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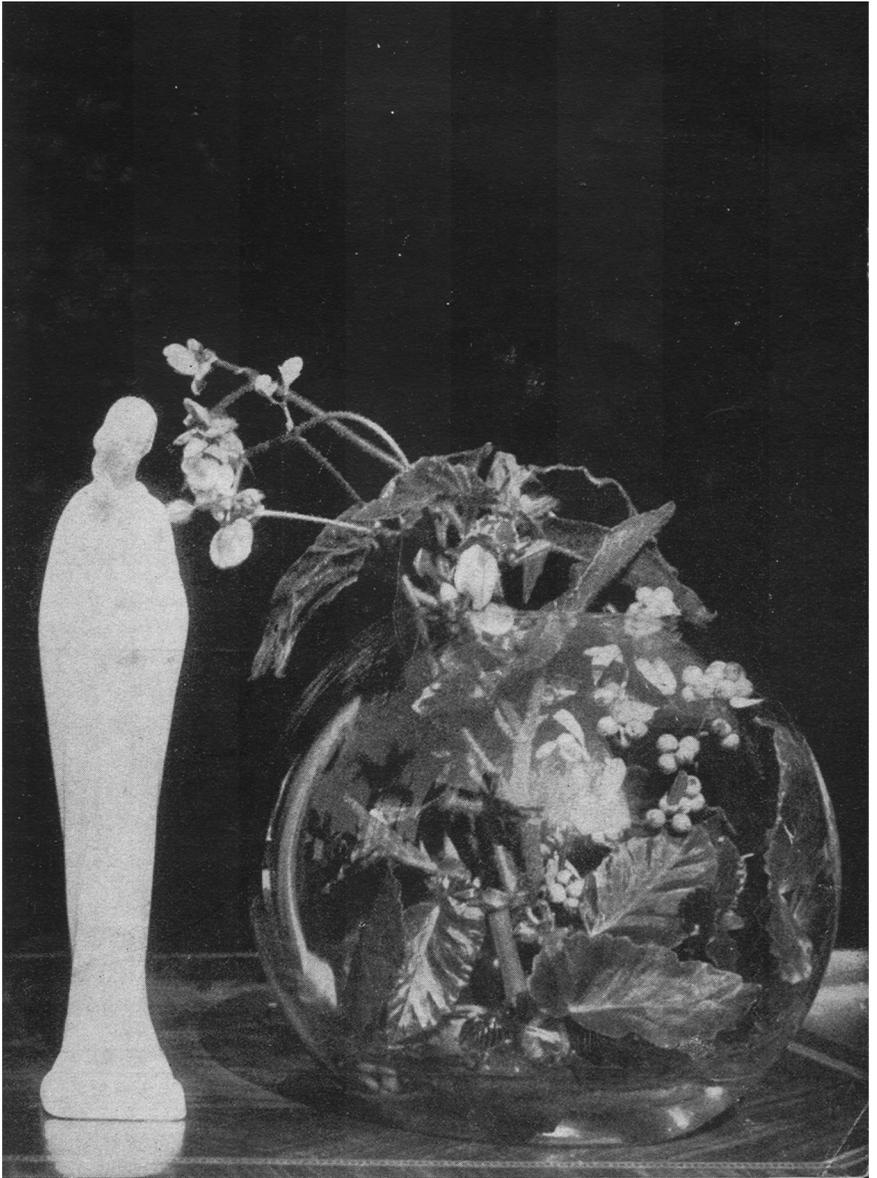
BEGONIA
ARRANGEMENT

By
Mrs. Zella Otto

December
1948



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VOL XV
No. 12



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No meeting in December. The next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 24, 1949. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main.

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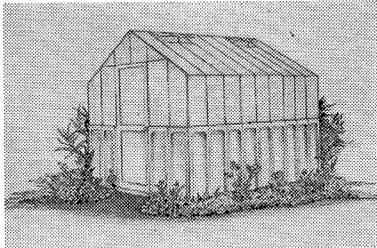
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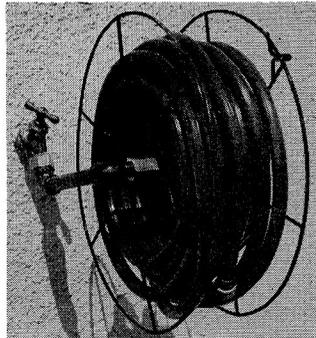
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B. fuchsoides

Illustrated by Alice M. Clark

BEGONIAS GROWN BY CALIFORNIA FANCIER OF 1875

H. M. Butterfield, *Agriculturist*, U. of C. *Agriculture Extension Service*

Rarely does the present horticulturist give enough credit to the pioneer growers and what they grew. This fact is indicated by a list of begonias offered for sale in Oakland in 1874-5 by the Bay Nurseries of James Hutchison, uncle of Mr. Edgar M. Sanborn of the Oakland Park Department. The writer has his catalog of 1874-5 to bear evidence to the fact that this nurseryman was very up to date for his period. Not all of the names used are quickly understood and it may be necessary to revise some of the recent published history of begonias to include the names listed or give proper synonyms. In other words, this nurseryman could not have offered for sale a begonia before it was introduced from Europe, so further study should be made to be sure what variety of species was meant. No doubt some readers will want to undertake this study. The list names 16 kinds of begonias.

1. alba
2. boliviensis
3. carnea
4. edmondi
5. floribunda
6. maculata
7. manicata
8. hybrid multiflora
9. odorata
10. palmata
11. parviflora (*dregei*)
12. picta
13. rex (*rex-cultorum*)
14. sanguinea picta
15. semperflorens
16. weltoniensis

Today we readily recognize certain species and hybrids listed above but others need further study to be sure of their correct identity. *B. boliviensis* was discovered in Brazil in 1857 and introduced in 1865. *B. floribunda* may have been the pink form of *B. fuchsoides* introduced by Lemoine about 1875. *B. maculata* found in Brazil about 1819 was the first silver spotted species to be taken to Europe. *B. manicata* taken from Mexico to Belgium in 1837 had been listed in California by W. C. Walker of San Francisco in 1858. Apparently Mr. Hutchison considered *B. hybrid multiflora* to be quite distinct from *B. floribunda*, or with *B. suaveoleus*, now listed simply as *B. odorata alba*. *B. odorata* may have been a cane variety associated with *B. nitida*. And what was *B. palmata*? Certainly it was not *B. aconitifolia* taken to Europe in 1892, if that date is correct. It was probably *B. digitata* found in Brazil before 1820. *B. parviflora* was probably *B. dregei* discovered in South Africa in 1836. *B. picta* could have been the species taken from Nepal to England in 1818. *B. rex* is what we now know as *B. rex-cultorum*. *B. sanguinea picta* is probably just *B. sanguinea* found in Brazil before 1820. *B. semperflorens* of Brazil (1821) needs no introduction. And *B. weltoniensis*, the hybrid of *sutherlandi* x *dregei*, was introduced about 1868. When the above names are properly identified we will still want to give great credit to an early California nurseryman and importer who kept in close touch with the new things, such as *B. floribunda* and *B. weltoniensis* which he listed in 1874. Many of the present generation will have to re-discover these same kinds which have been grown in California for at least seventy-four years.

CAMELLIA, QUEEN OF THE WINTER SHADE GARDEN

By Paul L. Scott, Arcadia, California

The Camellia blooming season is here and we await the opening of our favorite varieties with joyful anticipation. The new varieties acquired recently always seem exceptionally beautiful and often we purchase a new one because it was *supposed* to be exceptional, only to be disappointed when compared with others of the same type. That is why it is much better to compare the whole plant of one variety with the whole plant of another and not judge by the flowers they produce, especially when comparisons are made from catalogs.

Mr. W. T. Wood of Macon, Ga., conducts a Camellia poll. His list for 1946-47 from approximately 1600 ballots from growers in all sections of the United States as well as Canada and Australia is as follows:

1. Mathotiana (Julia Drayton)
2. Alba Plena
3. Donckelari
4. Debutante
5. Elegans
6. Dai Kagura
7. Rosea Superba
8. Frau Mina Seidel (Pink Perfection)
9. Vittorio Emanuele (Pope Pius IX)
10. Magnoliaflora
11. Lady Clare
12. Adolph Audusson
13. C. M. Hovey
14. Gigantea
15. Ville de Nantes.

Not having a poll for 1947-48 at hand is a definite disadvantage, because another year's experience makes many changes in such a list. I prefer to list varieties according to color because it does not seem fair to rate one color against another as they do not have equal value in use. The lighter pinks are most valuable for corsage use, which is the principal use of the Camellia, red and variegated have about equal sale, with white varieties last.

