

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

Index

	Page
ANENT FLOWER SHOWS - - - - -	410
PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES - - - - -	410
By The Editor	
ANNUAL CONVENTION AND BEGONIA SHOW -	411, 412
TO ALL BEGONIAITES EVERYWHERE - - - -	413
By Clarence A. Hall	
V . . . — MAIL FOR THE BEGONIAN - - - -	413
By Pfc. Rowland G. Hager	
BEGONIA ELAINE WITH SKETCH - - - -	414, 415, 425
By Alice M. Clark	
BRANCH NEWS - - - - -	416, 420, 422, 424, 425
By YOU	
MARIN'S FIRST BEGONIA SHOW - - - - -	417
By Mrs. Clarence Nitzke	
NEW SANTA MONICA BRANCH - - - - -	417
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS FEVER CATCHING - - -	419, 420
By Maria Wilkes	
WINTER CARE OF PLANT COLLECTIONS - - -	421
By Mary Duncomb	
B. HERBACEA - - - - -	423
By Helen K. Krauss	
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED - - - - -	423
By Helen R. Bailey	
CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING THE A.B.S. - - - - -	424
NEW MEMBERS - - - - -	426
CALENDAR - - - - -	427

The BEGONIAN

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Anent Flower Shows

● It will be seen from this month's Begonian that several parts of this glorious country of ours have bedecked their fine halls with flowers for the edification of all who wished to pass by. Who can tell how far reaching is the power of a flower show? There is no end to the happiness they will bring through the years—no end to the reasons for the existence of periodic flower shows. Those who put on the flower shows are probably the ones who learn and enjoy most thereby, and always they go forward seeking the perfect flower show—which has never yet occurred.

Get your groups interested in showing their lovely plants and flowers, the com-

● **Please Check Your Dues:** A patriotic and fine thing for every member to do is a very simple checking of the date on which the dues become payable to our National Membership Chairman Mrs. Harry Harker, see first page. Mrs. Harker has to work thirty days ahead of time and it would be grand if members would do likewise and save her much grief and loss of time. WE ESPECIALLY ASK THOSE WHOSE MEMBERSHIP FALLS DUE IN DECEMBER TO SEND IN the dues NOW as so to save the excessive work in the hard month of December.

petition is healthy and the fun is infinite.
 Your Editor.

ANNUAL CONVENTION AND BEGONIA SHOW

THE annual convention of the American Begonia Society and the Begonia Show got off to a flying start at eight thirty Saturday morning of September sixteenth, 1944 with lovely sunshine smiling on the succeeding car loads of begonias in their best "make-up." They truly "WENT HOLLYWOOD" for one glorious day and a great many of them carried off high honors with close margins.

It was easy to see that it will be necessary to have a much larger place in which to have the next Hollywood meeting—when that time will recur. In the meantime the members of the Hollywood Branch with its President Mrs. W. C. Drummond and the General Manager of the Convention Mr. Murray Hawkins with valuable aid from some of the National officers and considerable monetary assistance from the various Branches really surpassed themselves in every way.

The visitors came from all sections of California. Mrs. Anna M. Ahrens, representative of the East Bay Branch from Berkeley, was the one who travelled farthest. There was a large delegation from San Diego which was the next point of distance and Mrs. White came to represent Santa Maria. The nearer Branches were well represented but future meetings will have to be on the quiver for still greater numbers for the enthusiasm is very keen and growing by strong numbers. One point which will add still more interest is the great delight the public enjoys in viewing the beautiful tuberous begonias.

The important details of interest that will take more time to prepare will be forthcoming in the ensuing issue. This is just to cover the highlights of the meeting and the show—while The Begonian is being held a shade late to have it.

During the morning the early comers started out to see the fine selection of lovely gardens chosen by Mr. John Parker who also conducted some of the tours himself. The tours continued until late in the evening and were of enormous interest.

By one o'clock, when the Begonia Show was declared open the public was already crowding the doors and this continued until closing time, six o'clock. The tuberous begonias, of course, were the most admired generally and best of these was a large exhibit by Mr. and

Mrs. "Scotty" Hudson of Huntington Beach, Calif. This couple walked away with the highest honors for best tuberous begonias and through Mrs. Hudson's flower arrangements also captured the coveted cup for most points won by a Branch. Thus was Orange County Branch placed securely on the Begonia Map.

There was a large collection of excellent rex begonias which commanded much attention. In the large specimen rex section Mrs. Hazel Grigsby of Inglewood Branch ran away with the best in the division and again won the Gonda Hartwell Challenge cup for the best Rex Begonia in the show. This is the second time she has won this cup in succession and it is thus two thirds won . . . but from the looks of oncomers she will have real competition by next year. The highest honor in the regular section of the rex division was won by our President Arthur E. Nelson. The fibrous begonias were quite fine and Mr. W. C. Cocke, Treasurer of the Hollywood Branch, received top honors for the division. Mr. and Mrs. Cocke had charge of the registration for the day and they report an attendance of just over a thousand people for the Begonia Show.

Among the rare begonias the very surprisingly beautiful Calla Lily begonia exhibited by Mr. Russ Eaker of San Diego took the prize as well as the SWEEPSTAKES of the show. It did not show any sign of having made the long trip from San Diego. The plant crowded a fourteen-inch pot to the brim and rose with multitudinous tips bunched with perfect white callas. Mr. Eaker could not be with us, but his happy wife was there to receive the honors. We shall have to ask Mr. Eaker to give us pointers and divulge some of his secrets on the growing of such lovely Calla Lily begonias. We understand he actually grows them as borders to his shade garden. We have to see to believe, and we shall see, when we go to San Diego for the first meeting after the war is over. Make your plans to come along for it will be something really worth while.

In the small-leaved rex begonia section our National Corresponding Secretary Mrs. A. N. (Gonda) Hartwell won top honors. The spiral rex begonias were well represented and here again, Mrs. Grigsby took first prize. The Discolor or

(Continued next page)

Branching section was won by Mr. E. B. Flynn with a beautiful 'Van Ex'.

The new seedlings were really outstanding and the best of them a most brilliant and unusual large-leaved rex of a vibrant rose-red coloring with warty thorns over the leaves giving the plant a very attractive and interesting appearance. Mr. Leo Steiner of Lawndale easily had top three honors but since he was not able to comply with some of the conditions of the rules the first prize went to Mrs. Marie Turner of San Gabriel for her very fine seedling of 1041 X pearcei X Bronze Queen.

