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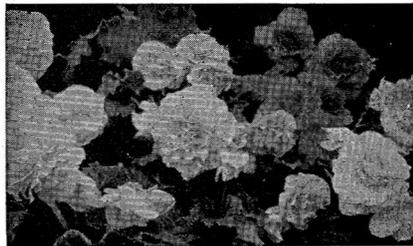
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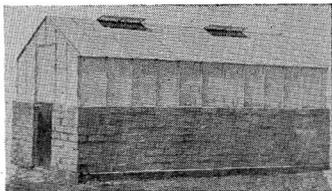
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# The International Camellia and Magnolia Conference

By Frederick J. Bedson, F. R. H. S.

Most Begonia enthusiasts are also interested in other flowering plants and may like to read some notes on the Conference sponsored this year by the British Royal Horticultural Society. The Society is now resuming these pre-war Conferences in important genera, and last year held one on Rhododendrons, many distinguished American and foreign horticulturists attending. Many years elapse before any genus is again the subject of such a gathering, and by way of example, the last one on Begonias was held as far back as 1892 yet there still seems no likelihood of one here on this subject for some years.

Next near Genetics will be covered, but this year the most important families of hardy flowering trees and shrubs after Rhododendrons have received attention. The Conference extended from March 25th to April 5th, and it may be of interest to our American friends to remind them that one does not need to be a Fellow of the Society in order to attend. The Conference included a six day coach tour of Cornish Gardens, day visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, the R. H. S. Gardens at Wisley, and short excursions to other famous private gardens.

All gardens visited were notable for their fine collections of these two plant families, and those interested were also able to see many other kinds of Spring plants in flower. Outstanding amongst private gardens, with matured collections, some over 100 years old, were those of Caerhays Castle, who undoubtedly have the finest Magnolias in Great Britain. Their gigantic specimen trees of *M. Campbelli*, *M. Sargentiana robusta* and *M. Dawsoniana* measuring upwards of 40 ft. x 30 ft., covered with huge pink blooms, were highlights of the visit. A specimen tree of the allied *Michelia Doltsopa*, of almost equal size, and covered with fragrant creamy flowers also excited admiration.

At the Gardens of Lanarth, Cornwall, the sensational *M. Mollicomata* var. *Lanarth*, with violet-purple blooms of a new intense deep shade was the greatest thrill. The Gardens of Commander H. H. Thomas at Heligan contained the largest *Camellia reticulata* in this country, overtopping a 25 ft. wall to equal width, with thousands of yellow stamened,

reddish pink, waved flowers of great size. Camellia lovers usually agree this species to be the most delightful of all whilst deploring their inability to propagate it from cuttings. Incidentally this garden, noted for its prolific growth of huge specimens, contains the largest Rhododendron in the world, towering to a height of 65 ft.

Amongst such exceptionally fine plants further comparisons would be a catalogue of virtues, each having features to excite our wonder, but the grandeur of the Park gardens of Viscount Falmouth at Tregothnan were something few of us will forget, and a sight becoming all too rare in these days of enforced garden economy. The modern British varieties, *C. Donation* and *C. Salutation* were considered by the experts to be the best of the Camellia hybrids and their appearance in commerce eagerly awaited. From mightily old specimens of great size to smaller modern introductions such as *Camellia J. C. Williams* of great beauty, our time passed in a procession of floral ecstasy.

During the main tour the famous West of England Spring Flower Show at Truro was seen and the judges had a difficult task in making their selections from superb exhibits.

In London, a week later, the R. H. S. Camellia and Magnolia Competition and Show was a sight to tempt even the most ardent specialist in other plants to add these, or more of them, to his garden, and many Nurseries were oversold before the Show finished.

During the Conference, lectures and papers were given on the following subjects under the chairmanship of Lord Aberconway, President of the R. H. S., himself recently returned from a horticultural visit to the U. S. A. Camellias in Cornish Gardens.

Forms of *Camellia Japonica*.

The propagation of Camellias and Magnolias. Survey of the genus *Magnolia* with *Michelia* and *Manglietia*.

Chinese Magnolias in Cultivation.

Camellia Species.

Rarely do so many leading plantsmen get together, and amongst notable representatives from abroad we found Dr. H. Harold Hume, President-Emeritus of The American Camellia

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Society; Professor Waterhouse, Australia's leading *Camellia* authority and author of a rare book on the subject; Dr. Yu, the noted Chinese Botanist, whose papers on the *Begonias* of South West China are already recorded in the *Begonian*, and with whom I was glad to talk of our favorite plant; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peers of Hollywood. This famous Music Publisher whose hobby is collecting *camellias*, told me that he has now between 900 and 1,000 different varieties, which is surely the world's record collection of this plant family, and easily beats the number of my own *begonia* collection, although I believe this to be the widest in Europe.

Such a brief report of a notable Convention is at least sufficient to show the spell that gardening casts on us, whether we be specialist, collector or just plain struggling amateur with a handful of varieties; how keen gardeners appreciate good plants, even if outside their own immediate specialty (the presence of Mr. J. Woolman, the Midlands *Begonia* specialist, and myself are examples); and how the reputed British aloofness melts when plant experts get together, for the parties included a Princess and titled aristocracy, botanists, middle-class amateurs, and professional gardeners.

With a head teeming with freshly learned botanical knowledge, on which there is no finality, and dreaming of impossibly lovely flowers, I look forward to more of the same, and to meeting further American friends next time.

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### Library Notes

Numerous requests have made it essential that some material on greenhouse shelters should be added to the library and the librarian is happy to report the acquisition of *GREENHOUSE GARDENING FOR EVERYONE* by Ernest Chabot. Tho this book has been off the press since 1946, it still remains a most complete authority on "gardening in its highest form" and should prove of immense value to all members who are contemplating adding this type of shelter to their garden.

A supply of the Woolman pamphlet *EXHIBITION BEGONIAS* has just been received from England and may be purchased thru your library for \$0.40. All tuberous *begonia* fans would find this a valuable addition to their literature on this type.

A reprint of Mr. Smith's *EXPERIENCES WITH ACHIMENES*, from *PLANT LIFE 5*, 1949, can be yours from the library for a large, stamped self-addressed envelope. If you are interested in this branch of the *Gesneriaceae* by all means send for the article. Mr. Smith is membership secretary of the American Plant Life Society, one of our advertisers,

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## In Memoriam

### ERNEST K. LOGEE

*Begonia* lovers throughout the nation will mourn with the New England Branch of the American *Begonia* Society the passing of one of their charter members, Ernest K. Logee, of Danielson, Conn., who was killed by a fall from a tree on March 24th. Mr. Logee was a third generation florist, carrying on the business established by his grandfather. His greenhouses contain unusual plants of many kinds, but *begonias* were nearest his heart, especially the *rexes* and *semperflorens*. For some years past he has been working with the latter and has produced some new and unique kinds, especially the "Thimbleberry" and "Mother Goose" groups. He also created a new all-double greenhouse snapdragon in three distinct colors. More than thirty new plants of various kinds have been created by him.

He was a member of the New York Botanical Gardens, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the American *Begonia* Society, in which he was very active and helpful. In addition to his greenhouse work he has done considerable writing about *begonias* for various magazines.

Mr. Logee was born in Danielson, Conn., on July 21, 1898, the son of William and Ida (James) Logee. He was unmarried, and is survived by his father, seven brothers, and six sisters. The business will be conducted by his brother Roger and his sister Miss Joy Logee.

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Circulation of some books at this time of year is heavy and I must again ask your indulgence in the delay. Your requests will be filled as rapidly as the books are returned to the library from the previous borrowers and every effort made to speed their return if overdue.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian



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## No Man's Land?



Photo courtesy Mrs. Marie Turner

Are you one of those home owners who have forgotten about that narrow space between the house and the property line—because it just isn't big enough for *anything*? It is hard to visualize any functional treatment for this small space, isn't it? Taxes are paid on it just like the rest of the property, but this space is used for a dog run or storage depot, possibly bordered by calla lilies, geraniums, ivy or anything that will grow easily and cover the ground.

This forgotten eyesore has the potential of a hobbyist's retreat and a surprise garden to the visitor.

