

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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For Your Information

● Please note the changes on the front page this month.

The official address of The Begonian is changed as of date of this issue.

We are losing the services of our good friend Mrs. Harry Harker as Membership Chairman which should read — in partnership with her husband, for the Harkers have established a very fine system by which this office may be run with minimum of effort and maximum efficiency. The American Begonia Society has been very fortunate, however, in obtaining the services of Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark, who has been Secretary of the Inglewood Branch for some time, for the position of Membership Chairman. The official address of our publication is thus

automatically changed to that of Mrs. Clark 1618½ W. 52nd Street, Los Angeles 37, Calif. All renewals and requests for Bulletins should be addressed to Mrs. Clark at this address. All matters of advertising and material for The Begonian should be addressed to Maria Wilkes, Editor and Business Manager of The Begonian to avoid extra clerical work and loss of valuable time.

This issue of The Begonian may be the last, pro-tem — published by Greens, Inc., of Long Beach, Calif., with Mr. Frank Thorndike as its wise and experienced Guide. Nothing, we like to feel, would cause a change of publisher, but the exigencies of war. We look forward, however, to the continuance of a happy business association with this firm again when normal times return.

(Continued on next page)

BEGONIA SOCIETY CELEBRATES FIFTH YEAR AT DINNER AT TENDED BY THREE HUNDRED

(Arcadia Tribune & News, Thursday, February 1, 1945)

• Three hundred members and friends of the San Gabriel Valley Begonia Society celebrated the fifth anniversary of the organization at a dinner held Friday evening in the American Legion clubhouse.

Long banquet tables were decorated with crepe paper streamers and at intervals colorful bowls holding double poinsettia blooms lent a Valentine touch to the beautifully-done hall. Fern and begonia plants on the stage formed a luxurious background for the program and speakers.

Mrs. Ralph Scofield headed a committee which served dinner at 6:30, topped off with a birthday cake honoring the anniversary celebration.

President S. M. Heffner of Pomona outlined the growth of the local organization which started with less than 25 members and now has nearly 150 who are interested in growing all varieties of shade-loving plants.

At the speaker's table, centered with an exquisite arrangement of begonias, were seated Arthur E. Nelson, former president and now national president, and Mrs. Nelson; Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson, in charge of all arrangements; Mrs. Josephine Hotz of Monrovia, past National Secretary; Clarence Johnston, George Lawrence, Mrs. A. N. Hartwell; Harold Hart, national president-elect, and Mrs. Hart; Mrs. Grace L. Bayer, president of Glendale's society; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert T. Dyckman of Long Beach, founders of the society; Jack Bailey, Col. C. M. Gale, Pasadena branch president; W. C. Cocks and Mrs. A. Drummond from Hollywood; and Mr. and Mrs. Heffner. Each was introduced.

Responsible for the decorations were Mrs. Etta Morant, Mrs. George Skegner, and Mrs. Joseph Smith. Mrs. Johnson was awarded first prize for bringing in the most new members.

Mrs. Joseph Smith had as her guests 35 new members from the Santa Anita Oaks district.

We desire to extend our grateful appreciation for the standard maintained for us by Messrs. Greens, Inc., and Mr. Thorndike, for their valuable help and everready courtesy through the past years.

Your Begonian Editor.

BEGONIA EXPERTS FORM SOCIETY HERE FRIDAY NIGHT

(From San Gabriel Sun Friday, January 26, 1940)

• Carl F. Essig, San Gabriel Horticulturist, was named President when Begonia experts of the San Gabriel Valley met last Friday evening to organize a San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society.

Twenty - one persons, representing many sections of the Valley, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Bisbee at Rosemead last Friday evening for the election of officers of the new organization.

With Arthur Nelson acting as temporary chairman, ballots were cast and the following officers were elected: Carl F. Essig of San Gabriel, President; Miss Lucile King of Covina, Vice President; Mrs. A. N. Hartwell of Monrovia, Secretary; Mrs. R. C. Harrington of El Monte, Treasurer; and Arthur Nelson of Arcadia, A. N. Hartwell of Monrovia, and Dr. J. B. Lauder of Arcadia were named members of the Board of Directors.

Appointed to Chairmanships were: Mrs. Wm. Bisbee, Program Chairman; Mrs. Maude A. Fox, Publicity; T. A. Dodson, Plant Sales; Mrs. J. B. Land, Refreshments; and Frank N. Fox, Seed Research.

Following the election of officers, Mr. Essig read plant resolutions which were designed to govern the Society's activities. In the discussion that took place, members agreed that because of its location in this section where certain types of begonias are difficult to raise, the Society would also devote itself to the study and propagation of all shade-loving plants.

The meetings of the organization are open to all persons interested in plants. According to present plans, meetings will be held at the homes of the various members whose gardens and lath houses contain many interesting forms of plant life.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Dodson of 1064 East Hermosa Drive, San Gabriel, will be host and hostess to the group at the next meeting on February 16.

In March, the meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fox, 2112 South Sixth Avenue, Arcadia, and in April at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Essig, 416 North Muscatel Avenue, San Gabriel.

Branch News

Pasadena Branch: The evening of the second Tuesday of the month is always open house at the Pasadena Public Library. February 13th, Miss Charlotte Hoak spoke a few minutes on Begonias. The lists of Begonias made up to date were passed around.

Col. Gale presented Mr. Rockwell and Mrs. Wiley with the certificates they won at the last Annual Begonia Show in Hollywood.

Mr. Merrill Thompson representing the Destruxol Corp. of Pasadena presented three very interesting reels of pictures on Leaves, Roots and Fungi. They were shown with a brand new projector with sound all thoroughly enjoyed by 125 people. Representatives from Hollywood, Glendale and San Gabriel were present. The pictures were very educational in that they start in with a leaf or root and show its structure, form and divers shapes. They then are dissected and thru microscopic pictures the functions of all the factors of life and growth of plants are shown. The sequence of photographs taken every few minutes for a period of weeks show up on the film in rapid succession and one may see the development of weeks in a few seconds. These films are available by getting in touch with the Destruxol Corp. of Pasadena 2, Calif., along with Mr. Thompson who is a very good speaker and puts over his subject very well.

