

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY PAST-PRESIDENT ASS'N.-CUP

Very thoughtfully, the past Presidents: Dyckman, Neels, Baily and Hall have organized themselves into an association to further the scope of the American Begonia Society activities.

Mr. Jack Baily announced at the last Board meeting that they will keep in touch with the accomplishments of each Branch and annually, at the Convention, they will award a CUP to the Branch which, in their estimation, has done most for the good of the A. B. S. and the members thereof.

It is hoped all Branches will take cognizance of this most commendable gesture. Mr. Baily reported also at the same time, that our beloved Dr. C. H. Lauder, who, though still in the Santa Fe Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif., is re-

THE MASTER'S TOUCH

I mixed my soil, leaf mold and sand
And potted with exacting care
Each bulb, to get a rarer bloom
Than ever graced a latticed room . . .
And yet, I cannot understand
Why they are not as large and fair
As bulbs I planted in the ground
Perhaps, because when I am done
I'm not the Master . . . I am the clown
(The hand of God must touch . . .
each one.)

Mason E. Ratekin, North Long Beach 5, Cal.

covering very nicely from his recent emergency operation. His family and his friends are looking forward to his being at home about Christmas time.

Our best wishes to you "DOC" for a complete and speedy recovery.

The Editor



Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, California Photo by Louis S. Lifton

Alfred D. Robinson Memorial

• BELITA, "Little Belle," dynamic, blonde and scintillatingly beautiful dancing and skating star counts a knowledge of plant life as an essential achievement in the fully cultured life of an artist. Artists, more than the laymen, derive much of their inspiration and sense of rhythm from the beauty and color of lovely plants and flowers.

Belita, much travelled connoisseur of the finer things, thoroughly enjoyed the time she spent late this Summer in the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. The gifted young lady who is associated with Monogram pictures, was more interested in the REX section of the greenhouse and the daintiness of the maidenhair ferns. We are in-

debted to Louis S. Lifton for the picture shown above.

Mr. Harold W. Hart is now the Director of the A. D. Robinson Memorial and as such is very keen on obtaining the very finest plants possible for this gradually increasing collection of begonias from everywhere. To everyone who has followed the history of this Memorial, we would impart the regretful news that Dr. C. H. Lauder of Arcadia, California, is still in hospital after an operation at Thanksgiving-time. We wish him a speedy recovery so that he may be able to be out and amongst his beloved begonias and orchids and the host of friends he has from far and wide. He may be addressed c/o The Sante Fe Hospital, Los Angeles, California.

Notes On The Effect Of Temperature And Humidity On Growth Of Tuberous Begonias

By ALFRED HELLER,
New York, N. Y.

PART IV

The Temperature of Lake Placid

Average Temperature—June, 58.2; July 63.1; August, 60.7; September, 54.5.

Average Maximum Temperature — June, 69.1; July, 74.6; August, 72.2; September, 66.2.

Average Minimum Temperature — June, 46.5; July, 51.7; August, 49.3; September, 42.2.

Highest temperature ever reached for period on record: June, 90; July, 96; August, 91; September, 92.

Lowest temperature ever reached for period on record: June, 24; July, 30; August, 29; September, 18.

The night temperatures are really too low for fast growth, but coupled with the low humidity, they produce a healthy, tough growth which is smaller than at Swans Island, but capable of standing a great deal of abuse in the way of temperature fluctuations during the day.

Fresno, California

The humidity of this city is so low that it begins to approach that of a desert. As is characteristic of localities having low humidities, there are great variations between the day and night temperatures, and the average maximum day temperature of Fresno is 98° F. for the months of July and August.

One would suppose that tuberous begonias would not grow under such conditions, but I know of one person at least who has succeeded in growing them at Fresno. An analysis of this climate, therefore, is of interest.

Temperature

Average Maximum—(Reached about 1 to 2 P.M.)—June, 91; July, 99; August, 97; September, 89.

Average Minimum (Reached about 4 to 5 A.M.) — June, 59; July, 65; August, 62; September, 58.

Highest ever reached — June, 112°; July, 115; August, 113; September, 111.

Lowest ever reached — June, 42°; July, 50; August, 42; September, 42.

Humidity

	8. A.M.	Noon	8:00 P.M.
June	58	27	19
July	50	24	15
August	54	26	16
September	61	31	23

With humidities as low as these and the low night temperature of June, tuberous begonias can be started hard and tough, provided suitable soil, suitable fertilization, and proper water to accomplish this have been supplied. As a matter of fact, the all-important night temperature is always lower in Fresno than in New York City, and this fact together with the decidedly high humidity prevalent in the latter city makes growing conditions in New York City more difficult than at Fresno. You can help yourself by suitable shading and judicious watering during the day, but it is hard to avoid a high night temperature.

It will be noted that during the months of June and September the night temperature of Fresno is almost ideal.

The Climate of New York City and Vicinity

This climate is very familiar to me, for I have been living in the Metropolitan Area for a number of years. It is a climate which is not congenial to the growth of tuberous begonias, and the recommendations for the growth of these plants on the Pacific Coast are in general not applicable to growth in the New York area. This applies principally to the soil used, and will be discussed in detail later.

The climate record is as follows, and covers a period of fifty-one years:

Temperature

Average—June, 68.5; July, 74.5; August, 75; September, 67.

Average Maximum — June, 75; July, 80; August, 78; September, 72.

Average Minimum — June, 64; July, 69; August, 68; September, 62.

Humidity

	5 A.M.	Noon	5 P.M.
June	79	56	60
July	81	58	62
August	82	59	63
September	82	60	65

One would suppose from a hurried glance that this climate was not very bad for tuberous begonias, although night temperatures of 69 to 68 during July and August are not at all desirable.

