

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Progressive Towns

By THE EDITOR

• One's admiration is inspired anew when one visits a town like Redlands, Calif. A case of the City dweller with a sneaking envy of the townspeople who can do so much and still have time for more altruistic activities. There is a group of public spirited people in Redlands who can point, literally and physically speaking, to a growing monument. It is called "THE BOTANIC GARDEN." It is the beauty spot at the entrance to the City of Redlands comprising a dumping ground and the roadside around it wherein are planted a great many California natives and many drought resistant flowering plants, shrubs

and trees from diverse parts of the world.

The dumping ground, now a natural looking sunken garden, has been in the course of development over a few years, but this writer found many improvements since last seen about three years ago.

Mrs. James Ralph Finlay was the leading moving spirit, who with other progressive conservationists, among them Mrs. Throop and Mrs. Forrest, (the latter is now moving to San Marino and will be greatly missed in Redlands) are working to establish a beauty spot that will surely gladden every passer-by and possibly inspire him to go home and do likewise.

Another Redlands item that is still news, is the ranch owned by Mr. Frank

Shade Loving Plants In July

By MARY DUNCOMB,
Luverne, Minn.

• July is definitely the hardest month for indoor plants now summering outside. The uncertainty of the weather makes it impossible to calculate what may happen to plants in open borders, even if partially protected on the North side of the house, as ours are.

The gloxinias, African violets and achimenes, of course, are not trusted to the whims of the weather, but are housed in the cool, shady screen-enclosed porch, often shaded a bit by a not too thickly leaved vine, such as the cypress vine with its lacy leaves. This admits filtered sunlight as well as fresh air. The floors and benches on which these plants stand should be sprayed with clean water daily or as often as possible. The cool moist air of dewy mornings at this time of year is especially beneficial to the gloxinias.

However, plants on the North side of the house have to be brave. They must take all the vicissitudes of nature. If broken by the weather they will recover and we will enjoy them better if we take things in their stride. They will branch out more bushy than before. On farms we cannot coddle our pet flowers as we did in Winter when we lived daily in their presence. Hail may break them, as drenching rains, or a severe and prolonged dry spell may necessitate constant morning and evening watering, which must not be neglected if we wish to pull them through this trying period. One learns to conserve water after the ground has been soaked by an unusually heavy rain — perhaps the one which also pruned the plants. One good method is to mulch the soil around them with grass clippings, which while not very decorative serves a purpose well. Not all country homes have facilities for watering with the hose. The water must often be carried by the painful from a distant well and in times of drought this must often be hoarded carefully.

If one only has a small bed of begonias and other shade-loving plants,

Hinckley, 28 Terracina, Redlands, Calif., on which has been developed a method of Citriculture using no cultivation. In fact has not been cultivated for 25 years and the production is noteworthy.

We look to you smaller communities to lead us to do things together. Unity makes Strength.

lathhouses are fine to have, but farms do not often have them. The bed may be shaded by a covering of chicken wire tacked to the sides of the house and across the top leaving the North side open. A vine could be planted at either end which would eventually cover the top. Where the bed runs the entire length of the house as mine does, this is out of the question, so the hardier plants are placed at the exposed ends.

During the very hot and sultry days of late July and early August I set my large specimen begonias in the cool dirt cellar which has some South light. These are brought up again in their places as the weather cools.

• In two articles the question of mulching has been brought to notice this month. Grass clippings have been advised. There are many other materials one may also use to mulch. The healthiest and cleanest, the finest and most natural insulator yet found by this advisor, is the **COARSE SHREDDED REDWOOD BARK**. It is a splendid shield for plants and walls from the spattering of mud and dirt as well as a considerable repellent shield also from some of the pests. It saves water because it does not absorb moisture itself and that makes it a perfect mulch that conserves moisture without stopping the aeration of soil, also prevents packing of soil from beating rains.

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Branch News

California Heights Branch: Past President Jessie Jenkins inspired the members with a detailed discussion of "OUR YARDS," with a view to substituting other plants for the hard to get Begonias this year in the places left open in our gardens. She displayed various plants and flowers which could substitute to good advantage, the while she told of the culture and placement of these plants. The members who also had experience in raising those subjects were called on to supplement her remarks which rendered much information to all.

President Ann Smith reported that she had met with the representatives of the Fuchsia and Begonia Society Branches and that a tentative plan for a joint visitation day had been agreed upon which promised to be a most delightful occasion.

This Branch particularly desires to extend a welcome to members' friends and visitors from other Branches assuring everyone that their interest in the activities of this Branch is appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Poe, 1319 East Wardlow Road, Long Beach 7, will be hosts for the midsummer meeting, which will be held at their home on Friday evening, July 14th, at 8:00 p.m.

Pasadena Branch: The June meeting devoted to Rexes was attended by over 75 people with visitors from San Gabriel, Glendale, Hollywood and even Mrs. John Clark from San Diego.

A Round-Table discussion on Rexes was held with Miss Charlotte Hoak and Mr. William Ross of Glendale backed by a large collection of plants to illustrate points in question. Leaf-cuttings, potting mixtures and locations of plants were leading questions. Potting mixture most in vogue was a third of each: leaf mould, compost and well rotted cow manure. Location was deemed best under lath or partial shade out of the line of draft or wind. They will take a little morning sun but no direct sun for any appreciable time.

Miss Hoak also gave a five-minute discussion on two Begonias: Nelly Bly and Thurstoni. She also reported most favorably on the present condition of the plants in the Robinson Memorial, for which small plants will be welcomed.

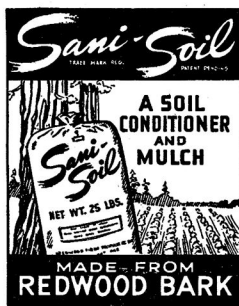
Mrs. Drummond, President of the Hollywood Branch, spoke for a few minutes on the forthcoming ANNUAL MEETING in September, asking every-

one to do all possible to groom plants for the Begonia Show of the same day.

