

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Constructive Criticism

ANONYMOUS
Retold By Editor

● This Editor has often asked for constructive criticism but seldom has received anything but praise. Praise is delightful if merited, but poisonous if insincere. Sincerity is the key note of a letter received from a member in one of the Eastern States, with some good suggestions. Unfortunately, the author of the letter gives no name or address, as publicity is not desired. Because the letter is interesting and helpful, and so quoted as not to make the personality recognizable, it is hoped it will start others writing along the same line to

us. Please do give your name and address, though, it is so nice to know who and where you are. For instance, the Editor would love to have the author of the anonymous letter tell the Begonian readers how—in detail—such success was achieved with so little outside help. Another regret is that someone or many others might be living near by who would dearly enjoy exchanging experiences with the author, and all of them are missing invaluable pleasure.

“The author started eleven years ago with one potted Begonia and a few slips of some others plus some cutting of geraniums, but by autumn there were quite a few plants to winter over in the

(Continued on page 174)

Brilliant New Miniatures

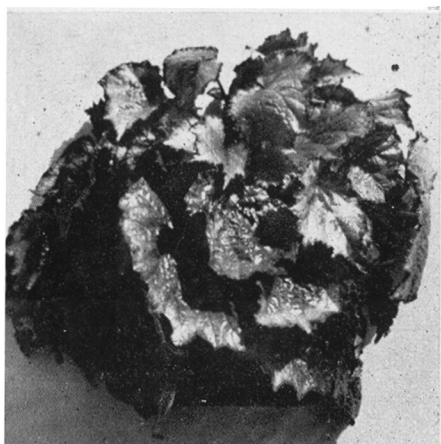
By HELEN K. KRAUSS
Ch. Nomenclature Fibrous Div.,
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Wynnewood, Penn.

• A new strain of brilliant miniature Rexes, developed at the Lewis Begonia Gardens by crossing a variety of Rex with a McBethel seedling, will probably be available for distribution within another year.

For sheer brilliance, these reign supreme. There are many variations of opalescent color combinations and markings and all are ravishingly beautiful. Their habit of growth is similar to the Rex type. The leaves are held erect on stems of varying lengths bringing almost all of them into view. The individual plants suggest the various aspects of the changing colors of a brilliant sunset.

The three named seedlings, at the height of their second year of growth last March are as follows:

Linda Lewis is the largest leaved Begonia of the group. The leaves measure approximately six by four and a half inches, are shallowly but sharply lobed, and toothed at the margins. The center of the leaf, surrounding the sinus, is of vivid deep rose, of the same intensity as that of its larger relative, Glory of St. Albans. The rose area is surrounded by glowing, bright, mottled greens and yellow. These colors in turn are bordered at the margins by an irregular band of vivid rose.



Donald Lewis

Donald Lewis has leaves about an inch smaller than Linda Lewis but are more oval in outline. The center of the leaf is of the same vivid rose which is surrounded by the lighter tones of nile and pea greens. These colors in turn are bordered by a narrow margin of cocoa brown.



Rosy Morn

Rosy Morn is the smallest leaved Begonia of the group. The leaves approach a rounder form than the others and appear lightly poised on somewhat longer, erect stems than those described above. Although a brilliantly colored Rex, it suggests the early morning rising sun rather than the intense colors of a brilliant setting sun. The only vivid color is that of the bright, iridescent rose at the center of the new leaves on the shorter stems at the inner radius of the plant from which the pastel shades of rose, green and violet radiate outward. The effect of an early sunrise is further suggested by the hazier pastel shades of the older leaves at the outer radius of the plant.

Fifth National Begonia Show

By G. G. LAWRENCE, Ch.

• You have the schedule of the Begonia Show of October 2nd, 1943. We are ready for your exhibits. It is up to you to make the show an outstanding one. There is plenty of room, and there will be attendants to help you place your exhibits rightly. Your plants certainly cannot win praise or prize at home that day as they will at El Monte. Bring them along. Come and enjoy the show.

THE NAMING OF HORTICULTURAL VARIETIES

(Reprinted by special permission of The Arnold Arboretum)

By DONALD WYMAN

Rules for Selecting New Horticultural Variety Names

The International Horticultural Conference in London (1930) adopted several resolutions dealing with the naming of horticultural varieties. These have also appeared as an Appendix in the International Botanical Rules published in 1935. It behooves everyone who is interested in the naming of new horticultural varieties to study these resolutions and follow them in selecting new names for all plants.

1. Names of horticultural varieties must not be translated when transferred from other languages, but must be preserved in the language in which they were originally described. Where desirable a translation may be placed in brackets after the varietal name.

2. So far as possible, names of horticultural varieties should consist of a single word; the use of not more than three words is permitted as a maximum.

3. A varietal name in use for one variety of a kind of plant should not be used for another variety of that kind, even though it may be attached to a different species. Thus the use of the name *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* "Victoria" should preclude the use of "Victoria" as a varietal name for any other species of *Narcissus*, such as *Narcissus poeticus* "Victoria." Similarly there should be but one *Iris* "Bridesmaid," one *Plum* "Superb," and so on.

4. Varietal names likely to be confused with one another should be avoided. For instance, the use of the name "Alexander" should preclude the use of "Alexandra," "Alexandria," and "Alexandrina" as varietal names for the same kind of plant.

5. Where personal names are used to designate varieties, the prefix Mr., Mrs., Miss, and their equivalents should be avoided.

6. Excessively long words and words difficult to pronounce should be avoided.

7. The articles "a" and "the" and their equivalents should be avoided in all languages when they do not form an integral part of the substantive. For instance, "Colonel," not "The Colonel"; "Giant," not "The Giant"; "Bride," not "The Bride."

