

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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The BEGONIAN

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Anent the New Year of A.B.S.

"The wheel of time rolls downward through various changes."—By Silius Italicus. *Punica VI, 121.*

"At the threshold of another year of American Begonia Society activities, we like to look backward upon all the fine things already achieved and the splendid men and women who put them into effect. It is thrilling to go to an annual meeting to see the happiness in reunion of so many of the enthusiasts who are led by one desire. It is wonderful to have dreams of better things to be—as we look ahead still with a hand in that of the past officers, and pushing forward, peering into the future to gauge our power and strength, hoping that some of the dreams may be realized, but leave a flame burning for others to carry on."

These are the thoughts that flew through

my mind while Past-President Arthur Nelson spoke as he relinquished his office to the new president, Harold Hart.

After nearly four years as editor of this little paper, I feel I am just at the beginning.

All that has been done I owe to our fine members, all I hope to do, I look to you to pass on to me. Let us go forward hand in hand with ambition and courage.

Your Editor,

MARIA WILKES.

Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec'y.-Treas., Riverside, Calif., Branch, announced the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the branch on Sept. 11th, at the home of Mrs. T. E. Topham, who is always so generous in entertaining friends and members in her beautiful patio garden.

Soil Chemistry

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

• Soil chemistry has so much to do with deficiencies, and Chlorosis that it seems a few words calling attention to this vital subject may not be out of place. For instance we have iron deficiency when the soil contains tons of iron. It shall not be the purpose of this paper to try to teach soil chemistry, but to call attention to certain outstanding points so that you can go ahead and study and learn for yourself.

Chemistry has not stood still, when I first studied chemistry only 67 elements were described. At that time the atom was said to be the smallest possible particle of matter. Today we are making use of the splitting of that atom. Soil chemistry has not stood still either. I am discarding some two dozens of my old books as obsolete. Books telling of liming western soils to release the soil elements, etc.

It is true many people grow beautiful potted plants—they prepare their soil in such a way as to produce marvelous results, without any chemical knowledge; yet others, complain of too much alkali in the soil and water. Chemistry plays a part in all this.

Soil chemistry is a large and complicated subject. To get fully into that subject would be beyond the scope of this short paper. Nevertheless there are a few things we might talk about. Books and Base Exchange. For instance, a good book on soil chemistry would be 400 to 500 pages, it should be a book of recent publication, and would include such subjects as: Water in the soil; kind of water, hard or soft; salinity; reaction, the amount of alkali or acid; soils, their origin and classification; biological processes of the soil, bacteria, fungi, etc.; air in the soil, including oxygen, carbon dioxide and other gases. Organic matter, humus, colloids, minerals, etc.; and many other subjects. So we shall not attempt to go into all of this here.

For those interested then, here are the names of a few good books I should like to recommend. Soils and Fertilizers, 3rd edition 1943, by Dr. F. E. Bear, John Wiley & Sons, \$3.50. The Nature and Properties of Soil by Dr. T. L. Lyon & Dr. H. O. Buckman, 1943, MacMillan & Co., \$3.50. Also an older book now out of print, but to be reprinted soon, Fertilizers and Crop Production, by Van Slyke, Orange Judd Co., \$4.00. There are many others. All these books are worth owning, studying, reading and re-reading. The above books are not novels.

They are reference books, more or less technical. They are written by our country's best men.

Base Exchange

Soils normally contain sufficient of the mineral elements for plant growth for many years. Why then are we adding fertilizers? Well, naturally some of the soluble nutrients become depleted by leaching as does calcium and magnesium in the Eastern humid part of the U. S. Growing crops are continually removing part of these elements as food. But the large part of the soil nutrients are not soluble in the soil solution, they are therefore unavailable to the plant. Plant foods may be insoluble because they are tied up chemically as in native rock or tied up chemically in an insoluble form such as Iron Phosphate. They may be insoluble because they are attracted to the soil colloids. The solubility of certain elements such as iron and manganese, etc., is often much affected by the acidity or alkalinity of the soil solution. Many base elements such as potassium, sodium, calcium and magnesium, are held by the clay and soil colloids, they are then out of the soil solution, their assimilation by plants; then, are much retarded. Under certain conditions these soil colloids release these bases. This trading and releasing by the soil colloids release these bases. This trading and releasing by the soil colloids is called *Base Exchange*, more properly or *ionic exchange*. (It is expected to go into the story of colloids later.) These colloids act as a store house for soil nutrients, and without this action our soil would be quite infertile, our gardening, then, would be the same as sand or water culture. Soil scientists tell us that this action of the soil colloids is next to importance chemically to photosynthesis and we know that without photosynthesis we could not exist. Base exchange then is the most important chemical action of the soil.