San Diego Branch: We have a promise that The Begonian will be given the manuscript of the talk given to this Branch by Paul E. Bloomer recently. We hope the President, Mr. Russ Eaker, will surely follow up his request for it. Mr. Bloomer is looked upon as an authority on Fertilizers and seems to have fine ability in presenting his program, from reports received.

The Nominating Committee will be headed by Mrs. Russell T. Baily as Chairman with Mrs. H. E. Nelson and Mrs. R. E. Lee.

The next meeting will be in the form of an open discussion and POT-LUCK



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DINNER furnished by Mrs. J. A. Hegel and her corps of assistants at a nominal sum. Of course, the plant sales will be featured—for the rent must be paid.

North Long Beach Branch: The July meeting is being anticipated with interest as the National President, Mr. Clarence Hall, will be the speaker of the evening. Several of the members of the National Board are expected as visitors and will be welcomed with the other guests. Refreshments will follow.

The Board of Directors of the ABS is invited to attend the special meeting of July at which Mr. Clarence Hall, National President of ABS, will be speaker of the evening.

Glendale Branch: The May meeting was a particularly enjoyable one to all who heard Mrs. Hazel Drummond, President of The Hollywood Branch, speak on the Art of Corsage Making of which she is a fine exponent. Much interest was displayed by all with questions and answers denoting how keenly everyone was appreciating the subject. The corsages were turned over to the plant sale with two especially beautiful ones sold on separate sale proceeds to be donated to Convention Fund.

San Gabriel Valley Branch: An outstanding meeting awaits members of the San Gabriel Valley Branch on Sunday, July 30th, at the home of Mrs. William Morant, 74 Woodland Lane, Arcadia. Mr. Harold W. Hart, of Glendale, congenial, humorous and one of the most popular American Begonia Society speakers, will talk on "The Propagation and Care of House Plants." Mr. Hart is well qualified to discuss this subject. It is predicted that the plant sale will be the largest this year, as the money goes to the Hollywood convention fund. Visitations of several interesting gardens in the neighborhood will precede the after-

noon program, scheduled for 4 p.m. A picnic supper will follow. Members of other branches are extended a cordial invitation.

Bellflower Branch: The June 6th meeting was attended unusually well to see the exceptionally fine pictures and to hear Mr. Keim speak.

The plant sale was a very successful one with plants for all. There will be regular meeting in July but this Branch will meet in a joint gathering of Garden visitations with the Parent Branch on July 23rd. See notice elsewhere in this issue.

The next regular meeting will be August 1st at the home of Mrs. Esther McElhinney, 534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

Inglewood Branch: This Branch has gathered 17 new members unto itself since the first of the year. Congratulations. The plant sales of the past two months have shown great interest by the members with a very fine array of donations from everyone and good activity. One member, Mr. L. R. Schirmer, has offered a donation of 35 plants for the sale of July meeting.

Mr. Fasmer, President, may well be pleased with the way the Branch is progressing. After the flag salute at the June meeting, led by Mr. Robson, Vice-President, he asked for a minute of silent prayer for those in our armed forces. The speaker of the evening, Miss Charlotte Hoak, discussed Begonias generally, but very enthusiastically and interestingly.

The speaker for July will be Maria Wilkes.

Often the door prize is won by a new member or a visitor who is thus inveigled into the Branch as a member. This time, Mrs. Florence Larkin, a new

(Continued on page 360)

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Hollywood Plans Annual Meeting For American Begonia Society

• Inspired by the fine leadership of Mrs. W. C. Drummond, Branch President, an excellent committee is working on plans to give an enthusiastic welcome to members of the American Begonia Society, on Saturday, September 16th, at the Plummer Park Club-House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. This date was chosen with the hope that more fine Begonias, especially tuberous Begonias, could be shown at that time.

Murray Hawkins, formerly Branch President, and now serving as National Representative for the second year, has been appointed General Chairman for the annual meeting. Mr. Hawkins announces that those who have agreed to head committees are: Mrs. Kem Weber, Exhibits; Mrs. Zella Otto, Refreshments; Joseph R. Sherer, Tickets, Ribbons and Badges; W. C. Cocke, Registrations; Mrs. W. C. Drummond, Banquet; Ray Wilson, Table Decorations; John T. Parker, Garden Plots and Visitations; Mrs. Helen Ehret, Cultural Bulletins; Edward B. Flynn, Information; Mrs. R. J. Coup, Plant Sale for the Robinson Memorial; Mrs. Lorna Watkins, Flower Arrangements; and Mrs. James H. Pope and Mrs. Murray Hawkins, Hospitality and Housing.

Plans are well underway to make this meeting one of the finest; however, war restrictions will make some difference this year, the garden visitations must be limited as to number and distance and the price of the dinner may be a little more. We may be able to make up for some of this if all members who can will make a special effort to enter more Begonias in the exhibit.

With the plans in such good hands we may look forward to a very enjoyable day, one to cheer us in these trying war times and one to give us inspiration to carry on with our splendid hobby.

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Special Invitation

• The Long Beach Parent Chapter has planned a garden visitation for Sunday, July 23, 1944. Inviting the North Long Beach Branch, California Heights Branch, Bellflower Branch and the Parent Society of the California Fuchsia Society to join in with them. Members and guests are to meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dyckman, 141 West 53rd St., Long Beach, at 1 p.m. Instructions will be given there as to other gardens which will be open during the day. At each garden different colored tickets will be given to each member and guest who attends. Each Branch is donating some very lovely and useful gifts. Drawing to be at 6 p.m. at Houghton Park, 6st and California Ave., North Long Beach, at which time a covered dish dinner will be enjoyed. The respective Branches will furnish coffee, sugar, cream, rolls and butter. **BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE.** This is to be a most enjoyable day and is open to the PUBLIC, so fill your car with friends and neighbors, your lunch box with food, and JOIN US.

