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FIFTEEN CENTS

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About This and That

• What better way is there, of giving oneself and one's friends a "lift"-than to send them a year's subscription to The Begonian (which includes membership to the nearest Branch and the National Begonia Society)?

In these days of transportation difficulties, it is more than ever important to be on the receiving end of a visit from this monthly publication. It will bring your friends news and activities of all Begonians everywhere in the United States, and help to gather more strength and knowledge for greater success in the shade garden and thereby a happier and fuller life, all around.

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THE EDITOR

If the letter published herein from Mrs. Moore had been a letter to our Mr. Neels, Ch. of Questions & Answers, she would have had the information most important to her and she would now be another contented "Begonian" able to pass that information on to others, thus adding to the happiness about herself.

"In Unity there is Strength"-and that is what the present Research Division of the A.B.S. is demonstrating. It is one of the really worth while and a most necessary part of the organization, the scientific background we need and they are working to give us all endless im-(Continued on page 125)

CAME to Capitola in January 1934. The Vetterle Bros. were growing Tuberous Begonias wholesale on a very large scale, importing seed from Europe. I worked previously on private estates in Los Altos. Since I was interested in breeding Begonias, I used to come to Capitola for several years and kept selecting the best plants I needed for breeding from the large plantings. The Vetterles were growing the Blackmore & Langdon strain which was then the very best one could buy, and as I was unable to raise more than two or three thousand seedlings on the estate, it was very convenient for me to buy just the few plants I needed, especially since I could select them from such a large quantity.

Soon I produced more seed than either I or my gardener friends could grow, and when I became acquainted with the Vetterles, I gave some to them for trial with the provision that I should have the first choice in selecting the best plants out of the lots. To my own surprise, the seed I gave them turned out better than the seed they were importing from England; and since the depression cut down the incomes on private estates, I was conveniently forced to go into business. I joined the Vetterle Bros. and we founded the Vetterle & Reinelt firm purely for breeding and retail distribution.

We have been making considerable progress since we started, and now grow some 150,000 seedlings for our retail trade in our show lathhouse. The large wholesale production is done by Vetterle Bros., who have some 14 acres under lath besides farming out additional acreage. In normal years, combined, we used to transplant approximately 2,000,000 plants a year altogether. The Vetterle Bros. also grew several hundred thousand Gloxinias in their greenhouses, but I have discontinued both breeding and distributing them, as they did not pay for themselves in a small way.

We have several greenhouses where we grow our breeding stock of tuberous Begonias in pots, approximately 5,000 plants in an average season. Actually, for breeding, hardly more than 1000 plants are used. The rest are only tested and in some cases held as reserves. Each year I select from 2000 to 5000 of

the very best new seedlings in the field which are grown in pots the following year under glass, so that they can be observed at all times and judged from every standpoint. Approximately 10% survive the first selection; these then are kept all season and judged step by step and further eliminated as they develop some faults. In this way, the percentage is cut down gradually until half a dozen or so of the very best flowers in each color and type are found. Those are the breeders of the seed crop for that season.

It does not take very many plants to produce the actual seed since each plant produces a great number of female flowers, and individual seed pods, if pollenized, will produce anywhere from one to five thousand seeds per pod. For each seed parent, we may have to grow twice as many pollen parents, as on double Begonias it is difficult to obtain any amount of pollen, and a great many plants have to be grown sometimes to get a sufficient amount to pollenize a few flowers. In the single types, it is very simple since they have any amount of pollen, and we hardly ever keep more than a couple of hundred plants covering all the single types and colors from which we can produce all the seed we can sell. As a rule two single plants will produce more seed than 200 double plants.

In breeding we have to consider not only the flower alone, but also the type of plant, habit, and the tuber, especially the size of it. Unfortunately, the rule seems to be that some of the very finest flowers produce comparatively small tubers. Again, very vigorous strains, such as we have in flame, orange and scarlet, will produce even a 3-inch tuber from seed in one season. Various soils will, of course, affect the production of the tuber. The cleanest and healthiest tubers are produced in very sandy loam. Good tubers can be produced even in fairly heavy loams, but they will be reduced in size. Very large tubers can be produced in pure leafmold or a mixture of leafmold and sandy loam. Feeding has a great deal to do with it, and in sandy soil we have to feed much more than in heavier soils or leafmold. The amount of light they will receive governs the growth. A lathhouse with 50%

shade, which means 50% lath, 50% light, is the most advantageous for our climate. The plants grow very rapidly, fairly tall, producing large flowers and larger bulbs, or tubers. With more light, for instance, 30% shade and 70% light, the plants will be very dwarfed, blooming very heavily, often producing as. large flowers as the plant is itself. However, since they can't form as large top growth, the tubers are considerably smaller. Again in denser shade than 50%, the growth gets rank, flowers are very few and the bulbs are smaller too.

The conditions of soil and light, however, are only side factors, the main factor being inheritance. If two plants are crossed which have very small tubers themselves, the progeny on the average will produce small tubers. When the tubers are dug, which I mark in the field for breeding, they are graded immediately and all below one and one-half inches are taken out, so there would not be the temptation to use them since they produced magnificent blooms. In this way, breeding only the larger tubers, we may eventually be able to produce large size tubers entirely, regardless of strain or type of flowers.

As soon as they start showing life during February and March, we plant them in flats, either in coarse leaf mold, peat, or a mixture of both, as any of them is a good medium for development. When the tops reach three or four inches in height, they are transplanted directly in final pots, selecting the size according to size of root system. Eightinch pots are the minimum that we use for that purpose and very large tubers are planted even in 12-inch pots. The mixture we use for potting is quite coarse leafmold to which we add 10 to 20% loam, just so it will hold together. To each pot we give a handful of fishmeal, mixing it more or less with the soil in the lower half of the pots so that the roots can gradually reach it. This is a sufficient dose to carry them through the entire season and further feeding is not necessary.