My list of best varieties would include the following:

PINK—

1. High Hat
2. Frau Mina Seidel (Pink Perfection)
3. Francine
4. Debutante
5. Laureleaf
6. Kumasaka
7. Pink Ball
8. Magnoliaflora
9. Rosea Superba
10. Huntington Pink (Anne Galli)
11. Catherine Cathcart pink
12. Caleb Cope
13. Duchess de Cases



CAMELLIA FRANCINE

RED—

1. Pope Pius IX
2. Arajishi
3. C. M. Hovey (Col. Firey)
4. Glen 40
5. Mathotiana
6. Prof. Chas. Sargent
7. Blood of China
8. Flame
9. Adolph Audusson
10. Emperor of Russia
11. Fred Sander
12. Mme. Hovey

VARIEGATED—

1. Dai Kagura Var.
2. Herme
3. Elegans Chandleri Var.
4. Gigantea (Emperor Wilhelm)
5. Ville de Nantes Var.
6. Baron de Bleischroeder
7. Flame Var.
8. Donckelari
9. Anita
10. Adolph Audusson Var.
11. Nagasaki
12. Cleopatra (M.A.)

WHITE—

1. Alba Plena
2. Purity
3. Pax
4. Fimbriata
5. Lotus
6. Pride of Descanso

Three white varieties would answer most needs. Notice that Alba Plena is the only white in Mr. Wood's list of the first fifteen.

Many commercial Camellia growers are cutting down their list of varieties to propagate. It is better to propagate more of the favorites and eliminate those which have only an occasional call.

What makes a good Camellia variety? Some of the factors are:

Vigor of growth, freedom of bloom, shape of bush, earliness of bloom, high percentage of perfect blooms, size of bloom, color, keeping quality, and price. These factors cannot be evaluated for several seasons after a new variety is introduced, making it a gamble to try a new variety just on the appearance of its bloom. The amount of perfect blooms on a Camellia variety vary with the climate and the general culture, the flowers of some varieties open poorly in moist weather, others in dry weather. Cold nights adversely affect blooming and seed setting. An outstanding example of the fallacy of judging by flower description alone is in the case of the variety PINK SHELL. This is a lovely light pink rose form to full double Camellia. The bush is vigorous but the buds usually stick at the tips, failing to open completely. Doubtless this is not so in more humid climates but here in Southern California it is the rule. The early blooming varieties are more valuable because they are in bloom when outdoor flowers are scarce and also during the holiday season. Also, early flowers escape our worst frosts which damage open flowers in the colder locations.

With the above factors in mind let us evaluate some of the most popular varieties, remembering that the shape of the plant is important in landscape value:

HIGH HAT Lt. pink sport of Dai Kagura, having all the desirable qualities of that variety; vigor, early bloom, freedom of bloom, long period of bloom, bushy plant, but still high in price. Peoniform.

PINK PERFECTION (Frau Mina Seidel) Formal full double lt. pink free blooming variety, vigorous growth, long period of bloom, the favorite of florists, reasonable in price. Its one fault is that in some areas, especially, it may drop most or all of its buds.

FRANCINE (Elegans Chandleri pink) This very old variety is an anemoneform flower of good size, having a tuft of petaloids in the

center, surrounded by guard petals of a good shade of pink. The bush is tolerant of much abuse, pendant in habit unless staked, vigorous, blooming midseason. Reasonably priced.

DEBUTANTE Early midseason peoniform light pink of vigorous growth, not free blooming while young. Tall twiggy growth. Becoming more reasonable in price.

LAURELEAF (Lallarook) Exquisite medium pink formal double flower fairly free produced on upright somewhat open plant of good growth rate. Blooms late midseason. Somewhat difficult to propagate, hence not too reasonably priced.

KUMASAKA Fluffy peoniform medium pink blooming freely in midseason on a bushy upright plant. Reasonably priced.

PINK BALL Light pink peoniform flower blooming freely midseason on tall pyramidal plant of closely set leaves. Calyces often turn brown in our dry climate but flowers usually open well. Reasonably priced.

MAGNOLIAFLORA (English Strain) Lovely liliac pink semidouble of medium size on a compact upright plant of medium growth.

ROSEA SUPERBA Huge rose pink roseform double flower on a sparse growing large-leaved plant, blooming late. Probably a sport of Mathotiana.

POPEIUS IX (Prince Eugene Napoleon) Large watermelon red formal double blooming midseason, free bloomer, vigorous grower. Habit twiggy. Flowers keep very well. Reasonably priced.

ARAJISHI (Aloha) Early large peoniform red. Vigorous upright open growth. Medium price range.

C. M. HOVEY (Col. Firey) Vivid red formal double blooming freely late in the season. Tall vigorous growth. Medium price.

GLEN 40 Vivid deep red roseform to full double of good size, blooming freely in late midseason on compact, slow growing plant. Much in demand and high in price.

MATHOTIANA (Julia Drayton) Huge red roseform double produced freely on tall open plant midseason to late. Medium priced.

PROF. CHAS. SARGENT Early midseason vivid deep red peoniform flower on vigorous compact upright growth. Free blooming and reasonably priced.

BLOOD OF CHINA (Victor Emmanuelle) Peoniform to semi-double red of exceptional grace of petal formation and vivid color, contrasting yellow stamens, bushy vigorous growth, floriferous. High priced. Midseason.

ADOLPH AUDUSSON Hugh red, almost single, sparse tall growth. Average amount of bloom. High priced. Midseason.

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA Vivid peoniform late red of good size on tall bushy plant.

Turn to page 280

CAMELLIA (cont. from page 279)

Reasonably priced. Free bloomer.

DAI KAGURA Blotched red peoniform to formal double very early blooming Camellia. Blooms over a long period and very freely. Plant vigorous and bushy. Fairly reasonably priced.

HEROME (Jordan's Pride) Midseason candy striped peoniform flower freely produced on slender upright plant, varies in color. Slightly fragrant. Reasonably priced.

ELEGANS CHANDLERI VAR. Blotched anemoniform large flower on pendant vigorous branches, freely produced but sometimes flowers fail to open in moist weather. An old favorite and reasonably priced.

GIGANTEA (Emperor Wilhem) Large, blotched red anemoniform flower freely produced on sparse, large-leaved plant of average rate of growth. Striking flower. Rather high in price.

VILLE DE NANTES VAR. Blotched dark red large fimbriated semi-double. New. Expensive.

BARON DE BLEICHROEDER Soft pink streaked red semi-double to peoniform, freely produced in late midseason on bushy slow growth. Medium priced.

FLAME VAR. Blotched form of FLAME.

DONCKELARI Red, marble white, lg. semi-double. Free blooming. Slow growth. Expensive.

ALBA PLENA The original Double White. Large, full double pure white, blooming freely and early. The plant is slightly tender to frost and slow-growing. Difficult to propagate and will never be cheap.

PURITY The fastest selling double white, freely producing good-sized pure white flowers of good substances late midseason. Tall rapid growth. Reasonably priced. Shows stamens occasionally.

PAX The original name of this variety is unknown. It is similar in form to Laureleaf. Full double white. Late midseason. Tall upright growth. Moderately free-blooming. Fairly high priced.

FIMBRIATA This is apparently a form of Alba Plena having footed or fimbriated edges to the petals.

LOTUS Huge single white late blooming, free blooming. Open slow growth. Medium priced.

PRIDE OF DESCANSO New large single white, to anemoniform. Vigorous upright growth. High in price.

Given one variety only I would choose **HIGH HAT**. It has best color, vigor, season of bloom, freedom of bloom and only time will bring down the price. Demand is great.

WHAT LUCK . . . Begonia Templini

By Mrs. Helen Patten, Manhattan, Kansas

I secured my first *B. templini* about one year ago. It is such a beautiful plant, I tried to find any and all help in printed form, to raise a real specimen plant. The more I read, the more interested I became. But I found there are several places in the story that does not tell me enough. I would like to tell my story and perhaps some one will help me fill in the gaps.

One of the first things I noticed about *B. templini*, were the little plantlets that appeared in any and all places on the plant. They even appeared on the branches of the flower stalks, in the middle of the white blotches on the leaves, and up and down the main stem.

I began to wonder if these little plantlets could be made to grow into larger plants and would they be *templini*?

I had read that *templini* is a sport of *B. phyllomaniaca*. I was curious to know whether these little plants would revert back to its parent.

Since this seemed to me a challenge, to determine for myself, I selected a short stemmed leaf with several little plants on the stem. I placed it in a glass of water, in a west window, the end of the stem just below the water level. I hoped the stem would root and allow the little plants to carry on from there. The stem rooted but the leaf just wasted away. I knew these little plants would have to have almost ideal conditions to root. Warmth, moist air, light and not too rich a soil.

