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Q. Is there any difference between the begonia "Lady Mac" and the "Lorraine"? I have "Lady Mac" and yet when I look at the picture of the "Lorraine" they look alike.

From Mrs. V. A., Riverside, Calif.

A. If you can get hold of a copy of Mrs. Buxton's "Begonias," I think you would be interested in reading her story of the socotrana hybrids on pages 21 to 24. The earlier crosses, Gloire de Lorraine (socotrana x dre-

gei) and Glory of Cincinnati (socotrana x Gloire de Lorraine) have leaves like socotrana, peltate or round with a depressed center which holds water causing rotting of the leaves. Among later crosses she names Melior, Mrs. Peterson, Lady Mac and Marjorie Gibbs. "All these later varieties have a split leaf which permits water to drain off readily, larger flowers and better lasting qualities in the hot dry air of the home."

Q. Would like to know if you have any data on raising Tuberous Begonias in southern Florida. When would be the best time to start tubers here so that they would be ready for Christmas?

From E. R., Miami, Florida.

A. I lived near Miami for several years at one time and I have wondered many times since I have been playing with Begonias here in California, why I did not see more of them in southern Florida. You have the humidity and not too great extremes of heat and cold. The only thing that Miami does not have is the soil—particularly the leaf mold that we find out here gives such good results.

I very much doubt if Tuberous Begonias can be grown for Christmas blooming without greenhouse forcing. We start them here in Jan.-Feb. for bloom from June to October. The bulbous begonias—the Socotrana hybrids—which are winter-blooming, are started in August.

The requirements of Begonias culturally would be pretty much the same the world over, so I think it would pay you to send Mr. Dere for the Cultural Bulletin on Tuberous Begonias.

Q. Since the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens are no longer in business, can you direct me to someone else who can supply various begonias, especially of the Rex and Fibrous types. So many of the advertisers in THE BEGONIAN do not issue catalogues that I am at a loss where to turn to procure new plants. (Ed.-Rosecroft is being re-established.)

From E. H. F., Sonoma, Calif.

A. It is true that catalogues are few and far between. The main reason is that catalogues are quite expensive. But I think you will find that most of our advertisers get out lists of the begonias that they can supply. That is all that anyone who keeps the back numbers of THE BEGONIAN should need. Just look, for example, at the index to THE BEGONIAN for the year 1944, which appeared in the Jan., 1945, issue, and notice how many varieties of begonias were described during the year. By checking the lists against the indices and then looking up the comments on the various begonias, you will get more complete descriptions than any catalogue could possibly give you.