BEGONIAN

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HAROLD W. HART

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EDITOR'S NOTE OF THANKS

• First of all we are going to take this means of thanking all the thoughtful people who made time to write and call us commending our new magazine. We pass this praise on to the publishers with pleasure but retain the glow that goes with the knowledge that our combined efforts, from first to last individual, who take part in the making of our magazine are appreciated. That will spur us on to better work.

The next note of thanks is directed to the publicity Chairmen, the Secretaries and Presidents who sent in a record amount of material for The Branch News. We need to have these notices as full of helpful data as possible. Take notes at the meetings, during garden tours, while discussing plants and gardens with specialists and let us have them so that we may pass them on to the others who could not be with you.

There is so much to learn and the time is so short. Every little bit helps.

Those who live near Los Angeles will surely attend the Southern California Horticultural Institute "AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY NIGHT" when all the loveliest begonias and shade plants of all kinds will be shown by the members of the various branches in the vicinity. It is going to be a most worthwhile evening. We shall be looking for you. Time: August 6th, 1945, Seven o'clock in the evening, Elks Club, Los Angeles, Calif.

Bring your exhibit — if possible, through the afternoon, it will facilitate placing of plants to better advantage and without haste. Start right in NOW to select your plants, and remember how you said at the last show: 'Really now, I have better plants than those at home. . . ."

Bring them, and let us be the judges.

THE EDITOR.

Begonia In The Pacific Islands

By E. D. MERRILL, Harvard University, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., U. S. A.

• The genus Begonia is peculiarly well-developed in certain islands of the Malayan region, but in contrast to this is relatively poor in species in certain islands. Thus from Java only about 17 species are known. Sumatran Begonia flora, like that of Celebes and the Moluccas, and certain other islands and island groups is very poorly known. In the Malay Peninsula 34 species are recorded, in Borneo 30, in the Philippines 100, and in the Papuan region (New Guinea and its neighboring islands) about 70 species. The genus is almost entirely absent in the Micronesian and Polynesian islands as far as native ones are concerned. A single species has been described from Fiji. In Hawaii the genus is replaced by the allied monotypic Hillebrandia.

Most of the species within any island or any compact island group are strictly endemic, there being very few widely distributed species within the vast insular region lying between Asia and Australia. Additional species occur in India, Burma, Siam, Indo-China, China, and Formosa. Many of these Old World species are distinctly ornamental because of their flowers, and the form and color of their leaves, and in places where they grow are frequently found in great abundance. They vary enormously in size and habit, and yet no matter what the variation may be they are all easily recognizable even to the untrained botanist or horticulturist as being begonias.

Thus we find the delicate forms such as Begonia nigritarum, sometimes only two or three inches high, and in the constantly wet forests in the higher mountains actual thickets of erect shrub-like species such as B. merrittii, five to six feet in height. Some species such as B. leucosticta have beautiful mottled leaves, while others have the leaves green above, sometimes more or less mottled and dark purple beneath. A delicate vine in the mossy forest is the attractive B. aequata, with its small, almost equilateral leaves, while the very coarse B. oxysperma is striking because of its habit, being a vine up to about fifteen feet long, with very large, long, petioled leaves and long, peduncled, open inflorescences; the stalks and branches of the inflorescences and the fruits red, the flowers pink. Other species have deeply-cut leaves, such as B. quercifolia, B. incisa, and B. lacera.

Generally speaking, wherever the various species occur they are found in abundance. Individual species are adapted to a variety of habitats, some growing on shady ledges and

boulders in damp forests, some on exposed limestone cliffs in full or partial sunlight, others on shaded cliffs, and still others in the constantly wet forests at and above altitudes of 3,000 feet and up to an altitude of at least 8,000 feet. Occasionally one will find a species such as B. wadei, with its thick, fleshy stems growing on rocky banks just back of the seashore. One does not find native species of Begonia in the low altitude open grasslands, and in the vast area covered by secondary forests, except in shaded ravines, nor in swampy country. Essentially they are species of the primary damp forests and they reach their greatest development in the midmountain forests, in the mossy forests, and along the banks of shaded ravines.

Many of the species are eminently worthy of attention, yet very few of them have ever been introduced into cultivation; or if in the past they have been introduced they have been lost to horticulture. Begonias being what they are, easily recognizable even by the tyro, whether in flower, in fruit, or in vegetative condition, it is perhaps surprising that more of the numerous Malaysian species have not made their appearance in the collections of Begonia fanciers. Generally speaking, it is a relatively simple matter to grow many of these species from fresh seeds, and the thin capsules with their numerous small seeds are of such a nature that they can very easily be sent enclosed in packets of thin paper and forwarded with ordinary correspondence. Perhaps one of the reasons why more of these Malaysian species have not made their mark in cultivation is the lack of knowledge among growers as to the local conditions under which they thrive. Some grow only on limestone formations, others on igneous rocks. As indicated above a few grow on ledges exposed to strong sunlight, but most of them are found only in the rich humus of deeply shaded and more or less constantly wet forests. The mossy forest habitat of most of the species is a very special one, involving constant moisture and high humidity at all times, for the terrain in these characteristic forests of the higher Malaysian mountains never dries out.

It is suggested to members of the Begonia Society that their correspondents in the armed services scattered here and there in the Old World tropics may be in a position to secure and to send either by ordinary mail or by air mail some packets of ripe capsules of any and all species of Begonia that may be noted.

(Continued on Page 97)

Branch News .

Riverside Branch:

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY is the important meeting time of this branch. May 8th will be the next. If we do not get the address of the host and hostess, call the Sec .-(See Calendar.) The April meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Twogood, in Riverside. Mr. Terrill, well known and learned plantsman, gave his monthly dissertation, an unselfish and helpful manner in which to pass on to others knowledge that he has been collecting for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Twogood have a hobby of making colored slides of many of the flowers that they find beautiful and interesting, many of these were shown at the April meeting with Mrs. Twogood as announcer and Mr. Terrill adding interesting and pertinent sidelights.