The other winners had strong competition too and they will be reported in the next issue as unfortunately details are not available at this time.

The business meeting was carried out in the afternoon with a large attendance. Reports were heard from all the chairmen of departments and the highlight of the post-business agenda was the welcome invitation presented by Mrs. Crawford of The Long Beach Branch for the THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION to be held in North Long Beach in cooperation with the other branches of the Long Beach area. This was warmly and graciously accepted by the group. Everyone is already looking forward to an interesting and fine convention in 1945.

Mr. Brooks again set forth San Diego's bid for the Convention to be held in San Diego after the end of the war. Since it was the third invitation from San Diego, Mr. Clarence Hall, President of the A.B.S. thanked him and assured him the Society will be eager to accept it. The meeting adjourned for late garden visits and viewing of exhibits the while listening to the gay accordion music of Marlene Foltz.

A feature of the Show among other fine things, was the large exhibit of specimen of live plants of begonias mounted on 11"x14" colored cards with description and cultural directions with mounted propagation specimen to accompany each one—specially prepared by Gladys Bullard of Long Beach. It was the concensus of opinion that this should be a feature of each Begonia Show as a particularly educational exhibit. We shall try to depict one as a sample so that other branch members can practice and achieve like success in this important field.

The evening began with some sweet music by the Victor Theremin manipu-

lated by Stanley Robson, Vice President of the Inglewood Branch. He played again accompanied by Mrs. Harold Hart at the piano after the dinner delighting the 365 dinner guests with the lovely tones of this unusual instrument. Just before the speaker of the evening was given the floor, the Begonia Song was sung with the leadership of Winnifred Young who is forever young, accompanied at the piano by Miss Lois Flynn. Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné came from Santa Barbara to give the group much of his knowledge and wisdom in the successful growing of begonias under difficult times and conditions. Needless to say he was heard with much interest. The resume of his talk will be given to our readers shortly. The huge hall was spread with extensive tables all of which were beautifully decorated with the most glorious tuberous begonia blooms imaginable. The speaker's table was overlaid with tarlatan cloth in soft blue and set at intervals with beautiful Mexican tin candelabra with blue candles giving a most flattering silver-blue sheen background to the masses of superlatively beautiful tuberous begonias, specially sent by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reinelt, who could not be with us. The flowers were backed in turn by a well chosen collection of leaves in various tones and diverse forms. The decorations were arranged by Raymond T. Wilson while the tuberous begonia corsages were made by Hazel Mary Drummond. Mr. Clarence Hall acted as Master of Ceremonies through the evening also as installation officer. He called on the Father of our American Begonia Society, Mr. Herbert Dyckman, for a greeting and many of the most active members of the society were presented. The installation of officers for 1944-45 took place and in keeping with the amendments to the Constitution and By-laws they became active officers of the American Begonia Society at once. Mr. Arthur E. Nelson, President of the A.B.S., then responded to Past-President Clarence Hall's splendid charge of affairs of the Society and soon called on Mr. Jack Bailey, now automatically Life member, to present a set of Bailey's Encyclopedia to Past-President Clarence Hall. As president-elect, President, Master of Ceremonies and now as Past President, Mr. Hall declared it has been most worth while to be one of such a fine group of shade-garden makers. With good wishes to everyone from the president and from each one to the other the meeting adjourned UNTIL LONG BEACH.

To All Begoniacites Everywhere

By CLARENCE A. HALL,
Past President
Ventura, Calif.

• During my term of office and the preceding year as President Elect, it has been my privilege to attend many branch meetings, and in each instance I found that the one prevailing thought of the officers of each of these branches was to interest others in our hobby, and make our hobby interesting to all. With this healthy foundation there is no need for wonderment at the continued growth of our Society, and that we continue to grow in a period in which we find ourselves bound to our homesites and own localities through the restrictions binding us during these war torn years. This growth is commendable and is due to the intense interest of all members, and it is also the answer to the question, "what is the future of the American Begonia Society?" The future of the A B S is assured when even under adverse present day conditions, we find continued growth in membership and branch activities. It is proof once more, that we mortals desperately need the aesthetic stimulation and piece of mind, that the growing of flowers gives, and that the body cannot live by bread alone.

Your Society is on a sounder footing today than ever before. The foundation is solid, with the binding cement of an enthusiastic membership, all working with one purpose; the assimilation and desire for increased knowledge of begonias and allied shade plants, with the strong and proven conviction that in this Society they will find the friendliness and helpfulness all are seeking. It is here in the branch meetings that we find: "To cultivate a garden is to walk with God, to go hand in hand with nature in some of her most beautiful processes, to learn something of her choicest secrets, and to have a more intelligent interest awakened in the beautiful order of her works."

As I relinquish the office you so graciously honored me with, I do so with sincere regret in parting with the close contact of the membership that my office has permitted me to enjoy. Your incoming president, Mr. Arthur Nelson, has the Society's welfare and success at heart. You will find him an untiring worker, ever interested in your desires,

V...—Mail For The Begonian

From PFC. ROWLAND G. HAGER
Btry A 447 Aw Bn
APO 230 c-o Postmaster NY.
France, August 20th, 1944

• Dear Friends: My copy of The Begonian arrives at the front with satisfactory regularity and every word is read and re-read numerous times. I have even shown it to French begonia fans and in spite of the fact that they could not read it they showed considerable interest in the pictures and what explanations I was able to give in my very meagre French.

The lathhouse is an unknown fixture here and I don't have sufficient command of the language to give them even a remote idea of its wonders. They do, however, grow begonias in pots as house plants and they do a pretty good job of it. I have seen only one rex but it was a very nice one in a six inch pot. It resembles our King Edward as near as I can remember. If you had not seen a rex for nearly two years I am sure many of you would be a little hazy on identification.

I have seen some very fine tubers in six-inch pots growing in the house and some bedded out under trees. The types are either camellia or carnation, or a combination of these two. I also have seen some semperflorens in beds and pots. The geranium is the favored plant here and they are seen well grown, in variety, on every window sill.