8. All the names of horticultural hybrids are formed as provided in the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. If a Latin name has been given to a hybrid form of uncertain origin which cannot be referred to a Latin binomial, it must be treated like a vernacular (fancy) name; e. g., *Rhododendron* "Atrosanguineum," *Rhododendron* "Purpureum grandiflorum."

Publishing the Name

To be valid under the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, the Latin or scientific names of species, varieties, and forms must be "validly published" in a work accessible to botanists and the public in general, and a short description in Latin must accompany the original description.

In publishing the names of horticultural varieties (clons), the Latin description is not required, but the description in English (or any other language written in Roman characters) should appear in a recognized horticultural or botanical periodical, monograph or other dated scientific publication. The mention of a clon in a catalogue or in the report of an exhibition without a description is not considered valid publication even though a figure is given.

Naming Hybrids

From a botanical point of view, a cross may be designated by a formula consisting of the names of two plants joining to make the cross, i. e. *Malus baccata* × *prunifolia*. Whenever it seems "useful or necessary" a name may be given to this cross, i. e., *Malus robusta*, in this case the name being given because the plant has considerable ornamental value, is grown a great deal, and the single name is more usable than the formula; it will include all the crosses however different between the two species, but the individual crosses, treated as clons, retain their horticultural names under it.

It is correct (and always best for the amateur) to use the formula in speaking of a new cross, rather than to run into the difficulties of selecting a new Latin name.

It is of the utmost importance to realize that hybrids are made up of clons

which vary considerably in many characters. For instance, \times Malus robusta is a hybrid (M. baccata \times prunifolia), the fruit and flower sizes varying considerably. In fact, some plants resulting from this cross are practically worthless ornamentally. So, when one merely buys \times M. robusta, one may obtain anything within the limits of this cross, some decidedly inferior and some very good ornamentally. But, \times M. robusta "Joan" is a clon with definite characteristics, and one is able to know in advance just what characteristics this particular clon will have. Consequently, horticultural varietal names should be given to the offspring of all crosses.

Examples

1. A dogwood is found which has yellow fruits but in every other respect is identical with Cornus florida. Is it a variety, form or clon? Upon careful investigation it is found that yellow fruited dogwoods have appeared at widely separated places in the eastern United States. Hence, it is not a clon for it cannot have been vegetatively propagated from a single specimen. It is not a variety for it differs from the species in only one character. Hence, it is a form, and it is given the name Cornus florida xanthocarpa.

2. A new crab apple has been found with unusually large double flowers. Nothing exactly like it has been described before, though some of its foliage characters are similar to those of M. Halliana, and others similar to those of M. baccata. Investigation shows that a cross between these two species has been named \times M. Hartwigii, but on looking up the description of this cross, the new plant does not seem exactly to fit. Since it obviously is a hybrid it is also a clon, and the name "Katherine" is given it. At present it will be known merely as Malus "Katherine." If at some future time fruits are available (they were not this year), it may be that this will definitely belong to the hybrid species \times M. Hartwigii, and then it will be known as M. Hartwigii "Katherine" or it still may be called M. "Katherine." In any event, it will always keep the name "Katherine" regardless of what hybrid species it is associated with, and all its offspring must be asexually propagated in a direct line from the one original plant now growing in Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester, New York. (It is always well to use quotation marks around all clonal names to differ-

entiate them unmistakably from all other names.)

Conclusion

In naming new horticultural varieties it is essential to:—

1. Understand the difference between a species, variety, form, and clon as here defined.
2. Understand the rules for naming horticultural varieties as here set forth.
3. Select the name.
 - a. If a species, variety, or form, obtain confirmation from a trained taxonomist regarding the name itself and the Latin description which must accompany its first publication, and which must conform to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature.
 - b. If a clon or horticultural varietal name, be certain that it conforms to the rules set down in this paper.
4. Publish the name and description.
 - a. If a Latin name, publish (with Latin description) in some botanical periodical available to botanists and the general public as well.
 - b. If a horticultural name, publish (without Latin description) in some acceptable horticultural or botanical publication easily available to all.—From "Arnoldia." Reprinted by special permission of The Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University.

Sow Bugs and Pillbugs

• We are indebted to California Agricultural Extension Service Circ. 87: "Insects and Other Pests Attacking Agricultural Crops," by E. O. Essig and W. M. Hoskins for the following formulas:

Sow Bugs are attracted to sweetened baits and are controlled by the use of a poison mash made by mixing together, dry, 1 pound of wheat bran and 1 ounce of paris green, which are then sweetened and moistened to the consistency of a mash by using two tablespoonfuls of blackstrap molasses diluted in 1 pint of water. This bait is sown broadcast throughout the garden or placed in small portions under boards or inverted flower pots filled with straw where the sow bugs collect. (See the above mentioned free publication for other formulas. Available from The College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.)

Chairman of Arrangements Appreciative

By R. N. WEAVER
Convention Ch.
Glendora, Calif.

• By the time this magazine is off the press, the Annual Convention officers and chairmen at El Monte will be waiting, ready to greet you. I want to tell you it has been most interesting making arrangements for your welfare and happiness while with us, and it is with pride I send forth my thanks to one and all who have helped to make this time of preparation a splendidly coordinated affair. From many Branches we have received funds to help defray the extra expenses, the Parent Chapter of Long Beach, Glendale and Inglewood Branches were among the last. We are truly grateful. From men and women far and wide, we have had all kinds of courtesies, and I am sure all of us who have worked so happily together for a successful meeting join hands also in sending you our combined appreciation for your share in making it so. We want you to remember for a long time, that El Monte really was proud to have you for a fine day. Here's looking forward to October 2nd, the 11th Annual Meeting of The American Begonia Society.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