So to go back to these soil colloids we find they are acid, that is, negative chemically. These negative colloids attracting and absorbing the positive, or alkali, base elements, such as potassium, sodium, calcium magnesium and also ammonia, which is basic, from the soil solution. The question comes then how can we release these bases once they are attached to the colloids. This is affected by the trading of the hydrogen ion to the colloid for the base element, and that is best affected by

(Continued on Page 196)



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AT GARDEN SUPPLY DEALERS

Fuchsias, Their Care Through the Year

By IRENE NANCE, of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura, Calif.

At the July meeting, one of our members, Francis W. Sprenkle, spoke on "Fuchsias," pointing out the different varieties as he discussed them, having 48 blooms mounted on a white background. Included were the trailers:

Butterfly, Victory, Cascade, Lady Margaret, Henry Poincare, America.

And the uprights:

Gypsy Queen, Patty Evans, Harlequin, Constance, Otto, Mary Beth.

Sprenkle has around a hundred varieties in his garden including the Brentwood which is all white except the pink tips of the stamens.

For all fuchsias he advises plenty of pruning, cutting away all unsymmetrical growth any time of the year. When planting a cutting he cuts between the joints at about a 45° angle and puts Rootone on the cut to insure growth, especially in summer and fall.

He likes a soil containing quite a lot of leaf mold, and particularly for potting plants with new, tender roots, he uses 2 shovels sand, 2 shovels garden soil, 4 shovels leaf mold.

In moving an old, well-established plant, he adds 2 shovels of steer manure to the above mixture.

When his plants begin to look limp and lifeless, he waters them with Epsom Salts water, 4 ounces to 5 gallons of water two or three times at two-week intervals.

Though self-styled an amateur, Sprenkle's methods are proven successful by the healthy appearance of his well-shaped and profusely blooming plants.

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Greetings

By HAROLD W. HART, President, The American Begonia Society

My only regret in taking office as the president of the American Begonia Society is that I miss the presence of our friend, ex-president, Jack Baily. Mr. Baily passed away just a week before our annual meeting. His untimely death was completely unexpected, and he will be missed by the Begonia fans who knew him and worked with him. I had the pleasure of working under him as treasurer, and I was impressed by the judgment he used in conducting the business meetings and in carrying on the work of the society. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Baily.

I consider it an honor to be your president, and with your help I hope to keep up the high standard of the A. B. S. I also sincerely hope that my efforts will help to promote interest in our hobby and give pleasure to those interested in the art of propagating and the culture of all shade loving plants.

Our Begonia Society has been through a rather trying year with paper shortages affecting the printing of THE BEGONIAN and the necessity of changing publishers. Gasoline rationing has affected our branch meetings, meeting place of the board has had to be changed several times, and our previous membership fees chairman resigned. However, our past president, Art Nelson, has done a fine job and though he now thinks his worries are over, he still has a year to serve as past president, and I shall look to him often for his invaluable help and advice.

I look forward to a good year ahead of us and feel sure of fine cooperation and help from the officers you have elected and from the ones I have appointed. I have not completed my selection at this writing, but I will have them by the next board meeting and their names will appear in the next issue of THE BEGONIAN.

Mrs. Maria Wilkes will continue as Editor and Business Manager of THE BEGONIAN. She has had a difficult time during the war

and has many plans for the improvement of the magazine in the future. The members of the A. B. S. and the readers of THE BEGONIAN can be of invaluable help to her by sending her articles about your favorite subjects and to send her suggestions for the good of the magazine. Remember that others are interested in how you grow your plants, soils and fertilizers you use, etc. She will also be glad to receive constructive criticism.

Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, who has been our secretary for the past few years, has consented to continue for another year.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark, who took over Membership Fees a few months ago, will continue in that capacity.

Mrs. Gladys Bullard, Director of Alfred D. Robinson Memorial.

Mrs. Hazel Drummond, Director of Public Relations.

Mr. George Lawrence, Chairman of Ways and Means Committee and Exhibits and Flower Shows.

I hope that many of you within traveling distance of Los Angeles will make it a practice to attend our board meetings. You will find them interesting and will learn at first hand the many problems of publishing a magazine and running our Begonia Society. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 22, 7:30 p.m., in the Lecture Room of the Los Angeles Public Library, Grand Street entrance.

I will look forward to seeing many of you at that time.

Lest We Forget . . .

By Your Mentor . . . MARIA

SOW IN FLATS: Calceolaria, cineraria, cynoglossum, cyclamen, exacum, heuchera, impatiens, myosotis, nemesia, primulas and trachelium, as well as bedding begonias, geranium incanum.

BULBS: Allium, alstroemeria, callalily, (Continued on Page 196)

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IN MEMORIAM

of John Lawson Baily

John Lawson Baily, descendant of a long line of pioneers who helped to formulate some of its laws through governmental positions, came to the west from Philadelphia twenty-five years ago. For the past fifteen years he was associated with the California Retail Merchants' Credit Association of Los Angeles and quite lately of Pasadena.

Mr. Baily, Jack Baily as everyone knew him, was somewhat shy, rather reticent and retiring but tremendously interested in fostering the love of iris, orchids and begonias, especially begonias and other shade plants.