San Gabriel Valley Branch:

Mrs. Ruby Liedler (now demonstrating her cleverness with plants on a ranch where she and Mr. Liedler put into practice their love of plants and animals), spoke on her pet subject: Fuchsias. Her enthusiasm is contagious, which, together with the natural beauty of the fuchsias, makes many friends for that fascinating group of shade-plants.

The sale of a lovely plant donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis of Davis Camellia Gardens netted \$61.50 for the American Red

Cross.

Mr. Chester D. Tanner was scheduled to speak on Tuberous Begonias in April, and May will bring Maria Wilkes as speaker, her subject, Compost Making For Health and

This Branch is driving solidly for members and at the last counting there were one hundred and seventy-five members. out, Ventura.

East Bay Branch:

Through illness of hosts who had prepared to open their homes through the Winter, plus transportation difficulties, Branch had to forego the pleasure of regular meetings until March 18th, when the meeting was held in the home of Mrs. E. M. Carleton, (one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents,) in Berkeley, Calif.

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The Saturday Evening Post article on Tuberous Begonias was discussed; a framed picture of the begonia was presented to the newest member, Mrs. Norris C. Hays of Berkeley, Calif., who proved to be a very observant person in reporting accurately on a begonia.

Mr. Martin L. Boyd, and Dr. French, of the State Blind School reported the raising of about 1000 seedlings of tuberous-rooted begonias from the best of the Vetterle & Reinelt strains for distribution to the members of the Branch, for a nominal sum, through April and May. Mr. H. L. Swager reported that the Society has a fine crop of seeds of the fibrous-rooted begonias at the Lakeside Park Greenhouses in Oakland. be at their best in August. April meeting will be reported later. Mrs. Ruth Utter, Sec., announces the meeting place for the May meeting, will be the home of Dr. Fred Davis, 500 Arlington Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

North Long Beach Branch:

"A Country Store" Cooperative was held by this group on March 12th. Everything was donated-from garden gadgets to canned fruits and vegetables and a fine time was had by all through the auctioneering of Frank Liedler assisted by Earl Crawford.

Mrs. Ryan, instructor in the Compton Schools, gave a most interesting demonstration on Flower Arrangement at the April 9th meeting. On May 14th, another fine program is planned for everyone within visiting radius. You and your friends are welcome.

Late News From April A.B.S. Meeting:

Mr. George Lawrance, of Alhambra, Calif., was appointed by Pres. A. E. Nelson as chairman of the exhibition committee for the August 6th joint gathering of the Sou. Calif. Hort. Inst. and the A.B.S.

Margaret Gruenbaum Branch:

A happy meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Theodore Gruenbaum, the presi-These are always box-luncheons. The members are all working on the classification of their begonias: origin, parentage, characteristics and culture. This is being done in alphabetical order with each member listing a given number of her own begonias which are discussed at meetings where added data and information are gathered. While the program is a long-time project it is a fascinating and worthwhile endeavour which will be of benefit to one and all in the group, as well as through correspondence with others in near-by States. The meetings are held on the FOURTH TUESDAY of the month.

The American Begonia Society Honored With Invitation From The Southern California Horticulural Institute

 The Southern Horticultural Institute meets every FIRST MONDAY of the month. Object: To interest as many people as possible in the beautification of Southern California and Los Angeles in particular; in promoting interest in the age-old art of garden making and keeping by every home owner plus bringing to its members and friends all the current special interests in the floral world. After all, we do say much more than we admit-WITH FLOWERS. And we should say more with-FLOWERS. Since August is one of the very finest months for showing all the begonias to advantage, the American Begonia Society has been given the privilege of staging an exhibition of BEGONIAS and other shade plants, and the program for the evening of August 6th, 1945, at 7:30 o'clock in The Elks Club at Sixth Street and Grandview Ave., Los Angeles, California, The Club is on the Northwest corner of Westlake Park.

In order to make this a representative evening of The American Begonia Society every member of each Branch within traveling distance of Los Angeles is asked to bring in what plants are considered interesting and fine for exhibition to the Committee that will be in charge of the exhibits. If it is possible to bring only one plant, BRING THAT ONE, and come to enjoy the exhibition of your fellow-members' plants also.

Naturally, it is expected, since the wide publicity given the tuberous rooted begonia recently, that thousands of people are more conscious of the glorious beauty of these flowers. There will be many members who will bring in their fine plants to show for that evening. The meeting opens to the public at 7:30 o'clock, so it is asked of our members of the A. B. S. to bring in their plants during the afternoon if possible and they will be placed advantageously as well as kept safely in the large hall on the second floor.

It is indeed an opportunity that will make a great number of friends for us if we carry the evening with success.

We are counting on your individual support.

Each Branch might also delegate one (or more) flower arranger to bring in a special floral decoration in container to demonstrate the scope of various begonias even as cut flowers.

ARTHUR A. NELSON, President, The American Begonia Society.

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Begonia x Verschaffeltiana Regel

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, Calif.

• Somehow, as I warm to my May theme, I feel as though you have gathered a bit closer around me to observe our old friend, B. Verschaffeltiana. At least, I hope it is familiar to most of you, though I wonder how its "legginess" is suited to a New England window-garden. Would that more indoor begonia fans, like Mrs. Knock, would write about their favorites and how they behave in contrast to those described here that are grown outside!

Almost a century ago, in 1853, to be exact, this month's subject was described in Gartenflora, as a hybrid produced in the Botanical Gardens of Zurich, by its famous head, Dr. Regel. It was the result of a cross between two Mexican species that had been introduced One, B. manicata, with its low, creeping rhizome and lacy, willowy flower sprays was in marked contrast to the thick, upright stalk of the other parent, B. caroliniaefolia, which has strange leaves, an expansion of seven to nine quills from a common center into fluted, green lobes, beneath extra-tall, well-balanced inflorescences of a warm rose. A lovely plant of the latter in my garden, with a main stem three inches in diameter, would have made a fine sketch except that it seemed unfair to compress its flamboyant proportions down to the size of a page in THE BEGONIAN. It could be better projected on a screen. Really there should be some sort of artistic justice about these things.