(Continued from page 170)

coal cellar. Only flowering plants are of interest which lets the ferns and leafage and other non-colorful subjects out. The Book of Bulbs by F. F. Rockwell was purchased from which the author was introduced to the Tuberous Begonias and then the real fun began. Some seed was procured from one of the East Coast seed firms, with some help through a friend who had grown them before, these seeds were planted in April, from which a fine crop of Tuberous Begonias were raised. They were, in fact, considered quite wonderful with their beautifully colored double flowers and though a large percentage of the tubers were lost that winter, the author, undaunted, sent for another package of seed for the following season. There was a period when the catalogues were not listing Tuberous Begonia seed, and it was thus some years later when through some good for-

tune a seed list from one of the large firms in Mid-West advertised it and, of course, another order went forth. This renewed spurt was nipped in its enthusiasm by the development of some soil trouble. A soil test showed an acid, sour soil, a lot of cow manure, bone meal and lime was immediately incorporated in the soil, and, of course, the Tuberous Begonias were far from satisfactory that year. Surprisingly enough, the old fibrous rooted Begonias did quite well. By this time the author was challenged by the fact that some friends failed to flower some special Begonias. A lean-to glass-house was built and success in bringing forth the loveliest blooms heightened the Begonia fever that had only been simmering.

When the next order went to the big city seed firm the seed was sent to him in the original Vetterle & Reinelt package, which, as you may guess, opened another door. Subsequently, the author ordered his seed direct from them. It was through the Vetterle & Reinelt catalogue that the existence of the ABS was made known to the author and from this same catalogue it was finally discovered that Begonias like an acid soil. Since when he has naturally had more success.

Now, as a member of the ABS, the author thinks as Mrs. R. I. Moore, of Belmont, Mass. (See July Begonian), that The Begonian is more "Californian" than "United States," but finds that each issue has items of interest and that the price is NOT too high for such a live magazine.

He suggests, however, that articles be divided into classes, according to standards of knowledge to be met in the members, and that the Editor should cater to "Grammar school" members, "High School" and "College," etc., and if these articles are designated for the various grades of Begonia and other garden knowledge, the readers would pick out those they could apply, the while leaving the material beyond them, or beneath them, aside."

(Frankly, the Editor feels that this would mean stagnation. Surely one wants to aim a little higher than one's present knowledge all along the line? Is anyone able to determine his or her standard of knowledge. It is the aim of this publication to cover all phases of Begonia culture first . . . then to complete the picture with all the nice and attractive, interesting and suitable plants that accompany any shade garden planting. It would be quite difficult to grade

all these articles and the NEWS that are given in a helpful spirit.)

The author points to: "page 141, August '43 Begonian, asking is "peat" peat as dug, dried and used for fuel, or what is known in the Eastern States as Peat-moss?" (Peat-moss is meant. We must be clearer in our phraseology.)

"Leafmold: This word has as many meanings as there are localities. Very vague." (Granted. Usually, by leaf mold the forest leaf-litter is indicated. As such, it may be of oak leaves, which is probably the best all-around leaf-mold, though there are many who prefer leaves of other trees. In California, forgive us, chapparal leafmold is considered very fine. Some gardeners consider any mixed leaf compost as leaf-mold. One should be more specific.)

"Sani-Soil: I judge a California product that could not be purchased elsewhere." (This product is now available in the East as well as the West and fast being distributed all over the United States. See the current magazines, many of them have discovered it recently.)

"Liquid fertilizer: How made and the chemical composition. I know of many ways of making it with several variations and analyses." (This magazine has had, and is resuming advertising matter and articles on the making of liquid fertilizers. We have some in store for the immediate future. We are glad, though, to be brought to the realization that to be clearer is better.)

"Edge of the pot": Judge that the writer has his Begonias in pots and not in the ground, therefore, the title should indicate that. Does the term "pot" mean what we call in the East a standard pot 8 inches in diameter and 8 inches deep or a pan 8 inches in diameter and 4½ inches deep?" (The latter is better, as you suggest that the lower 3½ inches of

a standard pot is superfluous for a shallow rooted plant.)

"Volk. Is it a standard product to be purchased anywhere? (It is a widely advertised oil emulsion spray of excellent reputation. Has been a standard product for many years. May be had also in East.)

"Poisons used for that purpose." Would like to know about the sow-bug poison, not interested in snails or slugs." (Lucky man—or is it woman? See this Begonian for formula.)

"Lath-house: Would like to see an article on how, when and where to build a lath-house. I think lath-house and leaf-mold go together." (See The Begonian, July, 1943, p. 123; August, September, October and November, 1942, and every month from January through to conclusion of series of articles by Alfred D. Robinson, in May issue of 1943.)

1943 GARDEN GUIDE AND CATALOG



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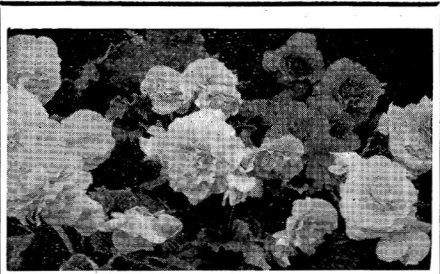
SY 92266

The Windflowers

By MARIA WILKES
Los Angeles, Calif.