He spent much of his time for several years in the organization of the San Gabriel Branch of The American Begonia Society, and taking a broader view with the National Society, spent one year as President-Elect, followed by one year as President and then another year as Past-President of the A. B. S.

His interest grew with the years and he hoped to see the time when the net of Begonia Branches would encompass not only United States but much of the English speaking peoples of the world. We hope this will become a reality in the near years to come.

It was in his regime that the Memorial for Alfred D. Robinson was established. It was Jack Baily who inveigled Maria Wilkes to take the responsibility of THE BEGONIAN upon her shoulders, for which experience she will never cease to be grateful.

All who knew Jack Baily admired and respected him and enjoyed his quiet humor.

John Lawson Baily was laid to rest on September 11th, 1945, in Pasadena, California, after a very brief illness. From the legion of friends everywhere, sincerest condolences are sent to Mrs. Helen Baily and Miss Lawson.

The death-change comes.

Death is another life. We bow our heads
At going out, we think, and enter straight
Another golden chamber of the king's,
Larger than this we leave, and lovelier,
And then in shadowy glimpses, disconnect,
The story, flower-like, closes thus its leaves.
The will of God is all in all. He makes,
Destroys, remakes, for his own pleasure, all.

Bailey—Festus. Sc. Home.

Officers for 1945-46 period for the Whittier, Calif., Branch: President, Mr. George A. Barber; Vice-President, Mrs. O. O. Marshburn; Sec'y.-Treas., Mrs. Madeleine Hall; Representative-Director, Mr. Clyde Irwin.

Begonias In New England

By BESSIE R. BUXTON, Peabody, Massachusetts

• When I first began to grow begonias, an old Scotch gardener told me that begonias should be settled in their winter quarters before October first. This proved to be sound advice. So I take cuttings in mid-summer, setting them firmly in flats of half sand and half peat. The flat is then watered and set in a shady spot in the garden, where it will get a little morning sun, and left to the care of Mother Nature. Unless the weather is very hot and dry, and the cuttings begin to droop, the flat will not need watering.

The cuttings will probably be well rooted by mid-August, and should then be potted. My favorite mixture is two parts of good garden loam, one part clean sand, one-half part old cow manure and one-half part leaf mold (generous measure). If any of the New England brethren have a favorite soil mixture, tried and true, will you please send it to me, so that we all may try it?

For a well-rooted cutting of *Corallina Delucerna*, which is a vigorous grower, I use a three-inch pot. For *scandens alba*, *foliosa* or any of the more delicate types, use a smaller pot. After potting and watering, sink the pot in the garden, in a partly shaded place. The dews are heavy during August and September, and the begonias will get a fine start. Watch the thermometer, as the sun sinks, for possible frosts. Or, the radio may warn of coming frost, so the plants can be brought in. In the latitude of Boston, we rarely get frosts before mid-September. By that time, they should be in their winter quarters. Keep the doors and windows open as much as possible, so the plants will get accustomed to indoor air before the winter fires are started.

Water sparingly at first. It is better to keep them a little on the dry side until they show signs of growth. By the time the fires are started, the leaf dropping should be over, although this is not as serious with rooted cuttings as in larger plants which have been lifted.

The change from the cool, moist fall air to heated indoor air is a hard one for the begonias, for they like moist air. Make every effort to humidify the air for them, and lessen their difficulties. Get an airmeter—they cost less than a dollar—and keep the humidity at 50 or over, and the temperature well under 70°. The handsomest Rex begonias I have ever seen in a home are grown in rooms where

the temperature is never over 64°. The owner said "We wear woolens, so the begonias may have the cool air they need." An unheated room suits them well during October.

If you still have a kitchen stove, keep an open dish of water constantly steaming on the stove. The fortunate mortals in the country who have only wood fires have the loveliest begonias that a heart could wish, for the air is always moist. Keep the windows open as much as possible between 10 and 4 p.m. Avoid drafts, always, or the leaves will fall in showers. Use a hand sprayer often, being careful not to let the sun touch wet foliage, or it will blister. Never water plants at night, or "they will sleep cold" as the old lady said. And this, too, will cause leaves to fall. Do not water on rainy days, but admit some of the good, moist air. Since the sun is on its way south, the begonias will stand all they can get, in the morning. The *semperflorens* will thrive in a south window, in full sun, but keep the others in northeast windows.

BEWARE OF DDT sprays for the garden. WAIT until they are perfected, so as not to upset natural balance of insects. As soon as the new insecticides are stabilized the A.B.S. will publish a Pest Control Bulletin.

The Big Four Flower Show of San Francisco

By HARRY F. O'DONNELL, San Francisco

• If possible, the San Francisco Flower Show of the Begonias, Dahlias, Fuchsias and Roses, surpassed those of former years. The Rotunda of the City Hall in the Civic Center was crowded with some 75,000 people during the two days of August 29th and 30th, from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. To add to the atmospheric beauty of the show a thirty-piece orchestra with soloists performed in the evenings. Yes, San Francisco is proud of its flower shows and the people vie with each other enthusiastically in the staging of the exhibits which seem to be thoroughly appreciated by the public. It is gratifying to all members of these four star flower societies to hear from all sides and from visitors of several States, "It was a show to be remembered." So say we all.