When the first flowers open, they are judged and all of those which are not quite perfect are discarded. When a larger number of plants within one color of a type is available, we keep discarding all lesser ones. The final two or three plants which hold good from all through the season, finally receive numbers and are used for breeding. A record of every cross is kept so that we can check the result in the field against

the parents next year. If one could cross the two best plants in any double type, the procedure would be very simple. The difficulty is that the finer the flower, the more difficult it is to get pollen from it. I have grown some plants for a number of years, during which time, none of the flowers ever weakened and produced pollen. Those, of course, are the best seed parents since the heredity for doubleness in them is very strong. Each year I have been applying a series of new tricks, trying to force those plants to produce pollen, with small success. In a few cases where I succeeded, I have gained the best progress. There are various methods of producing pollen from the double flow-The simplest and most efficient ers. seems to be to grow the plants very vigorously so that the plants branch heavily and produce many flowers which gradually weakens the plant so that at the end of the season a few of the last flowers come semi-double, where the petals change back to stamens and produce pollen. Plants which become semidouble easily during the season and produce pollen rapidly as a rule are very poor plants and the progeny will produce too large a number of semi-double flowers again. This explains the variation in price of seed from double tuberous Begonias. We can produce seed which would cost 10c per package and give indifferent material. of course Again I could produce seed which would cost me \$50 per package. As the quality increases, the cost of production goes up. In fact, the most expensive seed, or rather, the very finest quality seed, is sold in proportion for much less no matter what the price, than the cheap seed. Some day I shall be able to produce seed which I will be able to guarantee as much as 80 to 90% first-class, showquality material. It will take a number of years to propagate the number of parents which bring such progeny and the cost will be very high.

(Continued on page 122)

A few plants each year prove of such high quality that they are kept for

breeding until superseded by new ones.

The standard each year goes up, natur-

ally, and what was most perfect yester-

day is discarded tomorrow. Eventually

we may propagate a few of the finest

doubles for named varieties, although this method is very costly and slow.

Presently I use it only where I want to

be sure of not losing a good parent. For

that purpose, the bulbs or tubers are

BEGONIA "MRS. MARY PEACE"

I N PRESENTING Begonia; "Mrs. Mary Peace," apologies are in order because her portrait was not done in full flower. We shall have to blame the gasoline shortage, for there was no way of knowing that in April, when I had to skip my drawing for lack of a model, there she sat in Montalvo Gardens, clothed in beautiful eighteeninch bloom stalks. However, like Whistler's "Mother," she is lovely even tho past her prime and I am sure some hybridists will appreciate those promising seed-pods.

All I have been able to discover about this plant is that it is a seedling from the garden of Mrs. Mary Peace, a friend of the Alfred Robinsons, and a neighbor. It first appeared in the Rosecroft Catalog in 1928, so it probably was introduced around 1925.

According to "Begonias" by Mrs. Buxton, is a cross of Ricinifolia and caroliniaefolia. Like so many of the Star group, the leaves are poorest when the flowers are best. Those of my sketch are mostly young and therefore smaller than normal, being about five inches wide The new leaves, like Ricinifolia, are very hairy, and the red tone, always existent in the stems, colors the whole back of the leaves. As they grow older, the red is only noticeable in the veins on the back, showing faintly thru to the upper side. The leaf segments are not cut clear thru to the center but are fluted and puckered and beautifully "pinked" on the edges, like caroliniaefolia, altho' they do not have the stem in the middle nor the clear green color, being darker, with a reddish tinge.

The average number of points to the leaves is eight but the last two overlap so it might be said to be a Whirling Star, the crease in the segments furthering the wind-mill effect. The leaf edge is particularly hairy but the texture on top, when full grown, is that of caroliniaefolia tho' the under surfaces are wooly and a dull light green. The flower clusters favor the Mexican species, having smaller bracts than Ricinifolia. The flowers are a rich deep pink.

The rhizome is procumbent and very thick, the leaf scars being more pronounced and decorative than I was able to convey in the sketch. Because I have neither a lath or glasshouse I do not have much luck with the star types, as they seem to require more heat and less moisture than our winters in the open By ALICE CLARK San Diego, Calif.



provide. I grow Ricinifolia, caroliniaefolia and verschaffeltiana with ease but have not been able to find the right spot for Sunderbruchi and erythrophylla or the Manicata types so I fear I shall never be able to try the "Star of the Month." Those of you with access to the Robinson Memorial Exhibit can see Mrs. Peace there as I know two nice plants were sent from here.

The closing of the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens is heavy on my heart, but I recall hearing Mr. Robinson say, almost happily it seemed, that if the war kept up he would retire and go back to propagating until the crisis was over. After all that was the beginning of Rosecroft and it only became commercial at the suggestion of David Fairchild, to help the cause along. So I know that A. D. R., himself would prefer to make a clean break rather than to limp along, as we all must these days, without proper facilities. The garden is still there with all the plants in the ground growing lovelier by the minute and probably glad

(Continued on page 125)

Standardized Plant Names

By Harlan P. Kelsey and Wm. A. Dayton, 2nd Edition, 1943 Elucidated by HELEN K. KRAUSS, Ch.

• A revised and enlarged listing of approved scientific and common names of plants and plant products in American commercial use. Harlan P. Kelsey and Wm. A. Dayton, J. H. McFarland Co. publisher for the American joint committee on horticultural nomenclature. 1942. Pages 44-53 are on Begonias.

The Begonia list of names and synonyms included in this gigantic work which endeavored to include all known trees, shrubs and plants in American commerce is a welcome contribution to our inadequate literature on Begonias. However, it is only a beginning and much work remains to be done. Unfortunately, much available knowledge and information on the subject has been overlooked and may be forthcoming in a future edition.

Begonia names and synonyms which have been previously published by the Begonia Society and substantiated in this work are as follows:

Acida, syn. braziliensis.

Angularis, syn. zebrina, crenulata.

Maculata, syn. argyrostigma.

Coccinea, syn. rubra.

Digswelliana, syn. sandersi, sandersoni.