The Flower Show to be held in Pasadena Brookside Park on March 9, 10 and 11, 1945 will be a splendid opportunity for the American Begonia Society members to do credit to the organization by bringing to Mr. Bailey as Chairman and Miss Hoak as Classification Chairman all good plants possible for exhibit.

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Premiums, ribbons and certificates will be presented to the winners in a number of classes. Classes open to all and under the sponsorship of the Pasadena Branch. If your plants have been protected through the Winter, they will be presentable and shown in mass will make a worth while exhibit. Everyone is asked to cooperate to the utmost.

The meeting closed with a fine sale of plants the net proceeds of which was donated to the American Red Cross. (\$36.91)

(Continued on page 48)

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IS THIS HOW YOU DO IT?

By an Amateur.

(Continued from the February issue)

• March, the month of winds on the West Coast is here and, Old Mother Nature being willing, the danger of frost is past; the February work is finished, windbreaks are up and the lath and glass houses are as clean as a New England housewife's kitchen, but if you will grow begonias the work is never done and March starts the planting season for most of us.

SEED. If you wish flowering plants from July on, sow tuberous-rooted seed now if you have not already done so, although good results may be obtained from April and May sowings. The early planting should result in small tubers upon maturing in December. Follow the simple directions as given in the May, 1944 issue, page 321. Yes, I know that I said, "seed may be planted any time after the first of July, etc." At that time I was speaking about begonia seed as a whole, I am being more specific now and refer to the seed of the tuberous-rooted begonia only. Although the seed will sprout at any time **UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS**, this type must be considered with an eye to the blooming period. Cold weather planting will require controlled heat of 65 to 70 degrees or a bottom heat of 60 to 70 degrees I have seen wonderful results obtained in flat seed pans balanced precariously on the top of the hot water heater. Large, flat sardine cans with nail holes in the bottom to provide drainage are splendid for this purpose. Although experts say, "do not use tin," I have found these cans perfect, but a new one must be used each time as they rust quickly. It is well to take the chill off the water used and increase the moisture gradually as the sprouting takes place. Seed will germinate in from 5 to 20 days, and when three or four leaves have formed prick out and transplant.

Years ago I followed the simple instructions given by our beloved Alfred D. Robinson in the "Rosecroft's Begonia Guide" for making the instrument he recommended for pricking out the tiny seedlings and I am sure that Mrs. Robinson will not mind if I repeat them at this time. He said, "A very efficient tweezer can be made from the Japanese bamboo stake — one smaller than a lead pencil — cut pieces an inch below the joint, split cane almost to joint — trim a good sliv-

er from the inside of both pieces — insert a small piece through slit to hold tweezer apart and trim to suit; also shape other end to help firm soil."

TUBERS. Check the tubers which you put in the leaf mold last month and if necessary move into more light or increase the heat to speed the growth. (See: February, 1945 issue, page 26) All tubers should be showing the pink tips of the new growth and a fair root system should be developing and will soon be ready to be planted into a richer soil. I use the one given in the cultural bulletin put out by the Society, that is approximately three parts of oak leaf mold, two parts of well-decayed manure, (cow or steer) and one part coarse sand. This potting soil should be prepared several months in advance and used moist.

PRUNING. Fibrous-rooted varieties should be showing new shoots pushing their way up to the light and, now that the danger of frost is over, they may be pruned severely. Remove all broken stems and all growth over one year old leaving last year's stems as the best bloom will show on one year old wood. Cut the low bedding types back to within two or three inches of the ground.

PEST CONTROL. During the season from March to June you will notice small moths flying around the plants, days later on inspecting closely you will find tiny worms on the under side of the leaves usually at the edge of ragged holes they are making. Strange as it may seem these tiny destructive worms are hatched from the eggs deposited on the underside of the leaves by that small, seemingly harmless moth. Do not wait for the appearance of holes in the leaves, start spraying now and keep it up until danger is past and be very certain to treat the underside of every leaf as well as the top. Use either a spray solution of a well known oil emulsion with a teaspoon of a pyrethrin product mixed into it, or of arsenate of lead or dust with the powder; the latter may be unsightly for a short time but so are holes in the leaves of your favorite plant when you get ready to take it to the Spring flower show and it is very disconcerting to see the prize go to a small plant showing better care.

Thru lack of space must hold over balance of C. D. Tanner's "Tuberous Begonia by Seed."

Begonia Roesli, Regel

By ALICE M. CLARK,
San Diego, Calif.

• B. Roesli has always been a controversial subject. Some Begonians will recall raising seed that was collected by the University of California in the old Machu Pichu ruins of Peru and distributed in 1936 under the number, 1773. At that time it was also known as Macchu Pichu and Bracteosa.

Eventually it was found to have been introduced sixty years earlier, by Benedict Roesli, who sent the seeds from Peru to Dr. Regel of the Royal Botanical Garden at St. Petersburg, Russia. He grew the species and then described and illustrated it in *Gartenflora*, in 1876, naming it Roesli, for its discoverer.

In 1883, another plate and description of Roesli appeared in "The Garden," an English Magazine. In this case the seeds were said to have been received from Roesli, in Mexico, by M. Benary of Erfurt, four years or more earlier. The plant had leaves ten or more inches long, with a spot of red at the center, an extra-long flower spathe, and incurved petals, all of which items are different from those we depict.

In the Curtis Botanical Magazine for 1884, Hooker wrote an illustrated article on a Mexican species sent by Roesli to Benary and later raised by Mr. Lynch of the Cambridge Botanical Garden. Hooker called attention to the fact that the name, Roesli, had already been used by Regel, so he proposed to rename the plant, originally described in *The Garden*, "Lyncheana" for the man who was growing it so successfully in England.

Hooker's description also varies from our plant in that the roots were somewhat tuberous, large leaves with red sinus, and flower panicles six to eight inches over. Incidentally, his account of petioles, "thick as a goose quill" and peduncles, "the size of a swan's quill," taken together with the heron and crane's bill of *pelargonium* nomenclature, make us wonder if botanists were all ornithologists in the old days.

