at that, so that this also brought the group several coveted high prizes. The hanging baskets of

fuchsias were only two of many in the show. The central Staghorn fern is a beauty. Below it Lady Waterlow has a very prosperous air and is lording it over the lesser potted plants of other begonias, crotons, coleus, ferns and several other fine plants which did not get into the picture.

Christmas Window Garden

(Continued from Page 227)

New Hampshire, the pink Rubra and Incarnata Sandersi are good pink flowered varieties for this window. The tall candles in this window should be pink or white, like the small one across the sash. A light colored screen behind the plants make a good background and gives privacy if you live in a city.

The first time one arranges a Christmas window, the material at hand must be used, supplemented by plants from the florist. For the red window, the pineapple sage (*Salvia rutilans*) is good. The foliage is light green, the small scarlet flowers borne in terminal spikes. Camellias are very lovely for either the red or the pink window, and there are red Impatiens, *Plumbago coccinea*, which has terminal spikes of good sized red flowers, the large flowered scarlet Kalanchoes, and the cherry red geraniums.

Additional white flowers are the various jasmines, the white *Plumbago*, a tall shrub-like plant with large clusters of pure white flowers, the white *Bouvardia*, the white Impatiens, white or pink *Oxalis* for hanging pots, paper white narcissus, white freesias and the familiar calla lily. Pot this in August, in rich soil, and give some bottom heat or water with warm water to force into Christmas bloom.

This year's experience will show you what you want to do next year. Choose the plants you desire and start them early. As the time for development varies in different localities, ask you local florist or the nearest agricultural college or school, to help you about planting dates, for they know how many days should elapse between planting and blooming time. These calculations are based on normal weather, but sometimes an unusually long period of storm, cloudy weather or extremes of heat or cold defies their best judgment, and the plants come into bloom too early or too late, with consequent loss of money to the florist. Commercial growers have excellent judgment on these matters, however, and know how to increase the heat if the weather is cold, or to decrease it if the plants get ahead too fast. Home growers cannot do this as easily as the commercial men, and it is well to plan at least ten days or two weeks more than the dates which they will give you. It is a fascinating game and will materially increase your knowledge of growing plants.

***The Old Year is on the way out—
the door is open to the happiest
New Year for each one of you!***

PLEA FOR OLDER BEGONIAS

George McDowell spoke for the Holly-wood Branch in November. He made a plea to all begonia lovers to be on the lookout for the older and almost extinct begonias the like of which it will be very difficult to obtain even in the newer varieties and hybrids. He hopes that all owners of such old timers as you will read of in Miss Charlotte Hoak's article and many others will do some earnest propagation so that they may be redistributed through whatever channels will present themselves in the immediate future. The fact is that they are scarce and not a few are not to be found on the market at all. He would like Branches to run contests to find out which has most varieties amongst its members. Would be very enlightening. (With this point in mind read the idea presented by Mrs. Downing which would help considerably in disseminating varieties that travel easily). Since frost may be expected now and then at this time. Mr. McDowell suggested that fertilization be stopped and water be eased off a little for awhile in order to harden plants off as much as possible. Do not pamper plants, place them where they have some shelter under lath and trees with tenderer varieties on porches or between overhanging plants in the open. Would that we in California could really appreciate the ease with which we can take simple care of our tender plants. Plant lovers of cold regions certainly prove their love of growing things in the extended care they must give their plants from September until springtime.

SUGGESTION: Sow seeds of *Schizanthus* in fern baskets such as *Polypodium knighti* or others . . . for pretty flowers all the winter. *Cymbidium* "Winter Cheer" started blooming two weeks ago and will continue until June or July. Keep plants clean and moderately protected and not too wet. Too much shade will keep them from blooming, give them at least 60% light. Prepare the compost for repotting cymbidiums after they are finished flowering and are making growth.

Keep growing the easy hybrids until really successful before trying the more difficult varieties and species. Try Zebra, Madeleine, Paulsi, Butterfly, Sylvia, these are free bloomers and all are beautiful orchids.

So far no damage has been noticed on cymbidiums by the dreaded root nematodes. We hope this will encourage beginners to plant them without fear and keep looking for plants that are also resistant so that

(Continued on Page 236)

The Soil Colloids as Related to Soil Fertility

By W. C. DRUMMOND, Hollywood, Calif.