Heracleicotyle, syn. Mrs. Townsend (syn. Hunteri was omitted).

Imgrami, syn. robusta.

Perle Lorraine, syn. Bertha von Lothringen.

Corbeille Defeu, syn. Bertha Dechateau-Rocher, ascotiensis.

Deckers select, syn. Deckers robusta, robusta Deckers.

The following names and synonyms, which have been buffeted about for many years have been standardized as follows:

Warscewiczi, syn. conchaefolia (the species, not the spiraled Feasti) Haageana, syn. Scharffi.

Comte Delimminghe, syn. glaucophylla.

Peltifolia, syn. coriaceae (Haask).

Some of our well known Begonias and a few of the rarer ones not listed at all or the synonyms lacking are as follows:

Floribunda, syn. multiflora rosea, developed by Lemoine by crossing Corbeille Defeu with fuchsioides.

Feasti helix, syn, conchaefolia, a spiraled form of Feasti.

Ropenoei, syn. Florida species (determined at the N.Y.B.G.).

Rigida, syn. ecuadoriensis (determined at the N.Y.B.G.).

Cucullata is not mentioned even as a synonym.

Albo-picta, the small spotted lvd. species from Brazil is also ommitted entirely.

Alba perfecta is neither given as a synonym or credited as a horticultural form.

Pedunculosa, a bulbous species, sometimes sold under the name of Torsa is not mentioned.

Macrocarpa, syn. African species, Alto da Serra. The latter synonym is being used by a few people in California. Micranthera Var. fimbriata.

Micranthera var. foliosa.

Malabarica var, dipetala does not give the syn. Mrs. Kimball.

Vesperia, Mrs. Gray's Viaudi seedl. commonly called improved Marguerite.

Multangula, the large Asiatic species is mentioned but not as a syn. for light green lvd. Dregei type or variety.

Incana does not include the syn. peltata which has been used indiscriminately for years thereby creating added confusion regarding Miss Constance Bowers' fine Incana x Marian seedlings. Of this cross there are four named varieties. Her own descriptions are as follows: Red-veined Incana (peltata) same habit of growth as Incana, red veins and sinus. Palomar, procumbent; lvs. large, thick, shining green above, slightly fuzzy beneath; shape in general like large grape leaf. Fls. pale pink. New growth very woolly. Ramola-lys, very thick and downy on under side and peltate in shape suggesting a lily pad Fls. white and large for type. Pala-Same habit of growth at Palomar and Ramola with thicker leaves than Palomar and semipeltate. Fls. pale pink.

Lucerna and Corallina Delucerna need revision as the parentage is not given accurately.

An authoritative decision on the Roezli (determined at the N.Y.B.G.) versus Bracteosa (for the same plant determined at the Gray Herbarium) situation would have been a welcome one. However, the camp is still divided. Neither is given as a synoynm for the other.

In general the list is an imposing one but too many synonyms are used and presented as individual species. A case* in point is monophylla (Pav), uniflora (Wats), and unifolia (Rose) which are all the same plant.

THE BEGONIAN

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Cultural Hints For July By FERD P. NEELS El Segundo, Calif.

• All types of Begonias should be near their best during this month. Care should be taken to protect them from excessive sunshine. Precaution should be used to keep the roots moist at all times. With the good drainage required by Begonias, the soil tends to dry very fast. This can be largely overcome by placing a good mulch on top of the ground.

One must always be on the lookout for pests. 1 tablespoon Paris Green, 16 heaping taplespoons bran, 4 tablespoons molasses is a good mixture to use around the plants to kill slugs and snails.. Other chewing insects can be destroyed by dusting with lead arsenate, while most sucking insects can be disposed of by using any good contact spray.

TUBEROUS—It is advisable to keep these Begonias continually moist, giving them as much light as possible, at the same time shielding them from the direct rays of the sun. (Direct rays will blight the flowers.) If the plants have been sending out a lots of bloom, it is well to fertilize them every two to four weeks. Use barnyard manure water or any good fertilizer, and be sure that the plant is moist before feeding.

FIBROUS—Lack of water can ruin a plant in a very few days at this time of the year, especially if the plant gets much sunshine. Put a good mulch around the plants adding some barnyard manure or commercial fertilizer and watch the good results. Fertilizer sold as "Steer Fertilizer" is very rich and free from weed seeds.

Cuttings will start very readily now, so be sure to make several from your favorite plants.

REX—These Begonias are really looking good now, and will continue to do so for some time if they have good ventilation and plenty of water. It is imperative that the plants have good drainage. As the feeding roots grow almost entirely within the top inch of the soil they should be placed in a larger and deeper pot whenever the roots show the least sign of forming around the inside of the pot. This enables the new roots to grow in the new rich leaf mold added above the old soil.

BEDDING—Begonias can be divided for new plants started from cuttings. Better plants will be obtained by removing seed pods.

1943 Annual Convention

By R. N. Weaver, Convention Chairman, Glendora, Calif.

• I am pleased to announce that the American Begonia Society will hold its annual convention in the City of El Monte, California, Saturday, October 2, 1943.

This one-day convention will be held at the Civic Auditorium, where we will have ample space for the flower show. The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society is planning a fine convention.

In the publication of the next Begonian I will announce further details regarding the convention.

Seed Fund

CLARISSA HARRIS Seed Fund Administrator

• The Seed Fund has been successful in obtaining a certain supply of seed, thanks to Mr. Neels and Mrs. Robinson. For those who are not familiar with the activities of the seed fund may I make an explanation. The Seed Fund is a pool by members of the Begonia Society who are interested in growing their Begonias from seed. The admission to this pool is \$1.00 a year and each and every member participates equally in seed acquired. Due to the scarcity of sources of seed supply we are very grateful to Mrs. Robinson for making seed available. Membership will be limited and will be accepted according to dates requests are mailed. Should we be unable to supply all applicants the money will be refunded.



1824 B Street Hayward, California

The President's Mail Box

June 4th, 1943

Dear Mr. Baily:

une 4th, 1945

I will try to answer your letter in the same friendly spirit you used in your letter to me.