The Garden magazine quickly accepted the corrected name, *Lyncheana*, but it was a while before Regel realized that his Roesli was really a different plant. The characteristics of *Lyncheana* are found more nearly today in a hybrid made by Lemoine about that time, between *Lyncheana* and *B. semperflorens*. Known as *B. semperflorens*, variety *gigantea rosea*, it is still with us and shows the

large leaves with the red nerve center. Chevalier, in *Les Begonias*, prints a clear photograph of *B. Lyncheana*, and a description that resembles that of *B. s. gigantea rosea*. He also has a page on *B. Roesli* which is in accord with our plant, as to height, color of stems and size of leaves and flowers, but the red sinus is present and the flowers are white. He said it was wrongly known in some places as *rubro-setulosa*. *Die Begonien* makes no mention of any of these names. Our nomenclature authority, Mrs. Krauss, discusses our subject in the *Begonian* for Dec. 1943 and again in June, 1944, remarking that at the Gray Herbarium it is still called *bracteosa*. Only time and more research can settle the matter.

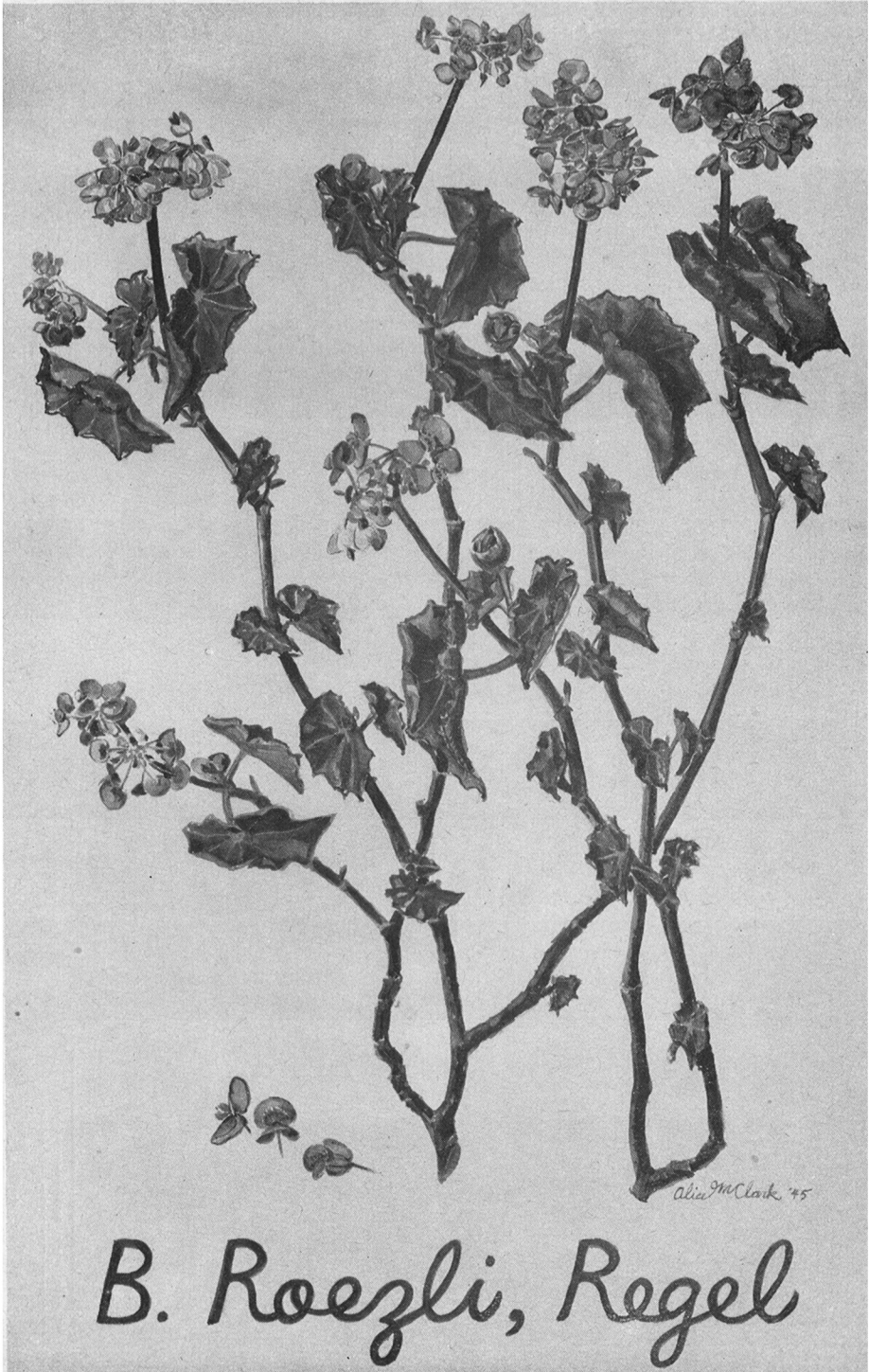
As my sketch shows, Roesli should bloom in the summer, when its leaves are full size, instead of at its dormant winter period. Like Washington Street, it does not do itself justice at this season but the lovely panicles of pink bloom on Roesli are quite worth waiting for. The small new leaves enable us to see the rangy habit of growth, which was its drawback in the old days as well as now. My specimen is four feet high in a pot, with nice new blooming shoots at the base, but I have only attempted to sketch the upper eighteen inches of the plant.

The older wood is knobby with small warts, all of a light tan color. In the younger parts this changes to a light green with white spots. The average space between joints varies from three inches in the old wood to one in the new, which shows a red ring at the juncture. The leaf stems are about a third of the blade length, and a watery pinkish-green.

The leaves themselves are too puckered to show their more mature, broad, oval shape, scalloped, slightly lobed and tapered to a short point. Where the petiole is attached, the sinus is raised and whitish on top with nine elevated veins radiating from it. The color is a rich shining green above, dull below, with a marked flush toward the margin. From above, this shows as a bright red selvage, with almost invisible hairs on the crenate edge. Normally the leaves are five to six inches long and thick enough to clothe the stalk with attractive green, much like *nitida*, var. *odorata alba*.

The flowers bloom very freely from

(Continued on page 54)



B. Roeszli, Regel

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 44)

Riverside Branch: The March meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. Curt Smith, 3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif. March. 13th, 1945.