More Small Leaved Begonias

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego

• At long last I am able to present another page of small-leaved begonias, to fulfill a promise made when I last wrote about them in THE BEGONIAN for May, 1944.

To avoid confusion, let me begin by reviewing the names of the plants described in my first article, in case some of you do not have it handy. They were *B. foliosa*, *B. floribunda* (multiflora rosea), *B. Lady Waterlow* (Digswelliana), and *B. Ingrami* (Robusta). Those of you who re-marked your plants a year ago will have progressed beyond the translation stage by now. It is my earnest endeavor to further clarify matters by these additional sketches of misnamed plants. Probably, for better comparison, they should have been drawn in ink, like the first ones, but the temptation to use natural color was too great to resist.

B. X Decker's Select seems to be an unknown hybrid. It was listed in the Rosecroft catalog of 1933 as "Improved Robusta," being somewhat like *Ingrami* (called Robusta at that time). Miss Bower tells me that Mr. Decker, one of our begonia fans of some years back, made a trip to Los Angeles and brought this plant from a nursery there. For convenience it was called "Decker's Robusta," though he had nothing to do with its raising, but might be said to have introduced it to San Diego. Because the name "Robusta" belonged to a different plant, the New York Botanical Garden pamphlet of 1939 christened it "Decker's Select," with a detailed botanical description to which you are referred.

For the layman, let me say that Decker's Select has the same tall, bushy, branching habit as *Ingrami*, with similar swollen nodes on the succulent stems but it is only reddish at the joints, a green-brown elsewhere, with long internodes. Some petioles are more than an inch long, reddish and grooved on top. The leaves have the same crisp, shining surface as *Ingrami* but the hairs in the notches are scant and the red tint on the edge is very faint. The center rib is offside and there is a greater flair at the upper part of the wider portion, tapering to a sharp point. The leaf is much larger (sometimes 3 x 1 3/4 inches), a fine deep green on top and paler beneath, with raised veins.

The peduncles of Decker's Select emerge from the axils of the upper leaves. They are 2-3 inches long, darker red than *Ingrami* and stiffer and break into widely divergent forks

of some 16 rosy-red blooms, each. They are mostly in bud but when open, the male has two large ovate petals, pale pink inside, with two narrow incurving ones between. The whole is only 3/4 inch over, less than half as large as *Ingrami*. The female flower has five even, narrow petals, also pink, with long, twice-twisted stigma. It is a free-bloomer in the summer, needs staking or pinching to control its growth.

B. X Digswelliana is an old hybrid developed by W. Early at Digswell, England, from a cross of *B. fuchsiodes* x *B. semperflorens*. According to Kewensis, it was first described by Carr in *Revue Hortic.*, 1865. If this is the same plant described by Chevalier, he thinks that parentage is doubtful. The thick, smooth, shining leaves would certainly suggest *B. nitida*, rather than *B. semperflorens*. Most authorities give *Sandersoni* and *Sandersi* as synonyms. It is listed in the Rosecroft catalog as *Saundersii*, probably because it was always called that in the English magazine, *The Garden*, where it was recommended as a particularly fine pot plant for winter blooming.

B. Digswelliana grows about two feet high, spreading out nicely from the base, branching freely from short internodes. The stems are round, light green and succulent, with half-inch bracts rolled on the sides, pointed and pink-tipped when young, persistent when dried up. The leaves are 2-3 inches long, one-sided, dentate, with small hairs on the edge, pointed oval. They are a bright green on top, grayer beneath, with a touch of red on the toothed margins and only a flush on the inch-long grooved petioles. Almost like *B. fuchsiodes* in color and form, the peduncle is bright red, shorter and with fewer flowers than Decker's Select. Male flowers, which seldom open, have the usual two wide and two narrow petals, a little more than half-an-inch across. The five even female petals, pink inside, are a long, oval shape, an inch over when open, with six almost straight stigma.

B. X Corbeille de Feu has as many names as a Hollywood divorcee. It is a French hybrid of 1891, a cross of *B. semperflorens* x *B. fuchsiodes*. Rosecroft and others listed it as *Bertha de Chateau Rocher* or *Ascotiensis*. Presumably the latter is an English hybrid of the same type. Lemoine obtained several seedlings from this cross, which Chevalier de-

(Continued on Page 194)



B.x Decker's Select



B.x Digswelliana



Alice M. Clark '45

B.x Corbeille de Feu



• Last month we showed a full view of this Danenberg, of 4245 Monroe Street, Los Angeles, California, calls the hanging garden he



Both photos by Weaver Photo Service, Los Angeles, Calif.