The "Begonian" is a nice little magazine for the flower lovers of California. It talks at length about lathhouses, also what to do with your plants in the winter months, in California. All the advertisement is in California. Each month there are a couple of items that I can get benefit from for our part of the country but when the price went up I just didn't see enough in the "Begonian" for ME.

I'm only a beginner and need so many questions answered for our climate. I have Bessie Buxton's book and have written to her twice but I wish I had a book or magazine that would help me on the culture of Begonias such as could a Peltata be pinched back? When a Pres. Carnot has six clusters of flowers can four of them be pinched to make the remaining two larger?

I guess we need a magazine for this part of the country.

These thoughts may not be constructive but they are why I didn't renew my subscription after the price went up.

Yours very truly, MRS. R. L. MOORE

(16 Hawthorne St., Belmont, Mass.)

Santa Ana, Calif. 722 S. Birch St.

June 1, 1943

Mr. J. L. Bailey,

515 Hollywood Dr.,

El Monte, Calif.

Dear Sir: - This in reply to a circular letter sent out by you early in May. First of all will state that I have handed my \$1.50 membership dues to our local secretary; even tho I was a bit hesitant about it as I have been able to give the organization very little attention for many months; but we always enjoy the "Begonian" and will continue to raise Begonias and other shade plants and will try and get out to our local society meetings occasionally. Thus far we have been well satisfied with the "Begonian" and have no criticism to offer; and some time we hope to find time and material to maybe add a bit of testimony, if nothing else, to its pages.

In times like the present all such

Branch News

At the last meeting of the Inglewood, Branch all the fortunate attendants had the pleasure of seeing the best and most superb collection of Orchids through the fine colored pictures and interesting talk by Elinor, Mrs. Karl Karg, who dresses in a delightful and charming costume of the Hawaiian Islands with flower Leis made of fragrant carnations to further give atmosphere to the program. A full house greeted her. The July meeting will be another outstanding program also worth travelling a long way to learn a lot about Fern Culture, by Alfred W. Rob-Those who have heard him will erts. want to hear him again, as the culture of Ferns is highly specialized, and Mr. Roberts is a most capable exponent of the art.

The East Bay Branch: The May meeting was devoted to colored moving pictures of Begonias and other plants. The members were very enthusiastic in their arrangements for the building up of a small library which will help them in their studies of Begonias. "Die Begonien" will be one of the important copies of reference books and the Librarian is making a scrap-book of articles saved by the members. One of the activities is to make prints for sale, of special pictures interesting to them all, such as those Mr. A. E. Nelson took of the Lakeside Park, one of which appeared in the April Begonian. These will be available at the meeting in July.

The Philobegonia Branch: While difficulty is being experienced in getting members together for a fair meeting, this group will continue to hold what gatherings they may, as they realize the importance of friendly discourse on this most engrossing of hobbies, the growing of Begonias and other shade plants. JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER meetings, however, will be impossible, so they will look forward to October.

(Continued on next page)

groups are bound to suffer in many ways but, we don't expect to always have times like these and we should carry on as best we can for now. There are few hobbies that offer more in joy, pleasure and spiritual uplift than playing with these wonderful specimen of plant life, the Begonias.

> Sincerely yours, LLOYD WILLCUTT

Riverside Branch: The June meeting at the home of Mrs. R. C. Smith, 3784 Central was made particularly interesting by the report of those who went on the trip to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial where they enjoyed a visit with Dr. Lauder and saw the collection of Begonias in Lincoln Park Greenhouses. Arrangements were made for several to attend the picnic on July 18th in Lincoln Park. The meeting on July 6th will be held in Redlands, in the Throop Gardens on 5th Street, Redlands, with Mesdames Topham, May and Higday as hostesses.

San Francisco Branch: On Sunday, July 25th, the Branch will hold its Annual Garden Tour. Two places will be visited. First will be the gardens of Dr. Merwyn H. Hirschfeld at 1244-29th Ave., San Francisco, one of the most outstanding showings of Tuberous Be-The second, The gonias in the City. Golden Gate Park Conservatory where Miss Sydney Stein will personally conduct the members through her wonderful yearly showing of Tuberous Begonias. Members and guests will please bring their picnic luncheons and lunch on the grounds of the Conservatory. Prospective members, friends and guests are all welcome with the members.

Hollywood Branch: The May meeting was an outstanding one with a special double feature program. Some Branches have difficulty in obtaining one speaker. Hollywood had two in one evening. Judge Pope presented a very fine paper on Avocados, and Mrs. Cactus Pete was most interesting in her special field as specialist on Cacti and Succulents, including Epiphyllums.

On Saturday, May 29th, several of the members took their potting tools with a picnic luncheon to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial to work all day, and thereby also to enjoy at first hand the splendid specimen plants in that collection.



Mrs. Ruby Liedler, Editor of The Fuchsia Fan, well known Fuchsia expert, will speak on the value of FUCH-SIAS in the landscape design, on July 8th.

The Bellflower Branch will meet at the home of Mrs. F. L. Nicholl, 1031 Ardmore Street, Bellflower on July 6th.

Orange County Branch: The July meeting will be held with Mrs. R. L. Martin (second house east of Lincoln School on East Center St., Anaheim). Potluck dinner at 7 o'clock.

Glendale Branch: This group is looking forward to another large meeting when they will hear Mr. A. B. Perley speak to them on July 26th. This man is well worth a good trip to listen to, and Glendale welcomes visitors. The members of the National Board of the ABS paid the Branch a visit which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Long Beach Parent Branch and the North Long Beach Branch had a memorable meeting in June when the members of the National Board paid them a visit. Several visitors from other Branches came and altogether it was a most successful almost District-meeting. Everyone greatly enjoyed Mr. Harold Hart's program on Fancy Leaved Caladiums.