(Continued on page 12)

You Can Grow Your Own Begonia Plants

By FLORECE KNOCK,
Crooks, South Dakota

• Since potted plants are becoming more rare in the shops and greenhouses, it behooves us plant hobbyists to get close enough to nature to learn to grow our own young plants. This is especially true when growing a large collection of any certain group or family of plants. It is difficult to find a source that can supply the many wanted varieties, but if we can grow our own we can draw from any available source. Sometimes the commercial growers can supply only rooted cuttings or very small plants of the rarest varieties. The versatile Round Robin members usually find a way of sharing their choicest treasures with those who are willing to become plant nurses for a spell.

Healthy, well grown cuttings do not require any unusual treatment. If they are to be sent by mail the cut end and stem should be wrapped in damp moss, cotton or any soft moisture retaining material, then in wax paper and also firmly wrapped in newspaper.

There are many good rooting methods, and it appears advisable for each one to choose the most suitable method if that has proved successful in the past. Some prefer rain water, others sand or leafmold and sand. I like to use two parts of good garden soil to one part of coarse sand. This is friable for the tender young roots to penetrate and they find available food and do not need to be shifted as soon as those rooted in only sand. The first transplanting is the most delicate operation and hence should be delayed as long as is feasible.

Even though we know that the Spring months put new life and power into our

plants, the Winter months will also permit us to start new plants if we consider the lower temperatures and lack of sunlight. At present I am rooting 20 Begonia cuttings, sent to me by friends, and they do not seem to resent cold feet. Good light, next to the glass, seems to be very important during these cloudy, dark days. The windows are cold even though there is double glass and weatherstripping. When the Mid-West gets Zero weather and lower, the plants may need to be moved out of the windows until the temperature changes.

These little cuttings are growing new leaves and some of them are even blooming, after 5 weeks in their pots, as Nitida and Jinnie May. Bertha Von Lothringen is the most interesting among these cuttings, because of the chocolate-red veining that appears wine-red in the sunlight. *ulmifolia* too is outstanding, because of its rough-hairy elm-like leaves. The *Duchartrei* leaves are long, narrow and dull green in color. This plant also adds variety to any Begonia collection.

The young plants especially should be watered when they apparently are moist. A too wet and cold soil may prove fatal to the delicate plants. Warm rain-water is appreciated by most plants during the Winter months. No definite watering schedule can be suggested because the need for moisture depends on the soil mixture, size of pot and the temperature and humidity of the surrounding air.

Many plants resent being re-located after they have become habituated to a certain window. A change will often cause buds to drop or fail to open. When a plant has reached its peak of maturity it is usually advisable to start a new plant to assure its remaining in the plant group. Looking forward toward Spring we will want to locate the plants that will add variety and inspiration to our plant collection.

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Fertilizers Or Plant Foods, Their Components And Uses

PART II

By PAUL E. BLOOMER
San Diego, Calif.

Inorganic or Chemical Fertilizers

Again we find our same three bases isolated or reduced to a more or less pure chemical form. Nitrogen appears in several forms, but always combined with some other element. The most readily procureable sources are sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, calcium nitrate and ammonium sulphate. Of these sodium nitrate is probably the most desirable as it is very safe to use and retains a large amount of its activity in cool weather. Next in order I would rate calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate. All are very soluble and readily accepted by the plant. Ammonium sulphate has a high reputation and as a rule easily obtained. As it is especially good in warm weather, it, combined with either sodium nitrate or calcium nitrate makes a fine combination.

Phosphorus: The most satisfactory source is known as treble superphosphate and often classified by the trade as 0-43-(or 48)-0. Potassium (or potash) we will get from potassium sulphate. **Magnesium Sulphate.** All plants require magnesium for health. This is easily and cheaply obtained as plain bath salts, which are simply impure or non-medical epsom salts.

The chief advantages of chemical salts lie in their cleanliness, absence of disagreeable odors, and feasibility of application. Another virtue lies in the fact that they do not attract injurious insects or fungus as do some of the organic fertilizers.

Since we are primarily interested in begonias, let us examine a plant and see if we can figure out its growth needs or plant food requirements. Practically all begonias are classed as succulent or soft stemmed plants, with either large leaves or an abundance of small ones.

Nitrogen comes No. 1 in our classification so we shall consider it first. Since nitrogen produces luxuriant and abundant growth it can be readily seen that if a plant is fed to the maximum tolerance the rather weak stem will be soon overburdened by a too heavy top growth. It then becomes apparent that we should keep nitrogen near the minimum requirements to prevent having a weak, floppy plant, and yet of a suf-

ficient amount to insure a healthy growth.

For strong roots and for the finest blooms we shall need a generous amount of phosphorus. This is especially true in the culture of tuberous begonias where our end results are flowers, seeds and good healthy tubers.

Permit me to emphasize **good healthy tubers**, for your next year's plants.

Again since the stem is naturally a weak one it will need all the strong cells that potassium can produce and all the rich colors that nature intended it to have in leaf and bloom.

For general health, magnesium sulphate in a conservative amount.

Having the foregoing requirements in mind we find ourselves considering the following formula which we shall call a 3-10-8, the 3 representing a near minimum nitrogen, the 10 a near maximum phosphorus application, the 8 representing a generous supply of potassium. The formula is given in teaspoon measurement for the sake of convenience:

Sodium or Calcium Nitrate — 5 teaspoonsful

Ammonium Sulphate — 4 teaspoonsful

Treble Super Phosphate 43% to 48%
— 15 teaspoonsful

Potassium Sulphate — 12 teaspoonsful

Magnesium Sulphate — 10 teaspoonsful

Aluminum Sulphate (for acid balance)
— 2 teaspoonsful

All commercial grade salts.

Mix well, keep dry in a glass container. Use one rounded teaspoonful to one gallon of water. Stir or shake occasionally and let stand for 24 hours. Disregard any residue on bottom of container, but use only clear portion of solution.

The green color in leaves often can be intensified by use of iron which is best given in some **readily** acceptable form such as iron and ammonium citrate. A solution of this can be prepared by dissolving one dram of the iron in one pint of water. Of this solution add one teaspoonful to two quarts of water when ready to apply.