I'll keep my eyes open and you informed. Sincerely, Ro Hager.

and whose constant and sincere ambition for the Society, assures continuation of its growth, and betterment for branches, members, members at large, and a cordial welcome for all those who are interested in our hobby.

This, then, is au revoir, a parting from the scene of a very happy year of service to everything that pertained to the Society and its members. I leave, not empty handed, but with a greater respect and admiration for the Society, its Officers, and the high standing that it holds in the floriculture world. I am taking with me the vision of the great possibilities of the Society's future, and admiration and appreciation of the fine people whom I have met, and untold wealth in new friendships gained, and cherished.

Begonia Elaine

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, Calif.

• Your begonia reporter reviews a plant from the home front again, by that fine local grower, William Grant, whom we have mentioned before in these columns. It is too bad that my awakening to begonias did not start while Mr. Grant was living, so we could know more of the background of his crosses and could have told him how much they are enjoyed.

Mr. Robinson had his full, richly deserved measure of appreciation in his long begonia day and I trust Mrs. Eva K. Gray is realizing how much we think of her and her good works. The mention of B. Nelly Bly in the soldier's letter from England shows us how a worthy plant will travel and bring pleasure to countless enthusiasts down thru the years. For that reason we should hold our patient hybridists in high esteem, and I count it a privilege to bring them to your attention. There are a host of other excellent growers waiting their turn. Would that the days were longer, to take care of them faster!

Again my thanks to Miss Bower for her care in preserving the origins of other hybridists as well as those of her own. She will be a house-hold, (or at least, a lathhouse-hold) name to all of you soon, as she is to those of us who lean on her, as I do, for authentic information.

She tells me that Elaine was a seedling of *Lucerna* back in the days when its name was coupled with *Coralline*. It was raised by Mr. Grant around 1928 and named for one of his daughters. Rosecroft introduced it in their catalog of 1933 as a "new thing."

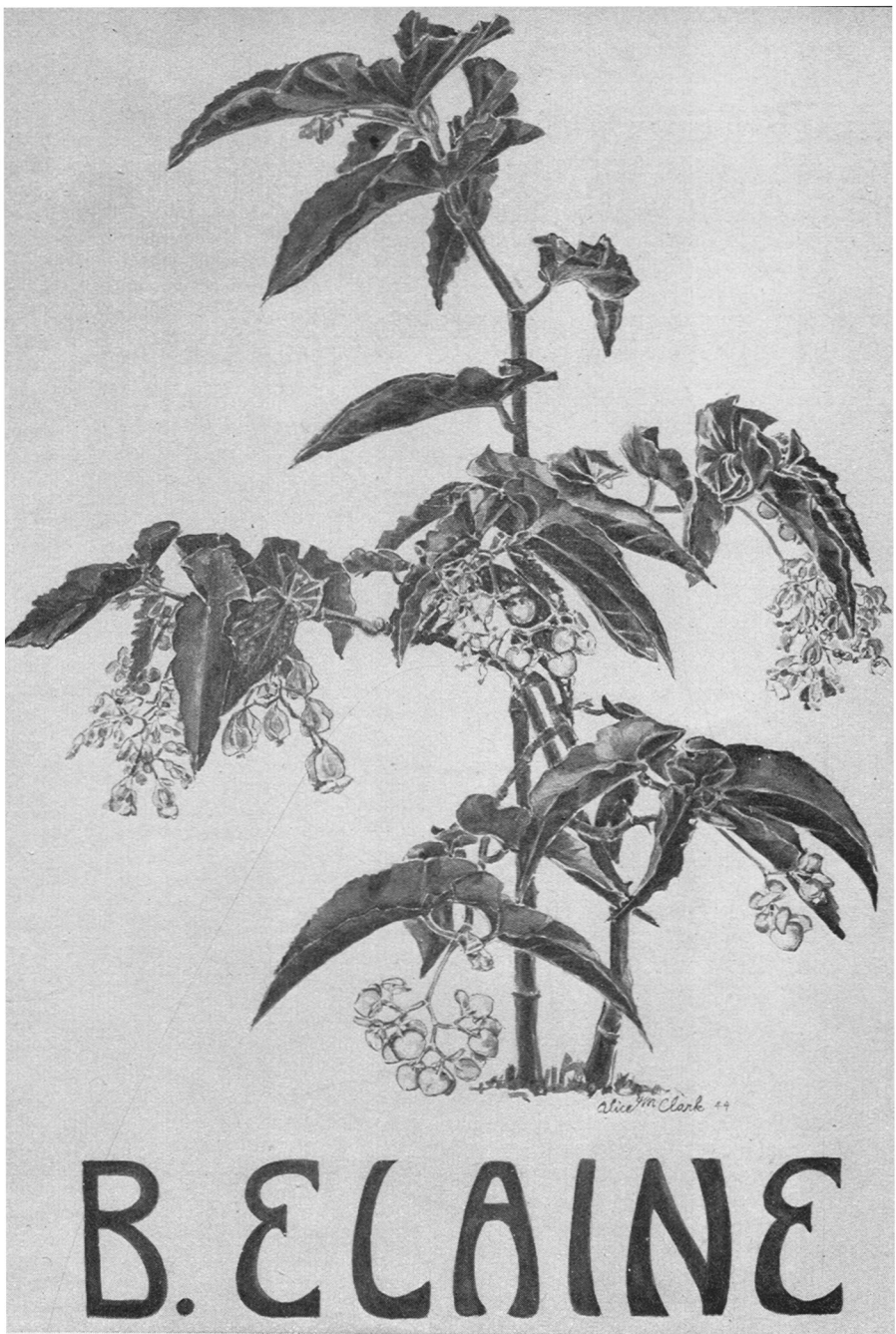
When you see Elaine, you at once recall the expression, "tall, dark and handsome." Not that it grows very high, but it is not bushy, so its slender habit makes it seem taller. My model measures 27 inches above the top of the pot. They say it is best adapted to pot culture, being more difficult in the ground. The fact that it is better known in the East, where it is raised indoors, would prove that it likes warmth and shuns drafts.

The specimen I have sketched was loaned to me by one of our best growers, Emerson Cooper. My acquaintance with Mr. Cooper dates back to the local Flower Show days when he always entered a beautiful display of lathhouse plants and quite consistently walked off with the blue ribbon for that exhibit. His unusual, open lathhouse covers a broad

range of well-grown shade plants. I am hoping his large specimen of *Cathayana* got up to the September Show. (And Mr. Eaker's wonderful plant of Richard Robinson that is two feet across. I should hate to try to judge between them in a contest!)