North Long Beach Branch: This group recently busied itself with the collection from their own gardens and that of generous Nurseries much material called for by an army truck and taken to enhance the appearance of the WAAC's barracks not far away. They were happy indeed at the receipt of a splendid letter from the Port Commander who acknowledged the happiness of all concerned, at the difference made by the shrubs, roses and many other plants. Mrs. H. A. Cuyler was assisted especially by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Crawford, Mrs. Roy Kious, Mrs. Clair Jackson and Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dyckman.

San Gabriel Valley Branch:. This meeting promises to be very interesting. It will be a picnic luncheon "each with his own" at the home of Mrs. G. T. Chrastka, 522 No. Grand Ave., Covina, Calif, on Sunday afternoon at 2 p. m. July 25th. The gardens are very lovely. Mr. Davis, National Representative, reports this Branch is enjoying FULL-HOUSE meetings with everyone keenly looking forward to the National Meeting

RESEARCH NOTES

NE OF THE many interesting additions obtained for our Library by Mrs. Crowder is a set of photostatic copies of some of the old catalogues of G. R. Gause & Co. of Richmond, Indiana. There is much valuable information of a descriptive nature and the illustrations are good.

The firm name in 1892 was Gause & Bissell. They state, "We claim the most descriptive list of Begonias grown in the country. Our collection of American Wonders. This collection of Begonias has been grown by us for the past two years and has proved such a notable set we take great pleasure in offering and recommending them to our many friends and customers. They have been tested by us under different kinds of treatment and we find them to be the most complete common sense set of Rex Begonias ever offered to amateurs, for the reason they are hardy and very strong growers and will stand all kinds of treatment, and we find them far above all other varieties. The discolor varieties we especially call your attention to; they are worthy of your notice; by all odds the most beautiful ever offered."

Among the names listed it is interesting to note those of Mrs. E. W. Schripps, Adrien Schmidt, Countess Louise Erdody and Queen of Hanover among the older varieties fifty-one years ago, and as novelties "New Hybrid Rex" Bertha McGregor, Robert George, Annie Dorner and Louise Closson; and as "Flowering Novelties of 1892" Pres. Carnot and Souv. F. Gaulain (which they state are both crosses of Oblia and Rubra). Cupera, Velutina, Gloire de Lucerne; and among the "older sorts" Argentea Guttata, Glaucophylla Scandens, Mc-Metallica, Ricinifolia, Rubra, Bethii. Sunderbruchii, Weldra and Weltoniensis.

Like our modern counterparts these enterprising nurserymen brought out novelties each year, the names of many of which are not familiar to modern lovers of the Begonia, but were apparently (according to them) the prize plants no one should be without.

Each name listed has a brief description of the plant. Here are two sample descriptions. "RUBRA — if you have only one Begonia, let it be a Rubra for it will prove a constant delight. It is so fast growing that it will in a year or two reach the top of your window, send-

HARRIETTE W. BRIDGES, Director The Clayton M. Kelly Research Department, Hayward, Calif.

ing up heavy stiff canes an inch in diameter, and rising beside them will grow strong slender branches gracefully drooping under heavy, waxen leaves and pendent panicles of coral-colored flowers as large as a hand. We have seen a medium sized plant with more than twenty such panicles at a time. Among the individual flowers you will find three distinct forms growing side by side." "WELTONIENSIS - After you have begun your collection of Begonias with a Rubra first, let Weltoniensis be second, then get as many more as you can afford. This is the most widely known of the species; if it were harder to grow, or more expensive, it would probably be more sought after. With the least possible trouble this plant can be grown into an object of surpassing beauty. The leaf is a delicate green in poor soil, but enrich it with a little rotted manure and heavy velvety shadings of black appear on the maple like leaves, every branch bearing its delicate bunch of rosy pink bloom.

Little space is given to Tuberous Be-gonias. In 1892 they say "TUBEROUS VARIETIES. ROOTED These are among the handsomest of our summer blooming plants, flowering throughout the season, and as fine and varied in their colors as the Geranium family. They are splendid bedders, delighting in a light soil of woods earth, very old cow manure, and sharp sand. See that the bed is in partial shade, and you will be delighted with the results. In the South, or where they cannot be planted in the shade of a house, a covering of burlap or canvas, some six or eight feet above them, merely to throw off the sun's rays, will allow them to come to absolute perfection, but they must have plenty of light and air. Do not allow them to become dry; and during hot weather they will take two waterings a day. When through flowering, they can be dried off, shaken free of earth, and wrapped in coton until February or March, when they may be planted again. Our bulbs this year are from an English house. noted the world over for their success with this plant, and are of the finest strain procurable." Their cultural directions are good, but little did they see the wonders of the Tuberous Begonia as we have it today.

Note: To be continued in next issue.

Food For Tuberous Begonias

From Ferd Neels' Rosecroft Notes:

15 gal. barrel 1/3 full of steer add 5 lbs. Cottonseed Meal a teacupful of Aluminum sulphate Some Scotch soot, or domestic, fill barrel with H20 Let stand 2 weeks. 1st feeding use I part liquid to 9 parts of H20 then: 2 parts of liquid to 8 pts. water 3 parts of liquid to 8 pts. water 4 parts of liquid to 6 pts. water 5 parts of liquid to 6 pts. water

• We hear that Harold Hart, our very efficient treasurer, who has written encellent articles in the "Begonian" on Caladiums, will be the speaker at Ventura, on their July 6 meeting. The fourth of July holiday will probably be held on Monday, July 5. Why not make a two day trip to Ventura, visit that progressive branch and enjoy the real hospitality that can only be described by your own experience in visiting that branch?

• The Ventura Branch is sponsoring a Victory Garden Show and Fair, to be held at the Junior College Gymnasium on August 6, 7, 8. The Chamber of Commerce, City of Ventura and civic groups are behind the idea wholeheartedly. Of course, Begonias and allied shade plants will be exhibited, too. Put the dates down on your MUST list, and plan a visit to Ventura on those dates.