Mrs. Marie Turner of Temple City, California, shows in this photograph what can be done with the forgotten side of a house. Many types of begonias, ferns, hardy orchids,

and unusual sub-tropical plants are thriving in this area. The space involved here is the property line fence and the north side of Mrs. Turner's home. The entrance is from the rear yard and the front is fenced with a moss wall on the inside. Lath and cloth are used to provide shade against the over-head summer sun and shelter during the cold season. Humidity and wind protection are maintained by the sprinkling system and close enclosure.

While her space may be wider than yours, it is not necessary to have more than four feet—a small footpath with a moss wall on the fence side and espaliered plants against the house wall—or any number of combinations you can conjure up with the aid of this inspiration. No land should be "No Man's Land" around a begonia hobbyist.

# Trials of a Nut House Robinite

By Nona Ford Boeck, Pipe Creek, Texas

A warm and gentle breeze is blowing from the South and a touch of spring is in the air. The earth is already beginning to warm up and all around me the woods are greening. In my heart I am glad, for the past winter has been a trying one for me and my *rex* begonias.

Most of you Begonia enthusiasts, I am sure, are familiar with the Robins, but I am wondering if any of you are experiencing the difficulties that the members of the Nut House Rex Robin are?

For me, this Nut House Rex Robin is a great source of enjoyment as well as a most beneficial one. There is no end to the experiences its members are going through in trying to cope with the vagaries and temperaments of these so beautiful plants known as *Begonia rex*.

One thing for a certainty, all of us are learning a lot about what evidently is NOT good for them.

And if I succeed with mine, it will definitely be through the trial and error method. I am very much of an amateur but, being well fortified with determination, perseverance, and the patience of a Saint (and pure love!), I have set myself the trying task of growing at least one specimen plant.

Without a greenhouse it is difficult to maintain that humid atmosphere I read so much about; however, since I am so determined, I have resorted to "where there's a will there's a way".

I live in Texas near Medina Lake and my husband and I are operating what could be called a Lake Resort. In the back yard is an old stone structure intended to be used as a minnow pond. As we have not been handling minnows, I tried converting this into a makeshift greenhouse. I must say, barring the outside interference, it is being very successful. This minnow pond is made of native stone and is about twelve feet long and four feet wide. I have placed four old glass French doors over the top with space left for ventilation. The glass is painted enough to provide a good but not strong light.

I have had to place all of the pots on bricks because of the water in the bottom that gets in from the rain. This is proving to be an advantage because the moisture seeps up through the bricks into the flower pots and I seldom have to water. Also, it provides that much needed humidity. All in all, it is an ideal substitute for a greenhouse even if I do have to be a contortionist whenever I crawl into it to inspect my plants.

At first, I tried economizing by buying a second-hand coal-oil heater to heat it with. The first few nights it worked fine, but just when we got our first real cold spell, the crazy thing started smoking. I tried in every way that I knew to adjust it and after three successive "face-washing" parties, I was really getting disgusted. One night, shortly after I had lit it, it actually caught fire and I nearly collapsed from sheer anguish before I got the fire out. I gave up then, discarding it for a more expensive electric heater which I burn only on the coldest nights. Fortunately, there are not many, so it has not been very expensive.

Believe you me, it was with a heavy heart that I examined my plants the next day, after the fire, in the daylight, but apparently, aside from the smudged faces, there was no damage done. *Helen Lewis* looked like *nigger tree* and *peacock* resembled a mur-hen. I washed faces for days afterwards.

Once I had to take a trip to Mexico for three days and while I was gone the kind soul working for us decided to be very helpful by taking all the glass doors completely off and letting our Texas sun shine down in all its glory. Now, let me assure you, sometimes even in the winter our sun can really throw out some heat. Needless to say, my poor tender *rexes* got many a blister from sunburn. "*It*" was about to bloom before I left and when I returned I almost cried when I looked at those once gorgeous leaves fairly burned to a crisp. If it survives the shock, it will be a miracle.

Kind-hearted me—I did not want to say anything, for I knew the lady meant well; nevertheless, I did tell her these special kinds of begonias could not stand too much sun; so the next time I had to leave for a few days, she pulled a heavy tarpaulin over the entire structure for added protection against the cold, and left the plants in total darkness all the while I was gone. Well, I will admit, it was cold and rainy all that time, but even a *rex* resents being shut in total darkness without fresh air. As a result, many of them lost their leaves, some of the leaves turned to mush from the dampness.

This morning I took stock of my begonias. It is difficult to understand why I cannot do as well with my *rex* as I do for all the others. I cannot understand why, with the same treatment and under the same conditions, one *rex* will flourish and grow and another by its side will suddenly fold up and die. It must be as

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## OUR GRAND LADY CELEBRATES

Our Grand Lady of Begonias, Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray, introduced a new seedling, *Janei*, just prior to celebrating her 87th birthday.

This is a cross between *Weltoniensis rosea* and *Sutherlandi* and is named after her great-granddaughter, Jane. It has been blooming all winter, producing cream-white flowers with odd shaped buds. It is a tall, fast-growing type with plain green leaves.

We are proud Mrs. Gray is one of our active, Honorary Vice-Presidents. The writer was happy to have had the opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Gray on her birthday, in person.

Mr. Charles Cass was also on hand, to add his congratulations. Many of you remember his worthwhile contributions to the Royal Hobby.

Mrs. Gray celebrated her birthday in her daughter's home, Mrs. Ethel Calloway of La Jolla. One of the finest private collections of specimen begonia plants is found in Mrs. Calloway's beautiful shade garden.

I feel sure I can speak for all Begonia enthusiasts in wishing Mrs. Gray many more Happy Birthdays.—*Dorothy S. Bebrends.*



## TEXAS STATE BRANCH IS NEWEST ADDITION TO A. B. S.

Under the leadership and encouragement of Mr. E. Weaver, our first Texas Branch of the A. B. S. has been organized in Port Arthur, Texas. On February 24th, a meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Weaver, 1325 Thomas Blvd. The Branch Constitution and By-laws as outlined by the A. B. S. were adopted. The Branch was appropriately named the "Texas State Branch" and, after election of officers, plans were made for the coming year.

March 24th the group met with Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Hinds, 2021 Wignall Street. President, Mr. E. Weaver; Vice-Pres., Mr. Henry Adans; Sect-Treas., Mrs. Fred M. Owens; and Representative Director, Mr. R. C. Scott, were numbered among the 28 members and associate members present. Mr. Weaver spoke on "My Methods of Planting Begonia Seed."

Of their interesting plans Mrs. Owens writes, "The Nomenclature Committee is to have one plant at each meeting and will give a brief discussion on that plant. Members voted to have a door-prize for every meeting and a Plant Sale every other meeting. One of our early projects is to start a Branch Library and each member has pledged to contribute one book. The Branch will meet in the

homes of the various members on the fourth Friday of the month. Committees have been appointed and Mr. Weaver extends an invitation to all members of the A. B. S. in the Sabine Area to attend our meetings; for further details write to him at 1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur."

The Texas Branch was voted upon and accepted by the Board of Directors at their March meeting.

To this energetic and enthusiastic group of A. B. S. members of our first Branch in the Southwest, the officers and members of the A. B. S. send congratulations and best wishes for success in all their Branch activities.

*Louise Schwerdtfeger*  
Director of Public Relations.

## PLANT AMERICA

Do you know what that means? Well, it is a movement started by the American Association of Nurserymen and joined by many civic and garden club organizations to promote the natural beautification of our land—keeping the beauty we have and replacing it where our civilization has left scars. Yes, it is good to PLANT AMERICA.



## Armchair Explorers

May Newsletter

Spring is really here now in my garden. All my plants are showing strong growth, buds on amaryllis and many lilies, primulas, pansies, etc. in bloom. I have forgotten what the very cold winter did to my garden; it is a good thing we gardeners aren't easily discouraged. My fern bed is the loveliest it has ever been with strong new fronds showing from the center of each plant; the peatmoss and fertilizer have made this beautiful growth. The only plants now under glass are my phalaenopsis, which are in bloom and beautiful, and the interesting philodendrons; all other plants are now under lath for the summer. I keep my glasshouse 60 degrees all winter with hot water radiator, and can now turn off the heat, as we won't have any more cold weather. Several flats of begonias are slow in starting for me.

I have a letter from Robert Kehr in Nebraska, who writes, "You may be interested to hear of the success I have had with the seed-fund seed. Every packet has germinated, and begonia seedlings are overflowing my small greenhouse. I planted them all in sterilized soil in sealed mason jars, and some of the jars are a mat of green; some show only a few plants, but for the most part germination was excellent. I am now transplanting them to flats to conserve space until weather permits moving other plants outdoors."