Elaine "kept company" in Mr. Cooper's garden with some superb fuchsia hanging-baskets as well as other special begonias. She was the favorite of a neighbor who gave a small plant to Mr. Cooper because she knew that he could grow it. Elaine is a true brunette, which causes me much grief as the dark green of the upper leaf is about the same tone as the red underneath. The attempt to indicate these beautiful colors in black and white was futile. Perhaps we shall be wealthy enough some day to reproduce colored photographs in these pages! The taller stalk in my sketch shows young growth. The spreading branches on the older one are quite typical. The main trunk has the smooth finish of the cane-like fibrous, already turning brownish-white on the older wood, while the young shoot is green with white flecks. The leaves, about 7 by 2½ inches, are most effective, cutting a firm, dark arc, waved a bit, serrated and pointed, with a very smooth finish on both sides. They are stiff and rubbery in texture. The short petioles are set fairly close together on the branch. The leaves never lay out flat but are slightly folded so that the lovely red color beneath enlivens the dull black-green surface. The very young leaf comes out of its transparent stipule much pleated and a glowing garnet-red. An occasional leaf has a few large silver spots, like an early snow soon melted, but for the most part they are plain. The veins are thin and clear on top and in raised ribs below, feathering out from a thick center quill.

The inflorescence, which arises from the leaf axil, loses its pale sheath early. The male flower clusters, which are easily seen in the lower part of the picture, are a rich watermelon pink, blending nicely with the leaf lining. They have two large petals and, when open, show two extra small petals. They remind one of pink satin cushion candy. The large clusters of female flowers, visible in the middle portion of the drawing, keep on growing after the male blooms fall off. They are not as pink because each one is encased in a colorless sheath covering



the ovary when young, while the folded petals that extend beyond look exactly like a shiny, pulpy, pomegranate seed. As they lose their covers, the wings of the ovary become very pink, gradually fading to a fawn color when fully mature, like those on the left of the sketch. The flower peduncles are quite red too.

It is curious that Mr. Grant also gave us Chiala, a more succulent type and

Dorothy Grant, a hairy variety, all with the same beautiful red-backed leaves of unknown ancestry. According to Die Begonien, Wittstein, in Luzerne, made the hybrid named for that city about 1903 from B. Corallina x B. Mme. Charrat. From the description, it had dark, olive-green leaves and a deep red lining. B. Corallina, claimed to be a Brazilian

(Continued on page 425)

Branch News

San Diego Branch: The third year of the San Diego begonia branch was completed in the spacious lathhouses of Russ Eaker, retiring president. The beautiful plants made a setting few will forget along the winding path which led to the large one where about a hundred were seated in comfort. Tall rows of blooming fibrous begonias separated the groups of chairs, and many hanging baskets brought further beauty. Mr. Eaker presented E. D. Brooks, president '44-45, who took over the gavel and naming the new officers asked them to stand. Dr. C. E. Collins, vice-president; Mrs. Geo. S. Breidford, secretary-treasurer; national representative Dr. Robt. Schiefer; directors, Mrs. Geo. Campbell, Mrs. Harold Schilling and Mrs. A. L. Stone. Chairmen of committees appointed are finance, J. E. Snow and A. E. Kent; historian, Mrs. M. Watson; hospitality, Mrs. A. B. Roat with hostesses of current month; library, Mrs. Ida Hall; membership, Mrs. L. D. Newton; parliamentarian, Mrs. Robt. Schiefer; plants, Mrs. J. A. Hegel; pottery and booklets, R. E. Lee; Program, Dr. C. E. Collins; publicity, Mrs. Clarence E. Moore and raffle tickets, Mrs. A. B. Roat. Delicious cake, with tea and coffee was served by Mrs. Russ Eaker, Mrs. E. J. Eaker and Mrs. Virgil Duea.

Lathhouses visited in August were, Mr. and Mrs. H. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Roat, Dr. and Mrs. Stone, R. H. Calvin, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Breiford, Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Kent, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Potter. All very beautiful and different, a liberal education for anyone planning to develop a satisfactory setting for their plants.

A. D. Robinson Branch: The August meeting marked our second year. It was held in the garden of our member, Mrs. Glen Rick, which was especially interesting having been made since the war began. During the Summer the group met in members' gardens instead of the Point Loma Community Church room. In July they enjoyed a preview of Mrs. Hazard's marvelous tuberous display, while planning the benefit for the service men, which they assisted Mrs. Hazard in giving on August 27.

It may interest other branches to know that the admission of one dollar did not keep 850 people from attending and netting \$950. for the good cause of providing a snack bar for men in transit

at the depot. Begonia plants, as door prize were drawn every hour, created much interest, while delicious punch and cookies served from a Mexican adobe barbecue were enjoyed. A booth, where the steps of tuberous begonia culture were demonstrated, including potting, was surrounded, three deep, all afternoon by eager questioners. Some of the original begonia drawings from our magazine, together with the printed reproductions and the live plants were on display. Visitors were ecstatic over the thousands of tuberous blooms in the large lath-house, on the porch and under trees. The garden proper was a blaze of color with zinnias, petunias and other seasonal flowers, particularly some beautiful delphinium hybrids and there was even a Victory border of prime lettuce heads!

At the August meeting an accounting was made of the \$103. that was taken in at the Hazard garden in 1943. This provided tools and hose for Camp Callan convalescents; grass, seed, fertilizer, flats of colorful annuals, sundry private donations and 58 climbing roses for Camp Miramar. This was done in conjunction with the Camp and Hospital Corp of the American Red Cross. In addition, the local branch provides flowers for service convalescents every week and is helping Camp Consair to landscape their base now. It also gave bouquets for the tables and corsages for the visiting "mothers" on Mother's day at Ft. Rosecrans. In exchange for the use of the Church rooms as a meeting place, individual members of the group decorate for the church services now and then and the branch is given a courtesy notice in the church bulletin, which has brought new members.