The hybrid under discussion was named for M. Ambroise Verschaffelt, a Belgian nurseryman. We wish that all horticulturalists had simple names so we would not inherit the tongue twisters that honor them. It would be more convenient to leave off the ending "iana," and settle for the "ii," as many do, but it seems to have made its initial bow with a long, swishing train and so must take its curtain calls today in the same garb.

This begonia made quite an impression at its debut as it appeared in most of the garden magazines of that time and is now in the books of today. Fotsch, in "Die Begonien," uses the shorter name, Verschaffelti, and says

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PHILIP M. POST

Holden Road

Paxton, Mass.

the flowers are white, which might have been due to different growing conditions. Chevalier, in "Les Begonias," devotes a good paragraph to our hybrid and shows a photograph of a very tall plant in a comparatively small pot, which probably accounts for its drooping leaves.

The original of our sketch is twenty-six inches high and minus some of its older leaves, which are always bedraggled during the cold season. Its heavy, up-standing stalk was longer than we have shown it. It is seldom branched and has prominent leaf scars, like the notches on a hunter's gun. In between them, it is bright green, with white spots, the whole lightly covered with scurfy, brown hairs. There are some dried bracts that soon fall away.

The leaf emerges close to the main stem like a small, furry, brown paw which, as the petiole grows, expands into five lobes, pointed and cut, hairy on its reddish edges. In its young stage, the stem is covered with brown fuzz. When it attains its full growth, sometimes eighteen inches, it is stiff and spreading and gives the effect of a succulent branch. The woolly brown hairs, like those of caroliniaefolia, extend up onto the raised ribs on the back of the leaf. Chevalier says the hairs are long and red at the "armhole" of the stem so his variety must have favored the manicata ancestor more than ours does. The top of the leaf is a shining, yellowgreen with distinct red splashes on the edges, both above and beneath, though the color is duller and paler below. In texture it is thick and firm, resembling manicata, and is eight or ten inches long.

In Spring comes the beautiful inflorescence, like a pink cloud on a strong, round peduncle that crowds from the top of the stalk, between two petioles. The flower stems were shortened in the sketch to keep them on the page. One was twenty inches long and they can be thirty. The rust-brown fuzz gives a mat finish. The color flushes into a deep wine-red towards the flower tip. The bloom breaks forth on six branchlets, slanting from

(Continued on Page 88)

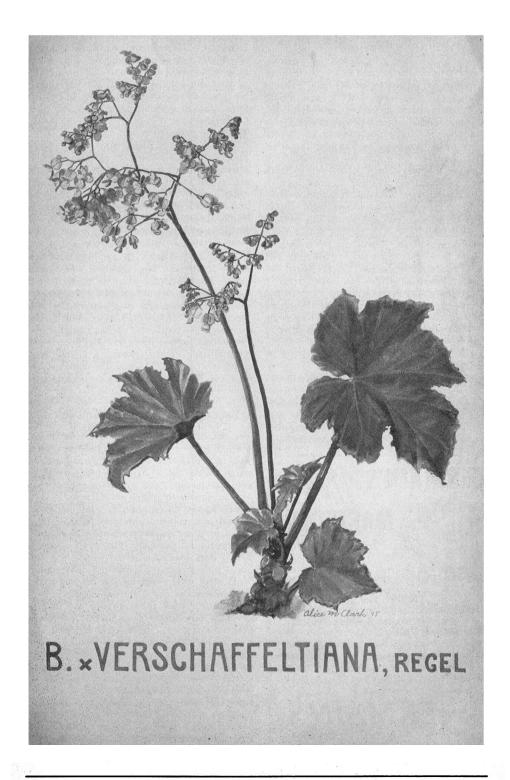
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May, 1945

Tuberous Begonias From Seed

Bu C. D. TANNER, Los Angeles, Calif.

PART III.

(Continued from April BEGONIAN)

· About the latter part of May, they should be ready to plant out, and the soil should have been prepared in advance, with leafmold, soil, manure and bonemeal, with maybe a little cottonseedmeal added right under the rooted tuber cutting or plant at transplanting time. If it is possible to obtain fishmeal, then that is the very finest tid-bit for the tuber to work on through the whole of the flowering period. Therefore in late May, add 1 heaping tablespoon of fishmeal or cottonseedmeal in bottom half of a six-inch pot and use the soil mixture as given for the rest. (Having found some mushroom compost, Frank Reinelt suggested I use 70% oak leafmold, 10% sand and 20% mushroom compost for my potted tuberous begonias. We shall see results.) Water the plants every morning by overhead sprinkling until they get to the blooming stage—then—water them at root-base. careful to keep the soil always moist, but never wet.

Hollywood Branch:

A fine gathering greeted Mr. Herbert Dyckman, speaker of the evening, and Mrs. Dyck-Mrs. Drummond reminded members of the publication of Mrs. Buxton's new book (see Librarian's article) and suggested quick action for those who want the first

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edition . . . through Mrs. Crowder, Librarian. The Branch is offering three prizes for three top winners in membership drive to close on evening of July meeting. (Second Thurs-Mr. Herbert Dyckman, Father and Founder of the A.B.S. spoke on "Propagation of Rex and Fibrous Begonias." Excerpts of his talk will be published in THE BEGONIAN as soon as space permits so that all may benefit thereby.

Whittier Branch:

Mr. Barber, National Representative, reported that his Branch is growing both in number and enthusiasm. The April meeting was scheduled to be entertained and enlightened by Mr. R. A. Nelson, President the A.B.S., and Mr. George Lawrence, Director Public Relations of the Society.