has made on the back of a garage of his neighbor. This time we offer pictures with a little

more detail of the return to the front door of the apartment.
(See Next Page)

Symphony Garden

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, California

• The picture on the previous center pages shows the left side—or South—of the corridor garden which is ten feet wide and twenty-five feet long between two double-story apartment houses. It will be seen that there is at high noon, sufficient sunlight with the little that comes over the one-story garage through the morning, to keep the plants hardy and healthy. There is even enough sunshine to make the poinsettia bloom. Among the plants are several specimens of the fibrous, bush-like begonias, rex and semperflorens begonias. There are coleus, varie-

gated and various types of green ivy, palms, ferns, aralias, fancy-leaved caladiums, achyranthes, both the green and the beet-red (listed as *Irisine* in Bailey's), pandanus and dracaenas. The plants that lend themselves to training either as hanging or trellis plants are arranged informally from their various heights on the iron stands provided for them so that while the two beds are only about four feet wide they gain depth by this treatment. The lighting with a little color for the night makes the garden doubly useful and lends a most attractive view to the windows from the apartment that would otherwise look onto bare walls or into next door windows. Indeed, there is a lesson to be learned here.

On this, the North side of the corridor with a little more sunshine than on the left bed, Mr. Danenberg has attained an almost tropical effect. As one turns back from "the stage" on the lower right-hand corner, there is a group of phoenix (*roebeleni*) *humilis loureiri*, a very lacy palm which remains dwarf for years. Next to it the *chlorophytum elatum variegatum* (a mighty name for a pot of ribbon-grass) . . . with the larger leaves of the *fatsia japonica* make a good showing and pick up the sunlight crisply. In the low foreground right center is a nice specimen of a small-leaved coleus. From this group and hung between the two banana trunks begonia flowers meet with dainty color enlivens the whole. Ferns, rex begonias, semperflorens and fibrous types are used again with success, intermingled with ivies and then for accent, a large clump of *aspidistra* leaves.

The avocado tree overhead and the *pitto-sporum tobira* shield the plants from over-much draft, they temper the light so that the warmth engendered by the sun has no chance of burning the leaves of the shade-loving plants and because nearly all the small plants are in pots, Mr. Danenberg can maintain a high humidity through repeated showers of water on the ground, without leaching the soil in the pots.

All Mr. Danenberg needs, to make this a tropical scene, is a clump or two of orchids hanging from the trees or suspended between other plants at which he is quite clever. For a musician of fame, he is a nice garden maker. We hope Emil Danenberg Jr., Professor of Piano at Oberlin College, will receive further inspiration from his dad through these pictures, as many of our readers will, we hope.

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More Small Leaved Begonias

(Continued from Page 188)

scribes in detail, including this one. It is a special pet of mine because it flowers the year around, which must account for its popularity down through the years. About the same height as *B. semperflorens* (16 inches), it has more grace. The seed pods drop off so it is cleaner, blooms longer without cutting back and never looks bedraggled. I chose a larger spray to sketch to give a better idea of its heavy inflorescence.

The stems of *C. de F.* are more slender than *sempreflorens*, slightly reddish with white flecks. The space between the nodes is moderate and the joints are not swollen. The small, white, pointed stipules are the same color as the stems when dry. It branches freely from many upright stalks. The leaves are much like *B. semperflorens* in texture and light green color, but longer in proportion to their width ($2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$) than that parent. They have a neat edge of fine-haired scallops, slightly red on the back margin. The petioles are grooved and pinkish, sometimes an inch long. The leaves are elongated ovals with short points, and parallel veins, indented on top and raised below, like both parents. Because the inflorescence is at the tip of both branches and main stems, there is more color. The peduncles are 2-3 inches, reddish, forked, with about five to six orange red, heart-shaped buds on each branch. The central male flower, about an inch over, opens first. It has two ovate petals, two smaller ones, slightly larger at the incurved tip and a pale yellow brush of stamen. The female blooms, only a half-inch across, develop much later, showing five equal daisy-like petals with three pairs of twisted yellow stigma. The ovary is small and lighter color than the three wings, one of which is larger and darker. All the flower parts are a lovely coral-red inside and out. When the seeds fall off (which is always soon), the peduncle, with its tiny bracts, stays on until it dries up, but it is not too conspicuous.

All three of the begonias I have sketched would do well together—*B. Digswelliana* where you wish a wider, lower plant that covers its base gracefully (fine for a winter hanging basket); *B. Corbeille de Feu* glowing the year around in a bright border and Decker's Select as a background of dark, rich green, with a graceful tangle of cinnamon-heart buds. Use all of the small-leaved types abundantly. They are the easiest to care for, propagate readily and give generous reward for little effort.

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PESTLESS

The A. B. S. Combined Annual Meeting and Picnic

• The day was warm and sunny, clear and inviting, so that the crowds began arriving even before the 2 o'clock opening time. Great interest was evidenced in the large greenhouses by everyone; the palm section, the fern house and the begonia house all linked together with a great corridor that has been a magnificent and gigantic moss wall on the east side in the years past.