At the annual meeting Mrs. Rick described some of the difficulties of making a new garden in war time. We were fortunate enough to have the same speaker as we had a year ago at this time, none other than William Ross of Glendale who entertained, stimulated and enlightened us in his own inimitable way. We have made a date with him again for a year hence. After the meeting the Ross family joined other guests and members in a delicious pot-luck luncheon.

SEED FOR SHADE

CINERARIA, PRIMULAS, BEGONIAS

Write or Visit

BETTER GARDENS

2446 Huntington Drive, San Marino, Calif.

"Seeds That Make Them So"

A Letter To The Editor

By MRS. NENA HEDLEY
Stamford, Connecticut

To the Editor:

• Thank you for the unexpected pleasure of reading an article written by a grower of tuberous begonias in the New York metropolitan area. It is to be hoped that Mr. Alfred Heller's articles will often be seen in "The Begonian."

Say it isn't just beginner's luck in southern Connecticut's trying climate, and that last year's successful growing of tuberous begonias in tubs on an open terrace with very little expense but lots of loving care, will be repeated.

Yes, in Connecticut, blossoms as big as saucers so much admired and so unfamiliar to Easterners that three arranged August bouquets given to friends in the hospital created a sensation and a fourth similar arrangement (actually three camellia blossoms with mountain laurel leaves) given in September to a friend as a housewarming gift was so admired that she had a color picture made and presented to me as a surprise Christmas gift. On October 15th my own tea table was the final display and is still commented on almost a year later.

This year with the same exposure and treatment, half the luck. Could it be too much watering during an unusually long, hot, dry spell? Plants, like people, have their off years and surely a cure will be found next year for the blighted leaves and inferior blossoms, as long as I am willing to sit up nights with my begonias, if necessary?

Marin's First Begonia Show

By MRS. CLARENCE NITZKE,
40 Center Street,
San Rafael, Calif.

• On August 5th, 1944 the First National Bank of San Rafael, sponsored the first Begonia Show. The major part of the exhibits were furnished by private individuals. Many of the flowers were grown in the open, not in lathhouses.

There were forty-one exhibitors taking part in the show with ninety class exhibits. A check of attendance for both afternoon and evening showed more than one thousand people had seen the show.

Especial mention is due to Major Newell Vanderbilt of Marin County who gave much of his time to put the show on successfully.

Ed's note: The address of Mrs. Nitzke is given in full so that anyone interested in joining this group may know whom to approach.

NEW SANTA MONICA DISTRICT BEGONIA BRANCH ORGANIZING.

• Anyone interested in joining this new branch may contact the following interested leaders: Mrs. Frances Gongaware, who is also President of the So. California Fuchsia Society, at 948 21st Street, Santa Monica or Mr. Nick Davanzo at 1940 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif.

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Mrs. Tanner prepares her husband's Victory garden produce in this kitchen-door garden open to the East. The South wall is built to shut out the major portion of the strong sunlight. Notice closeness of heavy lath for the roof and the moveable palm leaves thrown over the top for Summer-time additional shade. Note also the prolific blooming of the young fuchsia baskets and wall-pockets. The Rex begonias are planted in redwood wall-boxes for greater retainment of moisture.

Tuberous Begonia Fever Catching

By MARIA WILKES,
Los Angeles, Calif.

• Just a few moons back this place was just like many other nice back-door gardens: a few carnations, some roses and a pocket-handkerchief-size Victory garden growing fairly well. There was a barbecue arrangement between two garages shaded by an avocado tree. There were a covered swing-couch, chairs and table for outdoor meals but not with the happy design for living for both the family and the begonias as there is now.

It is quite a joy to step into the shaded begonia and fuchsia garden that has transformed Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Tanner's kitchen doorway at 6056 Third Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. We should have pictures of "before" and "after"

to show the improvement made by the building of this roof and one side of lath with the change of plant material.

From the windows facing on this enclosure one gets beautiful pictures of cascading, colorful fuchsias and healthy, full-leaved rex begonias against the white woodwork and it is enticing. This is but the beginning though actually it is the latest improvement.

This was the straw that broke the neighbor's resistance to Mr. Tanner's drive for beauty started only a short time ago. Now the neighbors on both sides have gone to work and patterned their back-door entrances somewhat on the same lines but with individual touches of their own. Diagonally across



This is part of the second lathhouse showing how the ranks of pots of tuberous begonias are set advantageously on "bleacher-like" steps so that each plant shows off in full view, though at varying heights and distances from the lath roof.

the block toward the back, another has done a lot of colorful improvements on his property—these are also part of the beginning. Other neighbors will be fired by the enthusiasm of these few and the pleasure of the shade gardens—and they, too, will make outdoor living rooms where the baking sun made it impossible to sit in the Summer and the drab Winter days were colorless. Some form of wall pockets and hanging baskets will be maintained to keep up the march of colorful flowers and all days will be cheerful.

Mr. Tanner started to grow tuberous rooted begonias from tubers only two and a half years ago. Immediately he was smitten with their charm and beauty, so erected a small glass enclosure where the barbecue nestled between two garages at the back of the small lot. Then he covered the space with lath. That led to growing tuberous begonias from seed and the build-

ing of some wide benches to take care of them. Last year he had some prize tuberous begonias and could have beaten those at the Begonia Show—IF HE HAD TAKEN THEM FOR EXHIBITION—but that was his first Convention. In spite of an illness he went on augmenting his stock by seeds and soon had to build another and much better lathhouse. In this one, one stands in the center and is flanked on both sides with "bleaches" laden with pots so that they show a solid wall of blooming plants from the ground to the roof of the lathhouse from which he has hanging basket types that started the parade a little earlier than the regular tuberous types. A parade of the most beautiful of all Summer flowering plants as tuberous begonias are fast showing themselves to be.

Mr. Tanner is now Prog. Chairman for the Inglewood Branch and one of the
(Continued next page)

happiest men imaginable. He has even changed his business so as to work out of his home in order to do better for his beloved plants.

Mrs. Tanner knew nothing about plants before his illness, but was forced to take good care of his plants while he was ill, which made her a devoted recruit into our growing ranks of shade-gardeners.

There is much more to their garden, but come out and see it for yourself as soon as you can. You'll be welcome by the Tanners.

Q. Some of the leaves on my larger leaved plants are quite small; what is the reason? — Mrs. H. A. S.

Ans. Suggest that you give the plants some plant food systematically.