• Evidently our members are all very well versed in the culture of all Begonias and all shade-plants. Our Question & Answers Chairman has not a one to send in to the Eager Editor. Come now. Don't be so shy. Send your questions to Mr. Ferd P Neels, 426 E. Maple Ave., El Segundo, Calif

.

REX AND TUBEROUS BEGONIAS OLSEN'S BEGONIA GARDENS 211 E. Center Street Bellflower, California (No Catalogue for the Duration) V I S I T O R S W E L C O M E • It is FUCHSIA TIME, and all the gardeners who have any shade at all will want to know all about the beautiful pendant flowers with their many and varied gorgeously colored sepals and corollas which will be blooming now for many months. We have many members who are authorities on Fuchsias, and we know Mr. Neels can refer your questions to these specialists, if, by any chance he cannot answer your Fuchsia questions himself.

What would a shade garden be—without FUCHSIAS? Just as pitiful an affair as it would be without Begonias.

Question. Are specimen plants of the semperflorens type of begonia welcome and wanted for the Robinson Memorial Begonia collection?

Answer. Yes, we want the complete Begonia family.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF MR. REINELT RE-SANI-SOIL

Q. If you use Sani-Soil as a topdressing do you think watering once every two weeks will require additional light sprinkling overhead very often?

Ans. In warmer districts overhead sprinkling is desirable. All plants like overhead watering but it is not necessary. As a rule we water everything overhead; in the greenhouse we sprinkle plants overhead until they start flowering but once they bloom we do not give them any more water overhead; we flood the benches, as overhead watering will spoil the flowers.

Q. Mr. Reinelt, how about bean straw? Ans. Yes, I imagine you can use anything. We use straw and anything that forms humus. You can use a top dressing of rice hulls but it is a paradise for all insects. Redwood does not decay. I covered some beds 4" thick and tried to water overhead and could not get water through it; it falls off like water off a duck's back. This was evidently too thick a mulch. Half would be better, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 2" thick. The wind will blow it if it dries.

SANI-SOIL LEAF MOLD CANADIAN PEAT

BETTER GARDENS 2446 Huntington Drive San Marino, Calif. "Seeds That Make Them So"

Highlights---June Meeting of the National Board

by C. H. LAUDER, M. D. Arcadia, Calif.

• This was the best attended of any board meeting for the past several years. There were three Branch Presidents and also five Representative Directors, in addition to a number of other guests. The Treasurer's report showed many new members and many renewals. Mrs. Crowder, librarian, gave an interesting report and a letter from Mrs. Krauss which was very inspiring. Mrs. Krauss is busy collecting for the Herbarium.

Seed Fund Chairman, Mrs. Harris, stated that she now has a limited supply of Begonia seed and would be able to send seed to anyone who would join the Seed Fund and remit \$1.00.

The Speaker's Bureau Chairman asked all Branch Secretaries to send her a list of the speakers they had at their Branch meeting last year, also this year.

President Baily announced the intended visit of the National Board to Ventura Branch on July 6. All members planning to visit Ventura get in touch with Mr. Hawkins, phone Trinity 8858.

Dr. Lauder announced the picnic to be held at the Robinson Memorial Sunday, July 18th. Further details will be in the July Begonian. The Robinson Committee has been well organized and are repotting and arranging the plants at Lincoln Park. He hopes everyone will be present for Picnic luncheon, 12 to 1 o'clock, July 18th, and see the exhibit.

Mr. Weaver, 1943 Convention Chairman from the San Gabriel Valley Branch, was present and gave a very enthusiastic talk about the Convention. He stated that there is unlimited space for the flower show and urged us all to start coaxing our prize plants along so they will be in good condition.

Mr. Nelson, President of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, stated that the San Gabriel June meeting will be held June 27th at the home of Mrs. Thropp, 128 5th Avenue, Redlands. The lunch will be held about 1 o'clock.

This is some distance from home, but from reports regarding Rexes and Gloxinias Mrs. Throop grows, twice the distance would not be too far. Mr. Neels will be the speaker.

Does the membership want these reports continued?

Don'ts That Matter

by A. A. LONGMIRE Carpinteria, Calif.

DON'T fail to clear your place of snails. June is the month they lay their eggs.

DON'T kill the small lizard that suns himself on the walk. He is one of your valuable pest controls.

DON'T let aphids gather on the water-lily pads. Hose them off and the fish will eat them.

DON'T fail to plant out Tuberous Begonias. You do not need dark shade or leaf soil. Try some in the sun.

DON'T forget to spray your Fuchsia plants for thrips. Use 1 tablespoon Garden Volk to one gallon of water.

DON'T neglect to spray your Watsonias and Gladioli for THRIPS. Use mixture as for Fuchsia.

DON'T fail, if you want to hasten germination of your garden seeds, to soak them in a solution of copper sulphate or bluestone. Half a teaspoon to one gallon of water.

DON'T use oak leaf mold that shows white thread-like fungus. It might be the dreaded Oak-root-fungus.

DON'T overlook soaking the compost pile. Use any kind of nitrate to hasten decay.

DON'T forget or fail to give the surplus garden seed to your neighbor.- Pass some of the extra plants to a friend.



Begonia Thwaitesi

By BESSIE R. BUXTON Peabody, Mass.

• B. Thwaitesi created quite a stir in the Begonia world from 1853 to 1879, when Hooker said it was the final word in "Flowers of British India." The plant was sent to Kew in 1852 by Mr. Thwaites, superintendent of the botanic gardens at Peradenia, Ceylon. All the descriptions are most enthusiastic about its beauty. Somewhat resembling a Rex, it has large, highly colored coppery leaves, a mixture of green and red-purple, redder beneath, with white blotches on the upper side. Both sides are trickly set with deep purple velvety hairs. The flowers are fairly large, white, tinged with pink. Such a Begonia, so richly colored, would be valuable for hybridizing, if we could only get it.