Bellflower Branch:

Note change of meeting day: FIRST TUESDAY of the month, place: Home of Mr. and Mrs. Eshnaur, 932 Flower Street, Bellflower, Calif.

At the April meeting Mrs. Haller gave a very interesting demonstration on the construction of MINIATURE GARDENS, which are so much the vogue, especially for the housewife who loves flowers in the home, yet has little or no time to keep fresh bouquets in condition. These dish-gardens furnish the living plant in interesting arrangement with a minimum of care and attention.

Begonia X Verschaffeltiana Regel

(Continued from Page 86) one side of the stem. They are much ramified and become lighter as the dark pink buds puff into lilac-rose flowers. Normally there seems to be one staminate between two pistillate blooms, and, in every cluster, one of the former is more conspicuous. female flowers go on growing while the twin, quarter-inch petals of the male fall off in a few days after they have exposed the flat, vellow brush of stamen. The ovary, usually a half-inch long, has three wings, the top one a little larger and rosier than the others. Two small oval petals disclose the stigma in three yellow, extended antlers.

Rightly grown in a massed bed in the ground, Verschaffeltiana makes a fine color poem for Spring. The long, rhizome-like stalk should be cut up and used for new plants each year. This would also enable one to use the space for other begonias in the Sum-What do you do with these large lovelies in an Eastern glass-house? Probably you skip them and go outside and sniff the lilacs on a heavenly day in May. This San Diegan would trade for a whiff of that nosegay. Is heresy creeping into THE BEGONIAN? No, just nostalgia!

Eastern Begonia Problems - Some Suggestions

By LILY BOYSEN, Glenside, Penn.

• Begonia lovers in the East understand Mrs. Kartack's problems perfectly. I, too, have looked for the solution to my difficulties in The Begonian in vain, but I know the answers cannot come from Western members whose growing conditions are so different.

Last Summer I conquered the muddy foliage problem nicely. In our small front lawn we have a tall maple tree with quite a spread which gives shelter from strong sun without interfering with good air circulation.

Our front steps are concrete and measured about ten feet from end to end and are walled up at either end with the wall just a trifle higher than the steps with a concrete slab top to it. It suddenly occurred to me that those steps were THE PLACE. My pets would not get dirty, the walls protected them against winds and the tree against the sun. I loaded each side with as many begonias as could comfortably be placed, leaving only enough room to go up and down.

The result was beyond expectations. The begonias flourished as never before and were so attractive that passers-by would stop to admire them. Since the steps could not accommodate my entire collection, my husband devised a temporary arrangement by placing a large flat on horses between shrubs on the north side of the house. The flat was five inches deep, six feet long and three feet wide.

Still, I had begonias without a parking place, so Hubby built small platforms that I could easily shift about at will. These were just short pieces of 3" x 4" with slats across made from odds and ends of lumber. Not fancy, but they did keep my begonias from getting muddy. That solved my Summer problem fairly well but I'm not successful in the Winter.

Every begonia I bring indoors becomes spindly. If I keep the temperature where the begonias like it—the family feels cold. So I tote them into our small greenhouse which my husband has filled with cacti. In there they are so crowded that their lower leaves are lost and by Spring they look like telegraph poles.

The only begonias I succeed with during the Winter months are the gogoensis and imperialis. These are grown in ordinary fish aquariums and covered with a glass leaving a one-inch ventilation opening. The edges of the glass cover are bound with adhesive tape for safety in handling.

The aquariums are set directly on the radiator covers. The bottom of each aquarium is covered with a two-inch layer of peat moss which is kept moist all the time. In this way is created the moist atmosphere these two plants seem to love. Sometimes the glass is so steamed I can't see into the aquarium.

The Summer months troubled me with these plants until I placed the aquariums on the step slabs at the front door and it worked perfectly. I kept them covered as I did indoors and the results were gratifying. Occasionally a leaf would turn brown around the edges where it touched the glass. These leaves seem to resent touching anything. I cut them off and trimmed the leaves leaving a circular piece two inches in diameter and a stem two inches long. These I planted in the peat covering the stem right up to the leaf, just to see what would happen.

In about two months I was delighted to find tiny plants peeping through the peat. When the new leaves were about half an inch long I transplanted them to pots and set the pots back in the aquarium. In this way I have raised about fourteen imperialis and countless gogoensis. The imperialis never gives me any trouble. My original plant measures twelve inches across with foliage $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". In order to get size I sacrificed blossoms.

It hurt to break off the tiny blooms but I'm not sorry now. Gogoensis, on the other hand, oftentimes "acts up." I no longer have the original plant, but thanks to my leaf cuttings, I always have another to carry on.

Can someone tell me WHY A BEAUTI-FUL GOGOENSIS SUDENLY LOSES ITS FOLIAGE AND GIVES UP THE GHOST? I can raise them to a glorious size and then woe is me.

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This is a corner that has a little more shade but enough light is allowed to get through to the tall flowering begonias on the right front to make the flowers develop their full color value. Note the luxuriousness of the leafage on the rexes, particularly the A. D. Davis on the right of the path in front of the tall B. angularis.

Promised Pictures from Mrs. Hazel Grigsby By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, Calif.

• We were a long time getting pictures from Hazel Grigsby, but everyone must admit, that when she let us have them, they were good ones. If anyone has better to show . . . we are looking for them and are willing to be liberal with our space as with these last three issues. We know that Mrs. Grigsby is plan-

ning improvements when the right time comes after "V" day . . . but in the meantime we hope that these pictures will continue to inspire you to keep on growing all the lovely begonias and shade plants you can house nicely.

Notice the fact that the top of the lathhouse



Eastern window. The view on the outside is very attractive with many varieties of fuchsias, adding color to the already very nice setting.

is covered with muslin, which, in Gardena, Calif., is rather necessary, due to the heat of summer, plus the westerly winds that blow every afternoon. (Actually a sea-breeze, as the ocean is not very far away.)