My aviary is exciting right now for I have 3 nests of canaries hatched out and today the first little birds left their nest. When I know that I understand how to raise canaries I am going to have a pair of those beautiful persimmon red ones. Any new hobby calls for more information on the subject and so the canary magazine is being thoroughly studied by me and I find that the canary fanciers are all trying to raise a red canary. A red and black Siskin has been imported from Venezuela and crossed with our yellow birds—many near reds but no true red color has been developed so far. Now I know the *Saintpaulia* fans are hybridizing for the yellow African Violet—and this brings me to the point.—What are we doing? Are we satisfied to buy a plant, exchange for a cutting, or plant some



## Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: Which is correct—*B. Indian spotted* or *B. deliciosa* for the seedlings we raised last year?

Answer: This is a highly controversial subject, so perhaps you will let me present the Seed Fund's case. The original seeds of this plant came from India and are of proved hybrid origin. No two plants are exactly alike in leaf shape and often a bronzy green leaved plant will appear that has no silver spots. We shall continue to call these plants raised from Seed Fund seed "*B. Indian spotted*." I know some people have changed the name on this particular plant but the "*B. deliciosa*" we know on this coast is an entirely different and very difficult plant to raise. It is definitely a glass house subject requiring higher heat and humidity to keep it from going completely dormant during the winter. As far as I know, no seeds of this plant have been available through the Seed Fund.

Question: Recently I received a plant labeled "*B. Laetivirides, Gilg.*". Isn't it supposed to be "*B. macrocarpa pubescens*"?

Answer: In 1947 I asked the same question of Mr. Ziesenhenné and he wrote me as follows: "*Macrocarpa* only has two petals in the male flowers and this plant has four. The plant should be known as *Laetivirides, Gilg.*, for I saw the herbarium sheet at the University of California this summer."

Question: Are there two different plants of *B. Roxburghi*?

Answer: Yes, the male and female flowered plants. The plant bearing the male flowers will have smaller leaves and does not grow as tall. I also have a report that the New York Botanical Garden has a plant with splotches of silver on the leaves. I have not seen this particular plant but the one we grow as *B. Roxburghi* has plain green leaves.

Question: Are *B. dearest Mae* and *B. odorata alba* different plants?

Answer: No. Mrs. Shepherd grew this plant years ago as *B. dearest Mae*. I do not know when the name was changed to *odorata alba* but dealers are still selling it under Mrs. Shepherd's naming.

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seeds? Why not try hybridizing on your own! Does someone really have a yellow semperflorens or a red begonia with large double flowers? Do send in more letters to the editor telling what's new in your greenhouse

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# An Enumeration of Begonias of Southwestern China (Cont.)

By Dr. Te-Tsum Yu

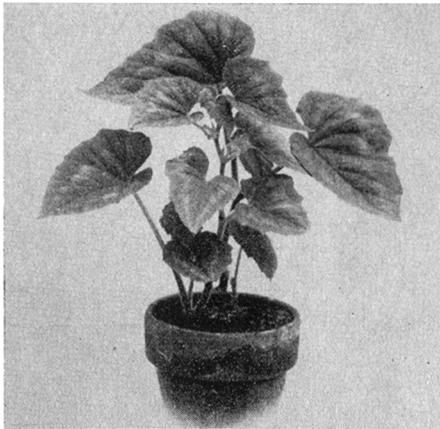
(Editor's note: Members will be glad to read in Mr. Bedson's article on Page 94, that Dr. Yu is safely away from the conflict in China. We will inform you if we receive word about Prof. F. Chen, who submitted Dr. Yu's pamphlet to Mrs. Florence Carrell for the benefit of the A. B. S.)

We reprint below Dr. Yu's description of *B. cathayana* from the April issue with this photograph by A. H. Gere, as it is the most horticulturally prominent of the Chinese Begonias listed.)

**BEGONIA CATHAYANA** Hemsl. In Curtis's Bot Mag. 134:8202 (1908).

Se Yunnan: Ping-pien, Tse-chi-chau, alt. 1250 m., under forest. Lf. green with silvery zone and crimson nerves above, crimson below, fl. light orange yellow, Oct. 5, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 82304.

This beautiful Begonia is remarkable for its richness of leaf coloration and its vermilion flowers. It has been introduced into cultivation by means of seeds collected from Ping-pien. Propagated also by leaf cuttings under glass. Flowering season from Oct. to Dec. The fruits are dried up when the flowers are over.



courtesy Helen K. Krauss

## **Begonia cathayana**

**BEGONIA LACINIATA** Roxb. in Fl. Ind. 2:649; Curtis's Bot. Mag. 83:t:5021 (1857); etc.

SE. Yunnan: Ping-pien, Bai-jwu-chien, alt. 1500 m., herb 1-2 ft. high, fl. white, dominant, Dec. 13, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 83055. Fooning, Lung-mai, alt. 1000 m., under woods, foot of precipitous rock, capsule brown, dry, seeds collected, April 20, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 88716. Rootstock collected from Hokou,

cultivated in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute. Fl. pink, 5 cm. in diam., blossoming in Nov. and Dec., 1942. F. T. Wang no. 2522.

Distribution: India, Burma, Indo-china, type common from Eastern India; China: Kwang-tung, new to Yunnan.

**BEGONIA LACINIATA** Roxb. var **TUBERCULOSA** Clarke in Hook. Fl. Brit. India, 2:646.

SW. Yunnan: Shunning, Hila, Wumulung, alt. 1800 m., in ravine, under thicket, herb perennial, 1-2 ft., fl. white, common, July 15, 1938, T. T. Yu no. 16766. Kengma, Kansian-chay, alt. 2300 m., under forest, fl. pink, Aug. 7, T. T. Yu no. 17259.

Distribution: Sikkim, new to Yunnan.

This type and its variety are very common and variable Begonias in the subtropical regions of Asia. The petioles and leaves are either pubescent or sparsely pilose, the flowers from white to light pink, and the ovaries from sparsely to densely pubescent or tuberculose.

**BEGONIA EDULIS** Levl. in Fedde, Rep. Sp. Nov. 6:20 1909:

Type comes from Kweichow, not yet been found in Yunnan.

**BEGONIA EDULIS** Levl. var. **HENRYI** Levl. in l. c.

W. Yunnan: Yang-pi-hsien, southeast of the town, under thickets, herb 1-2 ft. high, Oct. 25, 1930, R. C. Ching no. 25224. Lungling, Hungmu-shu, alt. 2500 m., foot of trunk, shade situation, fl. pink, rare, Aug. 1941, C. W. Wang no. 90101.

NW. Yunnan: Salween valley, Kungshan, Tze-kai, alt. 15-1700 m., under woods in valley, herb 1-5 ft., in fruit, Sept. 1, 1940, K. M. Feng no. 8134. Kiukiang valley, north of Monting, alt. 1400 m., under woods, herb perennial, 1 ft. high, fl. pink, casual, Sept. 21, 1838, T. T. Yu no. 20379.

SW. Yunnan: Tsing-tung, San-chia-tung, alt. 1600 m., under thickets, on rock surface, herb .5-1 ft. high, fl. pink, abundant, Oct. 9, 1939, Y. Liu no. 379. . . . .

SE. Yunnan: Ping-pien, Her-bien-tian, alt. 1200 m., fl. light pink, Sept. 18, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 81892. . . . .

This Begonia with zigzag stems and palmate leaves has been raised from seeds in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute. Flowering season Aug.-Oct.

**BEGONIA CIRCUMLOBATA** Hance in Journ. Bot. 21:203 (1883); Forbes & Hemsl.

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**CHINESE BEGONIAS, cont. from page 99**

in Journ. Linn. Soc. 23:321 (1886).

SE. Yunnan: Ping-pien, Ji-mu-ti, alt. 1700 m., dense woods, in thick clumps, capsule dry, seeds collected, Oct. 1939, C. W. Wang no. 82507. Ma-li-po, hwang-jin-in, alt. 1200 m., rocky hill, fr. brown, dry, Jan. 13, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 83161.

Distribution: Kwangtung, new to Yunnan. *BEGONIA PEDATIFIDA* Levl. in Fedde, Rep. Nov. Sp. 7:21 (1909); Gagn. in Fl. Gen. L'Indo-chine, 8:1104.