NOMENCLATURE SUGGESTION

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rhizomatous: ri-zom'a-tus,

not rhizoma'tious.

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One Answer To Information Wanted By Victoria Kartack, Begonian, Jan., 1944

By WALTER J. KNECHT
Ventura, Calif.

• Several months have passed since "Information Wanted" was printed in the Begonian. I was in hope that somebody more familiar with eastern conditions than I would give an answer to the question.

Yes, madam, I live on the West coast, but have gardened in other parts of the world and was not born with a green thumb. But I am grateful for being here in this "Begonia Climate" where we also put up with some occasional frosts, heat and wind, claysoil and heavens knows what, which can make growing a trial no matter where one lives.

Somehow I and other Begonians endowed with fairly good eyes and a little bit of reasoning by the trial and error method make a few plants grow that are not native to our climate. Believe me the Begonian is a great help, if we read it carefully. We may not find a recipe for each case, but if we know the general requirements of a plant we can and must adjust growing conditions as nearly as possible, to get results.

In your case for instance, you must realize from what you possibly have gleaned from Begonian articles, that Begonias grow native in forests, partly shaded places, that leaves drop down from the trees, enrich the soil with humus, affording acidity and certain plant-foods.

Take a Zinna f. i., or a petunia, they belong in an entirely different group of plants, being sun loving and thriving on non acid soils. Get the picture?

If the dirt sticks on your plants, you must have a clayey, sticky soil, not one full of humus. I was in Wisconsin once for a short stay, you have trees too, I remember, so you must have some soft leafsoil in your forests, which you can collect and use with your plants, straight, or mixed with some sand, outdoors, or with potted plants. In a cow country like yours you also must be able to get some good old cow manure which you can mix in, or use as a top dressing on your soil and I am sure your plants will thrive better without getting all muddy.

Conserve Seed By Careful Sowing

• Seedmen tell us that while there is no shortage of seed, yet it would be well for every gardener and every hobbyist, to sow seeds carefully and no thicker than necessary.

Most people sow too thickly, and this not only results in a waste of seed, but it reduces yield.

Sow only a little thicker than the quantity you actually want, and if you err either way, it is better to have sown too thin than too thick.

This practice will reduce time required in thinning after the plants are up, and you will have better quality flowers, or vegetables.

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MRS. HARRY HARKER
Chairman

2461 Fashion Avenue, Long Beach 6, Calif.

In a country with hot summers providing shade is absolutely necessary be it from trees, pergola (arbor), or lath house. We have to do it here even on our partly foggy coast. And furthermore, going away in the summer may be a nice thing to do (I am writing this on a vacation up in the hills, while my better half very likely is at the other end of a watering hose) but none of us would dare to leave our Begonia gardens unattended for three months and find the plants in good shape on return. Almost daily watering is the rule even here on the coast.

So, dear madam, if you see the beautiful pictures of gardens and plants in our beloved "Begonian", don't think that there is not a lot of work, love and patience behind it all to make them look like that.

I hope that these lines may help you on your road to success and that others nearer to you may have some more direct experience and advice to help you. How about joining or creating a local group; you will have a lot of fun swapping experiences.

BEGONIA HERACLEIFOLIA, Var. SUNDERBRUCHII

By Alice M. Clark,
San Diego, Calif.

AT last it has been possible to find a good model of the Star family to portray. This particular specimen has been sketched under very happy circumstances inasmuch as it was done while staying with Annie Robinson in her home at Fallbrook. It was a real treat to visit with the former mistress of Rosecroft, talk Begonias to our heart's content and browse around in orchard and lath-house.

The plants brought to Fallbrook have had a difficult adjustment to make as the climate is so very different from that of their former home. The winters being colder, the Rex types have been discouraged. The cane fibrous, with which Mr. Robinson was so successful, are most unhappy in the dry summer atmosphere but the hairy fibrous are in fine fettle with extra large leaves, good color and bloom. Old plants, long established here, are thriving, but it is taking more than a year for others to become adjusted. Since Mrs. Robinson has permanently retired from the commercial growing of Begonias (a fact the Rosecroft public must accept, however loathe to do so), the survival of the fittest in her small lath-house will be an interesting test and will help decide the difficult question of selection, much as we hate to see old favorites fail to "do," as Mr. Robinson used to say.

For over a year I have been wanting to draw a series of the "Star" types but have been balked at every turn because there are so many variations that it was hard to find experts who would even try to name them, let alone agree on the same designation. In addition, it was difficult to find plants in the right condition with both leaf and bloom large enough to show their true characteristics. For instance, Mrs. Robinson has a root-stock of the species *Heracleifolia* which is quite devoid of leaves and in San Diego, I am told, there is a person without a telephone on the far side of town from my home who has a fine specimen but I have neither time nor gas to get to it.