The pot hanging left-center of the window is Begonia weltoniensis rosea. On the edge of the window is the B. glaucophylla scandens which carries salmon flowers with white edge. On the left of that, in the corner, is a pot with a fine plant of B. foliosa, flanked on the left again with the prize-winning B. glauco-

phylla scandens. Tied to the post on the left is a lovely plant of B. angularis (zebrina), and below it is a fine clump of B. Sunderbruchi with a pot of B. evansiana right in front of it.

To the right we see how well ferns intermix with rex begonias. Overhead pots are hung with Ceropegia woodi (the Heart Vine). We like this type of break in the expanse of lath, and while this is one way of getting extra light as well as added interest,

(Continued on Page 93)

Inglewood Branch:

The meeting of April 12th was a very important and successful one. The amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were approved subject to the approval of the Executive Board of The National Society. speakers of the evening were chosen from the members. They provided a most entertaining and instructive evening. Clarissa Harris, who is not only one of the charter members, but also Seed Administrator for the A.B.S. and president of The Los Angeles Garden Club is an accepted authority on Begonias and Saint Paulia Violets. She chose as her subject for the evening: Begonia incarnata, which she recommends very highly as a decorative plant. She also stressed the importance of the amateur continuing the growing and propagation of begonias as never before because the Nurseries are too busy to propagate and the labor problem renders it impossible for them to carry all the types of begonias as they did. We must try to maintain the strong representation of as many species and hybrids as we can in our gardens until normal times are here again.

Mr. Fasmer, former president, gave a very clear word picture of Begonia Richard Robinson. He drew attention to the article in the September 1944 BEGONIAN which deals with this begonia, but we hope to have ALL THREE papers published in THE BEGONIAN, for those who will be interested in reading them.

The third speaker was Fire-Chief Wiltse of Redondo Beach who brought some very nice plants of the STREPTOCARPUS for the plant sale table. Although we are all familiar with this lovely plant, Mr. Wiltse made it seem so easy to grow that he increased our enthusiasm for the plant greatly.

The May meeting will be entertained by Mr. Merril Thompson through the courtesy of The Destruxol Corporation Ltd., with his sound film on plant growth and function. This is to be a gala meeting in honor of the charter members of the Inglewood Branch of The American Begonia Society.

A revised list of the officers follows: President: Mr. J. S. Robson, Vice-President: Mr. C. D. Tanner, Secretary: Mrs. Fred Witman, Treasurer: Mrs. L. E. Grouell, National Representative: Mr. Murray Minehart, Executive Board Member: Mr. Earl Wiltse, Plant Sale Chairman: Mr. L. R. Schirmer, Program Chairman: Mr. H. T. Dressell, Registrar: Mrs. Laura Crandall, Flower Show Chairman: Mrs. Leah P. Cella.

San Diego Branch:

It was demonstrated at the March meeting that even soldiering cannot dim the love

of beautiful plants, for Captain H. B. Breeding of the coast artillery, Ft. Rosecrans, showed his collection of colored slides of wild flowers of the eastern and western United States as well as begonias. Flowers of the woods and plains that aren't found just anywhere, the kinds that don't get into collections were the ones he filmed. He knew their names too.

There was a warm welcome for Wm. Ross of Glendale with the wealth of begonia lore that he is always so willing to share. demonstrated how to propagate Rex begonias from leaves. One simple way is to take quite a large leaf, placing it flat on the soil. Then take a small flower pot with a growing plant in it and press firmly into the large leaf, coming to rest at the base of the leaf and bisecting the veins. When you water the plant some of the moisture seeps to the big leaf and small plants will form all along the edge of the flower pot. Cutting up leaves into small segments, each with a good vein and placing them in flats at a slight angle will yield many plants too. use a very sharp razor blade or knife, because ragged edges lead to rot. He said that gardenias should be planted in pure leaf mold and every forty-five days give them a handful of blood meal along the ends of the root Cut blossoms before noon. planting shrubs or trees, make a square hole instead of a round one and the roots will never ball up and let the plant die.

Mrs. J. A. Hegel reported that R. H. Calvin told her that his hanging basket tuberous begonias produced many tiny tubers at the base of the old tuber.

A social hour followed the plant sale and the blooming Camellia that the Carltons of the Reynard Way Camellia gardens donated brought in a tidy sum.

Note: Meetings are held on every FOURTH MONDAY of the month.

ARE YOU GROWING BEGONIAS FROM SEED? TELL US ABOUT IT

By THE EDITOR

• It would be of invaluable help to every member of this Society to hear of your success—in the raising of the various begonias from seed. What has been your best method? What have been your greatest mistakes? What is the best time—in your opinion—for the planting of the various seeds?

The growing of tuberous rooted begonias at this time should be conducted with keen observation and details should be recorded for your report to the Editor for publication.

Don't be shy or too modest, for seldom can you give something without receiving much in return.



Apart from being a dramatic spot for the Rex Begonia, Lord Rothschild, ("Fireflush"), this picture again points out the value of hanging plants that give lacyness to the upper strata of space. The outside walls of the lathhouses are banked with plants and the center beds are mounted with shelves which are practically covered with the many and various plants.

Pictures From Mrs. Grigsby

(Continued from Page 91)

there are many other versions possible, limited only by ingenuity and imagination.

Turning from the eastern window light to the western darker shadows, we see various rexes with fibrous begonias, the latter heavy with clusters of bloom from the Rubrapink and corallina which have intermingled their flowers. Pushing through the lath and the cloth cover is a strong plant of B. angularis (zebrina). The roof is eight feet high, which will give our readers an idea of the size of the plant. On the ground, right in front of it, is a fine specimen of B. rex A. D. Davis.

