

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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The BEGONIAN

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OUR HOBBY IS EVER BUILDING FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

● What hobby is there—anywhere—to compare with that of gardening? No matter what type of house you live in . . . there is a specific style of gardening design to fit it. Whatever your personality may be—it can be translated and enhanced into color, form and character to match it in the garden.

Be it sun or shade, hill or dale, field or rill each has an appeal of its own. The more difficult the terrain the more it challenges the ingenuity of the gardener, so that, like people themselves, there are never two alike.

The seasons come to break into our smug attitude. If we boast of our ability this year, we might be set back a little next season—just to remind us that we are not working or playing this game alone. There are countless

partners to be taken into consideration and each has a way of its own.

Nature may be studied for eons, yet its changes may never be quite understood.

Gardening, then, is not just digging and planting. IS IT NOW?

Your Editor,

MARIA WILKES.

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A glimpse of a corner of the patio begonia garden at the home of Col. and Mrs. C. M. Gale, where the reception will be held at 4 p.m. for guests of the Washington Birthday Garden Tour, sponsored by the American Begonia Society, Saturday, Feb. 22nd, 1947.
(Pasadena Star-News Photograph)

WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY GARDEN TOUR AND RECEPTION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1947, IN PASADENA, CALIF.

By MRS. JAY C. JENKS, Publicity Chairman

● What better way is there to spend a holiday kept in memory of the father of our Country, than to go out and see some of the natural beauty which has been further enhanced by artistic garden planning?

Begonia enthusiasts find that the beauty of their shade gardens is greatly improved by having ferns, camellias, azaleas and other shade loving plants growing with begonias. The Official publication "The Begonian" is 'Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens.' So, in planning this winter garden tour, one of the chief objectives was to give us the privilege of seeing some of the most interesting varieties of rare plants suitable for our shade gardens that give color at this season, and also to study some of the finest examples in landscape design.

In these gardens, among the best in Pasadena, will be found large collections of camellias, one having over 100 varieties, as well

as many orchids and other rare plants. In another will be found a great number of azaleas growing on a wooded area of gently sloping hillside, which appears to be a natural habitat for them.

Besides the formal gardens with their plant material used most effectively in outstanding garden designs, there is also the informal style of planting which is interesting to many. Other delightful features to be seen on this tour are a waterfall, in one; in another a small lake surrounded by an expanse of grass covered ground with attractive plantings of trees and shrubs scattered over the gradual slopes, and down around a winding trail in a very secluded spot is a beautiful little stone sanctuary.

Those with reservations for the tour are invited to a reception and tea at Colonel and Mrs. Gales' home where begonias and other valuable plants will be given away.

HOUSE PLANT NOTES FROM ROUND ROBINS

By FRANCES DOWNING, Calera, Ala.

• The Director of the Gesneria Robin tells with pride of one member who spends many hours copying from Horticultural Encyclopedias—all data on the growth, flowering, cultural methods, etc., of the lesser known plants of the *Gesneriaceae* family. These notes are sent around to the three Gesneria Robins giving all the members access to valuable information.

Many of the *Gesneriaceae* are being grown from seed obtained from the seed fund. By this method, many rare and hard to find plants may be added to the member's collections.

From the Director of the RHIZOMATOUS and SMALL LEAVED BEGONIA Robins comes this bit of philosophy:

"Every day, in every way, I become more and more convinced that everyone must work out his own salvation and methods. For one process or method that works in one locality often fails in another. There is always a difference between success and failure. *But, of course, the interchange of experiences and methods gives us ideas that we can put into practice.*

Many and varied are the experiments that I have made—and am making, some ending one way and some the other. *Often one can make slight variations in the other fellow's methods—and everything turns out fine."*

A North Carolina member—from the *Small Leaved Begonia* group—tells of a leaf falling from a *begonia digswelliana* into an adjoining flower pot and taking root, while her own efforts to root cuttings of the same plant had failed.

An Oklahoman has that fussy *begonia Dichroa* coming into bloom. The plant was started from a leaf.

A Northern member suffered heavy losses when she brought her plants inside for the winter. NOW she saves a great percentage of her collection by cutting down the plants

quite severely and placing glasses over the stubs. She specifically mentioned *B. corbeille de feu. fuchsioides*, *Cypraea* and *digswelliana* in this respect.