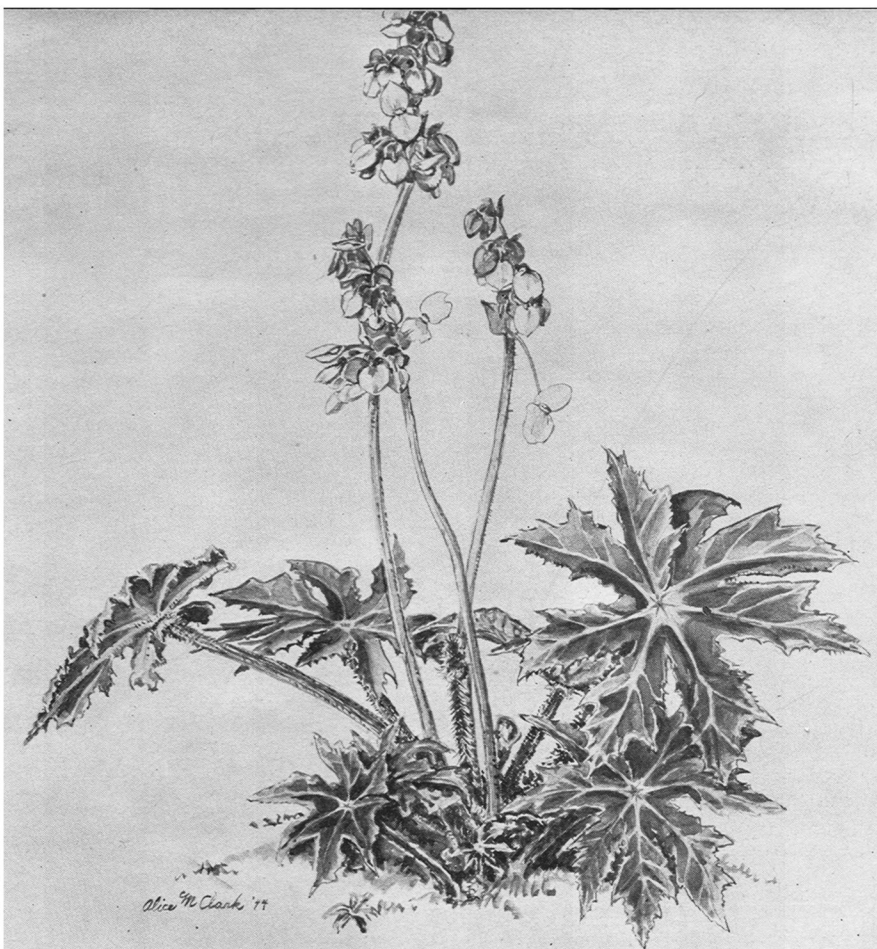
Because *Sunderbruchii* is such an old favorite, I naturally presumed that, when I had discovered a suitable plant, it would be easy to find much information about it. To my great surprise I could not locate any authentic source material as to its origin or date of in-

roduction. All authorities state that it is a variety of *Heracleifolia*. A catalog of Gause and Bissell of Richmond, Indiana, published in 1892, lists *Sunderbruchii*, though the description does not tally with Mrs. Robinson's plant, but it does prove that the name was in circulation at that time. Eva Kenworthy Gray states in her 1931 booklet that it is an American introduction which would explain why it is not in the old bound editions of Curtis or other English garden magazines or even in "Die Begonien." Mrs. Shepherd's old 1900 catalog in Ventura makes no mention of it so it would seem to come from the East. *Sunderbruchii* first appeared in the Rosecroft lists in 1928.

The species, *Heracleifolia*, known as the "parsnip-leaved Begonia," came from Mexico in 1831. There have been many varieties of this species such as *Punctata*, *Marion*, *Immense*, *Nigricans*, etc. Some are still existent but all are very similar and confused. Sometimes when young the leaves of one plant will illustrate several types, which is the reason that it is difficult to identify a "Star" plant when in bloom as the leaves are usually undeveloped at that time unless grown in a glass house.

Sunderbruchii is a plant that is a real delight to describe because the more one searches the more there is to see. The specimen I have illustrated was one of several in a large pot, and when fully developed the leaves, which are always graceful and drooping, will be as much as a foot across. Those of *Heracleifolia* are even longer. The outstanding feature of the plant is a light green area that splashes a path down the rib of each leaf lobe making the dark parts near the edge seem richer by comparison. There are hairs on the margin and on the back of the ribs they are red. The dark parts of the leaf are reddish underneath, with the same light green stripe up the center. As can be seen, the leaves are beautifully notched and cut in about half-way down to form a lobe. These vary in number from seven to nine and the last section is slashed all the way into the sinus where it overlaps the first.

On the reverse side, where the stem joins the center (see left-hand leaf of sketch) there is a thick collar of white hairs, tangled and shaggy. These always



B. Heracleifolia
var.
Sunderbruchii

have dark-colored bases, like bristle brushes set in red rubber, which give a spotted effect wherever they are. The older leaf stalks have long hairy grooves, the same in number as the leaf ribs into which they seem to expand. A very young leaf may be seen between the flower stems, closely covered with long white filaments, dark red where they meet the stalks, while the leaf itself is a fuzzy burr. All of the stems appear to rise out of the soil but come from a rhizome that is not exposed, as in most

of this type.

The flower peduncle is tall and graceful. It is a light green, etched and roughened with red splashes and some hairs, deepening in color where the inflorescence branches. In this picture there is a tender flower scape just about to shoot up from the base of the plant. The color effect of the raceme is very rich. The flowers themselves are a rosy pink, blending into a red stem cupped at the base with two round green stipules,

(Continued on page 364)



Top Left: King Edward. Center: Anna Throop. Top Right: Star Dust

A CHALLENGE FROM REDLANDS TO ALL REX GROWERS

By MARIA WILKES,
Los Angeles, Calif.

IT was a challenge that started Mrs. Anna Throop in collecting all the Begonia Rex that appealed to her, in this she was aided and abetted by her brother Chas. Albrecht to whom due credit must be given for the unqualified success they enjoy.

Mrs. Throop was intrigued by the endless designs, the gleam, the sheen and color combinations of the Rexes, so she and her brother went shopping. That was six years ago. Everyone told them how disappointed they would be as Redlands was not suitable to the growing of the Rexes. The more they heard this, the more they were determined to show it could be done. The first glasshouse soon proved this and became too small and inadequate so the present greenhouse was built three years ago. The setting is ideal. And this is news: It is actually the focal point of the whole garden. Most greenhouses do not lend themselves to being dramatized in the garden landscape, this one seems to lend a spe-

cial air of dignity and attractiveness to this backyard garden.