I selected a small aquarium, covered the bottom about one inch deep with a mixture of leaf mold, peat moss and sand. I placed the rooted stem in this and leaned the little plants against a mound of the mixture.

I did not notice any change for some time, then it seemed all of a sudden, the little plants took root and the old stem rotted away. Some grew quickly into strong sturdy plants and others just stood still.

I took the larger plants out and potted them in clay pots. The largest of these are now about one foot high, but they do not show any color. I am wondering if they ever will?

The plants are *templini*, except for color, so my question was answered as to whether they would revert back to *phyllomaniaca*. I think there is a decided difference between the two plants.

Now, I would like to know if *templini* is a sport of *phyllomaniaca*, how was it produced? Was it found among plantlets grown to maturity? Was it among seedlings or a rooted leaf?

I am so fond of *templini*, I wanted to raise several plants, so I tried to self pollinate the

See next page



CYM. BODWIN MOOR, Var. Kathleen — Photo Courtesy Cecil Houdyshell

CYMBIDIUMS, THE TERRESTRIAL ORCHID

by Bert T. Kallman, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Until recently, the Cymbidiums were largely the hobby of collectors, but now that their many attractions are becoming more widely known, there is an ever increasing popular demand for them. Because of their rarity and ethereal beauty they demand instant recognition in any garden. They have their own very distinctive color range, including white and the various tints and tones of pink, lilac, yellow, amber, bronze, green, chartreuse, pearl and opalescent, and even a warm, deep wine. Due to the numerous shades inherent, in many instance, in a single flower, it is obviously impossible to make a clear cut color delineation with any degree of accuracy and classify or list them accordingly.

You may plant them in the open (in mild climates) or in containers which may be moved into the house for decorative purposes.

WHAT LUCK, cont. from page 280

female flowers, but the pollen did not seem to be viable. It was difficult to dust off the male blossom and there were no favorable results.

I made other crosses and the plant produced wonderful full seed pods. These plant children have turned out to be very interesting.

Will some one tell me of their experiences with this interesting begonia?

For cut flowers, they are unique, as the blooms on the long graceful curving spikes will last six or seven weeks in water. The detached individual flower will last from ten days to two weeks, which makes them ideal subjects for corsages, as they can be used repeatedly and remain fresh if kept in a cool place.

It is an interesting fact that many of our choicest plants are not only hardy, but exceedingly simple of culture. The Cymbidiums, like exquisite butterflies (belying their fragile appearance) are an outstanding example. These flowers are born on graceful, curving spikes to three feet in height, which rise from evergreen blade-like foliage. In Southern California they may be successfully grown out of doors and are just as easy to grow as ferns or begonias. In fact they like the same location as the above mentioned and go well together in beds.

The two essential conditions in orchid culture are *location* and *soil*. Any situation affording filtered sunlight is adequate such as that provided by lath or spreading trees whose branches are not too close to the ground. As to soil: a mixture of 50 per cent coarse leaf mold, 25 per cent good compost, 10 per cent steer or old cow manure, 10 per cent coarse gravel, 5 per cent bone meal and humisite. Perfect drainage is a requisite if one is to grow Cymbidiums successfully. Keep them reasonably

Turn to page 282

PLANNING A PROGRAM FOR A YEAR

Emma M. Carleton, East Bay Branch

Our entire board met one evening late last fall to discuss activities for the present year. A general chairman was appointed; then the entire membership was divided into four sections; each headed by a co-chairman.

A skeleton program was planned for the year; speakers suggested, and other activities for the year were discussed.

Each group to have full charge of program, plan for plant material, and for refreshments, if any. The co-chairman calls a meeting early in the month; (Our President and General Chairman sit in on all meetings.) Final arrangements are made for the speaker.

In Berkeley, we can have no raffles; in lieu of this, we do have a "Wishing Well"; a very attractive, little well which is placed just inside the entrance. Begonia plants are placed on the stand beside the well, to make it even more attractive. Announcement is made regarding the Well, just previous to the drawing. Many place contributions in when entering the room, others do so on leaving.

Working this way, each group has charge of a program three times during the year; however at Christmas time, all take part in making it a gala affair.

CYMBIDIUMS (cont. from page 281)

moist during the growing season (April-September), and thereafter reduce the amount of water in order to encourage the maximum bloom. Do not over-fertilize them. A weak liquid solution made from dairy manure, which has been soaked in water for two or three weeks, may be applied three times a year. (May 15th, July 1st and August 15th). Plant so the pseudo bulbs are at surface level and keep a good mulch of plain leafmold on the bed, when planted out.

Cymbidiums are not particularly sensitive to cold, withstanding a temperature of twenty-five degrees in perfect safety and even as low as twenty-four degrees in the coastal regions. They are comparatively free from pests, also. When pests are showing, spray with Destruxol Orchid Spray. With a balanced selection of early, medium and late blooming varieties, their period of bloom may be extended from October through June. The blooms on the plant retain their perfection of vitality and color from eight to ten weeks; the cut blossoms will last about ten days and are in great demand for corsages and flower arrangements.

By following these simple cultural directions, you will be amply rewarded with these graceful orchids, which spell magic in any garden, patio or indoors.

SEMI-TUBEROUS TROUBLES

by Marie Minter, Encinitas, Calif

Both Mrs. Buxton and Mrs. Krauss have ably described the semi-tuberous variety of begonia and Mrs. Clark has drawn some excellent pictures of some of them, in the September 1945 issue of the *Begonian*. After having lost a large specimen plant of *B. weltoniensis* alba, I thought it might be interesting to hear of a peculiar trouble some of these varieties have.

This spring, my plant developed thin, transparent leaves. Gradually it died back completely, so I began to look for the trouble. Apparently in their native habitat, nature has endowed these plants with the ability to store some needed element in a separate storage tuber, under the ground. If this tuber is allowed to develop, it eventually will choke off the plants supply of food.

B. macBethii has inherited this tendency to some extent, although all plants do not show signs of it.

There is only one remedy recommended. You will have to break this extra tuber off. The easiest way to do it is to cut the root ball through the center, when you repot. The excess tuber will be located about an inch or more below the real tuber. Break or cut the storage tuber out of the root ball, fill the cavity with your regular potting soil and repot normally. Your plants will soon make new roots and you will have removed some future trouble.

The semi-tuberous family have been very satisfactory plants to grow here and have caused me no trouble, until this year. They fill a diversity of spots, dregei; weltoniensis, alba and rosea; macBethii and macBethii obtusa (multangula); are medium sized plants. Natalensis is good in the background, as it grows to three feet. For lacy foliage, *B. Richardsiana* is good and for hanging baskets, *B. Sutherlandii*, *B. lulandi* and pink macBethii.

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THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Elmer J. Lorenz, Regional Director

Mrs. Florence Carrell, of Fullerton, Calif., has been appointed Director of the Research Department.

The Research Department of the American Begonia Society is maintained with the idea of it being a helpful service to the various members of the Society. It is hoped that members having problems or questions pertaining to the culture, propagation, or housing of begonias will use the available service of this department. Knowing that the problems confronting begonia enthusiasts differ in various sections of the country a Regional Director and four Regional Chairmen have been appointed. They are:

Mr. Elmer J. Lorenz, Regional Director

5227 El Rio Ave.,
Los Angeles 41, Calif.

Mrs. Dorothy Michaelson, Chairman of the
Eastern Section,

P. O. Box 718
Denville, N.J.

Mrs. A. W. Knock, Chairman of the Mid-
western Section,

3836 36th Ave. S.
Minneapolis 6, Minn.

Mrs. Lois Tanner, Chairman of the Southern
Section,

P. O. Box 33,
Cheneyville, La.

The Chairman for the Western Section will be announced in the January issue of *The Begonian*.

Should you have any problems on the culture, propagation, or housing of begonias please contact the Chairman *nearest* you. Remember the above addresses as they are printed here to help you with your begonia difficulties.

Another important function of the Research Department is the Seed Fund which is maintained for the benefit of the members of the Society who care to participate by contributing to the Seed Fund. Mrs. Florence Carrell, 214 N. Yale St., Fullerton, Calif., is the Seed Fund Administrator. A great deal of effort and time is spent each year trying to make new contacts with foreign collectors and botanical gardens with the hope of securing new and rare begonias for the members of the Seed Fund. In the last six months, over one hundred and fifty letters have been sent out and more letters are going out each week, trying to obtain seeds of rare begonias. From the replies now being received, there should be a number of unusually rare seeds in the distribution next January. If you want to receive your share of these rare seeds and have the thrill of being one of the fortunate ones

to own new or rare begonias, join the Seed Fund now, before it is too late.