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BRANCH NEWS

New England Branch: Please read the Newspaper reprint elsewhere in this issue re—the Annual Meeting held at Worcester, Mass. Mrs. Buxton says that Mr. White already has had some inquiries from would-be members because of the article. One from Vermont.

The new officers of the N.E. Branch are:

President: Mr. William Starr,
Southbridge, Mass.

Vice-President: Miss Joy Logee,
Danielson, Conn.

Secretary: Mrs. David Finley,
New Canaan, Conn.

Treasurer: Mr. Philip M. Post,
Worcester, Mass.

Riverside Branch: This group celebrated its third birthday in fine spirit. De luxe hamburgers 'n cakenicecream just like all three year olds always enjoy. Forty guests and members with four new members were present. The leading contestant of the membership drive has already ten members to her credit and says "You can't catch mee" to the others.

The October meeting will be at the home of Margaret Thacker, 4329 Central Ave., on October third.

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SY 92266

Winter Care of Plant Collections In the Mid-West

By MARY DUNCOMB,
Luverne, Minn.

• A collector of various types of house-plants has to contrive ways of carrying over a great number of them with perhaps limited window room. To do this successfully means a study of the needs of different classes of plants and the devious ways in which nature herself carries out the alternation of display and rest. Consider the floor of the forest, see how the early Spring flowers, which need light, bloom first while the trees are nearly devoid of leaves; later on—flowers not needing so much light and the climbing vines take their places while they go dormant or, as we say, rest until the following season.

On the prairie the same rule holds good. It is surprising how great the variance of flora may be on an exceedingly small space, or how many and varied the flowering plants are as the season advances. To see the prairie in bloom in early Spring, one wonders where there will be room for any other flower later on but return in Midsummer or again later in Autumn and see the surprising changes that have taken place. The earlier flowers are spent and if annuals have sown their seeds that lie patiently waiting for another season's sun and showers—if perennials, have gone to sleep from which they are only wakened by Spring rains.

Why do we consider these facts? Because the same rules also hold true with our house plants, only we take the place of nature in providing a time for them to bloom. In order to give our windows over to our plants which have summered in the shady border, some by nature, may now safely be allowed to take their well earned rest. We might call some of these, cellar plants, because they may be set in their pots in a basement which is cool but free from frost and watered only occasionally. To this class belong many of the shrubby or woody plants as well as the tender hydrangea, others may continue resting until they may be safely set outside. There are the tender bulbous plants which may also rest with very little water given to them such as the amaryllis, clivia, peruvian daffodil and a score of others, some flowering, some ornamental. Gloxinias which have

bloomed out can also be stored in their pots in a warm place until growth is desired again, and this holds true of achimenes also. The cacti also may be allowed to go dormant thus releasing room for the succulents whose normal bloom is in February in our climate. Orchid cacti may rest a few months before growth is encouraged again if they have been kept growing well all Summer. In this they are just the reverse of the Christmas cactus which takes its rest under some bush during Summer. Large plants of geraniums may be planted rather crowded in large pails, watered once in a while and carried over for specimen plants or stock cuttings taken from them in August.

With the elimination of all these, more room is available to those plants which need light and room to develop. Some begonias which go dormant like the tuberous and some of the rex and some of the fibrous rooted which have bloomed well all Summer and may now lose some or most of their leaves need rest but not neglect. Seedling gloxinias, cyclamen amaryllis and begonias must be kept growing under the most favorable conditions to develop fully into strong plants, as is also the case with young gloxinias and Saint Paulia violets started from leaves or the newly rooted cuttings of begonias and many other plants. Coleus also need Winter sunlight to bring out their lovely colors; these should be newly rooted cuttings as the old plant becomes scraggly as the Winter wears on.

Winter in our Midwest is a critical time for our house plants, and if we wish to carry our large collections from season to season in the limited window room we have in a farm or town home, we must study ways and means of doing so. This will often lead to a deeper knowledge of the rules under which our plants live—for each variety of plants has its own means of survival in its natural habitat and if we simulate this in our care of them, we shall outwit Old Man Winter and his destructive wiles.

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BRANCH NEWS

The Inglewood Branch: Since this group worked exceedingly hard on a fine and extensive begonia display in the recent Inglewood Dahlia Show, many of the exhibitors were unable to show their plants in Hollywood for the National Begonia Show.

The Inglewood Dahlia show is now a famous yearly community affair led by Mr. Bert Slatter, who is also an enthusiastic Begoniaite, consequently he commands a good representation of the shade garden plants which very materially enhance the value of the show. This show has the full support of every member of the Inglewood Begonia Society and the following incomplete list of awards attests to their fine plant material and artistry.

In the flower arrangement classes Mrs. Leah P. Cella received awards for "Best General Display" and for "Most Artistic Display," five first prizes and three seconds. Mrs. Billie Brown received two firsts and three second prizes. A good percentage for Mother and daughter to carry away. They also had other awards for regular cut flowers.

One of the most talked of exhibits in the show was a small vase filled with Stanhopia orchids which brought Mrs. Laura Crandall a first prize. Mrs. Lola Schram is another Begonian who does beautiful flower arrangements and won several prizes.

In the Begonia plant sections: Messrs. Marshall and Minehart were awarded three of the most coveted ribbons, one for Most Artistic Exhibition in Begonia, one for Best General Display and one for Best Collection of Fibrous types. They also got second prize for Tall Growing Tree form Begonias and Honorable mention in the Best Fibrous specimen Division.

Mr. John Crowder held up the family honor for himself and Librarian wife with three first prizes in the Rhizomatous classes and two second ribbons, one in a low branching type begonia. Mr. Walter Zachau won several prizes among them a Most Artistic Display with some firsts and seconds in various classes. The Best Specimen and the Best Collection of Rex were both captured by H. G. Vose, an old timer and fine supporter of the rex. He won other honors also, as did L. C. Frost in several classes. Tall Rex first went to J. Stanley Robson, Vice-President of the Inglewood Branch with several other ribbons. Mr. Earl Wiltse of Long Beach received several first and second prizes and many others will be

mentioned in other issues of the Begonian, but since Mr. Tanner's place is pictured in this issue we want to mention his new Tuberous Begonia seedling. Naomi Tanner, a beautiful flesh peach with a dark rose-pink border on a lightly frilled and fimbriated mass of petals forming a large rosebud. The cross was from a white fimbriated male on a dark red camellia female. He won a first, and a second on tuberous seedlings and a second on Hanging basket types, as well as a first in tuberous begonia blooms, in a flower arrangement class. Mr. Tanner also won a first prize on a rex collection.