W. Szechuan: Omei-shan, alt. 1200 m., June 14, 1940, S. L. Sun no. 2368. Same locality, alt. 400 m., June 10, 1940, W. P. Fang no. 14515. Same locality, June, 1942, W. P. Fang no. 18727.

Distribution: Kweichow, Szechuan, Yunnan, south to Tonkin.

Section 4. *PARVIBEGONIA* A. D. C.

*BEGONIA LEPROSA* Hance in Journ. Bot. 21:202 (1883); Forbes & Hemsl. in Journ. Linn. Soc. 23:322 (1886); etc.

SE. Yunnan: Ping-pien, Ti-mi, alt. 1500 m., under woods, moist place, fl. pink, Nov. 13, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 82759. Mar-li-po Hwang-ging-ying, alt. 1200 m., under dense woods, on rock crevice, fl. white to light pink, Jan. 14, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 82328. Sichou, Far-doe, alt. 1300 m., under dense woods, on rock surface, fl. pink, Dec. 9, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 85515.

Distribution: Kwangtung, new to Yunnan. *BEGONIA HOUTTUYNIOIDES* Yu in Fang, Ic. Pl. Omeien. 2:pl. 152 (1946). (Latin description omitted—Editor.)

W. Szechuan: Omei Hsien, Mt. Omei, alt. 650 m., July 10, 1940, W. P. Fang no. 14511. (Type in Yun. Bot. Inst.), Mt. Omei, under forest, succulent hairy herb about 1 ft. high, staminate fl. white, pistillate fl. in buds, Dec. 17, 1939, W. P. Fang no. 13728. Same locality, alt. 1200 m., July 30, 1940, T. L. Lee no. 3054. Same locality, alt. 900 m., July 6, 1940, W. W. Ma, no. 2668.

This new species is closely related to *B. leprosa* Hance but differs from which in the shortly monadelphous stamens and in the irregularly 2-winged and 2-celled ovaries.

Section 5. *REICHENHEIMAI* Klotzsch.

*BEGONIA WANGII* sp. nov. (Latin description omitted—Editor.)

SE. Yunnan: Foo-ning, Jar-gei, alt. 800 m. rocky hill, fl. pink, May 23, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 89540 (Type in Yun. Bot. Inst.). In same locality, alt. 600 m., rocky hill, foot of precipitous rocks, lf. succulent, purplish beneath, fl. pink, rare, May 13, 1940, C. W. Wang no. 87179.

This interesting peltate leaved *Begonia* is closely related to *B. Cavaleriei* Levl. (ex-descrip-

tion), differing in its dichotomously many-flowered cymes and in its orbicular-ovate sepals.

**ARMCHAIR EXPL., cont. from page 98**

and of anything new you've worked out. Don't let the canary and the Saintpaulia growers beat the *Begonia* Society members!

I have just received another letter from Otto Degener of Hawaii. He again visited the place where *Hillebrandia* grows but none of the plants were in flower. We hope sometime he will find a seed for us. Mr. Degener says that often he sees most attractive and interesting plants which he thinks would be fine for our gardens and greenhouses. He is sending me seed of *Cyathodes* (*Strybelia*) *Taweiaemeiae*, a beautiful heather-like shrub, and of *Morinda citrifolia* var. *Patteri*, a small tree with variegated leaves which he gathered in Fiji. I am in hopes that he can be persuaded to gather many kinds of seeds of unusual plants for us, and should I get these seeds I would like to put them out in mixed packets so many of us can grow the plants. "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji," Mr. Degener's book, was reviewed in the January *Begonian*.

The philodendron seeds still are not here, those wanting refunds please write, or, if you want *begonia* seeds, I will allow 3 packets for each philodendron order. Am so very sorry but we surely will hear from our Guatemala collector before too long. Several of you have small credit on my books; won't you please let me know what you would like, for I want to keep my accounts in order. If for any reason you had bad luck with your *begonia* seed and you send me a stamped envelope, I will mail you free a package of mixed *begonia* seeds so that you can keep on trying; this also applies to those who may have failed with ferns. *Martiana* bulbils are slow in germinating, so have patience. All *Achimenes* tubers are gone; shall try to have them again for you next year.

Keep the convention date in your mind. I hope to have an Armchair Explorers meeting this year—no speakers but plenty of time for all to tell their experiences in growing seeds and time for us all to get acquainted. More about this later. Cheerio until next month—

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

For only 25c sent with your name and address to Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, 1623 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif., you will receive two display cards showing your affiliation with the *American Begonia Society* for posting in your garden. Neat and trim, they will proclaim to your friends that you are part of an organization that numbers members around the globe!

# BEGONIAS THROUGH STORM AND SUN

By Ada M. Entzminger, Bronson, Kansas

In thinking back over the years since I first became interested in and learned to know begonias, the memory of my grandmother's window garden in Illinois stands out clearly. It was there as a child watching Grandma water and "pinch back" to shape her plants that my love for them began.

Her south windows were filled with geraniums and other sun-loving plants and her north kitchen windows were full of begonias. I remember *metallica*, *Thurstoni*, and *McBethii*—or "little maple leaf"—and a large rhizomatous called *magnifica*. Whether that was the correct name I do not know, but I have not often seen it since, though I do have a little plant started now that I believe is the same. (Editor's note—*This may be r. c. magnifica* as pictured in *The Begonian* for January, 1943, which Mrs. Helen Krauss proposes to call *eminenta* to avoid conflict in nomenclature with a species named earlier.)

One summer an aunt visiting in another state brought back some slips of *red rubra* and took them to Grandma to root, as she was noted for her "green thumb." That was how *red rubra* was introduced in our vicinity. Grandma's grew to the top of the porch and hung full of its bunches of red bloom. To this day I've never been able to grow one like it. Climatic conditions are much better for growing begonias in Illinois than in Kansas—higher humidity and no hot winds there.

I have lived in Kansas for over 40 years now and many begonias have passed through my hands in that time. I like to see a variety, learn its appearance, habit of growth, and hardiness to our climate, then keep those I like best or that do best here.

Of all the years the drought years (early 1930's especially) were the greatest trial to a begonia lover's heart. Out of some 200 one summer only 25 sad plants were left when the fall rains arrived. One year we had 51 days straight running with temperatures 100 deg. and over—two or three times to 118-120 deg. That is hot anywhere!

I tried fixing flax straw around the pots and wetting it. This helped for a while, but on the hottest days it just seemed to scald them.

The rhizomatous class came through best, with their husky root stalks to help them. Of course their leaves were small and marred by heat and wind. *Lucerne* stood it best of the cane class and, strange as it might seem,

*McBethii* made it through, though many leaves were white with the heat and fell. At that time I had no lath house and kept my plants in the northwest corner of the north porch and some on the ground protected by spireas.

Now I have a lath house, lean-to type, on the north side of the storeroom and back porch, which solves the problem of shade and wind protection. Sometimes I put cloth on the west end and part way on top if the sun gets too hot.

Last summer I had over 200 varieties and many were large beautiful plants. The rhizomatous I especially like; they have such a tropical look with their beautiful leaves. Pots of fancy leaf caladiums and hanging baskets of achimenes lend color to the scene. Most of the fibrous kinds I grow in pots on shelves on the solid side of the lath house. Gloxinias like it here and do well.

This year I had between 175 and 200 begonias besides many seedlings from the seed fund which I expect to move into the lath house in a short time. Friends of a lifetime—old and new—they bravely endure and freely share their beauties with me always.



Mrs Entzminger and her granddaughter, Brenda Jo, informally display a pet *ricinifolia*.

Editor's Note: *Begonia ricinifolia* is aptly named. The large beautiful leaves closely resemble the striking foliage of *Ricinus*. This is the well known castor bean plant which naturalizes itself in the vacant lots about the city of Los Angeles.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS

The "Merry Month of May" is upon us at last with busy red breasted robins as well as "round" ones.

The *Hybridizing Robin* (Begonias only) is flying with four members. Six enthusiastic begonia hybridizers would receive a hearty welcome from this group!

The *Semperflorens Robins* (General and for Northeast begoniaites) have room for added members too.

Did you know some of our Begonia Robins have almost the same membership as on the first flight? Mrs. Catherine Sheehan of Massachusetts started our first A. B. S. Robin Club in flight six years ago this May. This same Robin—*General Begonias, Advanced*, with the same director and several of the original members, is still flying.