As the Research Department operates on a non-budget basis, it is requested that all inquiries sent to the Seed Fund Administrator or the various Regional Chairmen, be accompanied by a *self-addressed, stamped* envelope, if a reply is desired.

WELCOME TO THE SEATTLE BRANCH

The "City of Flowers" is the home of our newest Branch. The officers and members of the American Begonia Society welcome the Seattle Branch and wish them success in all their activities.

The first meeting was held at the S. A. McClanahan's home in Seattle. Committees were named and the meeting date was settled.

The second meeting was held "in the beautiful lakeshore home of the W. C. Whipple's, on Mercer Island. A general round-table discussion on seasonable subjects was the high light of the evening, as each member contributed a part and a night tour of the Whipple greenhouse was enjoyed." The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted at this meeting.

Twenty members attended the October meeting, "at the W. H. Tuesley's home. The treat of the evening was a discussion of companion plantings for begonias lead by Dr. John H. Hanley, one of the leading authorities on north west gardening. Artistic arrangements of tuberous begonias, *Helleborus niger* and autumn leaves were used extensively." Enthusiasm is running high in this newly formed group and an extended chat-fest over refreshments climaxed the evening.

Foreseeing the possibilities of other Branches in Seattle, the members of this enterprising group hope to form their Branch as an example to encourage the organization of other branches in the north west, where the begonia is fast gaining popularity and where the climatic conditions are ideal.

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger,
Director of Public Relations

You will find a greater interest in begonia growing if you keep them well labeled.

CAMELLIAS

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BEGONIA LULU BOWER

By Alice M. Clark

It is a pleasure to be able to wish all Begonians a Merry Christmas on this page. It is to be hoped that by springtime my begonias and I will be settled in our new home so we can be regular contributors again. The Hollywood Branch will think me most ungrateful as I stopped drawing right after they overwhelmed me with the honor of a life-membership. Just a little more time to get my roots down, please!

Before I start describing this month's begonia, let me warn you that you cannot ask Santa to put it in your stocking because there are no plants to be had in San Diego, of which I know. It has been distributed here and there in the East, but it has so few branches that cuttings are limited. It is one more among Constance Bower's fine creations but she is no longer growing begonias. I promised her that you would not write her for plants, so stand by me!

You will be surprised to learn that B. Lulu Bower arrived in San Diego in 1941. She is another of the fine progeny of B. *dichroa*, with orange tinted flowers. The very dark leaves show the influence of her father, B. Alzasco, one of the Rosecroft seedlings. Miss Bower must have been proud of her handiwork for she named it for her beloved mother. She raised it in the ground in her lathhouse and it was one of the few she potted up to save when she gave up raising begonias. It was then that its real value was discovered. It is a natural pot-plant. Like B. *dichroa*, it is not a tall grower. It has few branches but many shoots, so it soon makes a full rounded plant if you can resist requests for cuttings. It seems to need indoor warmth, like its mother, and the dark leaves do better in shade. Best of all, B. Lulu Bower is a wonderful bloomer, holding its clusters a long time.

The new shoots of B. Lulu Bower are cane-like and bright green with white flecks. They are about 1/2 inch in diameter and inclined to lean. The nodes, 1 to 1 1/2 inches apart, are marked with a thin tan bracelet. The growing tip is encased in a sharp green spur which gradually unfolds into a long pair of pointed, silver-green stipules. The young leaf is tightly pleated, but soon smooths out into a shining length of red satin. The stipules disappear entirely, leaving a clean stem.

At the start the smooth green petioles are very short but they grow to 2 inches, slightly flattened on top and very strong and sturdy. The first leaves are smaller, rather irregular in shape and generously spotted with polka dots, some as large as confetti. The tip, too,

is often silvered. This is reminiscent of B. Alzasco but, like B. *dichroa*, the later leaves are plain green or only faintly marked.

B. Lulu Bower's leaf is one-sided, 3 inches at its widest, waving down to a long point. There is a wing above the sinus that is sometimes triangular, sometimes square, and often has a sharp pleat in it. The wavy edge is not cut like B. Alzasco, but it is fluted enough to show the reverse side, which is about the color of old redwood. The veins, both above and below, are raised but not very conspicuous. The foliage is rather thin and crisp. In the painting the largest leaf on the tall stalk is 9 inches from top to bottom tip.

The pinkish flower stem on B. Lulu Bower emerges from a shining sheath at the leaf axil. It grows from two to three inches long. The flowers come like birthday gifts, each in a wrapping of pink tissue on a stubby, forked inflorescence. These bracts fade and persist, giving a tawny color to the cluster when the male blooms are gone. The latter are two inches across, on slender rose pedicels. The two, rather short, heart-shaped petals enclose two slender oblong ones. The large upper petal is slightly recurved at its hinge, while the lower one is cupped, enclosing a full oval button of yellow stamen. All flowers are a brilliant orange-rose, a color especially lovely at night.

The pistillate flowers develop more slowly and are not as decorative as most of the B. *dichroa* type, though the three wings have the long characteristic cupping, instead of points. There are two sepals over the ovary. The petals vary in number from three rather round ones with a small additional petal, to four with perhaps a fifth addition. Unless shaded, all parts are a shrimp-pink. The yellow stigmas are in three well-developed pairs.

My reason for painting B. Lulu Bower is the usual artist's answer — because it is so beautiful. I want to urge anyone who has it to cherish and propagate it. If anyone has it for sale please let the editor know. It is far too lovely to be lost.

Mrs. Marie Reed's Must Haves

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Sunderbrucki	ricinifolia
argentea-guttata	Bunchi
weltoniensis alba	

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BEGONIA LULU BOWER

FURTHER NOTES ON THE SHOW AT THE A.B.S. CONVENTION

One of the interested exhibitors in the Show at the National Convention in Glendale was Mrs. Mary Choate of the Inglewood Branch. Mrs. Choate entered the most plants of any exhibitor at the Show, thirty-one in all, winning the coveted Glendale Award for most points won by any entrant.

Outstanding plants were her Rex Silver Sweet, first in its class, and third best Rex in the Show and a miniature Rex, Apple Blossom, which not only won a first prize in its class but was the third Best in the division entered. Her Begonias Richard Robinson and Sunderbruchii were tops in their class and in the running in their Division. She entered a collection of miniature Rex begonias that were like jewels in their perfection and since she raises many of her plants from seed, it is obvious her interest in begonias is from the "infant to adult" stage and not just a fine plant from a nursery.

Besides winning five firsts, three seconds and four third prizes in their class, Mrs. Choate's plants also won two "second best in Division" and two "third best in Division" prizes. An accolade to a Begoniaite who shares her joy with others.

G.C.N.

COLORED SLIDE LIBRARY

Slides are available to all the branches. In making requests please give the date of your meeting, the name of your branch and at least two weeks advance notice in local areas. One month advance notice is needed in more distant areas. It is well to send your choice of a second date to avoid disappointment.

I would like to thank the San Gabriel Branch this month for their contribution of slides.

Groups of Slides Available For Your Selection

Selection No. 1, consisting of Rex, Fibrous, Tuberous, and rare types.

Selection No. 2, a different selection of Rex, Fibrous, Tuberous and rare types.

Selection No. 3, Miscellaneous: Fuchsias, Epiphyllums, Orchids, Begonias and show displays.

Selection No. 4, Miscellaneous Begonias and shade plants and the Annual Spring Hat Parade of the Ventura Branch.

Selection No. 5, consisting mostly of Rex, Fibrous, Tuberous, Orchids and other plants.

Each of these selections are accompanied with a list of names in commentary form and are all different.

Grace L. Bayer,
Chairman, Slide Library.

Sheltered Garden Book Reviews . . .

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS by Worth Brown

Published by M. Barrows — \$2.75

This book was reviewed in the October issue of the BEGONIAN while it was still in the form of galley proofs and we welcome the opportunity to call it again to the attention of our readers now that it is available as a well-bound volume, complete in every detail, even to the attractive jacket.

The drawings from life by Eldon N. Dye are particularly noteworthy, bringing out in minute detail and with great accuracy the characteristics of the many varieties of the lovely flowers which served as his models.

Mr. Brown, one of the outstanding figures in the development and hybridization of tuberous begonias, has spared no pains in providing a wealth of detail concerning their description, propagation by various methods and their cultivation.

Available through our A.B.S. Librarian, this book should provide the perfect answer to the problem of what to give any begonia fan for Christmas.

Frank H. Overton.