PART II

Description and Early History of Colloids

In 1857 Faraday prepared and first studied *Colloid Suspension* of gold. His original suspensions of gold are still in perfect suspension. But, it was Thomas Graham in 1861 who first made extensive investigations of colloidal suspensions (see p. 489 Gen. Chemistry, by Richardson, 1927). It was Graham who first used the word colloid, meaning glue-like. He distinguished them from the ordinary type of suspension. Colloids are said to be a matter of dispersion, the medium into which the suspension occurs is called the dispersion medium. Colloids may also be said to be a matter of division, rather than any definite chemical although they act in a very definite chemical way. Colloids occupy an intermediate position between the large size particles of ordinary suspensions which are larger from 0.1μ , and the true solution of chemistry which is molecular in size, and not larger than $.001\mu$.

To get a better understanding of clay colloids we might try placing a small amount of some fine clay soil in a vessel of water, the large particles would immediately settle to the bottom, there would remain in suspension particles too large to belong to a colloidal system. These larger particles would in a few days settle out or would float on top. Then, on evaporation of the water, clay colloids would remain. Almost any substance then organic or inorganic can be put into a state of colloidal system or suspension, if made small or fine enough. Colloids then are a matter of size and not a definite chemical. They are so small they approach the molecular size and act a great deal like a definite chemical.

Properties of Colloids

These clay colloids are flat, irregular crystalline particles. They resemble sheets of mica which are extremely thin. This thinness gives to the colloids a tremendous interface surface. Lyon and Buckman, page 70, *The Nature and Properties of Soils*, state that an acre slice of average mineral soil (not peat) presents a surface equal to 40 to 50 times the land area of Illinois and Florida together. This interface surface, as it is called, presents opportunity for the adsorption of enormous numbers of cations (base elements). The micelles of the colloids carry quite a charge of

negative electricity attracting the positive elements, i. e., base elements. Also this interface and lattice effect of the internal interface gives the colloids greater water holding qualities. Notice how long after a rain that slightly under the surface black clay remains moist. This water is spoken of as the water of hydration. It is slowly given up by the colloids.

Colloids Universally Present

It should be made clear that colloids are in no way limited to the soil, they are found everywhere in nature as well as in the soil. The fluids of our bodies, the cells of our bodies, the juices of fruit, casine of milk, fog, clouds and smoke all belong to colloidal systems. The subject of colloidal chemistry is a large and quite technical one, much is still to be learned and discovered. In this article we are dealing only with the soil colloids as it affects the fertility of the soil.

(To Be Continued)

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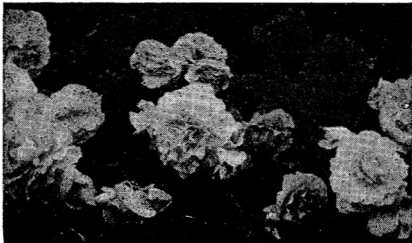
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**THIS IS HOW I CURE MY
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**

By REG. G. HUDSON,

Huntington Beach, Calif.

• As long as there is any foliage on the tuber it is advisable to keep watering it. The tuber is responsible for the foliage naturally, therefore it needs help to keep that foliage or expend some of its own stamina to maintain it until it is right to drop it. You can argue that as long as the blooming is done it is not necessary to keep the plant alive and so let the foliage die through gradual cessation of water. The responsibility of the tuber is not ended with the blooming season, the foliage must be maintained until such time as it has matured naturally and then in turn it helps to store certain elements in the tuber the lack of which will cause it to suffer from malnutrition and what happens next year? The tuber will not be as good by a big margin, it will not bear as many nor as big individual flowers as it would if given the care it needs.

Let the tuber stay in the soil until the middle of December. Let it get at least one good rain and then turn the pot on its side. It will stay damp a long time yet. By doing this the tuber stores energy and strength after the hard work of this year for next season's bloom. You will find that when you remove the tuber from the soil after the middle of December you will find it hard and healthy whereas if harvested too early it will be spongy and soft.