San Gabriel Branch: The resume of this meeting is presented separately but this is a short addition. The meeting had all the earmarks of a convention and much credit is due to the various chairmen who worked in accord to achieve a most successful, interesting and informative meeting. The speaker, Mr. Harry M. Davis, is very well versed in his subject and demonstrated the proper technique of grafting Camellias, as well as instructing the gathering on the care of these beautiful flowering plants becoming more and more popular.

Mrs. Velma C. Dunn was presented a gift from the San Gabriel Society by President Mr. Heffner, as a token of appreciation for her services during the past year. No less than 244 members and guests attended this Fifth Anniversary Dinner Party which was handled in very expert style by a group of members including Mrs. Arthur Nelson, Mrs. Wm. D. Morant, Mrs. Jos. T. Smith, Mrs. Hartwell, Cpt. Dere, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and others. Those who were forced to miss this meeting missed a memorable evening.

Mrs. Ruby Liedler will be speaker at the March meeting, her subject: Fuchsias. She is an outstanding authority on this delightful flower and worth while coming to Arcadia to hear her.

Bellflower Branch: Meets every second Tuesday of the month, therefore the news of this branch will of necessity be

SEED FOR SHADE

CINERARIA, PRIMULAS, BEGONIAS

Write or Visit

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"Seeds That Make Them So"

almost a month old, but still interesting. They meet in the Community Presbyterian Church Social Hall, Corner of Mayne and Orchard Street, Bellflower, Calif.

Inglewood Branch: Mr. Harold Hart, President Elect of the A.B.S., was the inspiring and amusing speaker at the February meeting. The beautiful ferns which he displayed certainly proved that his methods produce results. A very successful pot-luck supper was served before the meeting.

One of the many new features of the monthly meetings is the auction held at the close of the evening with Mr. Louis R. Schirmer acting as auctioneer. Not only is this a lot of fun but it is also a financial success. March Speaker will be prominent young Horticulturist, Miss Peggy Sullavan, her subject: "Unusual Shade Plants."

(Continued on page 55)

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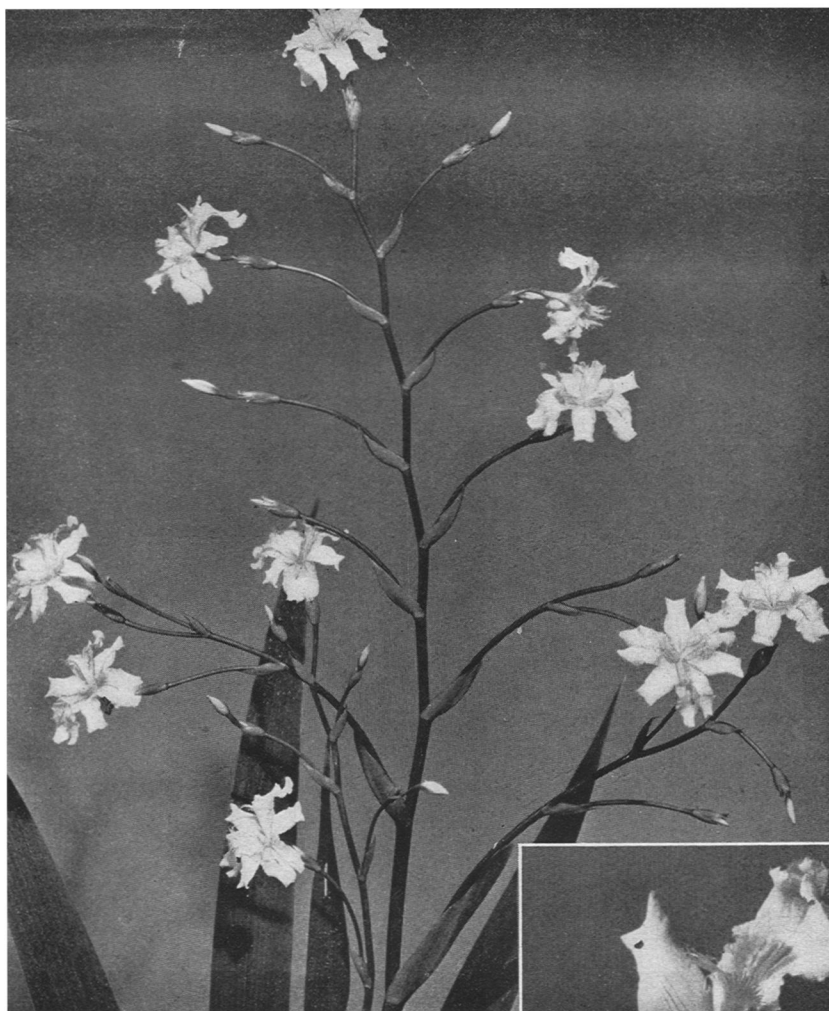


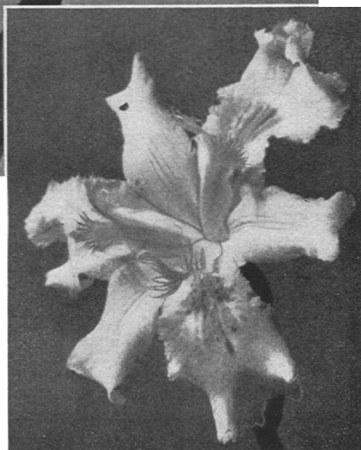
Photo — Courtesy Oakhurst Gardens.

Iris Nada

By MARIA WILKES,
Los Angeles, Calif.

• The "Nada" Iris is one that really revels in shade. It loves to be allowed to roam to make a fine ground cover under non-fruit-bearing trees and in return it flowers with large candelabra-like inflorescences for about three months of the Spring. (It is already in bloom February 15th, 1945 under lath.)

These two-foot flower stalks are branching and rebranching and are literally loaded with buds which open successfully into delightful orchid-like white or pale blue flowers with chrome yellow crests touched lightly with lavender around the crests. The lavender is repeated in the style branches which are beautifully lacerated. The standards and falls are waved and frilled and altogether



the flowers are fashioned most delicately though they last very well as cut flowers and make decorative arrangements, because each bud will bear about five flowers one after the other.