(To be continued)

This Is The Way I Make A Moss Wall

By CLARENCE HALL,
Ventura, Calif.

Dear Editor:

Your letter asking me to write my directions for the building of a moss wall came simultaneously with one from Mrs. Zug of San Dimas, Calif., asking for the same information. Forgive me, if I answer both at the same time in the following manner:

Dear Mrs. Zug:

In response to your letter re-Moss Wall, the background should be of wood, preferably redwood. Tar paper, or cheap roofing paper should be placed over the wood background. It should be nailed to the wood in a horizontal position, in the same manner as you would cover a roof, so that the edges overlap to prevent water seepage from contacting the wood background. When this is done, the background is ready for mossing.

Materials needed for mossing: chicken wire (36" wide) with one inch mesh, plenty of staples, the necessary amount of moss, and a large container of water in which to soak the moss; the soaking being necessary for easy handling.

Measure the height of the wall, allowing six inches more wire than the actual height, in order to take care of additional space that the moss will use. Cut your wire to the required length and staple it to the bottom of the wall, allowing the wire to roll of its own accord downward. Wring excess water from the moss and place the moss with the nicest looking side facing downwards from you and thus when finished will be exposed to view in the wire. Place the moss in a twelve inch section at a time, and in so doing, you will complete a section 12" x 36". When this is done, roll the wire against the background and staple it well, so that there will be no chance of the moss slipping to a lower level at any time. Continue this procedure until the height of your wall is mossed, and continue from left to right with each thirty-six inch section of wire until your entire wall is covered with the moss background.

General notes, observances and instructions: many walls are constructed with the moss placed very loosely. In course of time, continual watering will cause the moss so used to slip leaving bare spaces behind the wire. By stapling well, this will be prevented. The additional benefit of good stapling is that it will allow the hanging of baskets to the wall—the baskets actually hanging on the

wire. If these baskets are well constructed, and moss is also used in them to hold the soil, they will appear as a natural part of the scene and will look to be an actual part of the wall itself. Do not cut holes in the wire of the wall to form pockets for plants. This is an easy way out, but is unsightly and will lead to the slipping of moss and exposure of the roofing paper background. Use as large pieces of moss as possible and in so doing, the spores of ferns and many "woody" plants will take life and your wall will appear very natural and not the man-made construction it is. As Rex are ideal subjects for a moss wall, daily or twice daily watering is good for both the wall and the plants, providing good drainage is given the Rex in the baskets that they are growing in.

Oregon moss should be used. The coarse redwood fibre being used today as lining for baskets is not satisfactory for a large area. The baskets used on the finished wall may be made by hand or can be purchased at most nurseries. It will be necessary to place hooks in the back of the baskets, so that they may hang on the wire mesh. Nails driven through the back of the baskets and bent over to form a hook are not satisfactory. The hooks should be made of strong, rust resistant material and must be firmly stapled to the back of the baskets.

If you follow the directions for mossing the wall, as given above, you will have a solid background for your baskets. You will find that the mossing procedure takes time; about an hour being required to moss and staple a section thirty-six inches wide by eight feet in height. Do not be sparing in use of moss, the thicker it is, the better. Anything will grow in it if kept moist.

Wire purchased today is not of prewar quality and although it may be galvanized, it will start to rust in about two years and at that time you will find the supporting wire for the baskets weakened by rust. You may then patch with new wire over the rusted sections, or may re-moss the entire wall over the old, which gives the added benefit of thicker moss. In re-mossing, do not be afraid to cover the ferns and other plants growing out of the old wall—they will find their way through the new moss and will appear just as nice, fresh and natural in the

(Continued on page 8)

Branch News

Glendale Branch: Mr. Harold Hart, National President elect, was the speaker for the November meeting. His subject of Shade Plants included begonias and ferns . . . illustrated with many specimens from his own garden, lathhouses and glasshouses. He shares his plants freely with his fellow members and friends as well as the information he has gathered through his personal experiences. Mr. Hart is always easy to listen to. The plant sale was a great success.

Pasadena Branch: Miss Charlotte Hoak's plan for classification of begonias continues to engross the members of this group and with the help of specimen plants, leaves and flowers, especially of B. Arthur Mallet and Corallina de Lucerna the two thoroughly discussed at the December meeting — (later with sketches and stencils,) these Begoniates will lead in identification of our begonias.

January will be devoted to planning for the exhibition of Begonias to be made at the Pasadena Flower Show Association in March. All the near-by begonia branches and individuals are asked to cooperate to the utmost to make this event a real success.

The Philobegonia Branch: For the time being this Branch will have to hold meetings at irregular periods owing to the regretted indisposition of Mrs. Gere and the abnormal demands on the time of the other members. We wish them all a happy return to normalcy very soon, and in the meantime, a speedy recovery to Mrs. Gere.

Riverside Branch: In January this group will meet with Mrs. C. F. Lackey, 3043 Pine Street, Riverside. There will be a special program with colored slides of interesting flowers.

San Francisco Branch: The Xmas party was well attended. Mrs. Theresa Ferrero as Chairman was assisted by Mrs. Fred Sauer, Mrs. Peter Martensen and Mrs. Wm. J. Roth at dispensing refreshments donated by the members at the artistically decorated table arranged by Mrs. Ferrero. The exchange of gifts was marshalled by Santa Claus Glenn Mack and Mrs. H. W. MacDonald entertained the group with her versatility at the accordion.

At the November meeting the following officers were elected for service for 1945: President Harry O'Donnell, vice-

president Merriel J. Butler; Secretary Mrs. Theresa Ferrero and Treasurer Mrs. H. W. MacDonald.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

We are now five years old, and cordially invite all A. B. S. members and their guests to help us celebrate with a Birthday Dinner and the trimmings. Reservations must be made not later than Jan. 20th. Please telephone Custer 5-5225 or a post card to George L. Johnson, 1320 Ramona Road, Arcadia, Calif.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M., 75c per person. Together with the usual plant sale, we know we shall enjoy the speaker, Mr. Harry M. Davis of the Davis Camellia Gardens, whose subject is to be on Camellias, Grafting, etc.