•It would be hard indeed to find as reliable or more beautiful a shade perennial as the Anemone japonica. There is something so entirely captivating about the perfectly formed single, purest, waxy-white "whirlwind" Anemone that is not to be found in any other flower. At this time of year, any spot made shady by tall shrubs or trees or on the North side of a building, the large rosettes of perennially beautiful trifoliate leaves are surmounted by tall, strong stems, branched at several intervals, from which a succession of slender stems stand out tipped with these flowers. The buds develop for a long time and if the flowers are removed as they pass on, the others will continue to bloom prolifically. The individual flowers may be cut with the 8-10 inch stem for low flower arrangements and tied in little bunches either with twine or a rubber band and tucked into small containers such as used for coffee table or dressing table floral pieces, or into larger bunches, to be tucked into the lower part of taller arrangements. They will last many days in all their lovely beauty. The single white has kept undisputed first place in the regard of the writer for many years now, but while the singles in delicate pinks, lilacs and reddish tones are classical to a degree, the doubles also hold a high place by virtue of the same qualities plus a large size, thus showing off to better advantage at some distance. They are most effective with an evergreen background and superb in masses. They will awaken the most blase onlooker to the beauties of flowers. The soil requirements are about the same as for Fuchsias or fibrous Begonias. A deep, slightly acid, leafy soil with some cow manure and a teaspoon each of bone meal and cottonseed meal per square foot of soil mixture well mixed and kept moist. In the Spring, repeat the cottonseed and bone meal dressing with a mulch of two parts oak-leaf mold, one part cow manure laid on about one inch thick and another inch on top of that of coarse shredded redwood bark for surprising results.

Read the advertisements of our Begonian for sources of plants and materials. Every advertiser is reliable and will serve you well.



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Allium neapolitanum; per doz.....49c
Sparaxis (Wandflower); per doz.....49c
Ixiis; orange, red, pink, yellow and
mixed; per doz.....49c
Freesias; rainbow mixture; per doz.....39c
Freesias; lavender, gold, pink and
rose; per doz.....50c
Freesias; Purity; very fragrant; doz.....35c

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Begonia DRURYI

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, Calif.

• In the Begonian for April, a spray of Pink Neely Gaddis was featured as one of the seedlings for which we are indebted to Constance D. Bower of San Diego. That same plant is now the queen of all the hairy fibrous in my garden. Four and a half feet tall from a two foot specimen last spring, still in a pot, it is just a pink water-fall of bloom spilling over the misty hairy leaves below. And did I say the flowers were not in as large clusters as the parent, Viaude? That might have been true in March but now the fluffy panicles, drooping with the weight of the heavy petals, measure fully ten inches from side to side, quite as wide as those of its predecessor.

This month we present Druryi, another achievement of Miss Bower's. Its outstanding distinction is the sheen, as of watered silk, on the darkest of green leaves, faced by a blood-red lining. In an endeavor to illustrate this lustrous texture we have resorted to brush-work, instead of pen and ink.

If all of our hybridists were as thoughtful as Constance Bower in making available the records of their crosses, Begonia nomenclature would be much more simple than it is today. She has a file of all of her seedlings and kept additional data on other local introductions, where she thought the information might be lost. These lists have been helpful to Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Krauss, the New York Botanical Garden, and others.

"Druryi," according to Miss Bower's notes, "is a *Cyprea x sanguinea* seedling, grown in San Diego in 1932. It may reach a height of six feet. The leaves are six inches long by four inches wide, smooth, glistening, very dark green, maroon-red on the underside. The flowers are small, pink and white on a long upright peduncle."

Mrs. Buxton adds that *sanguinea* was the seed parent and that the flowers are white. The plant bears its sponsor's name, on the distaff side, Drury.

Because plants differ widely under varying conditions, it does not pay to quibble over non-essentials. As I see them, the flowers of Druryi are the color of old ivory with a very faint shade of pink on top of the bud and creamy-white hairs. An all-over pink ef-



fect is felt because all the flower stems are that color. In my plant the peduncles are upright only at first, soon drooping with the weight of the expanding flowers which are small but interesting for their lacy contrast against the dark leaves. Dorothy Grant, which also has the *sanguinea* strain, has flowers of similar size and color but the stems are redder and stiff enough to remain upright.

Where *sanguinea*, the mother plant, has leaves, thick and shiny like those of a water-lily, Druryi retains the brilliancy but the effect is changed from satin to silk because of the thin leaf texture. Unlike *sanguinea*, the plant of our sketch has a few white hairs on top and back, though not as much as *Cyprea* nor yet enough to lighten the rich dark color, which it inherits from its mother.

For some time I have been trying to discover the origin of *Cyprea* which appears in old catalogs as *Cuprea*. Bailey's *Cyclopedia of Horticulture* lists it as a variety of *Metallica*, which it greatly resembles, but I crave more information as to how, whence and when. Perhaps Mrs. Krauss can enlighten us further.

Obviously the changeable lustre on the leaves of Druryi must come from *Cyprea*
(Continued on page 182)



The Enclosed Patio For Summer Coolness and Winter Protection

By PEG JEWEL
Pasadena, Calif.

• Most California homes now have some type of patio. Of course in Southern California we think of it as a necessity. When we came to live in this house in Pasadena, my husband and I had some ideas as to how to combat the warm Summers. We built the wall around the "L" made by the living-room and the dining room giving us a nice square and making it also possible to add a covered driveway at that juncture so for all intents and purposes it is a third garage. We decided it would be fun to have an outdoor living room entrance for our friends and for ourselves, adding much interest to both the rooms that have windows opening into it. As it faces the South, there was only one thing to do. Cover the top with lath. We were careful to lay it running north and south, as otherwise the plants would be blistered by the constant line of sun from morning until night, and when this was done, we had great fun making and planting the hanging baskets and planning the other features. The walls have enough openings to admit constantly whatever breezes may be available, and by the same token, these air currents

have kept our rooms opening into the patio much cooler in Summer as well as much warmer in Winter. It is not difficult to maintain a constant parade of color in this patio. There is never a day of the year that it is not gay with quite a bit of color. The bed against the dining room has more warmth than the others, so there are tall espalliered fibrous Begonias, Camellias, two kinds of flowering Maples, or Abutilons, Gardenias, Fuchsias and Philodendrons with some ferns and the border of the bed is always pretty with some low flowering plants like bedding semperflorens Begonias, Impatiens and others of the kind, as Primulas in season.