The construction is as simple as possible but the panes of glass are about two feet square and kept so clean that they might be the panes of the living-room window. The flowers and plants beckon from the inside and are framed more becomingly from the outside. The 34' x 36' greenhouse was happily built in the shade of a huge umbrella tree which lords it over a terrace that rises from the long, narrow garden banked on one side with the Orange orchard and on the other by the three-car garage and drive-way that may, in a jiffy, be turned into a semi-outdoor playroom for a large crowd. On the side of this building there is a lovely flower room in which one finds everything for the setting up of flowers for decorations of all kinds.

Since the umbrella tree shades the greenhouse to a pretty turn there is no need to paint the glass panes even in hottest weather—adding enormously to



Young Rex Begonias With Maiden Hair Ferns

— Photos by W. Elmer Kingham

the decorative value of the glasshouse and the plants inside it.

The setting of the benches also was carefully considered to give the best effect from far and near. Upon entering one is stopped by a wall extending across the whole house of cascading Rexes which form a shower of vari-colored metallic leaves made more vibrant by the addition of several types of maiden-hair fern in pots or redwood boxes.

Notice the central pot in the picture above, the one with curly leaves, that is one of Mr. Albrecht's seedlings which he named for his sister Anna Throop. Stardust is the predominant and largest plant on the right which, in the original black and white picture almost may be seen the purple gleam that renders this plant so beautiful through the spangling of stardust which gave it its name. The first large plant on the left is a four-year-old King Edward which has been divided many times in that time. It is the same one that Mr. Ferd Neels said last year, it was the largest of its kind he had ever seen. The picture was taken just over a month ago, when the plants were just nearing about

would love to see this scene when they reach their peak of beauty. This collection is the most beautifully grown of any yet seen by this Editor and she has seen them in several countries under all conditions and grown an extensive collection of her own some years ago in South Africa. We wish you all could see them looking so clean and in perfect condition. Mr. Albrecht prefers redwood boxes for the plants and does his round with the water hose very early in the morning. He never sprinkles the leaves as he believes it would ruin the natural bloom of the leaves. Results certainly speak eloquently for him. He fumigates periodically to keep the glasshouse plants healthy and clean. Mr. Albrecht seems to make easy work of it, perhaps, a delight, would be nearer to it. Mrs. Throop has added a few tuberous rooted begonias, of both the regular and hanging basket varieties, a fair collection of gloxinias, a few orchids, anthuriums, pink calla lilies and some epiphyllums just to add a little variety and color of a different order to the picture. the half-way mark in their growth. We

(Continued on next page)

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These, one sees after following the right or the left turn of the imposing phalanx of Rexes. Many more of them are arrayed on the moss wall which extends all around the three sides of the house. It may be that the moisture obtained from this high and solid moss wall has something to do with the success of these plants. There are over one hundred varieties of Rex and all seem to be doing exceedingly well. We strongly commend the use of several kinds of maidenhoar ferns with them as is done here. The right-hand corner of the picture above is shown with an unfinished improvement. It is going to be a red-wood bark wall.

There are other improvements scheduled for the future, but then be that as it may, it was a joyous treat being invited to the special annual garden party on May 25th, and to witness in the expression of over one hundred and fifty happy faces how greatly, they too, were enjoying this delightful place.

Other highlights of the Throop farm garden might well be cited to show that a farm need not be devoid of real beauty. The entrance driveway is lined with a very wide solid border of snapdragons that would take the prize in any flower show. Uniform, well grown and brilliant in three colors, a great mass of bronzey-yellow on one side, with beautiful pink and cerise on the other side. Farther along masses of stocks in pastel colors, some delphiniums and peonies with other flowers. A glorious Mermaid rose covers the barbecue pergola at the rear of the house. When the snapdragons come out, they are replaced with a solid replacement of zinnias. Lovely, simple, stunning and certainly refreshing.

A design for living with thought of giving pleasure to others is the keynote of the Throop home and garden.

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BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 353)

member got it. She says the first meeting alone was worth the whole year's membership.

If you want refreshments after the meeting, bring your own cup and spoon. That's easy.

San Francisco Branch: It is growing by leaps and bounds. The last meeting was the largest in its history with seven new members. That makes us all happy. Congratulations and good wishes.

The main attraction happened to be the colored moving pictures entitled "Fascinating San Francisco," photographed and displayed by Mr. Glen Schnabel.

The July 5th meeting is a special one for which members are requested to bring REX and FIBROUS foliage to be identified so as to be prepared for the coming Flower Show. There will be a lesson on Corsage Making and other arrangements. Bring your material and learn more.

Riverside Branch: Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, who has been President and is now Sec.-Treas. of the Branch, advises us that the Branch will take a month's leave from meetings through July and then they will reopen activities with some good speakers who can show them how to have more success with their Begonias and house plants. We wish them good luck . . . and happy times.

Hollywood Branch: It was Fuchsia evening when Mr. James C. Faircox came all the way from Gardena to speak on his favorite subject. He brought boxes of all types of beautiful Fuchsias and everyone was fired anew with the desire to grow more of them. Very smartly, he takes a sheaf of leaflets with him to do the explaining of propagation and soil mixtures, and these he passes around to everyone. See a copy of it in *The Begonian*, page 24 of February, 1943.

Parent Chapter: Members greatly enjoyed talk by Clarence Mets of Ventura, Calif. Mr. Mets is a speaker one may depend upon to deliver a thoroughly interesting and instructive talk.

Dr. Reticker, of Palos Verdes Begonia Gardens, has an enormous Begonia *Corallina Delucerna*—due to use of a constant and substantial mulch of good steer manure.

NEW ENGLAND BEGONIAS IN A WARTIME JANUARY

By PHILIP M. POST
Worcester, Mass.