The soft-green leaves are arranged in fan form which renders the plant an attractive pot plant for shade and might even be fine for large hanging baskets.

Mr. Girdlian of Oakhurst Gardens de-

(Continued on page 54)



At left above a fine *B. argentea guttata*. At center a large *B. Houghtoni* and a host of texes. At center of Eastern window a wine Baron Rothschild (*Fireflus*).

Rex Begonias First and Foremost

By MARIA WILKES,
Los Angeles, Calif.

• Mrs. Hazel Grigsby of Gardena, California, is fortunate inasmuch as Mr. Grigsby is entirely in sympathy with her engrossing hobby, indeed, she says, when it comes to going on a vacation or staying at home to take care of their precious plants, the vacation is postponed.

While Mrs. Grigsby started like most amateurs, with a few fuchsias and a handful of begonias, it soon became evident that her passion is the propagation of the Rex. She loves to make little ones out of big ones and then she just has to see how big she can make the little ones grow. Witness her two mammoth and perfect plants which won highest honors for Rex begonias in the 1944 National Begonia Show, *B. Rex President Carnot* and the *B. Rex Emperor*. The latter has twice won the Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup for the Best Rex at The National Begonia Show.

As Work-shop Mrs. Grigsby has one of those rambling "out-of-one-into-another" lathouses. Lately she has been able to add a greenhouse and the fun has increased accordingly.

While the greatest love is for Rex begonias, a visit to her place soon reveals why she was able to exhibit other plants that also ran very closely toward winning highest honors. See the smallest picture, on the extreme left is the prize winner, *B. glaucophylla scandens*, the one with pointed green leaves gracefully falling in cascades all the way of five feet to the ground. When in bloom it bears salmon pink-shaded flowers with a white edge. Mr. Robinson's catalogue mentioned it as a scarce variety and a wonderful basket plant. It is a remarkable plant and it drew much attention at the



The left is the Southern and the rear is the Western wall. Gloxinia at left. Carmelita 1st prize in spirals center. Note heat-seeking stephanotis.

last National Begonia Show, but because of difficulty of culture and the special perfection of Mr. Eaker's Calla Lily Begonia — that was the winner of the Sweepstakes.

The other plant of *B. glaucophylla scandens* on the right center of the picture is one that grew down until it reached the ground five feet below and then began to take root and kept on growing before Mrs. Grigsby was able to segregate the growing tips.

Also brought to Hollywood and in the running for sweepstake honors was a magnificent *B. argenteo guttata* which Mrs. Grigsby had trained to grow out and erect like a peacock's extended tail. It was a beauty.

A very fine *B. argenteo guttata* may be seen in the extreme left of the Eastern section of the lath-house on the right page, note the heavy crop of blooms. At center-post see a fine *B. Houghtoni* which has leaves like *B. haageana* but has

more pointed leaves and a decidedly bushy habit. Mr. Robinson pointed out in his catalogue that it is one of the best begonias for pots.

The Rex begonias speak for themselves. The lathhouse is of regulation build with a muslin cover which is found to be a necessity in Gardena because of the daily Westerly winds. The Rexes do not like winds and so Mrs. Grigsby has protected hers with a South and a West wall besides the muslin cover overhead. Note the spiral Rex Carmelita, which won 1st place in the Spiral Class last year. Next to it, in the center of the So. West section we see a potted *stephanotis floribunda* which was placed in the lath-house for protection, but it loves the heat and it immediately ran to the ceiling and began pushing through the muslin and bloomed prodigiously but dropped all its lower leaves. Truly plants have ways and means of telling us what they like.

(Continued on page 53)

Certificate Of Awards

• The American Begonia Society Certificates of Awards for prize winning begonias may be awarded in any begonia show or flower show having a separate division for begonias, provided the show is officially recognized by the American Begonia Society. In order to secure recognition, the point system of judging as adopted by the Society must be used and the names and qualifications of the judges must be submitted for approval.

While the normal procedure is for a branch of the American Begonia Society to recommend approval of the show, if there is no branch in the locality, a letter to the Director of Public Relations by any group planning on holding a show will be given consideration by the Board of Directors.

The letter should include the location and date of the show, name of the organization or club sponsoring the show, a copy of the schedule showing an estimate of the number of plants to be exhibited in each class and the names and qualifications of the judges.

The Director of Public Relations will be pleased to assist any group planning a flower show in preparing a schedule for the begonia exhibits, provided he is furnished an estimate of the number of plants to be entered, broken down into types.

The number of Certificates awarded in any flower show depends upon the total number and classes of begonias exhibited.

Send for Cultural Bulletins from Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark. See Front page.