Come and celebrate with us Jan. 26th at the American Legion Hall, 720 No. First Avenue, Arcadia, Calif.

The San Gabriel November meeting was rendered very interesting by the talk given on Ferns by Mr. George McDowell of Inglewood.

We join this group in wishing Dr. C. H. Lauder a speedy recovery and a happy return to good health.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch: Accentuating the Xmas theme for the December dinner meeting, the tables were lavishly decorated with berries and poinsettias. The holiday spirit was further stressed by the members exchanging beautifully wrapped gift plants and join-

MOSS WALL

(Continued from page 7)

new moss wall, as they did in the old, in a very short time.

A moss wall is a background and in being a background there must necessarily be a foreground. If you build a moss background that will be perfect in every way, its beauty will be added to or detracted from, according to the landscape of the foreground. Let your imagination have full swing. Get the picture of the entire scene, as you want it, before you build. Then build the moss wall with the entire scene in your mind and the result will be one that gives you satisfaction and will definitely add to the natural beauty of your garden.

BRANCH NEWS

ing in a community "Sing." Mrs. Walter Knecht, president and Mrs. H. S. Hamilton Secretary-Treasurer were presented with gifts from the society in appreciation of their fine service. Mrs. Knecht's year has been an outstanding one of achievements. SIXTY-SEVEN new members came into the Branch during her term; she brought into effect the first YEAR-BOOK; she inaugurated the EASTER BONNET PARADE when the ladies wore artistic, chic, amusing and exotic hats made of real flowers while the men wore unique creations of real vegetables. Real flower "Hair-do"-night was another gay and beautiful event. The spirit in which the people have participated in these affairs has shown that the entertaining as well as instructive inducements have drawn so many new members. President Mrs. Knecht gave due credit to her fine board for the most successful year, vice-president Mrs. Otto Cochrun; Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. H. S. Hamilton; Directors: Mesdames Floyd Shaw and Harry Meyer and Mr. Clarence Mets with National Representative Newton Nance.

The following are the newly elected officers for 1945: President, Newton Nance; vice-president Noble McCollim; Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Wm. Smith; Directors: Mesdames Walter Knecht, J. F. Tefferteller and John Dent with Miss Lina Franz as National Representative. To them all we extend our congratulations and sincere good wishes for another banner year. This Branch now numbers one hundred and seventy-three members.

Hollywood Branch: Here too, the Xmas spirit led the members to enjoy a particularly interesting evening. From the clever and lovely Xmas-tree table, arranged by Mrs. Drummond, the fine talk and excellent slides in lovely color presented by James Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia, then the Begonia lesson by Joseph Scherer and the plant sale to the refreshments, everything helped to make it an outstanding close to the year and to the tenure of office by Mrs. W. C. Drummond and her efficient Board. Mr. George Lawrence as installation Officer charged the new officers for 1945 with their duties. President W. C. Cocks was entrusted with the gavel, Vice-President Edward B. Flynn; Treasurer J. G. Greene; Recording Secretary Mrs. Samuel Pedgrift; Director at large Mrs.

Henry Otto; Mrs. Helen Shearer Secretary; Mrs. W. C. Drummond National Representative and Mr. Morris Ebersole Librarian were given charge of a Branch lacking only two short of a hundred enthusiastic members. There were only forty when Mrs. Drummond assumed office two years ago. National President R. A. Nelson was present and extended an invitation to all to attend the 5th Birthday Party of the San Gabriel Valley Branch in January.

Long Beach Parent Chapter Branch: The November meeting report was lost, but not the memory thereof. Mrs. Maria Wilkes went to speak on Unusual Shade Plants and enjoyed the meeting even more than she expected through the closer acquaintance of the pioneer members who had much to do with the early organization of the Begonia Society and the success thereof. Mrs. Mary Congdon, now the Librarian, joined about May 1934 and in all that time she has missed only two meetings, not through her own volition but through illness when it was impossible for her to be out. Mrs. Palstein was the First Editor of The Begonian—in 1934. Mrs. J. S. Williams still very active, was the Editor when it was still in sheet form in 1935. Mrs. Clayton Kelly used to belong to this Branch, he followed Mrs. Williams as Editor in 1936. Mr. Dyckman of Long Beach, the Father of The American Begonia Society, owns the first copies of the handwritten Begonian issues. This group has a complete file from 1934 up to date in neatly bound folders for the edification of the members. The Branch maintains a membership paid expressly in order to get an extra copy of The Begonian for its files.

The December meeting: Mr. Christensen was re-elected President and the installation of officers was performed by another pioneer of the Society, Mr. J. Paul Walker. The ceremony was made doubly interesting through a highlight resume of the history of the Society. With Mr. Christensen as President there are now in office Mr. Gilmore as vice-president; Miss Mary Hotaling as Secretary-Treasurer; Hugh Dixon as program Chairman, Mary Congdon Librarian, and Harry Harker as National Representative.

Xmas tree ceremony and plant exchange, each plant prettily wrapped, Music and refreshments ended the fine evening. See change of meeting place and date of meeting.

(Continued on page 13)

Begonia Rubro-Venia, Hook.

By ALICE M. CLARK,
San Diego, Calif.

THE plant I have sketched this month is not an authentic species. There is a fine illustration of the original *Rubro-venia* in the Curtis Botanical Magazine, Plate 4689. In Fotsch's *Die Begonien*, there is an article by Alex Lange on the History of Begonias in which he tells this story. In 1850, a traveller named Booth found a species with a creeping rhizome, dark green leaves and yellow flowers in Buhtan (India), which he sent to his uncle, Thomas Nuttall, in England. Hooker described it as *B. Xanthina*. It was the first begonia to be found with yellow flowers but was more to be admired for its fine foliage.