THESE are hard times for us here in the north-east who have little back-yard greenhouses. Ration boards haven't much sympathy with such enterprises when there's not enough coal and oil to go round for heating dwellings. A good many growers of Begonias and other plants have just given up, and have brought their choicest possessions into the house for the duration. But for the grace of God and the perspicacity of two other members of my family in buying coal way ahead, I'd be one of these. As things are, I'll get through this Winter, but beyond that I refuse to think. I feel as if I'd gladly pick up coal along the railroad tracks rather than give up my greenhouse. It would be a physical impossibility to transfer some three hundred plants in over two hundred varieties up to seven feet in height from the greenhouse to our house. Besides, we already have plants in the house.

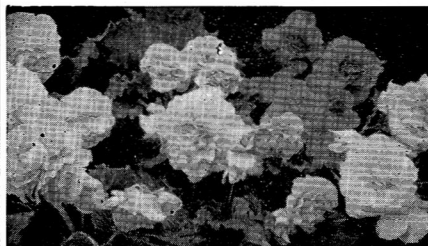
I did get an addition built to my present greenhouse, giving me a space all told of eight by twenty-four feet, which will alleviate the present congestion, if the plumber, for whom I've already waited six weeks, will ever come and install heating pipes.

Most of my Begonias have grown magnificently and alarmingly, bidding fair, on the high side of the greenhouse, to take on the proportions and luxuriance of a tropical jungle. I'm sure that if Begonia growers in cold climates knew how much more their plants would do in a simply constructed, home-made greenhouse, and for how little cost such a greenhouse could be made, they'd surely have one. Control of heat, moisture, light, and humidity make the great difference. Rexes keep their leaves all winter, and many of them go right on blooming and growing. Fragrance in those kinds that possess that property is intensified. All Begonias attain, if they are let, more nearly the tlrifrt and size that is possible in the lath-houses of southern California. It becomes necessary to pinch and restrain the tallest ones. The anaemic incubator babies of the wardian case, emancipated from its confines, expand with new life, almost as happy as in their native Himalayas or Peruvian fog-drenched meadows. Except in the matters of light and individual water requirements, I don't find

it necessary to make any distinction as to culture between different types. Venosa, incana, kellermani, and Manda's seedling, grow in the same soil formula as rexes and semperflorens.

Begonia kellermani is worthy of widespread popularity. I've had it a lot longer than incana, and of course my original plant is much more of a specimen, but from the pictures I've seen of incana I'm inclined to the opinion that kellermani is the finer of the two. It branches well and blooms from practically every joint, and in flower it is a study in pastel, the gray tomentum blending softly with the thousands of lavender-tinted buds and white flowers on pinkish, fuzzy stems. My plant literally covered itself with blossoms last winter, and is going to give us an even better performance this year. Just now it is the heaviest Begonia in proportion to its size that I have. All summer it grows, and its leaves are round and flat and no heavier than those of Melior, for example, but as the days get shorter, it undergoes a metamorphosis. Short side branches appear from all the leaf axils which bear thick, fleshy, cupped

(Continued on next page)



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leaves, reservoirs of water to carry the plant through some expected dry time. The original thin-textured leaves are gradually dispensed with, and kellermani becomes a succulent. This change is usually completed about the time blooming is over, and then the plant rests. It actually gets so heavy that it has to be tied to something to keep it from falling over.

A plant of *Margaritacea* about two feet tall has bloomed for six months and shows no sign of let-up. Except for Mr. Woodriff's Wild Rose tuberous, which has a powerful fragrance, it is the most fragrant *Begonia* I have in bloom now.

Richard Robinson has been my pride. The loveliest imaginable on such a low, bushy plant. If it never flowered I'd be amply repaid for growing it, and now it's going to bloom. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for fear that may be the beginning of its decline.

While the rhizomatous kinds are making buds for January and February glory, this is the season of *incarnata*'s finest display. Such a generous thing! Others of its type, *Templini*, *Jessie*, *Perle Lorraine*, are in their prime. By virtue of its size, not to mention its myriads of flowers, *Templini* lords it over my little greenhouse, a full seven feet, the greatest height I'm able to give it, with its top already bent against the muslin covering the ventilator opening. I hope that plumber comes quickly so I can move *Templini* into the addition where there's a little more head-room. I really built that addition specially so I wouldn't have to behead this pet of mine.

I'm particularly fond of *Sachsen*. A plant about three feet tall has produced showers of blossoms continuously for over a year, always remaining neat and within bounds. *Helen King*, *Alzasco*, and *Rosie Murphiski* are my favorites in the *Lucerne* class. Their restrained habit and beautiful foliage are their endearing features. Of course I love *Coralina* best of all, but I either have to be continually starting a new plant or else it grows me out of house and home.

Ulmifolia, *dichotoma*, *scabrida*, *johnstoni*, *longipes petiolata*, and another one that looks like *dichotoma* except for smooth leaves and green stems, are getting ready to blossom. For the most part, these bud clusters show a decided similarity, and these plants have other characteristics in common, making me

• GOOD WISHES to Mrs. Jessie Poole. We are glad to report that Mrs. Poole is on the road to recovery after having sustained an operation recently. Through unavoidable circumstances, Mrs. Poole found it necessary to curtail her activities and will retain the office of Director of Public Affairs but resigned from the Directorship of The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial and Chairman of the Show Schedule Committee.

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wonder if there isn't close relationship. I think they'll be more interesting than outstandingly beautiful.

Mr. Woodriff's "It" is really a gem. The three plants I have came all the way across the continent early in the fall and went right on growing as nice as you please. They really are outdoing themselves with flowering for such very young plants.