ATTENTION, BEGONIA GROWERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Where Metropolitan water is used on *adobe* soil, it soon becomes hard, when dry. It is very sticky when wet and water will not penetrate the soil under these conditions. At this time of the year, add large amounts of rough organic matter. To each one hundred square feet, add ten pounds of gypsum (calcium sulphate). Superphosphate may also be used effectively as a soil conditioner at the same rate of application. Both of these compounds encourage the aggregation of the soil particles. This aggregation reorganizes, opens the soil and gives a better texture.

This same procedure is also good on eastern soils, known as *gumbo*, a heavy black soil. These agents affect the soil pH very little.

"TUFFY"—New Hybrid Begonia

by Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield

Manda's Woolley Bear X scharffi seedling.

Hirsute leaves. White flowers. Bushy. Margine leaves, red backed. Silver hairs on stems, leaves and flower petals. Hardy.

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SEED FUND NEWS FOR DECEMBER

This past year has rolled by in a hurry for all of us who have been so busy. From the letters sent out by the Seed Fund in search for seed, we are now receiving many encouraging replies that may bring unusual seeds for us in the spring. We hope you have your seed planting soil all mixed and ready, for the time will soon be here when you find the large package of Begonia seeds in your mailbox. Those who still want the 1949 seeds had better have their \$2 in the mail this month; don't put it off for you may be very sorry to miss out on the very rare Begonia seeds we expect to mail out in January. The seeds go just so far. Many were disappointed last spring because they were too late.

To those who ordered bulbs and have not paid for them, please take care of this now. Your bulbs may arrive in December, we are not certain. While on this subject may we remind you to always send a stamped envelope when writing us, if your letter needs a reply. Many write for cultural instructions, please, we haven't time for all this. Write to Roy K. Dere, 1618 Fickewirth Ave., El Monte, Calif. Send him 15 cents for each cultural leaflet on Tuberous Begonias, Fibrous Begonias and Rex Begonias. All who grow Begonias should have these leaflets.

Your Seed Fund is a part of the Research Department and as an additional help to you we are setting up Regional Departments for hybridizing, seed germination reports, etc. Our assistant, Elmer Lorenz of Los Angeles, (the young man who had the educational display of books at the last convention) has worked this all up for you. Read his articles on page 283 in this issue.

Most of your Begonia plants are resting now and they need very little care, only to see they do not dry out. Prune and trim up the fibrous Begonias. Winter blooming fibrous may be fertilized lightly. Cuttings can be started now in heated cases.

New seeds are: *Isoloma* spp., Colombia Wild Gesneria, these are 25 cents each. New lot of fern spores from Colombia, 5 kinds for \$1.00.

New seeds from Colombia at 30c per pkt.

Sisyrinchium bogotense, blue (satin flower)

Peperomias, 6 species, mixed.

Bocconia frutescens (ornamental foliage plant).

Still some seed left of those listed last month.

Extra Specials

New seed just received from South Africa, 20c per pkt.

Hemitelia capensis (Cape tree fern spores).

Satyrion coriifolium (Terrestrial orange flowering orchidacea).

Streptocarpus multiflorus.

Protea Cynaroides (Giant Protea).

These have been sent as a sample seed shipment — do you want more?

A last minute Christmas gift suggestion is a subscription to the Begonian and a membership to the Seed Fund, no where can you find so much pleasure to give for so little money. Your friends will thank you all year for such a gift.

Your skipper wishes one and all a very Merry Christmas.

Cheerio until next month,

Florence Carrell

ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR DECEMBER

All of our Begonia Robins, with the exception of five groups, have completed their membership quotas. We are ready to start new groups of the following begonia subjects in either Advanced or Elementary groups: General, Fibrous, Rex, Rhizomatous, small leaved, Tuberous, the Identification of Begonias and the Hybridizing of Begonias.

New members are needed to complete these groups: Rex beginners 2, Propagation of Begonias from Cuttings, *Semperflorens* Begonias 1 and 2, Fibrous Begonias-Advanced 5 and Fibrous Begonias-Advanced 2.

The Beginners Begonia Collectors 1 and 2 are complete, with 3 forming.

The Advanced Begonia Collectors is on its first flight and has room for a few members.

Members are wanted for the following Robins:

Impatiens

Billbergia

Soils (director needed)

African Violet (advanced)

Basket and Trailing Plants

Amaryllis

Cyclamen

Rose

Geranium—Scented and Variegated

Pelargoniums and Ivy Geraniums

Caladium—South west

Pansies, Violas, Violets

Annuals (director needed)

Flowering Shrubs

Primroses, Hardy (director needed)

General Seed Sowing

Lily

Apartment Dwellers (director needed)

Herb

The African Violet, Gloxinia and Gesneriaceae Robins are complete, but new Clubs will be started as soon as they are desired by members.

A Happy Christmas to A.B.S. members everywhere!

Frances Downing, Round Robins Director

ADDITIONAL ELEMENT FOR ORCHID POTTING

By R. Sanford Martin, Glendale, Calif.

There is much experimental work going on, using Humisite in the growing of all types of the Orchid family; but where its particular benefits have been proven beyond doubt is where it has been used as a *supplement* to the potting mixture with the types that require a definite growing medium in pots. My lack of familiarity with the various sub-species prevents me from naming the types here.

Primarily, this product is purely an activator and an all-organic one at that. It contributes little or no fertility factors to your potting mixture, but supplies an abundance of the aerobic bacteria with their essential complement of humic acid. The addition of this product creates the "activity" in the growing medium that is always found in the native habitat of practically the entire Orchid family.

This "activity" seems to release additional food values to the plants by creating a more active root system, capable of acquiring nutrients which were not available before the Humisite was applied. Some experimental work is being done with the 'plaque mounted' type of orchids, by working a small amount of this product into the sphagnum moss or other mounting material, but this phase is still so new that all I can say at this time, is that the results look good.

In using this material as a potting soil supplement for the hardy orchids that thrive with pot culture, the general usage is to have your potting mixture contain 1/10th Humisite. Go on using the mixture you have found successful and simply add this element and mix it in well.

My personal observations have been concerned with cymbidiums mostly, and here some remarkable improvements have been recorded. Some growers have been able to eliminate the disfiguring 'black spot' and 'tip die-back' on the foliage of these plants, as well as improve the bloom quality. The rapid root improvement that takes place where Humisite is used on cymbidiums, either in pots or open beds, is certainly more than gratifying.

These same improvements in plant structure are being reported from growers of the other hardy type orchids and after all, we are all striving towards better growing conditions.

The one treatment of Humisite will last and benefit the plant as long as the plant is left in that pot, but this element should also be included in the potting mixture at the time of repotting.

I would not attempt to say what is the 'best' potting medium to use with this supplement, but will put it in this way, I have seen it used

successfully with many different potting mixtures and under varying conditions, and the results so far prove that it is contributing to a better growing condition with the hardy orchids, as well as many other types of plants.

FERNS

By Sylvia B. Leatherman, El Monte, Calif.

There are ferns and ferns. Have you ever considered the possibilities of ferns and their uses in your gardens? Banking along walls of buildings on the north or east side, is ideal for many ferns and protects plants as begonias, camellias, fuchsias, etc., from the reflected glare of these light walls. For this purpose hardy ferns, especially the taller growing types, are the logical ferns to use. Our native ferns, from all parts of the United States, the Pteris ferns and others in this group can be used. They are of easy culture and are not too demanding as long as they have a rich acid soil and ample moisture. The green background lends a beautiful setting for your other plants and helps enhance their loveliness. *Woodwardia radicans* (see June Begonian) and the following Lady Ferns are among the ferns that can be used to advantage.

Athyrium filix-femina var. *californicum*, California Lady or Lace Fern is one of the most satisfactory of our natives and one of my favorites. The bold refreshing medium shade of green and the form and texture of this lovely fern should make it a must in all of our gardens. The new fronds unfurl from a crown and the plant fills out well. The fronds are bi or tri-pinnate. The sori is oblong or linear, often curved and are small crescent shaped and in profusion. It grows from two to four feet high. The fronds are from six to ten inches wide and are finely toothed. This fern goes dormant in winter, but the beauty of the plant in spring and summer well makes up for the dormant period. With the first heralding of spring, the fronds quickly uncurl and in a few weeks it is a large handsome fern.

Athyrium filix-femina (asplenoides) is the eastern Lady Fern. It is another handsome and satisfactory fern for our gardens. It is very much like our California Lady Fern, but is of lower growth, from one to three feet and is of finer texture.

These two natives are not fastidious and adept themselves to culture very willingly. They like a rich woody soil, good drainage and plenty of moisture. They can be grown where they get some morning sun or filtered sunlight.