A full face view of the window with "Fireflush." B. Lord Rothschild, which, in spite of its liking for a fairly dark corner, is doing beautifully and shows off most color-

fully with the haze of red-hair which trap the light intriguingly. The pots hanging from the roof are Kenilworth Ivy (cymbalaria muralis), and Heart Vine (Ceropegia woodi). To the right is the twining stem of the Stephanotis, already mentioned in March.

All the plants have a fine, healthy look. There are so many pots everywhere that we wonder how Mrs. Grigsby can manage to water them all consistently, maintain the necessary humidity and keep up with the hundred and one things to be done besides propagating the hundreds of little ones she loves to see grow. Her BIG HELP is a splendid family, all of whom seem to love working around these lath-houses amongst the ever-fascinating and beckoning plants. Don't forget Mrs. Grigsby's challenge.

These picture might also be considered a challenge. Send us yours. They will help you and others.

San Francisco Branch:

A letter from Harry F. O'Donnell, President of this Branch proposed obtaining literature of The American Begonia Society that could be distributed at the various Nurseries in the Bay Region so that all people interested in the extraordinary beauty of the tuberous begonia might learn where the various groups are meeting and likewise, become enthusiastic followers of the Royal Hobby. The March meeting was memorable for the splendid talk given by Dr. Richard S. French, Superintendent of the California School for the Blind, who grows some 4000 seedlings per year of the tuberous begonias as a hobby. He covered the subject from the beginning to the present astounding development as presented by Saturday Evening Post recently. Dr. French dwelt on the importance of soil mixtures, composts, feeding, propagation, and selection, light and shade, disease etc., in fact, one of the very finest talks ever presented to this group.

The San Francisco Flower Show scheduled for August 29th and 30th, 1945 at the City Hall will combine the efforts of The Begonia, The Dahlia, The Fuchsia and The Rose Societies. Mark these dates in your Calendar, lucky people who live close enough to enjoy it.

Mr. O'Donnell mentions the fact that Rex begonias are very scarce in San Francisco. It seems as though the North and the South ought to get together on this subject.

Mrs. Ferrero sends word that the April meeting was rendered interesting with Mr. Glenn T. Mack, (Executive Secretary of The San Francisco Flower Show) as speaker on Dahlias. Mr. Mack demonstrated the manner in which Dahlia roots should be separated and told how they should be planted and cultivated in the Bay region. He also gave a demonstration on the propagation of Tuberous-rooted begonias by cutting the tubers.

This Branch meets every FIRST WED-NESDAY of the month.

California Heights Branch:

The March meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Starr was a successful and interesting affair. The evening was mainly devoted to making plans for the forthcoming RUMMAGE SALE to be held in Long Beach on June 6th. This Branch is welcoming new members gladly, and the plan of meeting at private homes makes the evening The April meeting was more interesting. scheduled for the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Bowers in Long Beach, the MAY meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith, on May 11th, for a "COV-ERED-DISH DINNER." This Branch has

FLASH FROM THE LIBRARIAN!

 Good news! The new edition of Bessie Buxton's "Begonias and How to Grow Them" is announced for publication sometime in May by the Oxford University Press.

This book should be bigger and better in every way for corrections have been made, additional information given, new begonias described and new and more illustrations added. The price will be \$1.75.

The Oxford Press announcement says: "This book, written by an outstanding authority in the field, includes all phases of cultivation for all varieties of begonias. Following an introductory chapter, which stretches the the history of the begonia in America, the author discusses in detail many of the more than two hundred varieties of begonias, describing their appearance, conditions under which they can best be grown, and supplying much interesting information as to their his-Separate chapters are devoted to soils and fertilizers; seed-sowing methods; propagation from cuttings; and pests and diseases. An appendix lists all species with their habitat and date of discovery. "Begonias and How to Grow Them" is issued under the auspices of The Massachusetts Horticultural Society."

The librarian is preparing to handle personal orders for this book when it is more convenient for members to buy it through the A.B.S. library. Due to the paper shortage the printing may not be sufficient for all demands so send in your order early to Mrs. J. W. Crowder, Librarian American Begonia Society, 1857 W. 166th St., Gardena, Calif

made a substantial donation to the American Red Cross.

Long Beach Parent Chapter:

March: H. B. Dyckman spoke on "The Dirt Under Our Feet," a most helpful talk, which gave his listeners a fine working knowledge of their soil.

Arrangements were made for Dr. N. D. Dunkle of Long Beach to give an illustrated lecture on wild flowers at the April meeting, too late for a report to be sent to THE BEGONIAN. We hope to have it for the next issue.

Pasadena Branch:

This group was greatly interested in the fine pictures and lecture given by Neil Campbell of BETTER GARDENS, San Marino.

The next meeting will be held in the lovely hillside home and garden of Col. and Mrs. Gale. It will be a POT-LUCK dinner meeting. Mrs. Maria Wilkes will be speaker of the evening.

Please see change of meeting place and time.—The A. B. S. Board.

Chlorosis and Deticiencies

By DR. W. C. DRUMMOND, Hollywood, Calif.