The greenhouse which I am hoping to be able to set up some day is intended to be built running east and west with a high side on the north of stone or wood to seven feet. I bought it especially because I'll be able to grow tall kinds in a ground bed on that high side to ten feet if they want to get that big. There will be a wide middle bench with rexes under and shelves over, and then a drop of two and a half feet to the lower bench on the south side. I expect I'll have to have *gloxinias*, *achimenes*, *gesneria*, *streptocarpus*, and lots of ferns in this greenhouse too. If any one had told me three years ago that I would have such plans, I'd have thought him balmy. You see, that's what belonging to the ABS and reading the *Begonian* can do to people.

Begonias As House Plants

By AN EASTERN MEMBER

• Many of us who are interested in Begonias and living in the East do not have lath houses. I for one do not. Much to the contrary of most Begonia lovers my plants are kept indoors the year round.

Our home is an old stone farm house and for the past two years I have experimented as to the best place to keep my plants. One room has rather a large bay window, one window facing south, one southwest and one west—consequently, there is hardly any part of the day that we do not have sunshine. A shelf between the windows is long and wide enough to accommodate between 40 and 50 different varieties. At the south window I have my sutherlandii, Preussen, Mrs. Scripps, Lucendro, Palmata, haagiana and several semi-tuberous. As the shelf continues around to the south west are a multiflora rosea, Washington Street (which by the way did not do anything until I placed it in this position 3 months ago), Dorothy Grant, Palmifolia, incarnata, several corm type, ulmifolia, acida, etc. Facing the western window are my Fisher variety.

My scheme has been not to use my plants as a collection only, but to make

them play a part in the decoration of our home. On a deep window sill (southern exposure) are a manicata, a manicata aurea and a Calla Lily Begonia and several African Violets which seem to blend in very beautifully with the lovely leaves of the Begonias.

For the past two years I have tried to raise Rex B. but up until a month ago was very unsuccessful. However, I am still trying and now have six different varieties which look very promising—these I keep in a northern window and they only have a little sun in the late afternoon.

One reason for my not setting the plants outdoors in Summer is—sometimes we have very hot winds and I think it does the plants more harm than good and also when Fall comes and the Begonias have to be housed they almost all drop their leaves and this to me is a great set-back for a plant.

I keep feeding the plants regularly with "Barnyard Tea" and firmly believe a drink of vitamin B₁ every two weeks has helped keep my plants in very good condition. This may seem strange but at the present time (June) some plants do not need watering for two days—this is due to the house being damp and keeping the shades drawn during the sunny hours. By having the plants scattered about our home I am more able to care for them and have learned many of their likes and dislikes.

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• APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Harold Hart, of Pasadena, Calif., has been appointed Director of The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial, effective immediately.

Mr. George Laurence of Alhambra, Calif., has been appointed Chairman of Show Schedule Committee. He is also Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Q. Several of my Rex Begonias have tiny worms in the soil; how can I get rid of them?

Ans. Place about a teaspoon of naphthaline flakes under the drainage hole of the pot, so the vapors will rise into the soil.

(Questions by Mrs. J. B. S.)

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

HELD at 417 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, May 8, 1944.

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER at 7:45 p.m. Presidne Hall presiding.

PRESENT AT MEETING: A. E. Nelson, H. Hart, J. Baily, Mrs. J. A. Poole, Mrs. M. Wilkes, Mr. and Mrs. H. Harker, M. Hawkins, Mr. J. Baily (Pasadena), Mrs. McRae, Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Drummond, Mrs. Otto, Mrs. S. Coup, Mr. and Mrs. Scherer, Mrs. Hartwell, Mrs. C. Harris, Miss D. Mets, and Mrs. C. A. Hall.

The President introduced the guests and welcomed them to the meeting.

MINUTES of the meeting of April 10, read, corrected, and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT read. Motion to accept, carried.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT read. Motion to accept, carried.

MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMAN'S report read. Motion to accept, carried.

SPEAKERS BUREAU. Murray Hawkins announced that he had obtained the names of thirty members who are available as speakers. Motion to mimeograph copies of the list, to be forwarded to each branch. Carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS. Amendment to by-laws of Bellflower Branch, presented by Mrs. Poole. Motion to approve, carried.

SEED FUND CHAIRMAN, Mrs. C. Harris announced the closing of membership in the Seed Fund, until more seeds are acquired.

REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS. Enthusiastic reports were given by Mrs. McRae of Glendale, Mr. H. Harker of the Parent Branch, Mr. M. Hawkins of the Hollywood Branch, Mr. J. Baily of the Pasadena Branch, Mr. Hall reported for Ventura in the absence of their Representative Director.

JUNE ISSUE OF THE BEGONIAN. Mr. Harker announced the increased demand for Begonians necessitated a larger printing. The President instructed Mrs. Wilkes to have 1800 copies printed for the June issue. Mrs. Harker reported that the mailing of Begonians to MEMBERS IN THE ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, required first class postage. Moved and seconded that the Begonians continue to be forwarded to these members. Carried.

The President appointed the following as a NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1945 NATIONAL OFFICERS: Mr. Geo. Laurence, San Gabriel; Mr. H. B. Fasmer, Inglewood; and Mrs. W. C. Drummond of Hollywood.

Mrs. Drummond announced that the CONVENTION had been arranged for September 16, 1944. This date would permit a worthwhile display of tuberous begonias at the Flower Show, held in conjunction with the Convention. Moved and seconded that the date be accepted. Carried.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION. Due to the trend of early Convention date and election of officers, it was suggested by Past President J. Baily to arrange for a convention date during a thirty day period and which would be immovable. The President appointed H. Hart, J. Baily, A. E. Nelson, and Dr. Dunkle as a committee of four to arrange for an amendment to the Constitution permitting the suggested change, and asked that the date selected be one that would be suitable to all branches, giving consideration to the Branch desires, to hold a flower show in conjunction with the convention, and which would permit display of tuberous begonias as well as other varieties. Also to allow the newly elected officers to assume office the next Board Meeting immediately following the convention.