Polypodium aureum var. *mandianum* is an exotic tropical fern of easy culture. A very lovely and satisfactory pot plant and a magni-

See page 289

FERNS, cont. from page 288

ficient basket plant. For people living in mild climates, it is an ideal fern for their gardens. It is not hardy below 32 degrees F. It is called Hare's Foot Fern and Golden Polypody. This fern has creeping roots (rhizomes) and they are hairy. Grown as a pot plant these rhizomatous roots spread over the top of the pot and continue over the sides. In a wire hanging basket, the rhizomes will continue over the outside of the basket. In time they spread all over the outside of the basket and it makes a very spectacular plant. The fronds are from 1 to 4 feet long and are about one foot wide. They are once-pinnate and of a curious shape. The leaves are of a coarse leathery texture, medium shade of green and the edges are waved and slightly ruffled. The spores are raised, rich yellow, circular dots and in abundance.

Polypodium aureum is the plain leaved variety. It is similar to the above, but without the waved leaves. These ferns require an acid soil with plenty of moisture, food and high humidity. They are very worthwhile and the exotic appearance makes them different from the general fine textured ferns.

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WHITTIER BRANCH: Have had their new officers installed and report the following: President, P. J. Miller, 422 S. Newlin Ave., Whittier; Vice President, Lyle Hackler, 219 S. McNess Street, Whittier; Secretary, Mrs. Haidee Hackler, 219 S. McNess Street, Whittier; Treasurer, Mrs. Dorohy Hovanec, 630 Palm Avenue, Whittier; Representative, M. W. Baldwin, 1829 W. Hadley St., Whittier; Plant Ch. George A. Barber, 503 W. Philadelphia St., Whittier; Speaker Ch., Mrs. Pearl Irwin, 236 N. Whittier Ave., Whittier; Membership Ch., Mrs. Leland Kirkwood, 1026 Ocean View Ave., Whittier. Whittier Branch extends Season's Greetings to the A.B.S. Members, everywhere.

Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Secretary

Members are urged to patronize the advertisers in the **BEGONIAN**. It is through their continued support that the **BEGONIAN** is continually growing.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

By Bessie R. Buxton

Q. Are *B. alba scandens* and *B. Limmingbei* considered fibrous begonias?

A. Yes, as far as I know, but I confess I have never looked closely at the roots. When I transplant them, I am anxious to disturb the roots as little as possible.

Q. What makes *B. alba scandens* drop their leaves in the Fall?

A. Pure cussedness, I believe. The handsomest—and the poorest plants I ever saw, were grown by the same grower—an expert—in two different years. I saw them in the Spring each time, so it is not always in the Fall that the leaves drop. It is difficult to grow.

Q. Will fibrous begonias propagate from leaf cuttings?

A. Some will—notably *B. phyllomaniaca*, and the rhizomatous types, but cuttings are quicker and surer for most of them.

Q. Will fibrous begonias do better when planted in the ground or in a pot?

A. The cane types, and all the strong growers do better in the open ground, but become too large to pot in the fall, so cuttings should be taken in the Spring and grown on in pots, ready for the Winter. Delicate types should not be risked in the open, nor those with velvety leaves, like *B. Cathayana*, or the *Smaragdina* group.

Q. What type of fibrous begonias can be used attractively in hanging baskets?

A. *B. Manicata aureo-maculata* grows in a hanging basket. It must have a sunny window to develop good color, and sandy soil. Then the white spots will flush pink and the edge of the leaf will have a hair line edge of red. The pink flowers come in the spring. *B. Limmingbei* has the true trailing habit and is a winter bloomer. The leaves are smooth, light green, deeply veined, with slightly ruffled edge. The flowers are coral-red, the buds striped with white. *B. Marjorie Daw*, which is a cross between *B. Limmingbei* and *rubra*, also grows well in a hanging pot, and *foliosa*, the fern-like begonia is very beautiful grown in this way, for the fern-like sprays hang gracefully. *B. glabra* may be grown in a hanging pot if you wish, but it always remains small so does not "hang" very much. Sometimes *B. sanderbruchi* looks well in a hanging pot—It depends on the way your plant grows. It may have an upright habit, and it may drop gracefully. Almost any of the rhizomatous group may develop a hanging form and look well in a hanging pot.

HYBRID BEGONIA INTRODUCTION

IMPERIALIS x DAYII

Low, Compact, Bushy, Rex-like plant.

Price \$1.50 each F.O.B. Santa Barbara

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

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VENTURA BRANCH EXHIBIT

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH:

Created a great deal of enthusiasm with their cozy nook and waterfall, bedecked with many begonias and ferns, in the Ventura County Fair. As Ventura has not had all the water they could use this past year, the display proves that 'begonias can take it.' Many new members were welcomed into the A.B.S. due to this lovely exhibit.

**THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH
IN 1948**

The 1948 season of the New England Branch of the American Begonia Society has been a pleasant and successful one. With members scattered over six states, seven league boots are needed to get them together, but in spite of this handicap, five interesting meetings have been held. We now have 63 members in Mass. 17 in Conn. 3 each in Maine and Rhode Island, 2 in New Hampshire and one in Vermont.

The June meeting was held with the Logees at Danielson, Conn. Mr. E. K. Logee spoke on Hybridizing Begonias, and Mr. Louis J. Kuester president of the New York Branch, spoke on Begonia News from Mexico. The second meeting was in Concord, Mass. in July, with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Greenlaw. Mrs. H. H. Buxton was the speaker, her subject New Species and Varieties of Begonias. The third meeting was held in East Derry, N.H. in August with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harding. Mrs. Charles H. Haddrell spoke on Begonias for the Beginner. In September we met for the fourth meeting at the Essex Agricultural School, Danvers, Mass. and heard Mr. H. L. White speak on Begonia Soils and Potting. The final meeting of the season was held with Mr. and Mrs. William E. Starr in Southbridge, Mass. and Mr. Starr spoke on Three Methods of Propagation: seeds, tubers and cuttings.

Two exhibits have been made during the summer: the first at the W. Rockingham, N.H. Fair, Sept. 3-6, for which we received a blue ribbon for the best exhibit in the Society group. This exhibit was staged for us by Mrs. Walter Harding of East Derry, who personally won a blue ribbon for an educational exhibit of begonias. The second exhibit was at the Harvest, Chrysanthemum and House Plant Show of the Mass. Horticultural Society, Boston, Mass., Oct. 7-9. The exhibit was staged for us by Mr. E. K. Logee of Conn., and covered 100 square feet. For this we were awarded a Silver Medal and \$100.00. Plants in both exhibits were contributed by our members.

Four new seedling begonias have been originated by our members this year: *Pink Wonder*, a semperflorens hybrid with large, double pink flowers, and *Charm*, a pink, single flowered calla lily begonia, a seedling of Calla lily Nanny Etticoat. These were originated and shown by Mr. E. K. Logee of Danielson, Conn. *Rose Veil*, a chance seedling with large green ruffled leaves and drooping pink flowers in profusion, originated and shown by Mrs. George W. Greenlaw of Concord, Mass. *Solid Silver* a clear silver Rex, which is B. rubro-venia x b. r.c. Pres. Carnot. This plant was originated by Mrs. William D. Nesbit of Brooklyn, Conn., and shown by Mr. William E. Starr of Southbridge, Mass.

At each meeting and at the two shows, our Award of Merit cards have been awarded to the best plants shown.

Bessie R. Buxton, Secretary

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH: Invites one and all to their Annual Christmas Party and Bazaar to be held December 9th, at 7:30 p.m. The famous Cake Contest will be held, door prizes and lovely plants will be available. Mark the date on your calendar now.

Mrs. Marjorie Robinson, Secretary

PASADENA BRANCH: Elected the following officers: Pres. Mrs. Alva Graham, 515 El Centro Ave., So. Pasadena, Calif. Vice Pres. Mrs. J. F. Stinson, 1657 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena 6. Sec. Treas., Mrs. Fred E. Distel, 1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif. Nat'l. Repr. Mrs. Lawrence Sill, 1872 Queensbury Rd., Pasadena.

Mabel Distel, Secretary



PASADENA BRANCH: Held their First Annual Begonia Show in the South Pasadena garden of Charles Adams. Three features of this show were outstanding and precedent setting: the new show schedule by Charlotte M. Hoak; the educational display of ferns raised from spores and begonias from seed; the clinic for ailing begonias.

The Begonia Club members have long felt the need of a new schedule and the tentative one used, provides for ten divisions and thirty classes for showing the different types of begonias, with their companion shade plants.