PART I

- I became interested in the peculiar leaf discoloration and lack of vigor in certain of my plants since moving into my present location. At first I thought them diseased, then by chance, I saw them respond to a complete fertilizer. So I became interested in deficiencies and chlorosis, and secured literature from the various State departments. I asked questions and read books and tried out adding various nutrient elements separately to the plants. The following are the results of my findings. This paper is written to call attention to, and to help correct chlorosis and deficiencies.
- 1. It is not intended as a complete remedy for too much sodium salts in the soil, or water, over alkalinity; or acidity of the soil; or as a complete guide to fertilizer; although one must touch on most of these subjects to correct chlorosis. I have intentionally omitted many things vital to the growth of plants, but which do not pertain to chlorosis, and deficiencies. I have probably over-emphasized some things which are so vital to the growth of shade plants here in the west, where the soil is so devoid of humus and the small rainfall tends to over-concentration of mineral salts, creating alkalinity. I have made several statements regarding soil reaction with special reference to iron, aluminum, calcium, and phosphorus, which at first seem confusing. Yet such is this complicated subject. For one example I am telling you to keep your soil acid for certain shade plants, and almost in the same breath telling you the phosphorus becomes insoluble if the soil is too acid or too alkaline.
- 2. In writing this paper I have tried to correlate the facts as I found them, adding a few personal experiences. I have received much

- benefit from this writing and am trying to pass what I have found on to you.
- Chlorosis is the yellowing (or other coloring) of the whole or part of the leaf of the plant, and plants are said to be chlorosed or chlorotic when the leaves turn yellow. In a restricted sense, chlorosis included the yellowing only of the leaf. In a broader interpretation it includes any discoloring of the plant leaf from any cause, such as malnutrition, insect attack, virus disease or environmental conditions. Under these conditions the leaf color may vary from pale green, dark green, yellow green to yellow to white, or it may have a thin appearance that one can almost see through, with only a trace of green. It may be partly green with red margins. It may be light green with well defined small green spots, as though it were lightly sprayed. The leaf may be mottled. The older leaves may be green near the petiole (the petiole is the leaf attachment or stem) turning yellow away and out from the base, with leaf margins brown and worn and weathered away as in the case of extreme and prolonged potash deficiency (explained later). Certain of our plants are prone to turn brown around the margins of the leaf such as brunfelsias (the yesterday and today plant). The leaves of some of our plants such as corn and banana become striped with white, light yellow, or even a tinge of red. Other plant leaves become checkered as when attacked by virus, or some not too well known deficiency. leaves of some plants when attacked by thrips and red spider take on a silvery sheen, such as the Rhododendron and Azalea. Aphids and scale give the leaf an off color. We must recognize here that in this case it is not a deficiency (a lack of nutrition).

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Pasadena, California

The platanus or sycamores along the coast in California develop leaf spots which might be confused with a deficiency. This disease is caused by a fungus. For those interested, see Hilgardia, Volume 14, November 4, 1941. Univ. of Calif.

In all these cases the leaf of the plant is telling us something is wrong. Many times the discoloration is so slight, so small, that we pass over it thinking nothing is wrong. Sometimes when too much potassium is used the leaves become quite green and much smaller than normal.

The causes of chlorosis are not always so easily recognized when viewing plants grown in the garden. If we knew what they had been fed, what was in the soil, and the pH of the soil (explained later) etc., it would be easy to tell the cause. Much of the literature on this subject, particularly of flowering plants, are descriptions of symptoms brought on by intentional deficiencies of nutrients to the plant. When field grown plants, with peculiar leaf markings are suspected of being grown in soil deficient of some element, they are then grown in the greenhouse (or outside) with a nutrient solution deficient in the suspected element, and with all the other elements in a normal supply. By this method deficient elements in the soil are found out. and corrected.

In comparing the symptoms, scientists have been able to tell us many things which have

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worked wonders with our crops. Such disease as mottled leaf, and a condition known as multiple bud and "little leaf" of citrus trees and "Rosette-ing" of pecan and apple trees have all been worked out this way. Water culture, chemiculture, hypdroponics, soilless gardening, or whatever name you care to call it, has been a great help in discovering the answer to many of these questions. Just as the microscope told us of bacteria so has water culture told us of plant deficiencies. The chemical analysis of the various plant parts will help tell us of the deficient element or elements, except where chlorosis is caused by environment. Chlorosis is in most instances progressive. At first the leaf may be only a little off green only later to turn yellow or white. In many instances the symptoms of one cause are identical with another cause at certain stages, while in an earlier or later state there is quite a distinction. In some instances it is the older leaves which are chlorotic as in magnesia and nitrogen deficiency, The distinction here lies in that with magnesium deficiency the areas between the veins become quite chlorotic while the vein remains green. In nitrogen deficiency the whole of the leaf becomes chlorotic. Different species are often affected differently by the same cause. In the case of the begonia the leaf loses some of its green and turns partly red, not the yellow of Gardenia in nitrogen deficiency.

REFERENCES

- 1. It is not the intention or purpose of this review to discuss animal nutrition, although plant deficiencies create animal deficiencies. Nor to discuss plant physiology, or the culture of plants, except only as they are related to chlorosis.
- 2. Campbell Soup Co., Bulletin No. 1 tells of the unavailability of phosphorus in acid soils. Page 193 of Soils and Fertilizers, by Firman Bear tells of soil fixation of certain elements in acid soils. Page 302, Nature and Properties of Soils by Lyon and Buckman 1943, tells of the pH range where phosphorus is available. Page 288 Fertilizer and Crop Production, by Van Slyke 1939 gives the availability of most elements.
- 3. Chlorosis, yellowing of plants, Cause and Control, by F. B. Wann, 1930; Utah Agri. Expt. Stations Cir. 85; Treatment of lime induced Chlorosis with iron salts by J. P. Bennett, University of Calif. Circular 321; Manganese Sulphate as a corrective for chlorosis of certain ornamental plants, by R. D. Dickey & Walter Renther 1938 Bulletin 319. Florida Agri. Expt. Station.

(To be continued)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Bu MRS. RUSSEL T. BAILEY

Q. I am very much afraid that the hard water which I am forced to use to water my Begonias and other house plants, is injuring my plants. I have read that, when you don't have soft water, aluminum sulfate or alum may be used in the water. If this can be used in place of soft water and not do any harm, will you please tell me how much to mix with a gallon of water.

From Mrs. J. R. B., Hastings, Neb.

A. There is a very interesting article on Water by Rudolf Ziesenhenne in the March, April, and May, 1942, Begonians. In it he says, "To rid the water of 'hardness,' one can dissolve ½ ounce of super-saturated alum into a gallon of water and, after it has been allowed to stand, use the clear solution at the top to water the plants. The whitish deposit in the bottom is the alkali precipitant and should not be used on the plants."