FRANK RENAULT— ON TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (Continued from page 112)

planted on top of leafmold in flats and when the growth reaches three to four inches, the young shoots are cut off with the basal ring, cutting a little part of the tuber, taking care that at least one shoot is left to continue the growth; otherwise the tuber becomes exhausted and easily dies. If the cut is made correctly, the cuttings will root almost 100%, heavily shaded in pure sand either in a greenhouse or cool hotbed. They will form fairly large flowering plants the same season and a small irregular tuber. One point in favor of cuttings is that the tubers from cuttings when well ripened seem to be healthier than the seed tubers and naturally one can expect perfect flowers from them. In basket Begonias, these latter are the most advisable since they form a larger number of young shoots, and I have propagated some varieties, getting as much as 1000 tubers from the original one, in five years. The double camellia or any of the large double types are more difficult, since they make only two or three shoots a year and the best I have been able to do was 100 bulbs in five years with an average of closer to 25, and since breeding progresses very rapidly, the variety may be obsolete before a sufficient number is propagated for introduction, so that the method has very little application.

The plants continue growing during the summer and are observed for every character and from August on some begin to weaken and here and there produce semi-double flowers. The flower is taken off when the pollen is ripe and shaken on the stigma of a female flower on plants which rarely or never weaken at all. Each flower has to be labeled so that when the seed is harvested, approximately six weeks after pollenizing, when the seed pod dries up and splits at the top, they can be kept properly separated as to type and color. The majority of the breeding is done in each color of each type separately, since we have to have seed that comes more or less true to form and color. However, each season, I make a number of crosses between colors and types among the dozen or two of the very finest plants I have. As a rule those sometimes give startling results and bring new forms and color combinations. This is why in our camellia type you will find a number of forms and the name "camellia" type is used only for convenience

sake. They resemble more roses than camellias, and eventually I would like to produce a strain getting away from the flat camellia type entirely with the more outstanding center of an opening Another form on which we rosebud. are working presently is the ruffled camellia, which is my favorite, and when sufficiently developed, I am sure will supersede the camellia type. The Fimbriata Plena type is another group which has a great many possibilities and certainly the plants we breed now have no resemblance to the ones with which I started ten years ago. The rosebud type has a smaller flower with very tall growth and has only limited possibilities.. The basket types are progressing rapidly and becoming more popular. Here again we have departed from the loose, ragged, small-flowered type, which are generally seen, and are trying to produce flowers of nice camellia and different variations of double-form, with better hanging habits.

The possibilities of improvement are never-ending and no matter how fine the begonias are that you see today, they surely will be superseded in years to come. When you look back to the four little single flowers with which the breeders began and see the variety of form and wealth of color today, you get an idea what the future holds.

After the plants are finished growing and begin to get yellow, we simply stop watering and turn the pots on their sides on the bench. I used to dig them immediately when the growth fell off, but with the shortage of help now, we simply leave them to dry in the pots over

(Continued on page 125)



When Is a Lath House Not a Lath House? By RALPH D. CORNELL - F. A. S. L. A.



A Shade Garden In Beverly Hills, California

• Every dirt gardener, who has not already acquired it, wants a lath house. That is the indispensible factor, the irreducible minimum, without which the pleasure of getting dirt under one's nails is definitely curtailed. It is the inherent right of every aspiring plantsman to have some sort of broken shade beneath which to nurture his pampered plantings.

However the mere name, lath house, has rather a dull and deadly sound to an aesthete or anyone else who is greatly concerned with the appearance of things. Not that it must be so, but contact with commercial structures has led some of us to associate the term, lath house, with utility alone and not with any concept of something that may be decorative in the garden. So, when one has progressed to that state of completeness where he is to acquire a lath house for the back yard, or small garden, in which appearances are definitely important, he usually would like to build something that doesn't look like what it is.

-Courtesy of "Golden Gardens"

When a lath house thus may attain an apparent degree of artistic quality we might say that it is no longer a lath house, but something more that offers value in beauty as well as in utility. It probably deserves a fancy name, at this stage, and should be called a pergola, a shade garden, plant shelter or some other deceptive name befitting its acquired dignity. The point at issue is illustrated by the accompanying reproduction.

When one of my friends decided that her garden had reached the lath house stage and that the best location for it was adjoining her spacious patio, she was caught on both horns of the dilemma. How could it look like what it wasn't, so that it would be compatible with and harmonious to its surroundings, at the same time properly perform the functions of dirt garden requirements?

Materials from which to build became as important as the matter of design. (Continued on page 125)

Good Neighbor Policy of the ABS

This year, the officers of the American Begonia Society have inaugurated the policy of visiting as many of the Branches as gasoline rationing and other limits upon travel permit. This has been done so that the Branch members could better know their officers and in general, to bring the various Branches together.

So far, meetings have been held as follows: A joint meeting of the San Diego, Alfred D. Robinson and Eva Kenworthy Gray Branches; Santa Ana; Inglewood, and another joint meeting of the North Long Beach, Dyckman and the Parent Branches to which the Bellflower members were invited.

Future meetings are planned with Ventura in July, Hollywood in August and Glendale in September. The scheduling of the meetings is in charge of Murray Hawkins of Hollywood and the programs under care of Clarence Hall, President Elect, from Ventura.

Hear Ye . . .Who Love Begonias

•A general - which means an open meeting, will be held, bring your picnic luncheon by noon to Lincoln Park, see the Alfred D. Robinson Begonia exhibit in the greenhouse. A short meeting will be had following luncheon, and then anyone looking for work may find some. Anyone desiring to bring plants, will be joyfully received. The more the merrier. The date? Mark it NOW-Third Sunday, July 18th, 1943. CHARLOTTE M. HOAK, Sec.

The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Committee

ABS Herbarium

• The long-needed herbarium for the Society is getting under way. Recently Mrs. Helen K. Krauss spent some time at the New York Botanical Garden to learn the technique of herbarium collecting. She was shown every phase of the work and it is simple enough when instructed so ably and graciously, states Mrs. Krauss.