Sweepstakes were won by Jack Bailey. The best begonia in the show was Begonia Lloydii, with its drooping pink blossoms, exhibited by E. C. Rockwell. Fine specimens of Begonia Freddie, one of Rudolph Ziesenhenné's superior new hybrids, won both the blue and the red ribbons in its class. Mrs. John Cheney's fine educational display, showing the propagation of germs from spores and the raising of begonias from the Seed Fund, won a special award.

After a pot-luck dinner, a lively clinic was lead by Miss Hoak, for ailing begonias. Their troubles were diagnosed from "over-potting" to fatal nematode infection.

Col. C. M. Gale, national president, was the show manager and Mrs. Etta Pinnell, Mrs. George Johnson and Mrs. Marie Turner served as judges.

PETALUMA BRANCH honored the members of the San Francisco Branch at their October meeting, in appreciation of their friendship and assistance during the year. Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, of East Bay Branch, was also a welcome visitor.

Mr. Jack Shahan of San Francisco gave a very educational talk on the cultural requirements of fuchsias, stating that the blue shades are generally shade lovers, and the red shades tolerant of part time sun. He displayed blossoms of some of the new creations to be introduced in 1949 and 1950, as well as the best varieties available at present.

Mrs. Mae Briggs, A.B.S. member and President of the Sebastopol Flower Lovers Club, thanked the members for the begonia displays at the Sebastopol Flower Show. A social hour and refreshments were a delightful termination to a very pleasant evening.

Cuma D. Wakefield, Sec'y

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CLOSED MONDAY

ANNUAL MEETING

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the New England Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at the home of the President, Mr. William E. Starr, Southbridge, Mass. on Oct. 16th. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mr. William E. Starr, Southbridge, Mass.; Vice-President, Mrs. Charles H. Haddrell, Marblehead, Mass.; Secretary, Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Peabody, Mass.; Treasurer, Mr. William C. Atherton, Wakefield, Mass.

No meetings will be held during the winter, and the 1949 season will start with an April meeting.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Mr. Starr spoke on Three Methods of Propagation: seeds, tubers and cuttings. Seeds of hybrid plants are not dependable, usually striking back to the parent stock, altho sports are possible. Seeds of new species distributed by the A.B.S. are more easily grown in a greenhouse than under house conditions. Quartz sand is excellent for seeds but other kinds may be used. Mix the seed with a little sand and sprinkle on sand in a pint jar, close the lid securely and label. The pot-in-pot method is good. Half sand, half soil may be used or all soil. The seeds may be sown in the inner pot, keeping the outer pot filled with water, or a reverse arrangement. Cover with glass. A third way is to use a box filled with moist sphagnum moss or with sand and the pots sunk in this under a glass cover. For transplanting, use equal parts leaf mould and sand. When the seedlings are large enough to transplant, lift with a notched match, set in prepared hole, firm the soil, cover with glass and shade for a few days. Always lift a seedling by its leaves; if they are bruised, no harm results, but a bruised stem may prove fatal. A Wardian case is excellent for starting seedlings in the house. Mica-gro is also a good medium for seeds. The temperature should be kept at about 70 degrees.

To start tubers, sink them half way down in a box half full of fresh sphagnum moss and cover with glass. Pot when shoots are well started. Three year old tubers should be set in six to eight inch pots or in a tub, as they need root room and much leaf mould and water. The bulbs will start in sphagnum moss more quickly than in any other medium. If an early start is desired, store upside down. Dig the bulbs with much soil clinging to them and set on earthen cellar floor. When starting in early spring, first shake off the soil.

Cuttings may be divided into four classes: soft wood, hard wood, wedge or petiole, and rhizomatous. Soft wood cuttings or tip cuttings, about three inches long, may be cut squarely across the stem or a slanting cut, always just below the joint. Cut away half of the leaf, dip in some root stimulant (Rootone is good, but there is little difference in the various brands) set about one and one-half inches deep. They will root in about two weeks in a greenhouse. Plants which have a dormant season will take much longer. For potting, equal parts of leaf mould, loam and cow manure, with a little Vigoro is excellent. Semperflorens types should be propagated from basal cuttings, not from tip cuttings, as these make only tall, thin, non-branching growth. Hard wood cuttings are best for florists use, not for house growers. Cut below the node into two inch sections, dip in a rooting medium and set in sand at an angle of 45 degrees. They will root in about two months.

Leaf cuttings are used chiefly in propagating the Rex varieties although Mrs. Townsend and Feasti (properly B. erythrophylla) may also be rooted by leaf cuttings. The entire leaf, slashed at the joints, may be pegged down on leaf mould, sand or sphagnum, and roots and young plants will start at each slash. Wedge cuttings are cut to the V of the veins, dipped in Rootone, and set one inch deep in sand. When rooted, pot in two inch pots. Petiole cuttings are made by trimming off three quarters of the leaf edge, leaving a circle around the center. Dip the stem and set in sand until the sinus touches. Roots will develop at the sinus. These cuttings may be rooted in water also. Rhizomes may be cut in two inch sections, laid flat on a sand bed and covered half way. Roots will start at the leaf scars. Or the rhizomes may be cut through in one or two places and left undisturbed until new shoots appear, then lifted and potted.

Bessie R. Buxton, Secretary.

HUB CITY BRANCH: Reports a very good October meeting. Mrs. Knapp of Bellflower talked on Saintpaulias. A lively plant sale was conducted by Elmer Scheller and cakes and coffee finished off a very nice meeting. Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Miller of Whittier will show their colored slides at the November meeting. These are pictures of rex begonias hybridized by the Millers.

Mrs. Blanche E. Watts, President

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH: Held a Round Table discussion and showed colored pictures of begonias, at their November meeting. These discussions are very beneficial as all members participate and various experiences are exchanged.

Phil Meyer, President

BELFLOWER BRANCH: Had elections with the following result; President, Lewis Reese, 9328 Rose Ave.; Vice President, Mrs. A. Radle, 9820 Flower St.; Secretary, Mrs. P. Knapp, 6144 Blackthorne Ave.; Treasurer, Mrs. Z. Jump, 10109 Palm Ave.; National Rep. Mrs. J. Jensen, 9515 Flower St., all of Bellflower, Calif.

Mrs. M. Hanson, Secretary

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH: Had an interesting meeting with Jack Venueleth talking on begonias. He had many cuttings and plants to illustrate his talk. High winds have not helped the begonias growers, but protection is being used to raise the best possible specimens. Elections will be held in December.

Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Vice President

SEATTLE BRANCH: Elected the following officers, Pres. S. A. McClanahan, 3334 9th Ave., Seattle 99, Pres. Elect. Clyde R. Keeling, 3044 Genesee St., Seattle 8, secy. Mrs. W. C. Whipple, Avalon Park, Mercer Island, Wash., Director, Paul Deiro, 4618 13th Ave., S., Seattle 8, Br. Director, Geo. S. Greeley, 2922 W. Lynn St., Seattle 99, Br. Director, Mrs. Walter Van Dusen, 4721 47th N.E. Seattle 5.

Mrs. W. C. Whipple, Secretary

MIAMI BRANCH: Had a pot-luck supper for their October meeting. Each member was asked to bring a guest and the meeting was very well attended. A lively plant sale helped swell the treasury which is hoping to purchase a slide projector soon. A warm and hearty season's greetings to you all!

Francis Michelson, Branch Director

IT HAS BEEN SAID . . .

Where the soil is *alkaline* and an acid soil is wanted, use 1 to 2 pounds of soil sulphur per one hundred square feet, (depending on the soil pH) in the spring or fall.

The spraying of rex begonia leaves with alkaline water, leaves the alkali on the leaf when the water evaporates. This causes burning, usually in any depression or the leaf margin.

This is the time of year to plant tuberous begonia seed, for late bloom next summer.

The BEGONIAN makes an all year Christmas present. It greets the garden lover every month of the year.

Some of the finest begonias for winter bloom are the socotrana hybrids; B. Melior, B.c. gloire de lorraine and B.c. glory of cincinnati.

Keep your BEGONIANS as reference material.

That if you root prune a wisteria, which has failed to bloom this year, about two feet from the base of the vine, cutting one half of the roots with a sharp spade, it will probably bloom well the following season.

That one pound of *hardwood ashes* may contain the equivalent of two thirds of a pound of ground limestone, as well as fertilizer elements (other than nitrogen) and it should be spread at the rate of seventy five pounds to one thousand square feet.

Of all the soil tests, the one most beneficial, is testing for acidity or alkalinity. It is quite simple to make this test. The tests for various elements to be of value, needs scientific knowledge and experience and is of little value to the amateur.

CHLORSIS of plants may be compared to human paleness. It tells us something is wrong with the plant. It may be sick from an attack of insects, disease (as virus), the soil may be deficient of some element, the soil water logged or the wrong pH.