Against the living room wall and the doorway, there are many pots and hanging baskets containing many kinds of shade-loving plants. Streptocarpus, Primulas, Clivias, many ferns and Fuchsias, with very fine home-made hanging pots of all kinds of Asparagus ferns overgrown with Helxine. The hanging baskets that are planted to light-rooting plants are arranged in such a way that pots may be changed, a new one replacing the original one planted in it at the



time of making the whole basket. In this way, when a potted plant is past its good looks, it simply comes out, and another is brought from the lean-to lathed-over potting shed at the back of the garage, to take up the color parade. The wall to the right of the entrance gate, which runs parallel with the driveway has a very narrow bed. Just wide enough for a *Ficus repens* to do beautifully and a few plants espalliered naturally against the wall to take up as little room as possible. The pretty tracery of the *Ficus repens* is guarded very carefully. So many who see it at first think it is very young. When they see it again and again still looking fresh and dainty on the wall, they wonder how I can keep it that way. I give it frequent prunings to maintain it in the lacy condition I like it.

Tying the whole of the patio together is a well-controlled variegated Madeira Ivy which trails seemingly naturally all around the wall, over the window tops, softening the way line where it joins the lath roof. This also is pruned systematically to keep it within a certain artistic line.

Next month, we shall tell of the back garden. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jewel's garden covers the usual small home lot, but because of the many fine features, it has been pictured often in several magazines of the United States. There is no reason why these features should not work almost anywhere.

— Editor

NOTE: CORRECTION

• The Editor took it for granted the pictures sent by Mrs. Krauss were all taken by her, but she tells us that *B. ricinifolia* x *Micranthera* var. *fimbriata* should be credited to Mrs. Anne C. Robinson. We ask you to make that notation in your August issue, and take another look at those pictures to acquaint yourself with these fine Begonias. It is very gratifying to have amateurs willing to have their photographs published, and we do appreciate contributions gladly. Please see what you can picture for us and tell us the story of the subject photographed that we may pass it on to others. All we ask is that the picture be clear and sharp so that it will reproduce decently.

Branch News

Glendale Branch: The picnic supper at Wm. Ross' Begonia Gardens was a great success. There was a record crowd gathered to enjoy the fine evening, the good food and the beautifully arranged garden full of lovely Begonias and other shade-loving plants with Rex Begonias really playing the leading role. Mr. Ross made the gathering very happy with one of his chatty dissertations on Begonias and much sound advice to would-be gardeners. The plant sale netted \$55.00 for the Convention Fund. The next meeting now will be held in the Exhibitorium in Glendale, as usual, with a program devoted to the hearing of six chosen Begonia gardeners who will discuss, in turn, their favorite plant. The Master of Ceremonies will guide the discussion and give special attention to the questions that will arise. It promises to be a type of program that any group may have now and then, and profit much thereby.

The North Long Beach Branch advises us that the October meeting will take place on the 11th of the month at the Y.M.C.A., 61st and California Ave., in Long Beach, at 7:30 p.m.

Hollywood Branch: In the absence of the President, Mrs. W. C. Drummond, at present in the East, Vice-President John Parker presided at the special Begonia Flower Show meeting on September 9th. All four sides of the large Auditorium were crowded with plants, which was a surprise to everyone, since few had thought a show possible just now. A little more should be said about these exhibits. We hope that we may be able to get Miss Charlotte Hoak to write about them, since she was one of the judges with Mr. Wm. Ross, as well as the speaker of the evening. Her subject was "The Charm and Stamina of the Begonias of our Grandmothers," referring as illustration to the various plants being exhibited. Two new members, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Flynn, of Hollywood, with a splendid exhibit of tuberous Begonias as a formal table display, won the prize of a dozen tubers from Mr. Frank Reinelt. Mr. Wm. Ross of Glendale placed a courtesy exhibit of beautiful Rexes which was greatly appreciated. October will be a fine month to be sure and attend the meeting. Mr. Chester Baake will speak for the group on Begonias. All of United States knows the house of Baake and the fine plants for which they are famous.

San Francisco Branch: Reports of the very fine Annual Flower Show just held in the City Hall between the Fuchsia, Begonia and Dahlia Societies are flowery indeed. A fan-shaped display of ten-foot Hawaiian Begonias. Hundreds of tuberous Begonias of all kinds, including some Lloydii so overloaded with blossoms as to cause wonder. Aisleways lined with espalliered Fuchsias including novel ways of exhibiting these glorious flowers. Beautiful Rex Begonias which brought home coveted blue ribbons all were admired by large crowds. It seems that recent winds and hot spells somewhat spoiled some of the Begonias, but even so, Mrs. Wm. McDonald took three firsts with Rex and fibrous Begonias. Harry O'Donnell and Paula Schoenholz ran an even race for honors with tuberous Begonias, Mr. Wm. T. Moxon was rewarded for his excellent showing of cut blooms of tuberous Begonias, and Merrill Butler also fared well with his hanging baskets. These are some of the lucky exhibitors, who helped to mark another successful show, one we should all have seen, for San Francisco is now well known for highest artistry in this field. The next meeting will be as usual, on Wednesday evening, October 6th, at 1060 Francisco Street, at 8:00 p.m., but with THREE speakers: Mr. Norvell Gillespie, Garden Editor of the San Francisco Chronicle; Mr. Stephen L. Vistica, of Hillsborough, Calif., and Miss Sydney Stein of the Golden Gate Park Conservatory, of San Francisco. Their subjects: How to grow, arrange and show Begonias. This may be in order not to feel too badly about not being able to attend the Annual Meeting of the A. B. S. at El Monte as we wish they could—to hear our three speakers. We hope we shall have a chance of hearing their trio too, sometime.