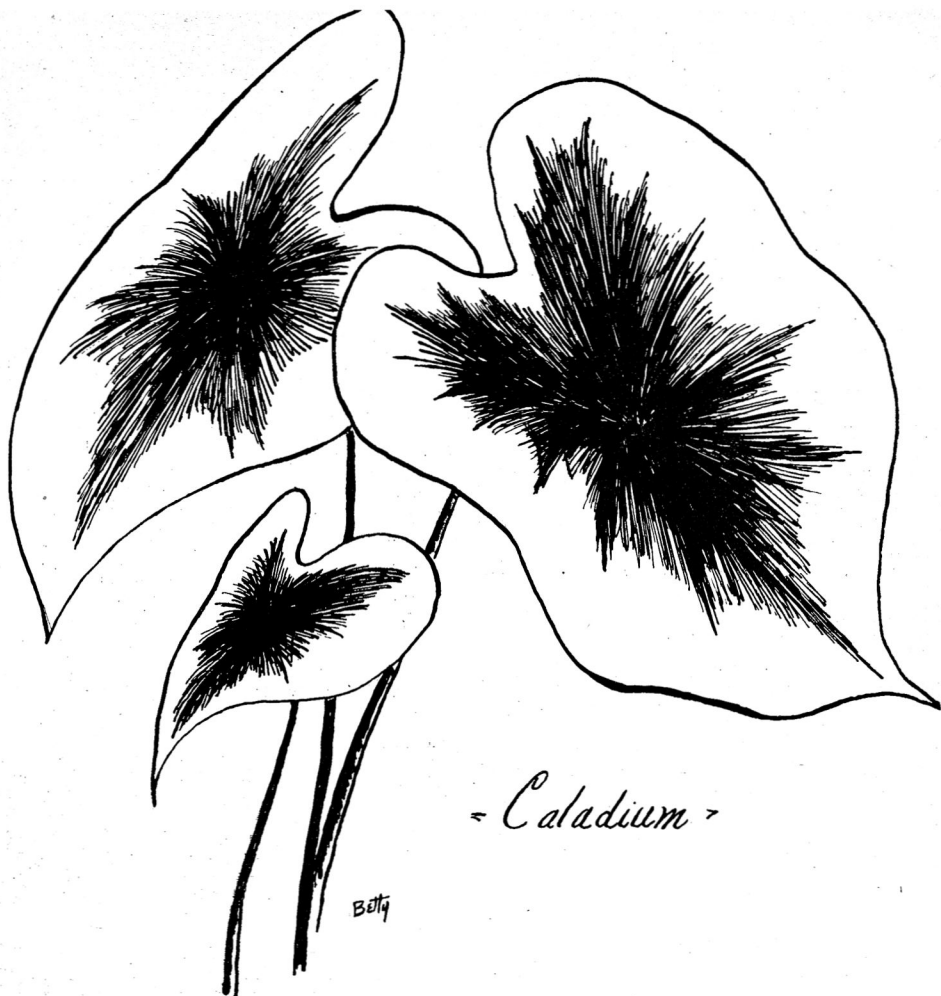
When all the tubers are harvested wash them free of soil and after a natural drying put them in the oven with only the pilot light burning so that they will dry thoroughly before putting them away in ordinary boxes without any packing or cushioning. As long as the tubers get air and are protected from mice and ants they will keep very well unless in too damp a place. When you plant your tubers about March they will start healthy growth and keep on producing very well.

Plea for Older Begonias

(Continued from Page 234)

gradually the nematodes may be starved out. Camellias, onions and corn are not generally attacked by nematodes. If you want to find out whether or not you have nematodes plant begonia semperflorens here, there and everywhere for a season, and the tale will soon be shown by cancerous lumps on the roots with very sad looking top growth after the plant has reached near maturity.

MAKE 1946 OUR BEST YEAR



< Caladium >

FANCY LEAVED CALADIUMS

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, Calif.

• It takes remarkably little effort to grow these beautiful tubers to a passable state of beauty. Were we trying to follow in the steps of Mr. Harold Hart, our President, we would have glasshouses and hotbeds in suitable spots around the house and grow them by the hundreds in all their hues and designs to an optimum point of perfection, but let us be content with a good plant, with an average of five or six leaves that will not be too large and maybe a little harder for the ordinary home conditions where the humidity will not be according to known desideratum.