And the *Gesneriaceae Robins*—! While new directors have been appointed within the year and an occasional new member is added, almost all the original members of the first flights are still aboard. A fascinating class of plants, eh, what? A new Robin is forming now.

New groups are also forming for:

*Begonia Collectors*—the more you collect the more you want!

*General Begonias, Advanced*—All Begonias discussed here.

*Rhizomatous Begonias*—Some fans have better luck with this type than the others. Their handsome foliage and flowers in late winter endear them to the window-gardener.

*Fibrous Begonias—Beginners and Advanced*—Leaves—satin, felted, green, red, or bronzy with lovely blooms prompt our enthusiasm here.

*Tuberous Begonias*—Ah! If you haven't tried these, join us.

And for our companion plants:

*Caladiums*—"Eye-catching" effects with these.

*African Violets*—"nuff sed."

*House Plants*—Learn of new, lovelier ones for your windows.

*Pelargoniums and Ivy Geraniums*—Few of us outside of California can really succeed with the "Pels" it seems, but we keep trying. We have better luck with the "Ivies" and are always on the prowl for new ones.

*Fuchsias*—Though in California and Oregon they reach tree size, the rest of us are delighted with our "pot fuchsias." Perhaps you who have failed in the past with these will have better luck after joining this robin.

*Herbs*—One of the most bewitching robins! Knot gardens, tasty bits—flavoring—scented—medicinal! All quickly snare you forever as an herbite.

Turn to next page



From our "Cold Section Amaryllis Round Robin" Mrs. R. E. Kartack, of Barraboo, Wisc., says:

"The garden patch where I grow my Amaryllis during the summer is well spaded in the fall after the bulbs are dug up, then well rotted manure is applied on top and the whole thing left rough over winter. This helps to mellow the clay soil. In the spring we just rake it in well.

"About three or four weeks elapse from the time when bulbs are first brought up from the basement until first buds begin to unfold. (Bulbs are never brought up till buds begin to show.) Be sure always to make the transition from the basement darkness to the sunny window gradually. It should take about a week. The bulbs do not need much water until the leaves start to grow. Most people overwater in the first growing stage. Never give fertilizer until the leaves are growing vigorously.

"Amaryllis make a complete new root system each year after they bloom. If you observe your bulbs closely right after blooming, you will see that they shrink. It is then that the old roots drop off and the new ones form. As soon as this starts the leaves also begin to emerge. This corresponds to the way these bulbs grow where they are native. The tropics usually have definite dry seasons and seasons of rainfall. During the dry season the tops go dormant; as soon as the rain comes the bloom buds force themselves upward; then while the ground is wet, new roots form and also much foliage. As it gets dry again the bulb gradually goes dormant. It is very simple once you understand it.

"Once a leaf bends over and cracks, it is gone. That is why it is so vital to stake all foliage carefully. I never remove the flower stock until it shrinks and turns yellow; then I twist it out gently, holding down the bulb firmly, so that it does not become dislodged from the soil. Seed formation does take strength from the bulb. I always feed the bulbs well that have formed seed.

Usually I leave Amaryllis offsets on the mother bulb the first year, then take them off at potting time in early December. If grown in pots the best time to remove them would be after the resting period—scrape the dirt away carefully and then take a little sharp

knife to separate the offset and try to get some roots with it. If they are quite large, they probably have their own root system and so would separate quite easily from the mother bulb. I don't like to leave offsets too long on the mother bulb as they grow better by themselves and also have a better rounder shape. It seems that the deeper the more common bulbs are planted the more offsets they form. They usually make more offsets when planted in the ground, for they are usually planted deeper in the ground than in the pots.

I always try to leave the bulbs in the ground as long as possible, sometimes till late in October. If frost is predicted in September or October, I get out my wooden storage boxes, put them around the *Amaryllis* bed, and cover with two large canvas drop cloths. This way they can stay out till quite late, for they do not mind light frosts at night if covered, and they do enjoy the bright sunny days of fall, if they are still green. A long storage period is not needed—six weeks is long enough."

#### ROUND ROBIN NEWS cont. from page 102

*Lily*—Do you know how many hundreds there are that could make torches and candelabra in your begonia beds?

*Epiphyllums*—The orchid Cactus. Exotic but not too hard to grow.

*Gloxinias*—New lovely kinds have increased interest here. This Robin will teach you to bloom them successfully and raise them from seed too!

*Impatiens*—"Busy Lizzy" in her clouds of color has many variations and is easy to grow.

*Ferns*—So many forms of loveliness. New kinds—new sources.

And now, second call for *Pelargoniums* for the West Coast and the *Oxalis Robins* before they can fly.

....**DIRECTORS, PLEASE DON'T FORGET:** Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, our Public Relations Director, has created a fine column of Robin Notes, but she must have your choice notes EACH MONTH. Please help keep it flying too!

Be with you in June—

Frances Downing

For a house plant, get acquainted with the billbergias. Their simple requirements are plenty of humus in the soil, good drainage and filtered light from a window. Keep their 'cups' filled with water. Their blossoms are exotic and are an addition to any collection. There are many varieties on the market.

Have you good photos of any begonias not recently pictured herein? Contact the Editor!

## SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS

*THE TRICK OF GROWING HOUSE PLANTS IN EVERY WINDOW*, by *Sophia Naumberg*, 1949, 88 pages; illustrations drawn by *Alfred S. Muscari*; *Floral Art, Publishers*, West Englewood, N. J. \$2.00 postpaid.

Heavy water-proof paper cover, plastic binding and clear print are requisites that will be appreciated by all dirt duffers.

Window gardeners will welcome this concise and authoritative book. It contains all the fundamental requirements for good culture. Printed on four colors of paper, which shows at a glance which exposure is best suited to a wide selection of house plants, the book also includes chapters on potting mixtures, temperatures, moisture in the soil and in the air, propagation, resting periods, plant troubles, plant pests and their cures. These are but a few of the subjects covered. This book is a MUST for the amateur and a handy, reliable reference for all window gardeners.

\* \* \* \* \*

*THE TRICK OF MAKING YOUR OWN CORSAGES* is another of *Sophia Naumberg's* contributions to the flower lover. Published by *Floral Art, West Englewood, N. J.* \$1.00 ppd. Or the book, with a kit containing floral tape, two sizes of tying wire, four colors of ribbon, and florists pins,—\$3.00 ppd.

There are 18 pages, paper bound, with complete instructions and illustrations for making your own corsages with flowers from your garden or from the florist. Mrs. Naumberg tells you what to grow to have corsage material the year 'round. A chapter carries a warning of what to beware in buying 'florist specials,' for old stock will not stand up well nor will it produce the artistic results you can have by following her explicit directions.

There are step by step methods of the mechanics of corsage making, how to select and condition the flowers, details for making those lovely professional looking bows, tailored or frilly ones. Two pages are devoted to the making of those unique flower arrangements for your wrist, necklace, or to highlight your coiffure.—*Dorothy Michaelson, Reviewer*

Begonias with tubers or thickened stems (as rhizomes) can easily be over watered. During the growing period, keep your plants moist. Do not over water when they are dormant.

Have you read the advertisements in *The Begonian* lately? Better check them over now and make a list of the items you need.

**PLANT AMERICA**

# For Beginners--and You, Too

## PATIENCE

The love of a beautiful flowering plant is the driving force within every true gardener. This condition is stronger in a beginner because of the lack of familiarity with plants during their growing stages. Because you are watching the young start constantly to see if they are growing, you begin to think they have stopped and something is wrong. Then you become impatient and devise ideas that will speed up the plant. It is better to be conservative with fertilizer and water and have slow-growing, sturdy plants rather than sick ones.

The amounts of heat and light plants receive determine their rate of growth. Water and fertilizer requirements are dependent on temperature and daylight. Sometimes warm weather is slow in arriving during May and the night temperatures continue cool. Be patient, as it won't be long until improved weather brings faster growth.

Before the month of May has gone, all of your tuberous begonias will be transplanted into the ground or pots. Before the plants become established, gentle overhead watering is best. Heavy soakings may pack the soil and a soggy condition will arise causing the tuber to rot. The weather and lightness of the soil will determine the amount of water when the plants start to grow. Let 3 or 4 days go by after watering and, if the soil is still wet, postpone watering until the soil starts to dry.