Long Beach Parent Chapter: Unfortunately, this Branch has lost its home temporarily. Members will be notified by local papers as to next meeting place. The proceeds of the plant sale of last month were sent to the Convention fund.

San Diego Branch: To commemorate the second successful year of the San Diego Branch of the ABS, Russ Eaker, President, invited the entire personnel of the organization to his home in Spring Valley for dinner on August second. Covers were laid in the largest of his three lathhouses for one hundred and twenty members and

guests, amongst the stately and very beautiful tuberous Begonias. About five hundred of these were in bloom with many measuring eight inches. The lovely handmade redwood hanging baskets held the basket type of tuberous Begonias with many blooms as large as the usual tuberous flowers. The other two lath-houses house a great many varieties of the Rex, fibrous and rhizomatous types among which were scattered various ferns, broad fronds and some fine as mist which softened and refined the surrounding plants. Hanging baskets with very beautiful plants heightened the interest. Scattered about the plants through all of the houses were pots of that temperamental beauty, the lovely calla lily Begonia.

It was interesting to note how the curved path, making some of the beds very deep and others shallow simulated the effect of winding through a wooded glen. All paths were bordered with large neutral colored stones, used naturally and attractively. The two older lathhouses were made of bamboo and muslin, softening delightfully, the light filtering through. The plants seemed to like this, for all of them were in a fine and healthy condition with a strong urge to grow.

Mrs. Eaker, Chairman of Hostesses, was assisted by Mmes. Russel T. Bailey, Edwin F. Barker, J. A. Hegel, D. D. Laing, A. B. Roat, Robert Schiefer and Claude E. Woods. After the dinner the regular meeting was held, with Russ Eaker presiding. The history of the club was read by Mrs. Clarence E. Moore and the regular plant raffle was held. Chairman of Committees appointed were: Mrs. John Newton, parliamentarian; Harold Schilling and R. Potter, finance; Mrs. H. E. Nelson, historian; Mrs. Claude E. Woods, plants; and Mrs. Clarence E. Moore, publicity. Mr. and Mrs. Schilling received the award offered by Frank Reinelt at the last Annual Convention at Glendale, for the best tuberous Begonias.

At the recent election of officers, Russ Eaker and Mrs. Edwin F. Baker were re-elected as president and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively; with them were elected E. D. Brooks, Vice-President; D. D. Laing, National representative; Directors: Mrs. Robert Schiefer, Emerson Cooper and C. J. Jerabeck. Our new home will be at the lovely Vasa Club House, 3094 El Cajon Blvd., and we will meet the FIRST Monday of each month instead of the second as in the past.

East Bay Branch: This Branch held its August meeting Sunday the 22nd at the home of Mr. M. L. Boyd, 1550 Sonoma Ave., Albany, Calif. His display of tuberous Begonias was superb and the membership unanimously appointed him as the Branch winner of the tubers offered by Vetterle and Reinelt.

The September meeting took place on the 19th, at the Greenhouse in Lakeside Park. This marked the re-opening of the display of fibrous and Rex Begonias. The Greenhouse has been remodelled, which will facilitate better care of the plants than heretofore.

GREETINGS, FRIENDS

Sorry we can't be at your show, but believe some of our fine new varieties will—so offer:

\$5.00 in cash or new plants as prize for the best Begonia in your show, if it is one of our introductions purchased within the last two years.

Remember us if you want the best in new hybrids of Tuberous, Rex or Fibrous OR CROSSES between these groups.

LESLIE WOODRIF

HARBOR

OREGON

The Inglewood Branch members again demonstrated what an artistic and comprehensive collection of Begonias, Ferns and other shade-loving plants can do to a flower show. The occasion was the 12th Annual Inglewood Garden Show, including Victory Garden produce. Space will not permit more than a casual and superficial mention of some highlights.

A Santa Monica Tuberous Begonia grower had the best display of these most colorful and attractive of flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harwood really merited the many ribbons for their excellent display. It might be said that Mrs. Harwood did not like the raw look of the terra cotta hanging pots in which their beautiful basket tuberous Begonias were grown, and at the last moment, washed off the green moss until quite clean with soap and water, then, before they dried she quickly applied a coating of white shellac. All who saw and exclaimed upon the 3-year-old Pink Shower and a special hybrid of their own in a lovely apricot pink with large flowers and the huge blossoms of the dark red Camellia basket, noticed also, the nice appearance of the pots. The manner of

(Continued on next page)

exhibiting the flats of tuberous Begonias might also be told in a spirit of helpfulness. They had the usual nursery bat filled with tuberous Begonia seedlings, they removed some of the smaller ones and replaced them with others in full bloom, dug out of a garden bed, balled with a cloth and tied, then sunk into the hole, to look so natural as not to show any soil but a mass of various kinds of tuberous Begonias in all stages of development. Very effective. They had a Special Prize seedling with delightfully fluted petals. Look elsewhere in this issue for his soil composition. Complimenting each other was this and the exhibit of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Badstubner of Lawndale with the finest looking Rexes, flowering fibrous Begonias and Maiden-hair ferns. Several well earned ribbons greatly pleased these Inglewood Branch amateurs. George McDowell's fern and Fuchsia hanging baskets as those of others called for much attention and rightly received ribbons. There were Streptocarpus in numbers with Cypediums and tuberous Begonia seedlings in one exhibit. Capt. Ammenhauser, in spite of heavy service duties, may always be counted on to place a commendable exhibit from his collection of Fancy-leaved Caladiums and other colorful and fine plants. The Zachau exhibit of ferns, Begonias, Coleus, Ivies, Rexes and a glorious B. diadema was arresting. The Rapella Orchid — J. A. Thompson's exhibit had a most original display of Rexes, orchids and fine hanging basket plants. A friendly arrangement, between the Begonia group and the Centibela Garden Club made it possible to fill the whole of one end of the large building with a banked display of all types of Begonias in all their glory. Some members had more plants than others and they made individual exhibits of great merit. Mrs. Gayle Uggla, Mr. H. G. Vose, A. D. Davis, Mm. Hegrooth, J. Stanley Robson, were some of these. Others had really outstanding individual plants which lent much eclat to the whole. Inglewood's fame for fine Community spirit in flower growing is well known and whether it be in flower arrangements or Dahlias, Victory Gardening or Begonias, Fuchsias or Ferns, Orchids or Succulents, Fruits or Vegetables, every branch of the Flower Show was well represented with exhibits in two large buildings.