The best time to pollinate begonias is during the middle of the day. Be sure to keep a record of the cross, as parents names and the date.

To tell when the pollen is ripe, touch the stamens against the thumb nail. If ripe the yellow pollen dust will show. To pollinate a begonia, it is only necessary to bring the pollen to the stigma of the female flower. All hand pollinated plants should be marked and protected from outside pollen.

The female stigma is usually receptive when the flower first opens and will remain so for a few days. It should be protected from stray pollen if it is to be used in hybridizing.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board A.B.S. held Oct. 25th, 1948, room 55, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif. Pres. Gale presiding.

Present for the meeting Messrs. Gale, Bozon, Walton, Dere, Bailey, Moore. Representative Directors from Inglewood, Glendale, Whittier, Pasadena, Hollywood, Southgate, San Gabriel Valley, L. B. Parent Branch, Santa Barbara, Ventura; Past Pres. Mrs. Drummond, Secretary Gonda Hartwell, Assistant Editor Dr. Drummond, Chairman Fibrous Begonia Section Miss Hoak, Public Relations Director Louise Schwerdtfeger.

Salute to the Flag and statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society lead by Mrs. Drummond.

REPORTS

Editor, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Business Manager read and on motion accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Pres. Elect Walton reported he had been working with Capt. Dere and was familiarizing himself with the systems used in this department—as per instruction—and felt he now had a fair working knowledge of the set-up.

Public Relations Director presented Constitution and By-Laws of the Seattle Branch and moved they be accepted and the Branch welcomed into the fold. **CARRIED.** Mrs. Schwerdtfeger also reported she had several requests from members-at-large that there be some sort of pin or badge to be used to show membership in the A.B.S. President Gale appointed Mrs. Schwerdtfeger and Mrs. Korts as a committee of two to look into this and see what they could work out, and report at the next meeting. Request made for suggestions to awaken interest in forming new branches as many localities are without representation.

Membership Secretary asked that all new Branch information be given him promptly so he can get the necessary membership cards and stationery to them. Mrs. Schwerdtfeger and Capt. Dere to work out a schedule to take care of this.

Miss Hoak reported she was working on fibrous nomenclature; made several corrections; written many letters concerning names of fibrous and was hunting around for Robinson hybrids and was trying to get things straightened out.

President Gale reported he was still without a Nomenclature Director and was writing many letters to get suggestions and schedules for this office and hoped soon to have a comprehensive report for the Board.

Committee to audit the books of the former Advertising Chairman Verna Johnson reported they found the books in perfect order and asked that they be dismissed as they had completed their task.

President Gale reported Mrs. Pinnell had resigned as Chairman of Flower Shows and Exhibits — due to extra duties elsewhere; that he had appointed Mrs. Gale to take this office, at least temporarily, so this office can function.

BRANCH REPORTS

Indications are that the branches are keeping up their interests; procuring good programs and that the plant tables were well filled. Mrs. Korts reported no one had as yet claimed the staghorn fern left at the Civic Auditorium at the Annual Meeting and asked all Representative Directors to bring this matter before their members. Glendale Branch requested temporary suspension of Article VI, paragraph 3 of the A.B.S. by-laws in order that Mr. Moore might finish his term as President of the Glendale Branch which expires Dec. 31, 1948. **Granted.**

President Gale urged that all Branch Representatives attend the National Meetings whenever possible; should they find they cannot attend a meeting, to have some other officer or member represent them and be able to report on the Branch. Secretary instructed to mail out notices of next regular Board meeting to all Branch Representatives.

Discussion of Round Robins resulted in the following motion "That the Round Robins be placed under the Public Relation Chairman, she to work with Mrs. Downing and to secure the names and addresses of the various Robins and report her progress at the next regular meeting.

Discussion of ways and means of bringing the list of Representative Directors up to date. Capt. Dere asked permission to contact all branches requesting a list of their new officers be sent to him promptly after election — names, addresses and if

possible telephone numbers; Capt. Dere to supply the completed list to all A.B.S. officers needing same.

Discussion, at the request of the Editor, on feasibility of enclosing slips for renewals in the December issue of the *BEGONIAN*. President Gale appointed Mr. Walton and Capt. Dere as a committee to work out a plan for these enclosure slips — this as a means to stimulate payment of dues promptly at expiration date.

President asked for discussion on matter of raising price of membership from \$1.50 to \$2.00. After considerable discussion, President Gale asked that each Representative Director take the message back to their branches and get an expression and bring back to the next Board meeting the reaction. It was the feeling that the membership should take an active part in the final settlement of this question.

Current bills read, and on motion of Business Manager Moore ordered paid.

Tentative Budget read and on motion accepted as read. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

GONDA HARTWELL, Secretary

BEGONIA PRONUNCIATIONS

In pronouncing these names keep in mind the following rule:

à	as in lane	í	as in bin
á	as in fan	ò	as in tone
è	as in eve	ó	as in mom
é	as in get	ù	as in cute
ì	as in line	ú	as in cut

odoràta—oh-doh-rày-tah

ólbía—áll-bee-ah

palmàris—pahm-ày-riss

palmàta—pahm-ày-tah

palmifolia—pahm-ih-fòh-lee-ah

Pèarci—pèer-sigh

pellàta—pell-ày-tah

péndula—pén-doo-lah

phyllomaniaca—fi-lo-man-èye-ay-kah

Ràjah—rày-jah

Réx-cultòrum—wrecks cul-tòh-rum

Richardsiàna—rich-ard-see-ày-nah

ricinifòlia—rye-sin-ih-fòh-lee-ah

robùsta—roh-bús-tah

ròsea gigantèa—ròh-see-ah ji-gan-tèe-ah

Róxburghii—ròcks-berg-ee-eye

rubélla—roo-béll-ah

rubellina—roo-bell-èye-nah

rùbra—ròo-brah

rùbro-vènia—ròo-broh vèen-eeah

sanguínea—san-gwín-eeah

scábrida—skábrida—ská-bride-ah

scándens—skán-dens

Scharffiàna—shar-fee-ày-nah

Scharffi—shárf-eye

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

THE PRUNING OF WESTERN SHRUBS

by R. Sanford Martin\$1.25

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by R. Sanford Martin\$1.25

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Branch Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular meetings, Quarterly, 1st Fridays
Flint, Michigan, Feb. 4
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Sec.,
1919 Zimme-man St., Flint 3, Mich.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p. m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
P. Knapp, Secretary
6144 Blackthorne Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p. m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p. m.
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 64
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Dec. 3, 8:00 p. m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa.
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
225 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 p. m.
206 West Cypress
Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, Secretary
5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 20
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

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

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p. m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Marjorie Robinson
1137 No. Orange Dr., L. A. 46.

HUB CITY BRANCH

Christmas Party Dec. 17th
Pathfinder's Club, Cor. Santa Fe and Myrrh,
Compton, Calif.
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3556 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 13, 8 p. m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Miss Margaret Smith,
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 9, 8 p. m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 13, 8 p. m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Mrs. Edna F. Barker
89 Central, Lemon Grove, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p. m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rose C. Hixon, Sec.-Treas.
Box 572, San Fernando, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 p. m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2 p. m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p. m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Miss Evelyn Peterson
1414 E. 65th St., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p. m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center
Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p. m.
2031 E. Villa Street
Mrs. Fred E. Distel
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p. m.
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec., 405 Cotswald Lane
Wynwood, Pa.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Dec. 8, 8 p. m.
Mrs. Wm. Allen, Sec.-Treas.
7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 p. m.
Ocean Beach Community Center
4726 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Louise Gardner, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 21, 8 p. m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. A. Boyd Collier, Secy.
2777 Harkness Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Dec. 27
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p. m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Frank Eckert, Secretary
21003 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p. m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Dec. 22, 8 p. m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p. m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Mrs. Bertha Ayersman, Secy.
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p. m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.
345 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p. m.
Steckel Park
Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A
Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 21
Mrs. W. C. Whipple, Secy.
Avalon Park, Mercer Island, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p. m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Miss Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
3354 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

SO, ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 16, 8 p. m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p. m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,
Mrs. Mary Casey, Sec'y-Treas.
4085 Tweedy Blvd., Southgate, Calif.

See page 295

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.
4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, Jan. 26, 8 p. m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 p. m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Secy.
219 S. McNess St., Whittier, Calif.

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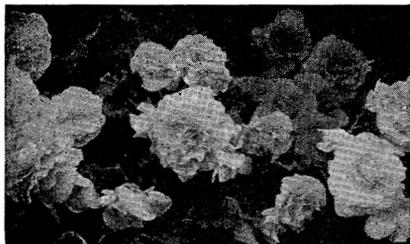
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