Mrs. Catherine M. Sheehan of Wollaston, Mass., says, "My plants are watered with a mist-like spray as the leaves require it almost as much as the shallow-growing roots. It raises the humidity somewhat on very hot days. The bed should never dry out entirely or it will cause bud drop as well as other difficulties, but a very damp situation will cause the tubers to rot."

Mrs. Sheehan also offers these additional hints on growing tuberous begonias: "The plants should be staked while young, adjusting the stake as the plants grow taller. This can be done inconspicuously with light bamboo or the round wooden stakes placed in back of the stalks, being careful not to injure the tuber. Tie loosely in several places with soft string, raffia, or cloth tape, which are more satisfactory than the wired tapes. The stems are very brittle and, if not staked, the heavy flower heads may snap off in wind or rain.

"Tuberous begonias need a sheltered, partly shaded position. However, they should not be grown so close to a building as to exclude

a good circulation of air, nor where they will get the drip from the eaves. They may be grown directly in the ground, in cloth houses, or in pots plunged into the soil."

Thank you, Mrs. Sheehan, for the good advice from the East Coast. It is just as applicable to the far west.

## SHOW BEGONIAS

*By Ferd Neels, Past President—'42*

Everyone enjoys the sight of a well grown specimen plant, especially the flower show judge and the grower who entered the plant.

Start now to grow your begonias into show material. Spread the plants apart to allow space for side growth. Crowded pots create competition, tall growth with no lateral branching, and sparse basal foliage. Turn the plants around each week so that the new growth is balanced on all sides. One-sided growth is a point against the plant when it is judged at the show. To further help the fibrous-rooted plant become a bushy and symmetrically balanced specimen, keep the tall shoots pinched back. By checking the stems as the plant develops it gets thicker with more lateral branching. This means more flowers and therefore a more spectacular appearance.

You can guide the progress of the begonia by staking and tying as it grows. Gathering all the loose ends to a stake just before going to a show makes a "sloppy" specimen, which is usually ruled out of competition.

The condition of the plant must be sturdy and hard. Those that are grown fast and soft will not hold up in transportation to or in the show. Glasshouses should be kept cool and shaded. Actually the most rugged plants are grown out-of-doors or in lath houses. Let the begonias develop slowly in the cool, moist atmosphere.

Size is not the sign of a good plant. It is not necessary to force the entries by heat, water, and fertilizer. Only feed the plants enough to maintain a steady growth. Apply fertilizer mildly and often. Maintain the plants in a pot-bound condition. They will flower more heavily than those in too large a pot. The latter condition results in too much growth and very few flowers.

Another point where a plant can lose out in the show is on injured foliage. The best prevention is a constant pest control program.

At home or in the show a good begonia plant is balanced, clean, bushy, flowering, and strong.

Check the A. B. S. Library List. Send for books to assist your sheltered garden hobby.

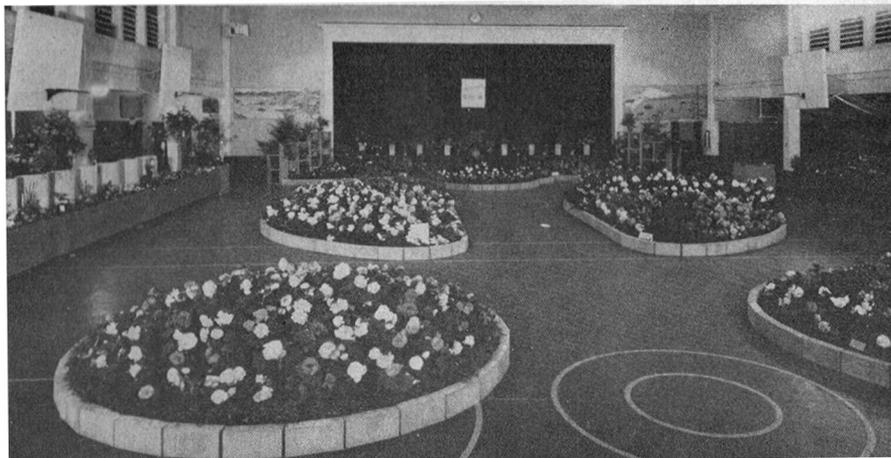
# Eastside-Seattle Show

By Mrs. Helen G. Buzard, President,  
Eastside Begonia Club

The Eastside Begonia Club and the first annual show are like the egg and the chick—which came first?

In the early summer of 1948 Dr. W. Othur Hillery, who has been a Begonia fan and grower for a number of years, gathered a small group of other fans together and planned a show. In printing a schedule the sponsoring group found it needed a name and selected the "Eastside Begonia Club."

The first show was held in an unfinished



building and set up on planks, building blocks, and what have you, but with fine plants and excellent lighting the result was gorgeous and enthusiasm overflowed. The show was free and a constant stream of visitors went through from the opening until well after closing time. A table near the front with two members always in attendance answering questions became our education department.

The following week the sponsors held a post mortem and, due to the tremendous new interest, decided to incorporate. Dr. Hillery was prevailed upon to head the organization and take it through its second show.

Because at that time a toll bridge or 25 miles of driving separated those folk in Seattle

*Turn to next page*

who were interested, Mr. S. A. McClanahan then formed the Seattle Branch of the American Begonia Society. Some of the more hardy of us have membership in both clubs and the Seattle branch contributed greatly toward the second show and is now hard at work preparing for the third.

The elementary school auditorium was secured for our more pretentious second show. Mr. E. Perrine, a member and landscape gardener with a record of fine primrose shows, agreed to stage it. Local building material dealers furnished brick and blocks. In this area there are a number of very lovely gardens and these and the local commercial growers entered beautiful floor displays. Our State Capitol Gardens and the University of Washington Arboretum entered most outstanding exhibits. Mr. Reinelt sent a variety of superb cut flowers. There was a 25 cent admission charge and attendance was about 3,500, which (considering it is held in mid-summer vacation time) was very gratifying.

Awards were given for perfection. The American Begonia Society Awards were greatly appreciated, both by the members and those who won them, and contributed greatly to the interest.

Our judges were served a fine luncheon on the stage of the auditorium overlooking the display (our members using the school facilities for its preparation.) The compliments from the judges were most gratifying.

The educational exhibit in charge of Mr. McClanahan and Mr. Neil Hall of the Seattle Branch became a real bottle-neck in the show, so much interest was shown by the public.

One young man of twelve brought in three exhibits and took two seconds and one first and two of our firsts in flower arrangements were awarded to school girls—the judges being unaware they were not adult entries! Thus this year we feel it necessary to have a special class for children.

To read our guest book, with its high compliments, is to realize what a mark we have to shoot at this year to produce another show as fine.

Now we have a membership of about 40 and are planning our third show for July 22-23rd. The Seattle Branch is making big plans and members are pledging themselves to raise at least a dozen plants for the club exhibit as well as specimen plants for the horticulture division.

*(Congratulations to the Eastside Begonia Club and our Seattle Branch for working side by side in one great common objective. Your successes are cause for just pride among all of us and our wishes are with you for a greater show than ever this year.)*

## Cover picture:

### BEGONIA MORGANA

By Marie Minter

When Mrs. Clark made a drawing of *Morgana* in May, 1943, there was no description of the plant given. It is in hope of describing this that I am attempting now to describe the plant as grown in my own lath house. This picture is one of Mrs. Helen Krauss' collection so generously donated to the A. B. S., as was the picture on our March cover.

*Morgana* was produced by Henry Morgan about 1937 and was listed in the Rosecroft catalog of that same year. It belongs to the hairy fibrous group and is particularly desirable if one has a very shady corner in the lath house, as this begonia tolerates more shade than any of the other hairy fibrous. The leaves will burn if too much light is given it.

One of the parents of this plant was Scharffi (syn. Haageana) and the leaves retain the plushiness and much the same shape. They are a beautiful cress green and as large as the parent, although much thinner.

The veins on the upper surface are quite depressed, making the leaf surface convex between the larger veins.

On the back of the new leaves there is a flush of corinthian purple which disappears as the leaf matures, leaving only the veins colored in this shade.

The flowers appear well above the foliage in arching clusters. They are white with a very little light shading of pink. The hairs on the back of the buds are a lighter shade of corinthian purple. It is a consistent bloomer.