The President appointed Mrs. J. C. Jenks as a National Board REPRESENTATIVE to act with the HOLLYWOOD BRANCH CONVENTION COMMITTEE.

The President suggested that the ROBINSON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEN from the various branches be called together in order that the

BEGONIA HERACLEIFOLIA

(Continued from page 357)

which shade into maroon at the edges. Every pair of stems has these stipules. Similar sepals fold over the bright green ovary with its two small ridges and one larger pink wing. Each branching part is carefully done up in a bract of rosy-brown tissue, larger at the first junction and smaller as it progresses up. These fall away as the flowers expand.

Both male and female bloom have two petals. The male flower that comes at the cleft of the peduncles may be seen extending far beyond the cluster on a very long reddish petiole. The bloom itself is like a lovely pale-pink heart-shaped locket that opens to expose the golden stamen. These petals are the first to fall and leave the female flowers swinging like graceful bells from their little caps.

If you have one of these plants do examine the flowers sections carefully and enjoy the beauty of their colorful ramifications. Those I have drawn are about twelve inches high but would go far beyond that when completely unfolded or on a larger plant.

Most people find Sunderbruchii easy to raise in a lath-house, as the winter rains in the open rot the leaves. It should be repotted or reset in the soil every year, as it grows so near the surface it almost climbs out of it. It is nice to plant this variety beyond the rexes for extra height and size. Its spring color gives a lift to that part of the garden, while the rex flowers enliven it in the fall. If you can find it, do number this satisfactory beauty in your galaxy of stars!

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Memorial may continue to improve. Mrs. Poole acknowledged the suggestion and promised to arrange for an early meeting.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED to the next regular meeting, Monday, June 12.

Plantly Speaking — In The Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG,
Hollywood, Calif.

• A native violet of the swamps of Newfoundland and South to Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota, has been having many words of praise regarding its adaptability to shaded locations here in Southern California. It may thrive best under swampy conditions in its native haunts, but *Viola renifolia* flowers abundantly and the foliage retains good, healthy appearance under normal growing conditions here, which are certainly not swampy.

Its reniform leaves are small and dainty and the flowers usually just manage to get their heads above the leaves just enough to say "Here I am." You can't pass them by without a look and what you see is a dainty white flower with the lower three petals marked with



Viola renifolia

grey-brown veins in such a manner as to add to their daintiness.

To my knowledge it is one of the easiest of all the violets to grow. It multiplies readily and has no serious faults. I may have a particular liking for violets but even at that, this one has a special appeal to all who see it in flower.

Tuberous Begonias

Excerpts from
The Santa Ana Register,
Santa Ana, Calif.

• If you cannot get a speaker, ask the President. The Orange County Begonia Branch recently did just that and Mr. E. V. Anderson responded with a most informative talk on The Culture of TUBEROUS BEGONIAS. Mr. Anderson emphasized the importance of purchasing good stock for good results. The potting mixture he likes is compost, leafmould and peat in equal parts. The first two are rotted—or composted together for about eighteen months and the peat is the regular peat moss. If this is not possible he advised leafmould for the production of very fair Begonias.

The right amount of shade is important. A lath-house covered with muslin is ideal. However, any place like the North side of the house, under a walnut tree or in the shade of a wall where no direct sunshine can reach the plants will do very well. Too dense shade produces tall growth and nice foliage but very few flowers, and direct sunlight blights the leaves and blooms.

Begonias should be kept moist but not wet. The drop in bloom and buds is caused usually by overwatering. Overhead sprinkling is enjoyed by tuberous Begonias, but it is necessary to irrigate

the pot or the bed from time to time by running the water easily from the hose into pot or onto the bed. With ordinary care these most beautiful flowers can be kept blooming until late Fall when the tubers may be harvested, washed, dried in the sunshine and stored in the garage for the next Summer.

Suggestions For July

Try some seeds of CALCEOLARIA in flats this month, also, LOBELIA, CINERARIA and VIOLA tricolor all things that will give you early Autumn color in the shade garden. Do not forget a few SCHIZANTHUS for specimen pots either for the patio or house. Most important of all, get yourself a few seeds of PRIMULA polyantha and grow them for pots and for borders or clumps under shrubs as well as here and there in the shade garden, also *P. malacoides* and *P. obconica*. If you have read this magazine you will know where to get them. This is the month to start growing BEGONIAS from seed. See May BEGONIAN.

Q. How long do Rex Begonias remain dormant?

Ans. During the winter months, and while they are dormant they should be kept moist enough to keep the rhizome alive.

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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.**

The July 10th (Second Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Room 901, Edwards & Wilbey Building, 609 So. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, at 7:45 p.m.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, July 4th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.
Speakers: Mrs. Sue McRae and Harold Hart

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, July 4th, 7:30 p.m.
No Meeting
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, July 5th, 7:45 p.m.
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church,
% 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,
2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Subject: Plant Identification and Corsage, also
arrangements.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, July 6th
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, July 6th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, July 9th, 3:00 p.m.
Home of Mr. H. L. Swager,
3877 - 35th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, July 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, July 12th, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecille Block, Secy.-Treas.,
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, July 13th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, July 13th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, July 14th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Poe,
1319 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach 7, Calif.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, July 17th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, July 19th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.
Speaker: Clarence A. Hall, Pres. ABS

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, July 20th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Picnic with Parent Branch, July 23rd
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, July 24th
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.
Pot-Luck Dinner; Open Discussion

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, July 25th
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, July 25th
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes
Subject: Unusual Shade Plants

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, July 30th
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.
Home of Mrs. Wm. Morant,
74 Woodland Lane, Arcadia, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, July 28th, 10:30 a.m.
Hall Point Loma Community Church,
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

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.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.

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