This moss wall, at present, is mainly a mass of all kinds of philodendrons with the variety monstrosa a profusion of fruit and bloom. The whole sadly in need of repair.

Something **MUST** be done about the begonia collection that is amassed in memoriam of the dean of begonia men, Alfred D. Robinson. They are not doing as well as they should due to several reasons, and these will be taken in hand by, first of all, enlisting the interest of the Los Angeles Park Dept. officials, with the hope that the once great greenhouses may be reestablished in the manner and condition in keeping with the size of the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Hart, now President of the American Begonia Society, quite incensed over the matter, asked everyone to aid the action by writing his or her personal opinion of the situation to the Park Dept. officials so that these men will see the wisdom of doing the right thing about it immediately, especially because of the winter which will be upon us and without means allocated for heating.

This was possibly the biggest subject discussed at the meeting, which had to be curtailed to a minimum due to a ruling not permitting the use of a public address system. In spite of this, the usual reports were read and even those sitting beyond ear-shot listened as though they heard.

The election of the new officers was a speedy affair for the same reason, with past-president Ferd Neels as installation officer.

Mr. Harold Hart, President of The American Begonia Society; Mr. George Lawrence, President-elect; Mr. Murray Hawkins, Treasurer, and Mrs. Sue McRae, Director for three years.

Mr. J. Stanley Robson then presented Mr. Hart with a specially designed, hand-carved and colored walnut block to simulate a half-size begonia Rex rubina leaf made by himself. He made one for the Inglewood Branch, but this one is better. (The design will be in a future issue of THE BEGONIAN.) The block was graciously received by the president who used it right away.

Mrs. Weber, representing Mrs. W. B. Frey of Santa Barbara, then presented to Mr. Hart for the memorial, a fine specimen plant

of the very new seedling hybrid begonia which will be known as the "Silver-leaved Star type," produced by Mrs. Frey with her crosses of *B. caroliniaefolia*. We hope to get a good picture of it soon with a technical description by way of registration in THE BEGONIAN.

The matter of next year's meeting was left in abeyance pending receipt of invitations which are supposed to be on the way.

The picnic was a very joyous affair and through the kindness of Mr. Frost of the Inglewood Branch, his niece and nephew, Lois and Dick Frost, rendered a fine roundelay of tunes on the accordions as well as a horn and accordion duet.

Already the new officers were discussing plans for action in the coming year of Peace. Credit was given to the past officers for a fine year of work which merits a good follow-up, in which the support of every member is called forth.

The Call of the Tuberous Begonial

• On Aug. 26, The East Bay Branch met at the home of Mr. M. L. Boyd, 1107 Miller St., Berkeley, enjoying his yard and large lath house with many fine tuberous begonias. Each member present carried away a gift from Mr. Boyd of a blooming tuberous begonia seedling and a Bolivianis. The meeting was open to the public as was the lath house, and many visitors called all through the afternoon.

The president, Mrs. Geo. C. Reed named on the nominating committee, Dr. Fred Davis, Chairman; Mrs. P. Dickie and Mrs. Harry Thorpe. Our election will be held at the next meeting.

Ruth Utter, Sec'y.



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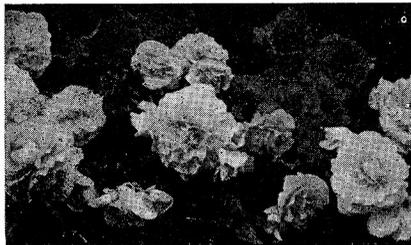
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Soil Chemistry

(Continued from Page 183)

adding large amounts of organic matter as
 compost to the soil. The breaking up of this
 organic matter creates carbon dioxide (CO₂)
 and carbon dioxide when under pressure unites
 with water to form carbonic acid (H₂CO₃).
 This acid in turn easily gives up to its hydro-
 gen which trades or unites with the colloids
 thereby releasing the bases. Hydrogen acts as
 a positive the same as the bases.

The hair roots of the plants come in very
 close contact with these colloids and these
 roots also excrete carbon dioxide, creating car-
 bonic acid. Here again the hydrogen trades
 to the colloids continuing the process and re-
 leasing the bases. These bases can then be
 absorbed by the plants.

This action clearly demonstrates the ad-
 vantage of compost. It takes a long time to
 build up a soil, and some time to properly
 prepare compost. So let's get busy and make
 that compost pile.

References: Memoir 172, Cornell Uni-
 versity, 2-35, Ithaca, N. Y.

Tech. Bull. 228-2-31, U.S.D.A., Wash-
 ington, D. C.

Tech. Bull. 484-12-35, U.S.D.A., Wash-
 ington, D. C.

Tech. Bull. 15-5-27, Univ. of Ariz.,
 Tucson, Ariz.

Tech. Bull. 18-2-28, Univ. of Ariz.,
 Tucson, Ariz.

Lest We Forget . . .