The Local County Farm Advisor's office advised that you have your water tested and an actual "prescription" worked out for your particular case, as too much of a softening agent is just as dangerous as too little. They

Begonia in the Pacific Islands

(Continued from Page 83)

Usually mature fruits may be secured at almost any season of the year. Should they send Begonia seeds they should be urged to jot down brief notes as to the growing conditions under which the plants thrive in nature, as a guide to cultural conditions under glass at home. Naturally, most of the species being strictly tropical ones, they can be expected to thrive only under conditions where artificial heat is available, and for the majority of the species constant moisture and high humidity.

particularly advised caution in the use of aluminum sulphate.

Many people gather rain water and use it for the regular watering of their house plants. Results are well worth the trouble. See also, Branch News, Suggestions under The Long Beach Parent Branch.

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CONDENSED MINUTES, NATIONAL BOARD, A.B.S. Meeting Held Monday, March 26th, at Clifton's Cafeteria, 648 S. Broadway, Los Angeles

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with President Nelson in the Chair. Board members present: Hart, Hawkins, Dr. Dunkle, Nelson, Lawrence, Mesdames Wilkes, Clark, Hartwell, Weber, Crowder and Harris.

Branch Representatives and guests: Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Dewar, Mr. Bailey, Capt. Deere, Dr. and Mrs. Lauder, Mrs. Bayer, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Barber (Whittier Branch), Mrs. Marie Gross (San Bernardino), and Mr. Clark. Minutes meeting Feb. 26th read and approved as read.

REPORTS

Reports were read by Treasurer, Editor and Business Manager, Membership Fees Chairman, and on motion accepted as read and ordered filed as part of minutes.

Librarian Mrs. Crowder reported the new issue of the Bessie Buxton Book on Begonias would be out in May and she has placed an order for 200 to start with. When same is received she will be able to take care of orders from the various members and when the supply is exhausted, will order more. The book will retail at \$1.75 and she asked that the Representative Directors take the message back to their Branches and that each Branch send in their orders as promptly as possible. Reported interest in Library good and books circulating all the time. Is also adding to the material from time

Robinson Memorial: Branches sending in their checks quite regularly. Plants coming along nicely and I think this spring things will be looking very well. The boys are propagating a number of plants and they will be needing leaf molds. etc., to repot the plants.

Seed Fund, Mrs. Harris-

 $^{\prime\prime}I$ am still getting subscriptions for seed but I have none. Am contacting various sources and hope to get some seed. $^{\prime\prime}$

Following is a list of Directors, and the Branch they represented, attending the Board meeting, and each in turn gave a very good report of continued interest, good speakers, increasing membership and attendance, and good plant sales.

Mrs. Dewar for Glendale Branch-123 paid up members.

Mrs. Drummond for Hollywood-Mr. Dyckman to be their April speaker.

Mrs. Clark substituting for Director Minehart, for Inglewood Branch.

Mr. Bailey for Pasadena .

Capt. Deere for San Gabriel Valley Branch.

Mr. Barber for Whittier Branch: "We have been having very good meetings; Whittier Branch is going ahead in good shape and we have good speakers; Mr. Nelson and Mr. Lawrence will be our guests at our next meeting.

Membership Fees Chairman instructed to send to the Branches desiring them, a supply of "Applications for Membership" leaflets as there seemed to be considerable interest in the A.B.S. specially with reference to the Tuberous Begonias

Editor felt we should have at least 2500 Begonians printed for May. So ordered.

Secretary instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Bob Anderson for many favors received and much publicity.

President Nelson appointed Messrs Hart, Hawkins and Hall as an Executive Committee to pass on matters that might come up between meet-ings and need prompt attention.

Members present agreed that the new meeting place was satisfactory and it was agreed to hold the April meeting in this same room. Watch your Begonian for later changes.

No further business, meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
GONDA HARTWELL, Corres. Sec.

Please note change of Board Meeting Place -Calendar.

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 May American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in the Directors' Room, at Retail Merchants' Credit Association Offices, 417 S. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, May 28, 1945, at 7:30 p.m.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Eshnaur's home at 932 Flower St. Bellflower, Calif. Mrs. Ardel Radle, Sec.-Treas. 920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m.

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

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, May 2nd, 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, May 3rd

College Hall, Santa Ana J. C. 917 N. Maine St. Santa Ana, Calif. Laurance Archibald, Secretary 1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Monday, May 7th, 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19 Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif. Mrs. G. E. Polentz, Sec.-Treas. 1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, May 8th, 6:30 p.m.

Home: Col. and Mrs. Gale, 40 N. San Rafael Speaker: Maria Wilkes Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas. 668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, May 8th, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas. 3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, May 10th, 8 p.m.

Woman's Club of Inglewood 325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary 3856 W. 27th St.,Los Angeles 16, Calif. Speaker: Mr. Merrill Thompson Subject: Sound Films on Plant Growth & Function

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, May 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secretary 3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, May 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith 250 E. Home Street, Long Beach Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas. 4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, May 14th, 8 p.m.

42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secretary 169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, May 16th, 7:30 p.m. Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave. Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas. 324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

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

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, May 20th, 2:30 p.m.

Home of Mrs. Wm. Ahrens 1323 Oxford Street, Berkeley, Calif. Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary 155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, May 21st Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas. 7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, May 22nd

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, May 22nd, 8:00 p.m. 329 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif. Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary 958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, May 25th, 10:30 a.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 DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, May 28th, 7:30 p.m. Hard of Hearing Hall 3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif. Mrs. George S. Breidford, Sec.-Treas. 1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, May 25th, 8:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Sreet, Alhambra, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes
Subject: Composting for Health and Beauty

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

Thelma Sommerfield, Secretary 210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. David Finley, Secretary New Canaan, Conn.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

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