Soon a second species from the same locality was sent to England. This had silver-spotted leaves and white flowers with red stripes on the backs of the petals. This, Hooker named *Rubro-venia*. Roezl crossed these two and got four different plants which were not described in detail. Mr. Lange affirms that the original species are lost but that plants with characteristics of either or both can be found today as a result of many hybrids.

Chevalier, in *Les Begonias*, says the species of *Rubro-venia* is rare in actual culture. The description he gives may be a quotation or made from a living plant but it tallies closely with that of my own except that my plant has less red in the stems and has no red stripes on the petals of the flowers. According to Chevalier, Verschaffelt crossed *B. Thwaitesi* with *B. Rubro-venia* in 1860 and obtained a hybrid called *B. x eximia*, Hort., "with leaves colored a silver white, red and brown." It was figured in "L'Illustration Horticole," 1860. It would seem that my plant corresponds more nearly to the above, providing the red and brown color mentioned refers to the under side of the leaves.

Whether this plant should be called *B. eximia* or not we will leave to wiser minds while I rest my case on the fact that the New York Botanical Garden's Booklet on Begonias, lists *rubro-venia* as such and closes by remarking: "our plants lack the strong red veining on the outer petals, depicted in the Curtis Botanical Magazine. Received as megaptera (1853)." Mrs. Krauss says they have three varieties, listed simply as: plain green, spotted green and silver.

My drawing was made about August. Now, in December, the flowers have

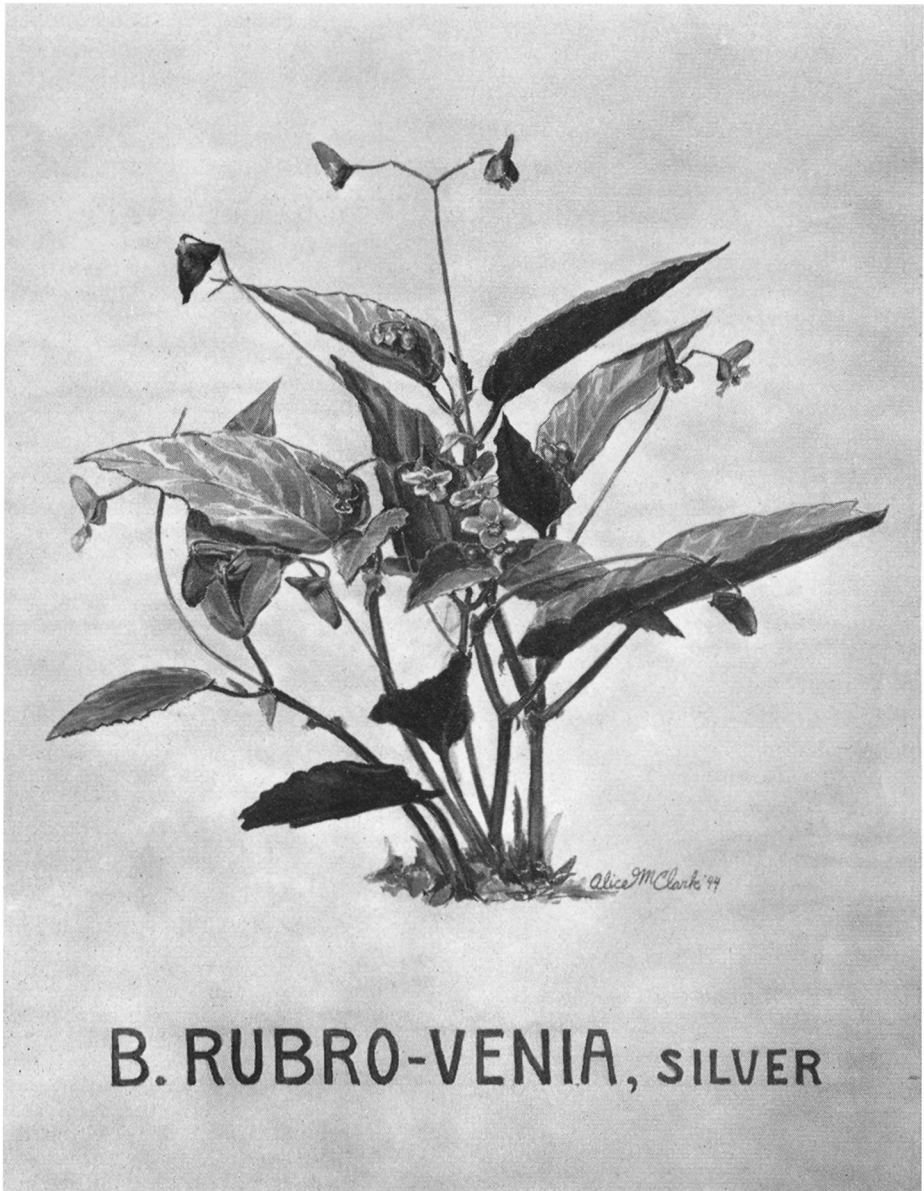
gone and most of the larger leaves, but the new shoots are pushing up so freely from this small prostrate rhizome, given to me by Mrs. Gray a year ago, that it promises to be a fine bushy plant by next summer. The many green-brown stems rise stiff and straight from a pair of light gray stipules, whose edges curl back to form a sharp point, with a crease down the middle. The brown color comes from a soft woolly scurf that is more noticeable on the new growth. The stipules dry up and persist but are not too conspicuous.

The leaf stems are quite short and leave a light round scar when they break off. They have a faint reddish tinge that merges into a burnished copper-red glow on the under side of the leaf. Chevalier describes it as purple, a color it does approach, especially in the shadows and on the raised veins. The leaf surface is topped with a satin-smooth finish of yellow-green jade, broken into many crinkles of light by the veinings, like the light silver color of some rexes. The edges are slightly scalloped and taper down to a long fine point, giving a nice accent to the plant outline. The center vein is off-side. The leaves vary in size from five to seven inches long by two to three wide.