(Continued from Page 185)

clivia, cyclamen, marica, commelina coelestis
 for a bit of pure blue, lillium, muscari,
 scillas, Leucojum vernum, and there are
 others like the So. African lachenalia glaucina
 and L. mutabilis or the gladiolus hirsutus
 and G. namaquensis.

SOW IN SEPTEMBER: Open ground:
 Ageratum, angallis, bellis, cineraria, impatiens,
 myosotis, nemesia, nemophila, primulas and
 schizanthus.

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Ripening of Tuberous Rooted Begonias

• From Mrs. William C. Heginbotham, Butler County, Pa., about 30 miles north of Pittsburgh.

We usually get frost about the middle or last of September. After the first hard frost I lift my tuberous begonias from the ground with as much soil as will cling to the roots and place them in flower crocks or shallow boxes which I place close to the house in order that I may cover them if a hard frost is expected. I find the tubers keep much better if the foliage and the tops are not frozen off too soon. When it gets too cold for them outside, I bring them into the house placing them in a light, sunny room which is seldom used, and do not water them again.

When the tops have died off, I take the tubers out of the ground, shake off all the loose ground, but I do not wash them. They are then spread out on a large pan to dry for a week, or until they seem to be really free of moisture. I then put them, large and small together, in glass jars which are closed tightly with proper lids and the bottles are put away in a lower shelf of the kitchen cupboard which happens to be very cool, but not enough to freeze.

I look at them carefully every week at first, to check any possible moulding, the tubers which cause the trouble are removed very promptly, but this seldom happens as the tubers have enough soil clinging to them to absorb all surplus moisture. I like to see them come out of that bottle firm and plump.

* * *

• From Leon M. Hamburger, Membership Chairman, The Men's Garden Club, Chicago, Ill.

In the *BEGONIAN* for December you ask "How Do You Ripen Begonias." I am happy to answer that question, because I think I really have something.

For years I have been storing Tubers in peat moss, with a resultant loss of anywhere from 20 to 25 per cent. Last year I stored in the same room, but instead of using peat moss, I used shavings.

It occurred to me that peat moss being hygroscopic, might be the cause for this big loss of Tubers. Possibly my theory is right. At any rate, yesterday when I examined the Tubers, I found that my loss was a little under 1 per cent! This is indeed, in my experience, remarkable. Of course, there may be other reasons for this excellent showing,

and probably will not know definitely until another year has rolled around, and I have tried the same treatment.

The question of winter storage of Tubers, particularly in the north, is of utmost importance and something which the experts have not been sufficiently interested in.

* * *

• From H. B. Rooney, San Francisco, Calif.

I notice in the *BEGONIAN* of December you have a question as to how one cures tuberous rooted begonias. I happen to be fortunate enough to live here in the area where tuberous begonias grow right out under my oaks, with no particular care except a sprinkling once a day, or if it gets a little dry, a light sprinkling twice a day. For this reason, I have a large number at the present time. Counting this year's seedlings, there will be about 800 tubers.

I leave my tubers in the ground until about the first of January, then dig them, breaking off the stem roughly and soaking in water until the dirt is thoroughly loosened. I then put them on a screen and wash off with a hose—finishing washing off the dirt carefully with my hands so as not to bruise the tubers—then cut away the stems carefully down to the tuber. I leave them on the screen to dry several days in the sun, sulphur them thoroughly with wettable sulphur and then put them into an unheated storeroom, watching them in the spring until the little pink sprouts start, when I put them into moistened peat moss.

It may have been just luck, but I have had practically no tuber losses and I have some that are five or six years old.

• From Mrs. F. F. Scripps, Pacific Beach, San Diego, Calif.

While I am not as successful as I should like to be in the curing and saving of my tuberous rooted begonias, I shall answer your question and tell you the manner I have found best for me.

(Continued on Page 198)

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Department B

**CONDENSED MINUTES NATIONAL BOARD, A. B. S.
Held in the Lecture Room, Los Angeles Public
Library, August 17th, 1945**

President Nelson presiding.
Board Members present: Nelson, Hall, Hart, Hawkins; Mesdames Wilkes, Poole, Clark and Hartwell.

Representative Directors and guests: Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Dyckman, Mr. and Mrs. Christenson, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Bayer, Mrs. Dewar, Mr. Bailey, Capt. Deere.

Introduction of guests.
Minutes meeting July 23rd read and approved, with correction.

Reports of Treasurer, Membership Fees Chairman, Editor and Business Manager, read; on motion approved as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Mr. Hart reported on the Robinson Memorial: "Things don't look too good; hot weather the last couple of weeks has not done begonias any good, but still they are not too bad. I called Mrs. Gladys Bullard to see about naming the plants and now the plants are all properly named and we will have the name-plates so they can be easily read. We have also had offers of help in repotting the begonias but will get to that later on. After the picnic we may have to make some further arrangements as the boys are very busy and cannot give the Memorial as much time as it should have, but we will discuss these matters later on."