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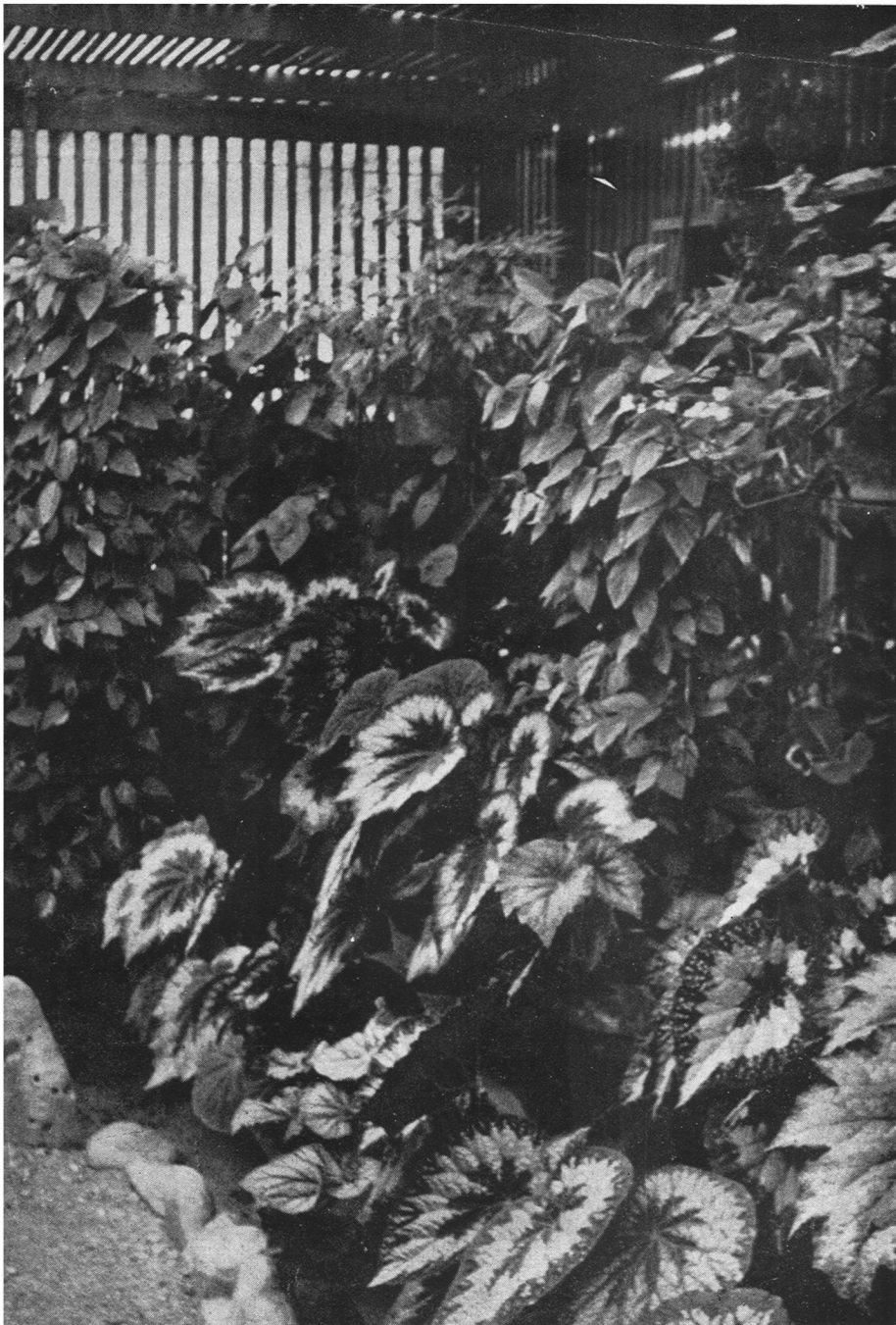
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B. glaucophylla scandens bears salmon flowers with white edge. Cascade 5 feet long and off center right, six feet down to ground.

Note the gloxinia on the left of the stephanotis, that was the second blooming of the season. The basket of lobelia is a pretty thing to brighten the color scheme of a lathhouse.

The cuttings of Rex begonias, Mrs. Grigsby says, are best made in March to

August from old leaves which are cut in wedge shaped pieces. These are dipped in rooting powder and planted half an inch deep in flats full of leaf mold or sand. The point of the wedge is inserted just below the vein junction in leaf
(Continued on next page)

BEGONIA ROEZLI REGEL

(Continued from page 46)

the axils at the tip of the branches. It will be noticed that there is another bud bract near each flowering stem. At first the flower pedicel is short and light green while the bud is enclosed in two heavy, transparent, membranous bracts which fall early. As the flowers unfold, the peduncle grows to about four or five inches long and becomes a deep blood red. It divides into two parts which are each subtended again to carry a corymb of blooms four to five inches across. The bright, cerise-pink male flowers have two petals, sharply reflexed to expose the handsome aigrette of yellow stamen. As the male blooms mature they fall and disclose the pistillate flowers which have grown from mere nubbins to full size. The color scheme then becomes lighter as the ovaries are white with three pink wings, one somewhat larger than the others, all with blunt ends. Two incurved pink petals open wide to show the six, much-twisted styles of greenish yellow.

I am curious to know if this plant is satisfactory, indoors. Perhaps it could be trained to be more compact. With me it makes a fine background in the Summer and now I have the foreground covered with *incarnata*, var. *Saundersi*, in heavy bloom. Some pink and white azaleas and bedding begonias edge the pool and handsome plants of *B. phyllomaniaca* (Jessie) and *B. Templinii* and camellias enrich a picture that could be called "California Spring."

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IRIS NADA

(Continued from page 49)

veloped this flower by crossing two of the crested type Iris — the japonica and the Watti and happily, "Nada" has caught the good qualities of both parents.

Any shady corner or nook will be acceptable to this plant. The soil need not be too rich, just a good leafy loam with a light dressing of bonemeal. The soil need be kept only moderately moist — the plant will do the rest.

REX GEGONIAS FIRST

(Continued from page 53)

mold preferably to sand because she thinks that gives her a stronger plant. One of the secrets of success with these leaf cuttings is to keep the leaf mold just moist and never wet or the leaves will rot. As soon as the little plants have made three or four leaves they should be planted in three-inch pots full of pure leaf mold, watered well and kept out of drafts in shady places for a few days to recover from the shock of transplanting. Mrs. Grigsby pointed out that she assures her plants good drainage without drying out too fast by placing them in benches with pea-gravel and if they are on the ground the pea-gravel keeps the lower sides of the leaves from being spattered with mud.

(To be continued.)

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 48)

Hollywood Branch: The Fourth Anniversary Dinner was a very enjoyable event with much credit to Mrs. Edith Bate, Dinner Chairman, with Mrs. Samuel Pedgrift and Mrs. S. F. Fisher as a very efficient Telephone committee. There were 102 reservations and everyone felt these ladies and the others who worked hard deserved much praise.

Mr. Ebersole opened the Round-table discussion by a light dissertation on Begonia Nomenclature offering the suggestion that we work out a method by which through the addition of a letter or other symbol we can tell immediately whether the begonia in question is tuberous, rhizomatous, fibrous or Rex.

Mrs. Weber offered suggestions for the February begonia garden. Mrs. Kaup spoke briefly about Begonia angularis.

Mr. Murray Hawkins told of his fuchsias and begonias being ready to receive their annual trimming which he does quite severely. This brought forth ideas and suggestions on how others are treating their plants now.

Miss Helen Ehret spoke on Saint Paulia Violets which seem to be simple for her to grow. This caused quite a discussion.

Mrs. Pedgrift, quite successful with fuchsias, gave some excellent suggestions and carried her subject through interestingly. President Cocke acted as Discussion Chairman.