The flowers spring from the leaf axils on comparatively long stems. When in bud form they are as round as pink pearls and would remind us of lilies of the valley if they were white. There are only six to eight in a cluster. The male flowers have four petals, white within, pink without, waxy and cupped over a fine yellow center. They are only an inch across and the four petals of the female are even smaller. The ovary is light green with two small wings and one long narrow one with a rounded tip. They are all flushed with red that gets darker with age.

Like all begonias, the plant would look better without the seed-pods but I was able to get some very healthy seeds from them. From my short experience with *Rubro-venia*, they are a joy to raise. I hope they have it in the East as it is a compact grower. In fact I am tempted to bring it indoors myself to see if it will keep its beautiful two-tone leaves during the colder months. But perhaps it needs some rest. Whatever its name, this silvery variety is one to cherish and I hope it will come to its

(Continued on page 12)



Alice M. Clark

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Excerpts from Letters to The Editor

• Thank you for a good magazine. I read every copy of The Begonian from cover to cover and learn a great deal from it. I do, however, wish that when a special begonia is mentioned I could know where it may be obtained. May you find joy in your service.

Signed:

Florence Knock, Creeks, South Dakota.

EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

(Continued from page 4)

It must also be remembered that the above temperatures at present are being taken on the top of the Whitehall Building several hundred feet above street level. The temperature at street level is somewhat higher. The humidity is not bad at all,—60 during the day, and about 80 at night.

The high night temperature is the really bad feature, and one of the worst is the frequent hot spells when the temperature rises well above 70 degrees F.

Next instalment will be:— Precautions to Follow Under Adverse Conditions.

BEGONIA RUBRO-VENIA

(Continued from page 10)

own again before the centenary of its introduction.

In closing, let me quote from an editorial that "our" Mr. Robinson wrote in the California Garden Magazine, which he founded. Slightly weary of all the "Blah" of New Year's messages, he said:

"So, for the New Year, I do not wish you all the old things that you will get anyhow. You will have bloom in profusion, for, so it is ordained in California, and you will have the worm in the bud, the rust that corrupts and the mildew that no plant can endure. You will have to spray and irrigate and cultivate and fertilize. This thing will do well and that won't and I am glad of it, for the care of your garden is the chief asset that it brings to you. I wish you dirt under the fingernails, callouses on your knees and a trowel where you can find it when you want it."

I am sure that delightful paragraph will get your garden New Year off to a good start and if you have that precious trowel and the time to follow A. D. R.'s advice it is bound to be happy all the year through.

BRANCH NEWS

San Diego Branch: At the November meeting Miss A. M. Rainford, prominent florist of San Diego, demonstrated with flowers, leaves and containers the artistry of flower arrangements. Modeling clay patted into rather flat cakes to hold test tubes at any angle wished is nice to use with flat containers. These filled with water to keep the flowers or leaves fresh can be used as individual vases and may be concealed with sprays of flowers or leaves. Crumpled chicken wire is good in larger vases to hold the flower material right where it is wanted.

She stressed keeping knives used to cut flowers clean and free from bacteria, for experience has shown that flowers keep fresh longer when the knife used is perfectly clean. Floral Life and Bloom Life are two preparations used by florists to keep flowers fresh longer.

Mrs. J. A. Hegel told us in her hints of "what to do this month" to put naphthaline flakes under worm infested leaves, and the fumes will kill small worms. Her ferns like B1 and at this time of the year she follows two weeks later with fertilizer. Plant sales, regular and special, and a social hour with refreshments finished a delightful evening.

California Heights Branch: Exchange of gifts and a fine social evening of fun and refreshments ended the year for this group. The new officers who were installed at the December meeting are: President Mrs. Milo Sisson; vice-president Mrs. J. W. Star and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. F. I. Penrose. Success and happiness with fine achievements are our good wishes for them.

The January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

Bellflower Branch: Met at the Community Presbyterian Church on November 14th, too late for a report to The Begonian. There was a large attendance and many guests. Officers elected for the ensuing year are: President Mrs. Bettie Nicholl; vice-president Mrs. J. F. Doty; Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Radle and National Representative Mrs. Anna Haller.

SEED FOR SHADE

CINERARIA, PRIMULAS, BEGONIAS

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Letter From Mrs. Krauss

Wynnewood, Pa.

To President A. H. Nelson,
San Gabriel, Calif.

• I have been doing some work with herbarium specimens and have found that in order not to mutilate the plants it is frequently necessary to gather a branch and at a later time the flowers or seed-pods. Size must also be considered as the larger growing varieties must be gathered before they have attained their full size.

Since I am now familiar with the procedure I wonder if it would be possible for you to obtain branches, preferably with flowers, and send them or have them sent to me between newspapers so that I can process them and mount them and in that way increase the collection more rapidly. Be sure to have the names attached as some hybrids are so similar that the work may be for naught.

I have not been able to do much research of late but when the Winter months approach, I hope to find the time to gather some material together.

I cannot close without mentioning that Mrs. Alice Clark is doing excellent work for the magazine and hope she will continue indefinitely.

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Successful Raising of Tuberous Rooted Begonias by Seed

By H. B. ROONEY,
San Francisco, Calif.

• In the November issue of the "Begonian," under "Questions and Answers," I notice a discussion as to the covering of the begonia seeds with paper and glass.

From my experience, I believe the matter of ventilation under the paper is immaterial. The important matter is to see that the glass and paper do not remain too long.

For heat I place my tuberous rooted begonia seeds in a glass covered box, then cover this with paper and place the whole over the pilot light on the gas stove.

Now, if one will watch these seeds carefully through a strong magnifying glass, one will observe a white break in the seed with a minute root coming from this. This will take place in 5 or 6 days. Then remove the paper and in a couple of days the glass. The seed will continue to sprout for a period of about 4 weeks or so.

Leave uncovered, water by placing in a pan of water so that the surface does not become dry and keep in a light and moderately warm room with good air circulation.