Specimens are dried first between absorbent paper or blotters; then dipped into a saturated chloride of mercury and alcohol solution (to avoid pests chewing up the plant material in the future) and dried again; at this point they should be pressed again, then mounted with Russian glue and finally strapped down with narrow strips of gummed linen at strategic spots.

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FRANK RENAULT-ON TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

(Continued from page 122)

winter and replant them in fresh soil in spring when they start showing life. This way, the tubers seem to carry through better and also start growing earlier. Of course, tubers that are grown in the field are dug up, the soil washed off, so they will dry more rapidly, and exposed to full sunlight for a week or so until thoroughly dry. Then they are stored in a cool shed in airy flats. The best time for digging, naturally, is when the plants are fully dormant, which means leaving the tuber in the soil as long as possible. Commercially this is not always practical and we have to dig in December, even if the tops are often still green. This does not harm the tuber to any extent, although when dry the tuber wilts slightly and may come to life a litle later than if it ripens entirely in the soil. The additional ripening would be gained if they could be dried up in the soil, which is possible only under glass, and not in the large outdoor plantings. The mortality on the average with us is 20% a year which brings my base for the average life to five years for a tuber. This does not mean that the tuber could not live longer, as I have some that are eight years old now and have seen one 25 years old which weighed close to 30 pounds.

1943 GARDEN GUIDE AND CATALOG



Book of the year for Victory Gardeners. Packed with practical information on growing bigger, finer vegetables and flowers. Scores of money-saving offers. 88 pages - 250 illustrations - many in natural color. Special Victory Garden section. Send postcard for your FREE copy today.



Let us give particularly heartfelt expression on the Fourth of July and every day, that we are in-and of the United States of America.

BEGONIA "MRS. MARY PEACE"

(Continued from page 113)

of a chance to catch a long breath. Meanwhile Annie Robinson, in that

peaceful Begonia glade she has created

in Fallbrook, can carry on in compara-

tive tranquility, the hybridizing to which

she and the Master of Rosecroft were

so successfully devoted. Blessings and

.

(Continued from page 110)

portant material. They certainly have

our appreciation, and our good wishes.

Good Seed Pods to you, Annie!

ABOUT THIS AND THAT

WHEN IS SA LATH HOUSE NOT A LATH HOUSE

(Continued from page 123)

Nothing, done with ordinary lath or even ripped battens, seemed to answer the requirements of appearance and harmony, although skillful use of such material may be very interesting. However, when bamboo came to mind it seemed to answer many of the questions. Sufficiently rustic and casual to be interesting it, nevertheless, is not out of key with the formality of its surroundings.

In this instance the lath house has become a garden pergola, a begonia bower, an orchid house or what you may wish. It is a grand place in which to grow the many things that like some shade and slight protection without requiring the softening influences of artificial heat.

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Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.

Note: The July (2nd Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., July 12th, 7:30 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, July 1st 7:00 p.m. Dinner Home of Mrs. R. L. Martin Center St., Anaheim, Calif. Geo. A. Barrows, Secretary 1111 Louise St., Santa Ana, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH Thursday, July 1st Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy. 21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH Tuesday, July 6th, 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas., 362 Brookway, Merion, Pa. Next Meeting: October

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH Tuesday, July 6th. 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall. North California St., Ventura, Calif. Mr. George Fitch, Secy.-Treas. 70 So. Hurst Ave., Ventura, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH Tuesday, July 6th, 7:30 p.m. Home of Mrs. Throop 5th St., Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas., 4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, July 6th, 8:00 p.m. Home of Mrs. F. L. Nicholl, 1031 Ardmore St., Bellflower, Calif. Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas., 222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH AN FRANCISCO BRANCH Wednesday, July 7th 1060 Francisco St., Harry F. O'Donnell, Scay.-Treas., 1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif. Note: Tour and Picnic

INGLEWOOD BRANCH Thursday, July 8th, 8:00 p.m. Woman's Club of Inglewood 325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary 16181/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles, Calif. Speaker: Alfred W. Roberts Subject: "Fern Culture"

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER Thursdav, July 8th, 7:30 p.m. Odd Fellows Temple 728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif. Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas. 1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH Thursday, July 8th, 7:30 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Sania Monica Blvd. Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec., 1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif. Speaker: Ruby Liedler Subject: "Fuchsias in Garden Design"

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, July 9th Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas. 3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH Thursday, July 12th, 7:30 p.m. 5708 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Claire Jackson, Secy., 6017 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, July 12th 4037 39th Ave., San Diego, Calif. Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas., 4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, July 11th, 3 p.m. Home of Mr. Swager 1201 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, Calif. Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas., 2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, July 15th 11228 Atlantic Ave. Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas., 11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH Monday, July 19th Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas., 7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, July 23rd, 7:30 p.m. Home of Mrs. John G. Clark, 3026 Freeman St., San Diego, Calif. Mrs. George S. Graves, Secy.-Treas. 2922 Evergreen St., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH Sunday, July 25th. 2:00 p.m. Home of Mrs. G. T. Chrastka, 522 No. Grand Ave., Covina, Calif. Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary 419 South Ynez Ave. Monterey Park, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH Tuesday, July 27th Home of Mrs. Phoebe Mather, Hatboro, Pa. Mrs. M. S. Prince, Secy., Hatboro, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

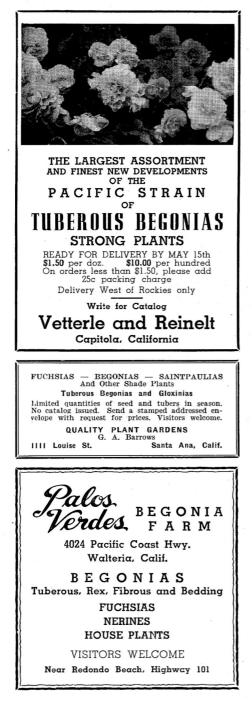
LENDALE BRANCH Tuesday, July 27th 329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif. Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary, 1345 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif. Speaker: Mr. Harold Hart Subject: "Caladiums"

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings Thelma Sommerfield, Secy., 210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy., Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

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