Mrs. W. C. Drummond, Program Chairman, sends us the program for 1945.

Program of Subjects for 1945

January — Tuberous Begonias, from seed to tubers.

February — Annual dinner. Round table discussion on Nomenclature, Begonias, Fuchsias and Saint Paulia Violets.

March — Camellias.

April — Propagation of Rex and Fibrous Begonias. Easter Bonnet Parade.

May — Pests, Fertilizers, Hormones and Vitamins.

June — Fuchsias.

July — Annual Picnic.

August — Rex Begonias.

September — Fibrous Begonias.

October — Naming and classification of Begonias.

November — Lath-house and Rock gardens.

December — House plants.

A Begonia Lesson by one of the members will be given each month.

A five minute period will be given at each meeting to answer your questions on Begonias and shade plants. Please write them out and deposit in the question box as you come in.

Glendale Branch: The January meeting featured a round-table discussion between our own members and guests. Many timely gardening ideas were discussed. Dr. and Mrs. Drummond of Hollywood added to the program generously.

We envy the San Diego Branch "Jeff" and Mrs. Ross will join but we know they will be quite an asset to any group. We shall miss them greatly and look forward to seeing them once in awhile. They take our good wishes for success and well-being in their new venture with them. This through Fred Arnold.

Mrs. Helen H. Grigsby, Secretary, reports appointment by Mrs. Bayer, President, of Mr. Schimmel as Director of Membership with Miss Isabel Mullen as Chairman.

San Francisco Branch: Another splendid meeting long to be remembered by all who heard Mr. Irwin S. Geer, owner of the Parkside Begonia Gardens speak on how he grows his choice tuberous begonias. He dwelt emphatically on soil conditions and careful culture. His charming wife described most interestingly how she grows fibrous and Rex begonias.

(Continued on next page)

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V I S T A - - CALIFORNIA

California Heights Branch: The January meeting was held at Mrs. Jenkins' home with Mrs. Kennedy speaking on Planting, Pruning and Feeding of Roses. Most interesting and helpful on all three counts. The February meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Mathews. Mr. Cuyler is a new member of this branch.

North Long Beach Branch: This branch had a very enjoyable evening at their February meeting. Mr. John Van-Barneveld of the California Roses Inc. gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the care and culture of roses. Beautifully decorated tables carried out the Valentine theme and was under the supervision of Mrs. Dyckman, Mrs. Wendel and Mrs. Fernandies. The March meeting is to be a "Country Store," at which time all members are urged to bring something useful, which will be auctioned off during the evening. This will be a most enjoyable and interesting meeting, so all members are urged to come and bring a friend or neighbor and donation.

San Diego Branch: At the January meeting Mr. E. D. Brooks, President, happily presented as speaker of the evening Mr. C. I. Jerabek, plant propagator with a background of over twenty-five years at the Balboa Park Nursery and The Naval Hospital. He has been an active member of the Branch since the first year of organization. His subject was How to Grow Cuttings in the form of a demonstration with a large basket of material. He contends that nothing but the sharpest builders sand should be used. He cut the stems of ornamentals into small segments for the plant sale and also distributed seeds of about six different plants among which were a white Bird of Paradise and the very deep green asparagus fern which must be grown in the shade.

The shallow seed box he prepared to show how it should be done had a layer of soil mixture such as two parts soil, one part sand, one part leafmold and one part well rotted manure covered with an inch of sphagnum moss and the seeds planted in that to prevent damping off.

Mrs. J. A. Hegel stressed the importance of cutting back Fuchsias this month of February and to plant cuttings around the mother plant for easier identification. Fibrous begonias also should



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Round Robins Circulate Information and Build Friendships

By FLORENCE KNOCK
Crooks, South Dakota

• It is not possible for all flower growers to attend garden meetings but the correspondence garden clubs are offering to members a great deal of information, inspiration and good fellowship.

Our "Begonian" Editor has asked for information about the experiences of the Round Robins with which I am connected and what R.R.s can do for those who have no meeting place at present, but have time for some kind of gardening and flower growing.

At once I will say that R.R.s which are composed of conscientious and enthusiastic members, radiate so much cheer and offer such a liberal garden education, that I will recommend R.R.s to those who attend garden clubs as well as to those who can not do so at present. (Now, someone else can write and recommend garden meetings—they are so helpful and interesting.)

Flower Grower's Round Robins are conducted by Marion Thomas of New York. Only 3 years ago the suggestion of a Herb Robin was inserted in that magazine and to date there are nine full grown Herb Robins flying their regular schedules. Some other subjects were asked for, until there now are 200 Robins, many having 10 members each. These are devoted to 56 different subjects and more will be added as requests come and directors are found for each 10 member group.

Begonias seem to be the most popular subject. Twelve groups are writing about Begonias and the Gloxinia and African Violet have eleven.

In her book, *Begonias*, Bessie Buxton says that a Begonia R. R. was started in 1921, a second in 1932 and a third in 1937, each having 12 members. Whether more of these Round Robins have since been formed or if they have any connection with the 12 I do not know, but it would be interesting to have some of the original members from 1921 tell us about the first Robin.

Anyone can afford to belong to a Robin group, the only expense being the postage, which is 9 to 12 cents for each 10 letter package. Elementary and ad-

vanced groups are open to the wide range of interested gardeners. Many varied problems are presented for discussion but some experienced gardener is usually ready to solve the query. Members in larger cities have access to more Botanical literature and can often carry on valuable research. These are the groups which promote interest in the endless enigma—nomenclature. Florists realize that they must be familiar with more than the 'common name'.

Sometimes the 10 members represent as many States and so the contacts and experiences are indeed varied, but having such an absorbing interest in common, beautiful friendships are formed—that continue on and on. Robin members always have friendly pen-friends.

Few garden clubs can have 10 talks on one subject at the same meeting, but Robins can enjoy each one and take as extensive notes as is desired. The questions that arise can be answered in the next group of letters. In this way we never feel out of touch with other gardeners. Since so many subjects are offered we may join any number of groups and so are not limited in our garden lore. Usually each Family of plants is composed of so many different species that the letters are never monotonous.