Operating in this way, I have raised a large percentage of my seedlings and have avoided that curse "damp off."

Ed's. note: Here is another chance for "ROUND-LETTER-DISCUSSION" to help each other. Who is next? What is your successful method?

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Columbines

By MARIA WILKES,
Los Angeles, Calif.

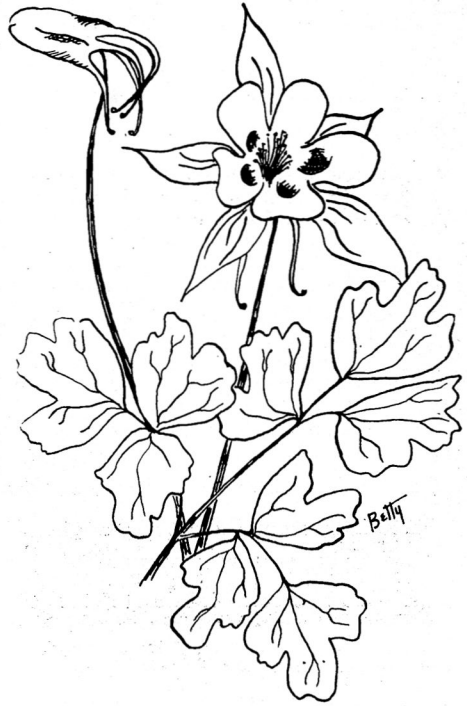
• The Aquilegias, or Columbines are a "must-have" in the shade garden. They are one of the most charming and universally versatile, hardy perennial plants and it is a pity they are not grown more consistently.

The Aquilegias belong to the order of Ranunculaceae. They are generally very hardy and many varieties are to be found in the mountains in various parts of the world so that many are the rock gardens embellished with their delightfully fashioned and delicately colored yet sturdy flowers. Some, on the other hand, are quite brilliant. They may be had in countless varieties and combinations of color to grow from eight inches to three feet in height.

Aquilegia longissima is probably one of the most sought after types because of its extreme grace and wonderful canary-yellow flowers. The spurs are from four to six inches long giving the flowers the look of flying movement and because of the color they are particularly effective in the shade. The foliage is always attractive and free of pests.

A. coerulea, the Rocky Mountain Columbine has very beautiful blue and white blossoms. It prefers a soil decidedly on the acid side. Several good strains are available and when looking for the more interesting varieties, see if you can find the Copper shades, the clear pinks and the pure whites also a crimson strain. England has many special strains to offer that may not be available here at this time, but it will please you to realize that the English have made much of the American varieties and after improving them have placed them on the market for all to enjoy.

They like a rich loose, moist, well drained loam where they will prove themselves a splendid cut flower as well as a source of delight for months of the year.



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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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BEGONIA TRIALS ANSWERED

By Eva Kenworthy Gray,
La Jolla, Calif.

I only know what I've learned by my own experience, but it might be of some help to others.

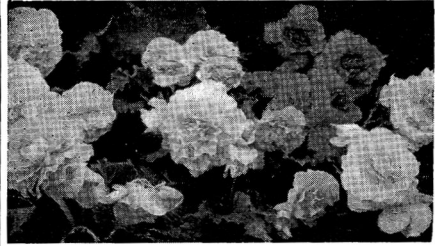
I never set a flower pot directly on the ground. The earth worms would crawl up through the hole and first thing I'd know the soil in the pot would be heavily infested. If you must put a pot on the ground you can put a piece of screen wire over the hole, or sprinkle a bit of naphtha flakes in the bottom, being careful not to have the flakes close to the roots. I usually put a tin lid under the pot, it protects it from drawing in outside roots, if it is under a tree.

To keep the dirt from spattering on the outside of pots and on the leaves you could put a layer of coarse sand around where the pots are set, or a layer of sphagnum moss or a pile of hay around the pots will keep the water from spattering up on the pots. How would it do to set the pots on a layer of roofing paper? I've never tried that, but I've noticed roofing paper along the side of the house to keep the dirt from spattering on the side close to the ground. (Editor's note: For both these purposes, nothing can equal efficiency plus of coarse shredded redwood bark.)

I note in the query in the February issue about cuttings. I **always** prefer a tip cutting. If not too soft it will root and bloom much quicker than a cutting taken from the root. It will take a root cutting some time to come into bloom, while a tip cutting has the bud already formed and will bloom as soon as it makes roots.

Why should one root a fibrous begonia leaf? If it is possible to get a cutting from a plant it is a much surer way to get another one started, and then changing a rooted plant from water to soil would cause rather a set back to the plant. Of course if one has a very rare begonia that does not branch so that cuttings are hard to get, trying to root one from a leaf would be worth while. I never had any success though, in rooting a fibrous begonia from a leaf, either in water or wet sand.

From the query as to what makes begonia leaves puckered: I've had certain varieties do that even when grown out in the lath house. We asked Mr. Robinson the cause and he said he did not know but surmised it was some kind of a disease, not caused from thrips or red



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January: Perfect month for growing tuberous begonias from seed. See Tuberous Begonia Bulletin 15c from Mrs. Harry Harker, 2461 Fashion Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

spider, but rather a mosaic trouble. Only certain varieties have been so infected for me. I remember I discarded B. Undine because the leaves were so crumpled. I received some semperflorens last summer from the East and the leaves were so crumpled I doubted they would grow. Sure enough, all gave up but one stem. On close examination, there were no signs of thrips or red spider. This trouble will someday be solved and preventive measures taken.

Hanging Basket Fuchsias in January

By "MERCURY"

• It does sound a drastic action to suggest pruning to the beginner with these beautiful showers of jewel-like flowers. That is, they were lovely last Summer, but unless they are pruned they will get "scraggy" and anything but fairy-like next Summer. Do this pruning in January choosing the types that have gone dormant first and should our nice Southern California weather last — as fine as it promises to do, withhold water gradually from the others to force them to take a rest. How far should you prune? Generally to three or five eyes from the base of each main branch and each main branch should be cut back to within four to six inches from the edge of the basket. That is very gentle pruning. The writer prefers to do more in order to throw all the strength into the fashioning of newer sheets, which, after all are the flower bearers.