The plant grows quite tall in the ground and sends many canes from the bottom, giving the whole plant a very bushy appearance.

#### TRIALS OF ROBINITE, cont. from page 96

one Nut House Robin member has surmised, that culture differs among the varieties.

Some of mine still look dormant, but for those that are putting forth new leaves, I thought it best to dose them with "weak tea" saying, as mother used to say to me, "Drink this—it is good for you—it will make you grow!" That medicinal tea I took when I was a child was just as repulsive to me then as this I gave to my begonias today.

And so, with spring just around the corner, I still feel that I have a chance at succeeding with my project. After five months my *rex* seedlings are seemingly holding their own. A few of them look very promising and, who knows, it may yet be that one Nut House *Rex* Nut will have at last achieved success!

# News of Our Branches

During the past few weeks the opportunity has come to visit several of the branches. At South Gate Branch we heard a very interesting garden lecture during which the nurseryman offered his assistance to the members on the subject of soil analysis. The evening was climaxed by a visit to the lath and glass houses of Mr. Human. Although he had been operating his glass house about six months, there was no evidence of fast, soft growth, and all the plants were in extremely good condition. The collection was broad with respect to variety and contained many of the rare and hard to grow types.

At Santa Monica we were particularly impressed with the started tubers that were available to the members.

Foothill Branch highlight was the speaker, Dr. Willard Simpson, who spoke on hybridization from the standpoint of aims. He very strongly advocated establishment of a definite objective and the selection of parent stock chosen to impart the desired characteristics.

The visit to North Long Beach was a very pleasant experience at which we were presented with a lovely rex begonia of the variety *Helen Lewis*. Here, too, more lath and glass houses were visited; this time they belonged to the branch president, Mr. Wiley. Here we saw a very good collection of azaleas and fuchias as well as a large group of tuberous begonia seedlings.

People with the same basic interest of development of the shade garden are found in not only those branches mentioned but all the many branches we have visited during the past several years. They have developed many shade gardens and are anxious to have visitors from other branches or the membership-at-large come and meet with them and exchange ideas.

*W. E. Walton, President*

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**BARTON:** At our quarterly meeting, Monday, May 1st, the following officers will be installed by ritual: President, Mrs. S. V. Clark; vice-president, Miss Frances Ditchburn; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Walter Malmquist; director, Mrs. George W. W. Barton—*Dorothy Pierson Barton.*

**HUB CITY:** Is planning with enthusiasm for its booth at the National Show. Our March speaker, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman of Leatherman's Begonia Gardens, made Begonia raising sound so simple that next morning I tried out some of her ideas! By the way, Hub City certainly has good cooks!—*Blanche E. Watts.*

**HUMBOLDT:** Had a smaller crowd of the faithful in March due to the miserable weather, but those who could attend made fine use of our informal meeting with the Question Box. After reading one, the answer comes in the form of suggestions from several members, and, being impromptu, no one minds speaking up.

It seems that slugs, snails, earwigs and sow bugs are the main diet of ducks. One of our members has a pair that she lets roam during the late fall and winter months. She uses no other control for these pests and says she never has any trouble with them. As soon as the plants start to grow in the spring, she pens in her ducks.

Some of the begonia tubers are sending forth many little pink sprouts. After your tuber is well established in leaf mold, some of these sprouts may be broken off, leaving but three. If an exhibition plant is wanted, leave just one. On hangers leave all the sprouts.

A good spray to control the mite is Greenhouse Volck. Do not let your plants have any sun on them after spraying. Volck is an oil spray and therefore will burn tender foliage in the sun.

Leaf mold composed of small leaves is the best. Large leaves lie flat and become brittle when dry, shedding water and taking longer to rot and decompose. Begonias love the well-rotted leaf mold and give thanks by sending forth large beautiful blooms.

We hope the above nuggets from our Question Box will show a little of the benefits that can be derived from even the simplest branch meeting. We welcome all visitors.—*Violet Wooden.*

**INGLEWOOD:** Our April meeting was attended by 152 Begonia enthusiasts. The large gathering was due to a "double-header." First, we celebrated our Second Annual Branch Presidents' Dinner, being honored by eight

*Turn to next page*

presidents of other branches and many other visitors. Second, our speaker was Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara. This famous authority on begonias presented a demonstrational lecture on "New Begonias." Everyone enjoyed seeing and hearing of the new introductions.

Much enthusiasm was accorded *Begonia Boweri*, which was described in the April issue of *The Begonian*. Mr. Ziesenhenné said that *B. Boweri* has become popular because it is such a good house plant. It grows in a shallow layer of soil and slowly enough to retain its miniature habit for a long time in a small container. A decorative use for the plant is to grow it in a goldfish bowl with just a little leaf mold soil in the bottom. He knows of one specimen which had over a hundred leaves at the end of the first year in a four inch pot and bloomed over a long period of time.

Our June speaker will be Mr. Homer Green from Ortho Products, who will show two pictures on roses and plant life—Don't miss it.—*Calvin Troubridge.*

ORANGE COUNTY: Had one of our largest crowds April 6th to hear Morris Molho, formerly manager of Macres Florists in Balboa. He demonstrated the technique and methods of making as well as wearing corsages for both formal and informal wear. He stressed 4 points: color, design, size and occasion. Also, Mrs. Perry Grout showed several glass dishes in which begonia seed and fern spores were beginning to show. During the business session we voted to enter a booth in both the Orange County Fair and the Long Beach Flower Show to be held in August. Don't forget, members, our May meeting will start with a pot-luck supper.—*Helen Meyer.*

PETALUMA: At our March meeting our President, Mr. Al Schlener, introduced Mr. Hugh Wallace, Manager of Birchlane Gardens, San Rafael, who spoke to the group on "The Culture and Propagation of Tuberous Begonias." He not only gave a very informative and interesting talk but a practical demonstration as well on how to prepare soil for begonias, the actual planting, and the care that should follow.

In the business session it was decided to change our meeting place from Dania Hall to the McKinley Recreation Center at Washington and Vallejo Streets. Mrs. J. Earle Wilson was appointed Chairman for the coming Flower Show to be held at Kenilworth Park, August 26th and 27th, 1950. We voted to present a showing of all seasonal flowers as well as our specialty—begonias and shade-loving plants. Due to illness Mrs. Martha Phillips has resigned as Publicity Chairman, and I

have been appointed to fill out her term.—*James J. Mullin.*

PHILABEGONIA: Mrs. Robert Michaelson, Eastern Chairman of Research and Public Relations of the A. B. S., was guest speaker when the Philabegonia Society entertained the Margaret Gruenbaum Branch at a luncheon meeting March 3rd at the Hatboro home of Mrs. Frank Mather. Mrs. Michaelson's topic, "Growing Begonias from Seed," was most enlightening and inspiring. Mrs. Mather also gave helpful advice on the same topic, and a question and answer period proved popular.—*Mrs. A. E. Scheflen.*

SACRAMENTO: Speaker of the evening at our April meeting was Mr. Patrick Antonelli of Antonelli Bros. Begonia Gardens, Santa Cruz, California. His subject was "The History and Culture of Tuberous Begonias." Mr. Antonelli is famous for his improvement of the tuberous begonia and all who have heard him will know how much we enjoyed his visit.

Our Vice-president is planning another garden tour for May and we have received a delightful invitation from the East Bay Branch to be their guests at their May meeting and hear Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné. We hope many of our members will be able to make the journey down to hear Mr. Ziesenhenné.—*Mrs. John R. Williams*

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## Your Editor Received

A wonderful letter of encouragement from the Riverside Branch. Thanks very much, indeed.

Notice of the Santa Barbara Orchid Show too late to include in April's announcements, but we hope many of our members were privileged to attend.

Notice of the African Violet Show sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the African Violet Society of America to be held Tuesday, June 6, 1950, 1 to 5 p. m., at 3990 Menlo Ave., Los Angeles, California. Admission is free and you are invited to bring your favorite violets either for competition or display. Complete schedules are available through Mrs. Carolyn Rector, 486 W. O'Farrel, San Pedro, Calif.

A very educational tour through Mrs. Marie Turner's wonderland of garden and begonias and a chance to take color slides of her fine specimen of *Sophora secundiflora* in full bloom, looking exactly like a little tree of wisteria—fragrant too.