(Continued on page 185)

BEGONIA DRURYI

(Continued from page 177)

but the edge is not as scalloped, being pinked like sanguinea and with the tiny red spot when the leaf joins the stem and the bad habit, shared by Dorothy Grant, of retaining the dry brown leaf and flower sheath.

The only other plants with which I am familiar that resemble Druryi are Mrs. Wallow and Chiala. My information is that they were raised from German seed in 1933 but it does not state what kind of seed, so I am wondering if sanguinea was not involved in that parentage too. Both have the same gloss and coloring as well as the few scattered hairs, the red spot at the leaf junction and the red stems, also characteristic of Druryi. Mrs. Wallow has very large pedicels of pink bloom and long narrow ruffled leaves that lack the puckers and branching veins that give the diffusion of color to the leaves of Druryi.

Druryi sends up enough canes to make a bushy plant but has a tendency to droop, like sanguinea. The leaf of Mrs. Wallow is a bit thicker than Druryi, but both have a strong appeal for a pest that eats great holes in them, without touching the hairier types beside them. Most of the time they are in fine shape.

A plant of Druryi will give depth and richness to your begonia border and you can pluck and finger its beautiful leaf to remember the silk of your grandmother's wedding gown.

WILLIAM ROSS

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CULTURE OF HARDY FERNS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By A. W. ROBERTS
Los Angeles, Calif.

FERNS, due to their varied cultural requirements, habits and appearance, are fascinating to many garden lovers. It has often been said that a natural shady nook, regardless of how resplendent in colorful plant materials, has not reached its perfection without the inclusion of ferns, which due to their grace and interesting foliage design, add line and a feeling of restfulness and serenity to the landscape.

Another fascinating feature of ferns is their propagation, which consists of the natural or sexual method, from spores. These spores are microscopic organs attached to the under side of the leaves in orderly patterns or along the leaf margins. Spores are produced in tremendous quantities and are known as "Sori."

Although most hardy ferns thrive in cool, moist, shady locations, there are some which have tolerance for considerable sunlight. In their native haunts one finds many species growing in all kinds of soils including heavy clay soils. It appears that the best soil suited for their culture is composed chiefly of well-rotted oak leaf mold. If one intends to grow ferns for pot culture, a compost made up of leaf-mold, well-rotted cow manure and a small amount of peat moss and sand should be used. This mixture should be allowed to age for a year or more and should be frequently turned during the aging period to give satisfactory results. Individual varieties may require special culture medias such as chopped, old osmundin mixed with sphagnum and leafmold. This is especially applicable to Staghorns (*Platycerium*) the several varieties of which are *P. angolense*, *P. biformis*, *P. Grande*, *P. Wallichii*, *P. Willinckii*, *P. aethiopicum*, *P. Hillii* and *P. alcorni*.

Most hardy ferns are successfully propagated by removing a spore-bearing leaf before the spores have fully matured. These leaves are then cut into convenient sizes and placed into paper bags which are loosely tied at the top, leaving a space for air to dehydrate the leaf portions. These bags are suspended from garage rafters and the spores allowed to dry for a period of two or three weeks. With the aid of cheese cloth or an old silk stocking the spores may then be screened onto a sheet of

white paper and placed into envelopes bearing the name of the variety; however, since these spores are so minute and may fly about freely in the air, there is a possibility that spore-bearing fronds or leaves may have collected the spores of other ferns and a few strangers may make their appearance in what was intended to be a well-labeled envelope.

Fern spores may be sown in many ways. Where many varieties which failed to germinate with seemingly the best of care will come up haphazardly in cool, shady and moist greenhouses or lathhouses, it is best to use sterile medias such as screened leafmold, peat moss or chopped and screened sphagnum, maintaining a uniform moisture condition at all times. Another important factor to reduce the effect of Algae and bacterial fungi is to use sterile or distilled water, which is best applied during the morning hours to prevent damping off.

At all times a free circulation of air, yet avoidance of draft is essential to maintain ideal cultural conditions throughout the growing period of ferns, and at all times it is important to maintain a high humidity about their growing areas. Never should ferns be allowed to become dry. Neither will they tolerate excess moisture in the soil. It is often better to maintain a high humidity than a high soil moisture content during the prothalic and sporophyte state—which is the time that ferns are transplanted.

The beginner who desires to propagate ferns should first acquaint himself with the kinds that can be increased by division or offsets. Many varieties produce offsets, one of the most attractive is *Asplenium bulbiferum* which produces hundreds of small plants on its maturing leaves. These may be easily detached without impairing the leaves producing them and should then be placed in leaf-mold and sand, and if kept in a cool, moist, shady place, will root with 12 to 15 days.



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YOUR BEGONIA SOCIETY

By FRANK J. LIEDLER
Long Beach, Calif.