Any grower of tuberous begonias has the routine well in mind, forget nothing excepting the season, and instead of the summer tuber, plant the winter and spring FANCY LEAVED CALADIUM. If it is understood

that the soil can be about the same, demands for humidity and fresh air not unlike the tuberous begonia, size of pot not too large to begin with, no liquid fertilizer until the leaves are in active growth and the tuber has made a good root then the basic needs will have been attended to. Further than that, keep the plants out of drafts and put them in a good light as soon as growth is begun turning the plants a little every day to develop a rounded and balanced plant. To provide the extra humidity beyond the usual measures resorted to in a plantsman's house, Mr. Hart advises periodic wrapping of the plant in a cone of wet newspaper overnight. The writer has revived pretty limp hot-house grown plants permanently with this treatment. Cover the triple layer of wet paper with a double layer of dry paper to keep the moisture inside.

**CONDENSED MINUTES NATIONAL BOARD, A.B.S.
Meeting held October 22nd, 1945 in the Model
Library Room, L. A. Public Library with
President Hart presiding.**

Meeting called to order at 7:30. Board members present: President Hart, President Elect Lawrence, Treasurer Hawkins, Editor Mrs. Wilkes, Membership Fees Mrs. Clark, Public Relations Director Mrs. Drummond, Librarian Mrs. Crowder, Mrs. Ken Weber, Mrs. MacRae, Mrs. Hartwell.

Introduction of guests—Mrs. Hegler, Representative Director from San Diego Branch, Mrs. Adams Librarian San Diego Branch, Mr. Adams.

Reading of minutes. Approved as read. Reports follow:

Written reports by Editor and Business Manager, Membership Fees Chairman, and Treasurer read, approved as read and ordered filed as part of minutes.

President stated he had promised to secure for use of the Membership Fees Chairman an adding machine, but thus far had been unsuccessful. Asked members to advise him if they knew of one that could be had—loan or otherwise.

President Hart welcomed all members to the meeting and urged that as many as can be present at the meetings.

Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Dewar were asked to serve as Auditing Committee for the bills and hereafter when the bills are checked and O.Ked, they will be read for the approval of the entire Board so that everyone will know what our funds are being used for.

DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Lawrence stated that under the Constitution and By-Laws, the Treasurer should prepare and submit to the Board a yearly budget, and he thought this a very good idea. President stated he thought this a very good idea and asked the Treasurer, with the assistance of Ways and Means Chairman, to work out a budget and present it at the next meeting.

Mrs. Drummond, the newly appointed Public Relations Director, outlined her plans looking toward forming of new branches. Her plans had the approval of the members present, and she was asked to go ahead and have the necessary cards printed, etc., and report further at the next meeting.

Mrs. Gladys Bullard, for the Robinson Memorial, was unable to be present. President stated that he had received a letter from the Board of Park Commissioners stating that "The space occupied by the exhibit of begonias in Lincoln Park Conservatory will be required for other purposes, and therefore kindly requested that stock be removed from the building not later than thirty days from date." Mr. Hart said the Board had one or two projects under consideration, but in the meantime Mr. Hixon with the assistance of some of his friends, had kindly consented to move the begonias to their gardens and care for them and also make cuttings and start new plants, as some of the plants were in pretty bad shape. This offer was accepted with gratitude. Motion made and carried sincerely thanking Mr. Hixon et al, for their interest and help. The Society to bear any expense for material, soil, fertilizer, etc., the plants to be moved this week.

Mrs. Harris, Seed Fund Chairman—no report, except that seeds were now available, to a limited degree.

Librarian Mrs. Crowder reported: Word received from the publisher that the Bessie Buxton Book on Begonias would be out in November; had many paid orders for the book and more orders coming in all the time. Mrs. Hixon had agreed to take over the accumulated magazine files for the Begonia Society and was busy clipping out articles and arranging scrap books of the material and would have some ready for us soon.

REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Mrs. Dewar, Glendale, interest good. Mrs. Sim next speaker; Mr. Hixon, Long Beach, nothing special, everything going along nicely; Mr. Bailey, Pasadena, very good meeting but small attendance; Hollywood, very nice meeting, officers elected, Mr. Hart speaker.

San Diego Branch, Mrs. Hegler brings greetings from our President and officers. Through a contest we are increasing our membership very fast

and have to find a new meeting place; we have an attendance of about 125.