A second education among the fine begonia collections of Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger on a beautiful sunny afternoon with the Channel Islands looming across the blue Pacific. *Muy bonita!*

A hunch that many of our readers are experimenting with hybridizing and have little gems of their own creation tucked away in their collections which merit wider recognition. If you have a new begonia hybrid you have never published, why don't you send us a picture and description and let us check it through the files of our research department and if they agree on its merit we can publish it for the benefit of all the world. Don't hide your light under the proverbial bushel—or lath house!

An advertisement of the PLANT BUYERS GUIDE, 5th Ed., published by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at \$7.50 a copy and containing thousands upon thousands of plant materials, alphabetically, with names and addresses of reputable dealers—a gigantic directory.

NEW FLOWERS for 1950.

- Petunia Fire Chief; vivid red!
- Dwarf Lupin; NEW gay mixture
- Full - Double Triumph Holly-hock Mixed; new vivid colors
- Nicotiana Daylight Sensation Mixed; blooms first summer
- Larkspur Regal Mixed; tops in colors, size and height

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**BETTER GARDENS**

2446 Huntington Dr. San Marino, Calif.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in Room 1305, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., March 27th, 1950. President Walton in the Chair.

Present for the meeting—Walton, Trowbridge, Moore, Gale, Bailey, Lorenz, Spaulding; Mesdames Korts, Nolan, Schwerdtfeger, Hartwell; Branches represented—Southgate, Inglewood, Glendale, Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Hub City Santa Monica, Redondo Beach Area, San Diego, LaMesa, El Monte, Riverside.

Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims & Purposes of the A. B. S.

Reading of Minutes dispensed with as minutes had been previously published.

Reports of Business Manager, Treasurer, Membership Fees, and Editor read approved as read and laid on the table for further reference.

Public Relations Director announced organization of new branch in Texas and submitted Constitution and By-Laws for approval of Board. SO ORDERED.

Round Robins running smoothly; requests that A. B. S. awards be sent to Chairman of Goleta Flower Show; Missouri Branch making plans for display in April Flower Show.

Mr. Trowbridge especially urged Representative Directors to keep their members informed as to the Annual meeting and Flower Show; stated the floor plan is all drawn up and by the middle of May they hope to have copies in the mail to each branch.

Librarian Nolan reported several additions to the library both of books and important bulletins; books being rebound; cultural bulletins and back issues of the Begonian sold.

Director Mrs. Korts stated she had sent in an order for 50 Begonia pins and to contact her should you desire pins. Asked instructions from the Board as to feasibility of sending out Nat. Bd. meeting notices. Following discussion Mrs. Schwerdtfeger moved as follows:

"That the Begonia Society furnish the cards to notify Representative Directors of the Bd. Mtgs. SO ORDERED.

"That these cards be sent ALL Representative Directors in ALL branches. SO ORDERED.

In answer to inquiry, Lorenz stated—One courtesy copy is sent members whose dues have expired; if members renew in 3 mos., they will get the back issues. Also stated mail is coming through promptly.

Mrs. Nolan reported on So. Cal. Hobby Show and felt the Begonia Society should actively participate in their future shows.

Discussion concerning a membership in the Arboretum Society, Baldwin Estate resulted as follows:

President Walton appointed a committee of 3—Elmer Lorenz, Howard Small and Jack Bailey to go into this matter and report back at the April meeting—initiation \$10.00; membership \$10.00 per year.

President submitted for the approval of the Board, "The appointment of Mrs. John MacLanahan as BUSINESS MANAGER of the A. B. S. to succeed Frank Moore." SO ORDERED.

Mr. Shultz, R. D. Inglewood, invited everyone to attend their President's Dinner April 13th; Mr. Ziesenhenne will be the speaker.

130 new members during March; 120 cultural bulletins sold.

Sacramento Branch reports "Best speakers available; interesting new year book and monthly News Letter "The Begonia Leaf" edited by Mrs. Williams announces speaker and gives cultural instructions. Sent to all members.

Branch reports encouraging and show how busy the branches are in planning for speakers, for flower shows, and for the Annual Convention and Flower Show.

To avoid duplication, we are not publishing Branch Reports in the Condensed Minutes but as we have space they will be printed elsewhere in the Begonian.

Respectfully submitted,

Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

Support those advertisers that help make this magazine possible!

## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular Meetings 1st Mondays in February, May, August and November. Two annual exhibits, May and September, 1:30 p.m., Dessert Mrs. George W. W. Barton, Director 929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Michigan.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, May 1, June 5, 7:30 p.m. I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts. Mrs. Mildred Marshall, Secretary 8783 East Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 11, 7:45 p.m. Willard School, Ward Street C. F. Jensen, Sec. 3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

### EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, May 18, 8:00 p.m. Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 60 Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec. 701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, May 5, June 2, 8:00 p.m. Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary 360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. 206 West Cypress Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary 1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.

### GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. Community House, LaJolla Tillie Center, Corres. Secy. 7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. Home of Members Box Lunch 12:30, Program following Mrs. Ernest Jones, Sec. R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 11, 7:00 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy. 861 So. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. Roosevelt High School Cafe 1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif. Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy. 114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 8, 8:00 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 11, 8:00 p.m. 325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Dorothea McBride, Secretary 3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 8, 8:00 p.m. La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif. Mrs. Ida M. Barker, Secy. 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas. 1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec. 2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Ruth Edwards, Sec. 2539 Holmes, Kansas City, Mo.

### NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m. Houghton Park Club House Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach F. John Nachbor, Secy. 6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, May 4, June 1, 7:30 p.m. Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange Sec.-Treas., Mrs. W. L. Everett, R. 2, Box 146 Orange, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. 208 Social Hall, Pasadena City College, Colorado Blvd. J. F. Thompson, Sec.-Treas. 739 No. Wilson, Pasadena 6, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts. J. Earl Wilson, Secretary 111 Hill Blvd., Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

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

### REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, May 26, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif. Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Sec. 522 So. Guadalupe Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 10, 8:00 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec. 7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. 3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif. Mrs. Edyth Sherwood, c/o Mrs. Leta Wescott 1767 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego 7, Calif.

### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 16, 8:00 p.m. Garden Center, McKinley Park Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary 293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, May 4, June 1, 7:30 p.m. Salem Y.M.C.A. Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secretary 2750 Lancaster Dr., Salem, Oregon

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 23, Lions' Club, 3927 Utah St. Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec. 1059 Meade Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m. Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, No. Hillywd. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary 20047 Arminta, Canoga Park, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, May 3, June 7, 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St. Sec., Mrs. Wm. Meyer 1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 24, 8:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anta Ave. Mrs. Dorothy deHart, Sec. 509 So. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St. Santa Barbara, California Roy G. Pierce, Secy. 914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

1st Wednesday, May 3, June 7, 7:30 p.m. 225 - 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif. Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary 933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

### SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, May 25, 6:30 p.m. Steckel Park Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, 621 Santa Paula St. Santa Paula, California

*See next page*

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, May 16,  
Member's Homes  
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.  
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, May 2, June 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C. II., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. Robert Renshaw, Secy.  
560 So. Coronado, Ventura, Calif.

**SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, May 18, 8:00 p.m.  
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Harvey Manning, Cor. Secy.  
21455 E. 14th St., Hayward, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park  
Mr. Ray Venable, Secy.  
8624 Garden View Ave., Southgate, Calif.

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Friday, May 26,  
Mr. E. Weaver, Pres.  
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, May 9, 11 a.m.  
Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mrs. John C. Schmucker, Sec.-Treas.  
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**

4th Wednesday, May 24, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Sec.  
25912 Westlako Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Hovanec, Secy.  
630 Palm Avenue, Whittier, Calif.



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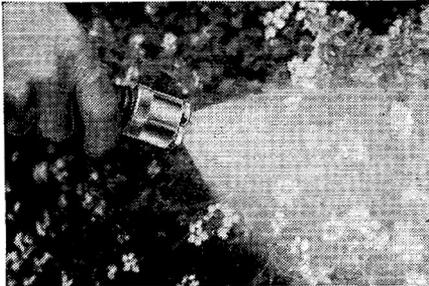
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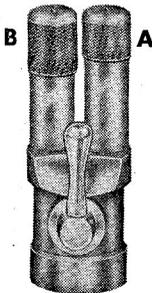
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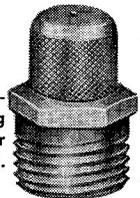


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