Among members there is usually a very generous exchange of cuttings and plants. It is indeed a thrilling experience to open a box of well packed cuttings, fresh and ready to grow and add new interest to the window garden. This exchange of plants also has another valuable phase. If a certain plant refuses to continue on, we can always turn to our versatile members who are so willing to "share-back". It is amazing to notice how well cuttings travel through many days by train and road when well packed.

Since R.R.s are so worthwhile and since most all gardeners like to even talk about their plants, perhaps our Begonian would like to open a new Department for Correspondence Begonia Clubs. If so, here is my name for a beginning of Begonian Correspondence Club number 1. How about it, Begonianites?

BRANCH NEWS

be cut back now, cut about two inches below the surface of the ground. These slips are then rooted for new stock.

Because of illness, Paul Bloomer did not accept the directorship, but R. E. Lee was appointed to the vacancy.

CONDENSED MINUTES MEETING NATIONAL BOARD American Begonia Society held January 22nd, 1945, Edwards Wildey Bldg., Los Angeles. Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. with President Elect Harold Hart in the chair in the absence of President Nelson.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Hart, Hawkins, Dunkle, Lawrence, Bailey, Minehart and Gordon Baker Lloyd; Mesdames Wilkes, Weber, Harker, Hartwell; Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harker; Mesdames Bayer, Dewar, Clark and Pedgrift.

Minutes of Dec. 11th read and approved.

Reports of Editor and Business Manager, Treasurer, and Membership Fees Chairman read. On motion duly seconded each report was approved as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Mr. Lawrence, Speakers Bureau and Public Relations: "I have the revised constitution for the Glendale Branch and I would like to move that the Revised Constitution be approved by the Board." CARRIED.

Letter from Mrs. Buxton relative to the scale of points for use in judging flower arrangements—copy of letter and reply thereto attached to Minutes as part thereof. Mr. Lawrence offered the following motion:

"I move that the Begonia Society adopt the scale recommended by the National Council of State Garden Clubs for judging flower arrangements—

Color combination	25
Proportion and balance	25
Distinction & originality	20
Condition	10
Relation to receptacle	10
Suitability of combinations of material	10
	100

motion carried unanimously.

MATTER DISCUSSED

The question of what effect the government edict against conventions would have on our annual meeting was discussed but it was thought that the full meaning of this order would very likely be clarified within the next month or two and at that time it would be determined whether it would be good policy to hold our annual meeting this fall.

Mr. Hart reported for the Robinson Memorial: "Finances in good shape; I am not entirely satisfied with the shape of the plants at the present time but I do not know what can be done about that. There is the question of proper heating; lighting conditions might also be at fault; but the boys are working along as best they can and I feel sure everything will be all right in the Spring but the begonias are in pretty good shape. Checks for the Robinson Memorial received from Pasadena and Bellflower Branches, Hollywood is mailing one."

Questions and Answers must be held over until April.

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WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. Hart reported for his Committee to select a Membership Fees Chairman, as follows:

This office is an appointive one by the President and since our President is away, we will await Mr. Nelson's return but the party we would like to recommend is Mrs. Mary Clark of Inglewood. We feel that Mrs. Clark is well qualified for that position and has the interest of the Begonia Society at heart and in talking with the Harkers they will continue and finish out the month and will work with Mrs. Clark in every way. Mrs. Wilkes moved "That the board sanction the choice of Mrs. Clark by the Committee as Membership Fees Chairman and that this information be given the President upon his return." CARRIED.

REPORTS FROM FOLLOWING BRANCHES

Mr. Bailey, Pasadena Branch; Mr. Johnson, San Gabriel Valley Branch; Mrs. Dewar, for the Glendale Branch; Mrs. Drummond and Mr. Locke, for Hollywood Branch; Mr. Minehart, for the Inglewood Branch; Mr. Harker, for Parent Branch, also brought verbal report from North Long Beach. All reported interest keeping up; able to get good speakers; attendance in most cases good and good parties over the holidays.

Dr. Drummond presented to the Board an amazing supply of semperflorens seeds which he had gathered and cleaned, keeping each color separate, to be handled as the Board saw fit. Mr. Hart asked that all members give thought to this gift and at the next meeting we would work out a plan to handle these seeds for the good of the Society.

Mr. Harker stated the supply of Tuberos Cultural Bulletins was getting low and asked that the Board give thought to a reprint order. This will be brought up at the Feb. Board meeting.

As the Dominguez Branch is no longer active and hold no meetings it was suggested that this Branch be deleted from the Magazine. APPROVED.

More members were urged to attend the Board meetings and thus keep abreast the Times.

Gonda Hartwell, Corres. Sec.

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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 March American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Room 302 Edwards-Willey Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, March 26th, 1945, at 7:45 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, March 1st
Laurence Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Monday, March 5th, 7:30 p.m.
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, March 6th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Secy.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, March 7th, 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.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, March 8th, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Speaker: Miss Peggy Sullivan
Subject: "Unusual Shade Plants"

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, March 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secy.,
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.
Camellia Propagation

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, March 9th, 8:00 p.m.
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Secy.-Treas.,
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, March 12th, 8 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secy.,
169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.
"Country Store" Auction

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, March 13th, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, March 13th, 8:00 p.m.
At Community Presbyterian Church Hall
Mrs. Ardel Radle, Secy.-Treas.,
920 Flower Str., Bellflower, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, March 13th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, March 18th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Boyd
1107 Miller Street, Berkeley, Calif.
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, March 19th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, March 21st, 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.
Mary Hotaling, Secy.-Treas.,
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, March 23rd, 8 p.m.
American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 So. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.
Mrs. Ruby Liedler
Subject: Fuchsias

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, March 23rd, 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 DIEGO BRANCH

Tuesday, March 27th, 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.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Monday, March 26th
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, March 27th, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
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

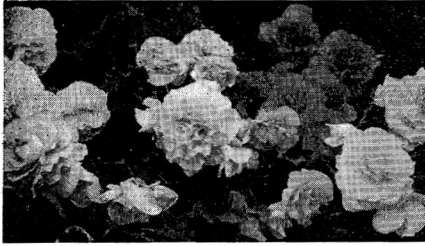
Mrs. David Finley, Sec'y.
New Canaan, Conn.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
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