(Continued from Last Issue)

With the ensuing year's growth to one hundred and five members the officers, Messrs. Fred Riedman as President, J. Paul Walker, Vice President, W. S. Bell as Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. O. P. Palestine as Corresponding Secretary the activities began to command attention from many farther afield. It is noted that "The Begonia Lady," Mrs. Charlotte Rodenburg, began writing successive articles with very interesting information on the subject of Begonias for the Bulletin. Many others contributed of their experiences to the publication, from time to time, until we note that the enthusiasm finally culminated in the first Begonia Flower Show in the month of November 1934, as the big event of the year.

January 1935 records disclose an increasing interest lent to the Society by the leadership of the following officers: Messrs. J. Paul Walker as President, H. C. Roque, Vice-President, and Mesdames H. D. Hinley Secretary-Treasurer and J. S. Williams as Corresponding Secretary. This year was also noted for the introduction of "The Begonia Song," composed by Tom Smith. The year 1936 found Mr. Dunkle as President, Mr. Bell Vice-President, Mr. Kelly Corresponding Secretary and Miss Edna Ziesenhenné as Secretary-Treasurer, with a membership of one hundred and sixty-five.

1937 reports Mr. Tom Smith as President, J. S. Williams as Vice-President, Miss Phyllis Cole as Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Hinley Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Kelly Bulletin Editor, Mr. Dunkle Research Editor, Mr. Dyckman and Mr. W. S. Bell as Directors. The January issue of the Bulletin of the American Begonia Society, the first Bulletin in booklet form, reveals the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Society with one hundred and thirty-five in attendance. The February issue reminds us of the "Big Freeze" and in the August issue the Second Annual Begonia Show. The first Begonia branch of the ABS was formed in Ventura during the year.

During 1938 J. S. Williams was the President, Hugh Hixon Vice-President, Mrs. Frank Liedler Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Bulgrin Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Dunkle Bulletin Editor, Mr. Kelly Research Editor, Miss Lena Higgins and F. M. Harrison Directors with Mrs.

Weitz representing the Ventura Branch known as the "Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch." A Life-membership was conferred on Mr. Dyckman by the Society in recognition of services rendered as founder and his perennial enthusiasm in the activities and welfare of the Society.

Note: The writer has attempted to give as concise a resume of the activities of the Society as possible, with consideration of space to be occupied by this writing. This is a bare outline, and it has been difficult to leave many interesting facts behind. The Bulletin from 1939 on contains all the information to complete the picture to date. If sufficient interest is noted, I will be happy to resume the tale, for the benefit of those who have become members lately, or if desired, a general resume could be given at some future general Assembly.

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Cultural Hints For October

By **FERD P. NEELS**
El Segundo, Calif.

• Don't worry if some of your Begonias slow down and have even lost their foliage at this time of the year. Evaporation is much less than during the hot weather and plants are unable to absorb sufficient plant food to continue their fast growth. Extra feeding may now do more harm than good. While Begonias can be forced for winter growth in green-houses, most amateurs think that to do so is at the expense of future vitality.

TUBEROUS: Many of these plants are going dormant and those that have ceased blooming may as well be forced into dormancy. This can be done by gradually withholding the water. If this is not possible the plant can be balled and placed where it will dry slowly. Potted tubers when mature should be stored in a cool, dry place, laying the pots on their sides; or the tubers can be shaken out, dried in the sun for about

a week, then stored in single layers in a cool, dark, dry place.

FIBROUS: Water should be withheld on the summer bloomers. The winter bloomers will still require frequent watering and should be fed as soon as they show signs of blooming

BEDDING: Plants that have flowered throughout the summer need little water now. Dead branches should be pruned and the seed pods removed as they tend to sap the plant's vitality. Most Begonia nurserymen can supply types that bloom well during the winter months.

REX: Add new leaf mold on top of the old soil to take care of any new roots, instead of repotting at this time of the year as an oversized pot will permit too much moisture to collect about the roots of the plant.

I shall be glad to answer any questions you may have bothering you.

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 182)

The **Herbert P. Dyckman Branch** celebrated the Annual dinner at the home of the President, Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., on August 13th, with twenty-six members and guests, presided over by Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. C. A. Poe and Committee.

Mr. Tenyea spoke on plants that grow on ordinary soil and sunlight, also about the people of France and their love for the soil and plants.

Special guests of the evening were Mrs. Allen M. Herman and Mr. and Mrs. George Price of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Mrs. B. Hessenius is now the new Secretary-Treasurer of the Branch.

ANOTHER PRIZE FOR THE BEGONIA SHOW October 2nd. Note the prize offered by Leslie Woodruff for certain Begonias.

Please address your questions to Mr. Ferd Neels, 426 E. Maple Ave., El Segundo, Calif.

Mr. Henry Harwood's Soil formula for productive and fine tuberous Begonias:
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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 October American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at the open Annual Meeting, El Monte, Calif., October 2nd, 2 p.m.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, October 4th
Vasa Club House,
3094 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, October 5th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Zola Jump,
1159 Palm St., Bellflower, Calif.
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, October 5th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. P. W. Glenn,
4325 5th Street, Riverside, Calif.
Mmes. May and Boget, Co-hostesses
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, October 5th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, October 5th
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.
Next Meeting: October

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, October 6th, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St.
Speaker: Gillespie, Vistica, and
Miss Sydney Stein
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, October 7th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, October 7th
Geo. A. Barrows, Secretary
1111 Louise St., Santa Ana, Calif.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, October 8th
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

Sunday, October 11th, 7:30 p.m.
North Long Beach Y.M.C.A.,
61st and California Ave.
Mrs. Claire Jackson, Secy.,
6017 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, October 11th
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, October 14th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, October 18th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, October 21st
11228 Atlantic Ave.
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, October 22nd
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, October 22nd, 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.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, October 26th
Mrs. Alfred Boysen, Sec'y.
25 Tyson Ave., Glenside, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, October 26th
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary,
1345 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif.
Six Speakers: Pet Plant Discussion

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

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Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

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