As soon as pruned, the plants may be repotted or taken out of their baskets and replanted in a new soil mixture. Replanting is simple if some of the soil is knocked off the ball carefully, the roots pruned back judiciously and after relining the basket with either coarse shredded redwood bark or Oregon green moss the fuchsias may be replanted in the same receptacle.

The soil should be half complete compost and half leafmold with the addition of one tablespoon of 50-50 bone and cottonseed meals to the square feet of soil mixture. It may be advisable to dip the

rest in one of the solutions used at transplanting time to minimize the shock even though the plant is dormant.

This soil mixture will take care of the plant with light watering until after the first pinching back of the young shoots to make them grow more side shoots. If it is decided to leave the year-old soil in the basket or pot, remove the top inch or so of the old soil and replace it with the suggested soil mixture. Should there be no good compost available try: 2 parts soil, 1 part fine shredded redwood bark, 1 part leafmold and $\frac{1}{4}$ part well decomposed manure mixed with 1 tablespoon 50-50 bone and cottonseed meals to the square foot of soil. Keep this mixture moist for at least one to two weeks before using. Of course, our good gardeners do not need to be reminded not to plant in dry but moist soil. It must be "springy" so that when a handful is pressed together it will break apart when released.

A good gardener has a "complete" compost heap.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Through Mrs. Russel T. Baily,
4535 50th Street, San Diego 5, Calif.

Q. My Peperomia Sandersi drops its leaves. Tell me please what kind of soil it needs and general care.

From Mrs. E. T. B., Hollywood, Calif.

A. You have been overwatering your peperomia. According to Bailey's Cyclopedia the peperomias like a warm, moist but never stuffy atmosphere and partial shade. They require careful watering, particularly in Winter. They like a fibrous soil, containing peat or leafmold and old cow manure.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

CONDENSED MINUTES MEETING NATIONAL BOARD American Begonia Society held Nov. 13th, 1944 Room 302 Edwards Wildey Bldg. with President Nelson in the Chair. Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. with the following present:

Messrs. Hart, Hawkins, Lawrence, Baily, and Dr. Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Crowder, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mesdames Wilkes, Hartwell, McRae, Dewar, Bayer, and Nelson.

Introduction of guests.

Bills O'ked and ordered paid.

Minutes of meeting of Oct. 9th read and approved with the addition of "President Nelson appointed Mrs. Kem Weber, Mr. Lawrence and the Chairman of the North Long Beach Branch Show Committee, as a Committee to Draft Rules and Regulations for the Flower show for the next Annual Mtg."

Reports of Treasurer and Business Manager read and on motion accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Ways and Means Chairman Mr. Hart, Speakers Bureau Chairman Mr. Lawrence and Librarian Mrs. Crowder. "Nothing special to report at this time."

Director Public Relations Mr. Lawrence reported organization of new Branch at Whittier and presented Constitution and By-Laws for approval by the Board. Accepted as presented and a welcome extended to the new Branch and a cordial invitation to attend the Board meetings whenever possible. Hereafter their meeting announcements will appear in the Begonian calendar.

Mr. Hart for the Robinson Memorial reported everything progressing nicely at the Memorial; quite a lot of new plants coming in and the other plants doing better. Hopes soon to be able to buy some new plants and make some importations and thus add to the exhibit.

BRANCH REPORTS

Mrs. McRae reported for Glendale Branch

Dr. Lauder for San Gabriel Valley

Mr. Crowder for Inglewood

Mrs. Drummond for Hollywood

Mr. Baily for Pasadena

All reported interest keeping up; attendance good and good speakers at all meetings.

Letter from Mrs. Krauss proved most interesting giving a better idea of the importance of the work she is doing.

See Ex "A"

New matters discussed, but no action taken:

To have a commercial section, as well as amateur, at our Flower Shows.

To make a registration charge at the Annual Meetings and also charge an admittance at Flower Show.

Whether it would be possible to get ample space for a commercial and an amateur exhibit.

Treasurer stated Room 302 in the Edwards Wildey Bldg. would be the permanent meeting place for the National Board.

The matter of changing the meeting date of the National Board was discussed. It was felt that possibly the fourth Monday evening might be agreeable to all. Definite action postponed until next meeting to give branches time to protest should this date conflict with their meeting date.

Editor instructed to secure prices for color page in Begonian and report at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Gonda Hartwell, Corres. Sec.

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Will Maintain Peace. "Unity is
Strength."



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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 January American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Room 302 Edwards-Wilsey Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, January 22, 1945, at 7:45 p.m.

WHITTIER BRANCH

No Meeting in January, Feb. 5th next meeting.
Jonathan Bailey School Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. G. E. Polentz, Sec.-Treas.,
1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, January 2, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Secy.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, January 2nd, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. C. F. Lackey
3043 Pine Street, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-pro-tem
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, January 3rd, 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.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, January 4th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, January 4th
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, January 8th, 8 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, January 9th, 8:00 p.m.
At Community Presbyterian Church Hall
Mrs. Radle, Secy.-Treas.,
Bellflower, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, January 11, 8 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.

OLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secy.,
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, January 12th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Jessie Jenkins,
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Secy.-Treas.,
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, January 15th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, January 17th, 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.
Mary Hotaling, Secy.-Treas.,
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.
Reader: May Winston
Subject: A. A. Remmers' Travelogue

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, January 21st, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Alma Ahrens,
1323 Oxford Street, Berkeley, Calif.
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Monday, January 22nd
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, January 23rd, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Tuesday, January 23rd, 7:30 p.m.
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, January 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Hall Point Loma Community Church,
Udall Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, January 26th, 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

IRREGULAR MEETING
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.
SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
Irregular Meetings
Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. David Finley, Sec'y.
New Canaan, Conn.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

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