Mr. R. G. Hudson of Huntington Beach and his wife Hazel came with a huge load of tuberous begonias of superlative quality. One plant in a ten inch pot carried eighteen magnificent blooms of purest white of the double camellia ruffled petal-type. Truly a wonderful plant. He brought a large selection of Vetterle & Reinelt seedlings which he planted at the end of May, now good plants in full bloom in six-inch pots and about one to two and a half feet tall. Mrs. Hudson had some very lovely tuberous begonia flower arrangements and between them they carried back some enviable prizes.

Glendale Branch: Mrs. Anna Marek entertained the National Officers and other guests at dinner before the August special meeting at which Mr. Clarence Hall was speaker of the evening. He gave detailed procedure on the construction of a moss wall that retains its beauty and form permanently. (We must have him write this for our Begonian) and also told how to grow leaf cuttings and slips very simply and surely.

Plans are being made for a comprehensive discussion of shade-garden subjects in October. Every one is invited to bring questions. The proceeds of the plant sale, a total of \$55.65, was sent to Hollywood Branch for the Annual Convention expenses.

San Francisco Branch: The September meeting was omitted due to the absence of the President and Secretary. They report, however, through Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, that the San Francisco Flower Show with the Begonia, Dahlia, Fuchsia and Rose Societies participating, was a tremendous success. The Rotunda and aiseways of the City Hall were a mass of color with espalliered fuchsias, hanging baskets and standards and potted specimen as well as cut flowers from all Societies.

(Continued on page 424)

Why Haven't We Heard About *B. herbacea* Since 1873-74?

By HELEN K. KRAUSS,
Wynnewood, Pa.

• Answering question asked by Mrs. B. Buxton:

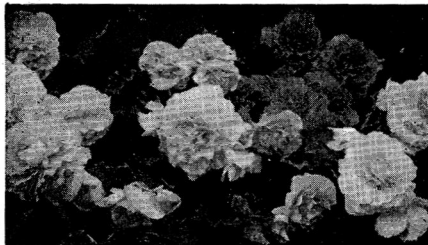
Under the correct name, *B. attenuata*, we find that this begonia was discovered by Ferdinand Sello, who went to Brazil in 1814 and collected plants for many years. Many botanists have written about it. Klotzsch in 1885, A. de Candolle in 1864, and Chas. Chevalier reported in 1938 that *B. attenuata* was being grown at the Botanical Gardens of Zurich, Switzerland, at that time.

(Editor's note: Held over from month to month for want of space.)

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Your Questions Answered

By HELEN R. BAILEY,
San Diego, Calif.

Q. What causes the buds and half bloomed flowers of some of my tuberos begonias to drop off? The stamens of the single varieties and the very center next to the stem of the double varieties turn dark brown.

(From Mrs. P. L., Lake Grove, Ore.)

A. You have probably been doing overhead watering too late in the day. And your plants may be too close together so that there is not sufficient ventilation. Mr. Reinelt, in several articles, says that the dropping of buds is caused by the plants being grown in too small pots without sufficient food, severe drying out, or severe over-watering.

Q. What causes otherwise big healthy looking leaves to have yellow or lighter green mottled spots on them?

(From Mrs. P. L., Lake Grove, Ore.)

A. The color of your leaves is caused by something lacking in the soil. Try using a fertilizer rich in nitrogen and iron.

Q. Do you know where I might find plants or tubers of the wintering flowering, double, tuberous-rooted hybrids developed by Clibran in England? A few years ago about a dozen named varieties were offered in the United States but are no longer obtainable commercially. Among the readers of *The Begonian*, however, there may be some private growers who would be willing to sell some of their surplus stock. I have but one variety—Emily Clibran—and it is so beautiful and so easy to grow that I am anxious to collect others of this delightful group.

(From Miss Antoinette Dwight, Hillsfield Farm, Red Bank, N. J.)

A. While this letter comes in my department, it is really an open letter to all of us. I am sure that there is some one in our large group of members who will be glad to share with Miss Dwight and will write to her to that effect.

It will also help me to help others if I know where these begonias may be had.

See Mr. Bailey's address on front page.

BRANCH NEWS

The Begonia Society members cooperated strongly with splendid displays of many tuberous begonias including the basket types, many rexes and fibrous begonias, lovely arrangements and corsages with hundreds of cut blooms of all kinds. Mr. Wm. Moxon won the SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY with Harry O'Donnell and Mrs. Theresa Ferrere running neck and neck with high honors. Mrs. Ferrero also won prizes in the Fuchsia Section. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sharp, Miss Paula Shonenholz, Miss Marjorie May, Dr. M. Hirshfeld, Merrill Butler, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mr. Sodder and Mr. Taylor, all were successful amateur exhibitors. Mr. and Mrs. I. Geer, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Werle and Mr. and Mrs. G. McMills were the commercial growers who helped mark another very successful show.

Mr. Harry L. Swagger will be the speaker for the meeting on October 4th.

Bellflower Branch: This group met at the home of Mrs. J. T. Doty in September. The President showed some very fine motion pictures and Mr. James Fairclo of Gardena, Calif., spoke on the care of Fuchsias for this time of the year. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Edna Fouse, 611 Fleming, Bellflower, Calif.

The September meeting was one of exceptional interest and entertainment with Mr. Harold Hart as the guest speaker on Fancy Leaved Caladiums with splendid colored pictures to illustrate his subject. The October meeting is also expected to be very interesting with Mr. Rapella to speak on his recent orchid collecting trip. Come to hear him on October 9th, 8 p.m. at 42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.

California Heights Branch: The August meeting of the Branch was held at the home of President Ann Smith, at which time and place the annual Birthday Dinner was held. These dinners are always gala affairs and consume so much time, that a formal program is seldom prepared. Members are called upon to give impromptu talks, and round table discussions are held, which really makes it "members evening".