Mrs. Poole reported on the Huntington Beach Flower Show: "I called Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Marek and the three of us went to the show and judged the Begonia section. North Long Beach, and I believe one of the other branches, brought over as nice a collection as I have ever seen; they fixed up the stage with ferns and begonias and made a most pleasing exhibit; Orange County Branch also had an exhibit. Mr. Hudson had a marvelous display of tuberosus. This time prizes were given for both the amateur and the professional growers so it was easy to judge. One entry, I think from the Long Beach Branch, had the most beautiful Cathayana cross I have ever seen. It was a grand exhibit and a good show."

Reports were made for the following branches, each report indicating continued interest and ability to secure good speakers:

North Long Beach Branch, Glendale, Hollywood, Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley, Ventura, Inglewood, Parent Branch.

It was the feeling of members present that the Lecture Room of the L. A. Public Library made an ideal meeting place, meetings to be called at 7:30 sharp. Should we be unable to use this room at any time, the Model Library Room would be available and is ample.

Editor read report of Begonia Show at San Rafael, and suggested possibility of forming a branch in Marin County. Entire matter referred to Mr. Lawrence, he to report later.

Discussion of plans for the Annual Meeting followed; Greenhouses open from 1 to 4; business meeting and installation from 4 to 5:30; picnic dinner at 5:30; Mrs. Crawford and her committee to prepare and serve coffee, cream and sugar—bring your own cups; Mr. Hart to bring portable stove for making coffee.

Publication of Pest Control Bulletin laid over for future consideration; Capt. Deere reported the cataloging of cuts progressing nicely.

No further business, meeting adjourned to meet again at the Robinson Memorial, Sept. 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
GONDA HARTWELL, Corres. Sec.

What Do You Do With Surplus Plants?

By J. STANLEY ROBSON, Los Angeles, Calif.
Dear Mrs. Wilkes:

• In response to the written question you sent to me I gladly submit the following answer. What do I do with my surplus plants? Well, there are several things I have done in the past. As you know, I like to grow well established plants and root cuttings for friends who would like them. Another way to clear surplus and gain new ones is to give my plants in exchange others may have. Another is to give them potted plants in pots—but that's out now because of the pot shortage. This led me to hit upon the plan of having a reverse birthday party the week of my birthday and give away all my surplus potted plants in exchange for empty pots of the same size or larger. This will take place the last week in September and I am sorry this will be printed after that date, but I may have some desirable plants after that.

ROUND ROBINS ORGANIZE A DIRECTORS CLUB

By FRANCES DOWNING,
305 N. Mason, Bowie, Texas

Each Director of a Begonia Round Robin is eligible and desired as a member. Each Director will choose the best of the information gained through the Correspondence Club in her charge and forward it to Mrs. Buxton, Director of this group. Mrs. Buxton in turn will arrange it so that we may all gain this information through the columns of THE BEGONIAN. It might be that Mrs. Buxton will limit herself to the subject of Begonias. In that case, we should have another Director's Round Robin and yet another for the various branches of study undertaken.

We are well past the 100 mark in membership with nine different Robins flying and a few needing only two or three members to begin their flight. Fuchsias and Choice Ferns are two of these. My work as organizer of these R.R.'s is intensely interesting though the correspondence entailed keeps me well occupied. It is fun helping others to find a way to enjoy their plants much more and with greater understanding.

RIPENING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 197)

While the stems are still on the plants I take them to the potting shed which is not under cover, and lay them on their sides. While the weather is still warm I sprinkle the pots, not too often, but enough to allow a little moisture to seep through the pot to keep the tuber moist but not wet.

In December I take them out of the pots, put them in flats in peat moss until sprouting begins for replanting. I do not save more than about seventy-five or eighty out of a hundred, but I still find this is the best way for me. I enjoy the BEGONIAN very much and hope it will always prosper.

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 October American Begonia Society Board Meeting will be held in the Los Angeles Public Library Lecture Room, Grand Street Entrance, Monday, October 22nd, at 7:30 P.M.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd, 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, Oct. 4th
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, Oct. 8th, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School
La Mesa, San Diego Co., Calif.,
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Joseph Christofferson

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, Oct. 8th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secretary
169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Madeleine Hall, Sec.-Treas.
1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. E. E. May, 3121 Mulberry St., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Oct. 11th, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 325 No. Hillcrest, Ingle-
wood, Calif.
Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Oct. 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secretary
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, Oct. 12th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo Sisson,
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach.
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

BELFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. J. W. Eshnaur, 932 Flower St.,
Bellflower, Calif.
Mrs. Ardel Radle, Secretary
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. P. Dickie, 917 Ordway St.,
Berkeley, Calif.
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, Oct. 15th
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, Oct. 17th, 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.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, Oct. 22nd
Hard of Hearing Hall
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Sec.-Treas.
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 23rd
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, Oct. 23rd, 8:00 p.m.
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, Oct. 26th, 10:00 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 GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, Oct. 26th, 8:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.

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