Mr. Lawrence, San Gabriel Branch; We have a membership of over 200. We are having a country store for the next meeting and the price of admission is any article you wish to donate. Capt. Deere is the Auctioneer and we promise a good time for all. Cider and doughnuts will be served.

Mrs. Weber, for Santa Barbara; We will have our meeting in November and have election of officers. We are a small group but we hope to grow and do some nice things.

Mr. Hixon reported he was having the Silver Star begonia photographed. This was donated by Mrs. Frey to the Robinson Memorial and is a very handsome plant.

Mrs. Harris reported Inglewood Branch going ahead and is spending \$50.00 for books for their library.

NEW BUSINESS

Editor instructed to have new letterheads printed and after discussion it was decided to omit the names of officers, just using the regular heading.

Mrs. Hegler asked for the floor and in a very gracious and cordial manner asked that the National Board hold their 1946 convention in San Diego and promised a very full day of visiting gardens and other entertainment; said she would like to take back an acceptance from the Board as her Branch was quite anxious for the official acceptance. A vote of appreciation was given Mrs. Hegler and her invitation accepted unanimously. The date would be early in Sept., the actual time being left to the San Diego Branch. More about this later on.

President Hart stated that Mrs. J. L. Bailly would like to give to the Library the set of Bailly Cyclopaedia of Horticulture which the National Society had presented to Mr. Bailly on his retirement as President of the A.B.S. This was accepted with gratitude, the President to convey to Mrs. Bailly our thanks for the gift; the set to be given to the Librarian for use in our library.

No further business, meeting adjourned to meet again same place, Nov. 26th, at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Gonda Hartwell, Corres. Sec.

Setting Up a Flower Show

(Continued from Page 230)

hibit contributed its own part to the whole effect.

Taking the exhibit down was much faster than setting it up as all the exhibitors were present at the same time and took care of their own things. The use of a truck generously supplied by one of the members greatly aided with the transportation of the larger showings. If a covered truck or van could be made available by a time schedule more members could exhibit larger specimens than can be moved in their private cars. The exhibit proved to be a fine cooperative effort where every one had a good time and felt a great satisfaction in the splendid results. Mr. A. J. Slatter, president of the host society deserves the warm thanks of all for his ever ready help and his enduring patience. As president of the Inglewood Branch words can hardly express my great appreciation for the faithful management and direction, the fine spirit, and the generous participation of all who took part.

Note: The next meeting of the A.B.S. Board will be 4th Monday evening, January, 1946.

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 next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will take place in the Los Angeles Public Library, Children's Library Room, Grand Street Entrance, Monday, JANUARY 28th, at 7:30 p.m.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, Dec. 4th, 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, Dec. 4th, 7:30 p. m.

Xmas Party, Women's Club House, 500 Oak St.
Mrs. Ardel Radle, Secretary
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, Dec. 5th, 7:45 p.m.

Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church
c/o 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secretary
2183 - 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, Dec. 6th.

College Hall, Santa Ana J. C. 917 N. Maine St.
Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. K. D. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 3, Box 355,
Santa Ana, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

La Mesa Grammar School
La Mesa, San Diego Co., Calif.,
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Joseph Christofferson
4491 Culbertson St., La Mesa, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secretary
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 6:30 p.m.

Casita del Arroyo
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, Dec. 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Tuesday, Dec. 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.
Madeleine Hall, Secretary,
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Dec. 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Club of Inglewood,
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Dec. 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.,
Hollywood.
Mrs. Roslyn Duval, Secretary
843 N. Sierra Bonita, Los Angeles, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, Dec. 14th, 7:30 p. m.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ailman,
4404 Greenbrier Rd., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, Dec. 16th, 2:30 p. m.

Dick G. Goodnow, Secretary,
2519 Milvia St., Berkeley 4, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.
Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas.
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treasurer
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, Dec. 17th

Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, Dec. 24th

Hard of Hearing Hall
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.
624 Arroyo Dr., San Diego 1, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, Dec. 21st, 6:30 p.m.

Xmas and Birthday Party, \$1.65
Tues. Afternoon Club, cor. of Central & Lexington
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Wednesday, Dec. 26th, 7:30 p.m.

Hall, Point Loma Community Church
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secretary.
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, Dec. 28th, 8:00 p. m.

American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Sreet, Alhambra, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

W. C. Atherton, Treasurer,
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