The East Bay Branch held its monthly meeting in the garden of Mr. M. L. Boyd, Vice-President. He has close to 400 plants on display, of all types of tuberous begonias both in hanging baskets and regular redwood pots.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

HELD AT Room 901, Edwards-Wildey Building, 609 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, Monday, August 14, 1914.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:45 P.M., with President Clarence Hall presiding.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Messrs. Hall, Hart, Hawkins, Dean, Wilson, and Lawrence. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nelson, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. Crowder, Mr. and Mrs. Scherer. Mesdames Wilkes, Jenks, Poole, Hartzell, Clark, Marek, Bayer, and McRae.

MINUTES OF JULY 10 MEETING read and approved.

REPORTS OF THE TREASURER, BUSINESS MANAGER, AND MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMAN were read and motion to accept each as read, seconded and carried.

Report of MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMAN read by the Secretary in the absence of Mrs. H. Harker, who was unable to attend due to illness.

Secretary instructed to write to Mrs. Harker expressing the Board's concern over her illness, and convey wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Crowder, LIBRARIAN, REPORTED many of the books and library material in circulation with continuing demand. Plans to exhibit library material at the annual convention.

Director of Public Relations, Mrs. Poole, stated that a full report of her work would be given at the annual convention.

Reporting for the A. D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, Mr. H. Hart, chairman, stated a number of new plants have been donated to the Memorial including a large contribution from Ventura members. Interest in the Exhibit continues to grow, and that a full and detailed report would be given at the convention.

Chairman of JUDGING FLOWER SHOWS, Mr. George Lawrence, received a request that the A. B. S. furnish judges for the Begonia section. This had been taken care of.

REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTORS from Pasadena, San Gabriel, Hollywood, Glendale, and Inglewood, reported continued enthusiastic meetings, and that many members are planning to attend the convention and exhibit at the Show. President Hall, reporting in the absence of the Ventura Representative, stated that 132 members were present at their last meeting to hear Mr. H. Hart, the speaker of the evening.

Answering an inquiry regarding the filing of INCOME TAX RETURNS BY THE BRANCHES, Mr. Hawkins reported on his findings. After discussion, Mrs. J. Poole was asked to follow up on the information submitted and report on what action is necessary.

Editor, Maria Wilkes, authorized to order 2000 copies of the BEGONIAN for the September issue. Secretary instructed to forward a complete COPY OF THE BOARD MINUTES every month to the NOMENCLATURE CHAIRMAN, Mrs. Krauss.

Murray Hawkins reporting on CONVENTION DETAIL stated that all committees were functioning and that the plans assured a successful convention.

Stating that this was probably the last opportunity of speaking directly and personally to the Board members, President Hall thanked the BOARD FOR THE SPLENDID AND WHOLE HEARTED COOPERATION during his term of office which had so materially assisted in making this another successful year for the A. B. S.

MEETING ADJOURNED to meet again at the National Convention, Plummer Park, Hollywood, California, Saturday, September 16, at 2 P.M.

An Evansiana in full bloom was given to the person who guessed the closest to the correct number of potted plants he had on display. Mrs. W. G. Talbott was the lucky winner.

A nominating committee made up of the following members—Mrs. Geo. Reed, Mrs. E. M. Carleton, and Mr. Chas. Ehret was appointed to present their se-

BEGONIA ELAINE

(Continued from page 415)

species by Carriere, is described by our German authority as "glossy dark green on top, red beneath, with a green area at the margin." Probably Elaine reflects some of this mixed ancestry. I find no further delineation of Mme. Charrat. Well, as the Spanish say "Quien sabe?", Elaine is equally lovely to look upon, whether she hails from the land of the Brazilian gauchos or the Swiss yodlers.

• A necklace was lost the evening of the Banquet in Hollywood. Upon receipt of proper identification, Mrs. W. C. Drummond of 1246 No. Kings Road, Los Angeles, Calif., will be happy to send it to the owner.

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BRANCH NEWS

lection at the September meeting, for officers for the next fiscal year.

When the meeting adjourned most of the members visited the gardens of Mrs. P. Dickie and Mr. Dick G. Goodnow.

The national representative, Mrs. W. Ahrens, is going to represent the branch at the 6th annual convention of the American Begonia Society.

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BOB ANDERSON

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(10 minutes from Downtown)

Q. How can I get rid of small dark flies or gnats which hover around pots?

— Mrs. J. B. S.

Ans. This usually indicates that the soil is sour, so correct this condition.

Q. How often should begonias be watered?

A. The roots of begonias are small and very near the surface, which calls for moisture there and this may mean watering every day most of the Summer. During dull weather with evaporation greatly diminished, water only when soil seems dryish.

• For want of space cannot print part Mr. Heller's article. See next month's issue.

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Leucojum vernum

Charming spring flowers that resemble Lily of the Valley—with small white bells, tipped green, on slender spikes. Lovely for small bouquets, and in the garden.

Plant them in groups in the border, with daffodils or among perennials where they need not be disturbed, or use them as low edgings, where they will bloom year after year. *Leucojum* will grow in sun or shade. Plant in ordinary soil, 3 inches deep, and 3 to 8 inches apart.

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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 October American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Room 901 Edwards-Wilbey Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, October 9th, at 7:45 p.m.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, October 3rd, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, October 3rd, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Margaret Thacker,
4329 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, October 3rd, 8:00 p.m.
At Home of Mrs. Edna Fouse,
611 Fleming, Bellflower, Calif.
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, October 4th, 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.
Speaker: Mr. Harry L. Swager
Subject: Fibrous Begonias

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, October 5th
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, October 5th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, October 9th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.
Speaker: Mr. Rapeller
Subject: Orchids

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, October 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, October 11th, 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, October 12th, 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 37, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, October 12th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.
Speaker: Stanley Keene
Subject: General Care Shade Plants

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, October 13th, 8:00 p.m.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo S. Sisson,
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, October 15th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. & Mrs. Howard Gilkey,
60 The Crescent, Berkeley, Calif.
Each one bring a plant for new home.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, October 16th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, October 19th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Tuesday, October 24th
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Monday, October 23rd
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, October 24th, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.
Round-table Discussion

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, October 27th, 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.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, October 27th, 4:00 p.m.
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

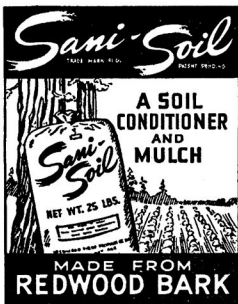
Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

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