One member tells of a fine *B. cathayana* dying within a day or two after being touched by a child. Mention of like incidents regarding *cathayana* have been discussed in other Begonia Robins.

For those members with greenhouses, Nicofume has been recommended as a preparation which kills nearly all greenhouse pests excepting white fly.

The subject of watering begonias seems to be a very vital one. Overwatering of plants is the general inclination, resulting in heavy losses. NIGHT WATERING—in winter is particularly UNSUCCESSFUL.

Southern friends are surprised to find Northern friends growing as pot plants in the window garden—many of the tropical plants which thrive out of doors the year around in the South. The Director of the Caladium Robin (Florida), grows his 200 varieties of *Fancy Leaved Caladiums* in a moss house. This is a framework covered with poultry wire and strewn with Spanish moss which provides the lacy shade so ideal for this and other shade-loving plants.

He finds *Caladiums* quite easy to grow in Florida. The temperature must be 70 degrees or the plants will go dormant and remain so until it returns to 70 degrees again. The native home of these *Caladiums* is a hot, moist jungle, which suggests that we should approximate those conditions as closely as possible.

Most varieties of *Caladiums* multiply readily in Florida. This is not true of these plants in the North. The three best known *Fancy Leaved Caladiums* are: *Candidum*, *Lord Derby* and *Triumph*.

Until next issue, we shall have to say "Meet you in our Robins."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CAMELLIA SHOW: Fannie E. Morrison Hort. Center, Brookside Park, Pasadena, California. \$1.00 Admission, Children 50c. February 8th and 9th, 1947.

Saturday Noon to 10 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sponsored by the So. California Camellia Society.

CAMELLIA GARDEN TOUR: Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22nd, Pasadena, California. Sponsored by The American Begonia Society. Tea Reception.

Tickets from your Branch Secretary. \$1.00 each.

THIRD CAMELLIA SHOW: Wednesday and Thursday, March 12th and 13th, 1947. The Rotunda, San Francisco City Hall, San Francisco, Calif. Admission Free.

Camellias Are Easy To Grow

By J. HOWARD ASPER, Rancho del Descanso, La Canada, Calif.

• Direct from the Orient to our Southland gardens comes *Camellia japonica*, rich in romantic legend, and clothed in cool, mysterious beauty. Its history fades in ancient Chinese parchments, while drawings of its leaf and flower forms adorn the oldest tapestries known. Throughout recorded Oriental history reference is made to its outstanding beauty. As the "Chinese Rose" it knew no peer among cultivated garden plants. And to our gardens it brings that same enchantment which made it a king's choice centuries ago. Happy is the modern plant lover who has discovered the charm of camellias and grows them for his enjoyment.

The culture of Camellias is extremely simple compared with results obtained. Location of the plant in regard to shade is an important consideration. Partial shade is desirable inasmuch as some sunlight is essential to plant growth and flower development. Plants grown in entire shade soon lose vigor and fail to set flower buds. Sunlight filtered through tree branches with full sun for a few hours, either during early morning or late afternoon, could be considered ideal.

Planting is the next step, and on this operation depends the success or failure of the plant during its entire life. Good drainage must be provided, since Camellias will not tolerate a wet, soggy soil. The feeder roots are quite tender and cannot develop in heavy soil, therefore a light and malleable mix must be provided. This can best be done by mixing one-sixth leaf mould, one-sixth sand, one-third peat moss and one-third top soil. This should be used in planting to fill in a generous sized hole around the plant. Care must be taken not to place the plant deeper than it grew in the nursery. Placing it slightly higher to compensate for a natural settling is a good practice.

Provided with good drainage, Camellias like plenty of water. This can best be applied by sprinkling either during late afternoon or early morning. Special care must be taken to keep the ground around the plants quite moist during the hot summer and fall months. Any drying out of the soil during that time is almost certain to result in flower bud drop in early winter. Wetting the foliage with a light water spray during low humidity periods is very beneficial to the plants and flower buds.

Fertilization of Camellias must be done with a great deal of caution. First, a plant

food with an acid reaction should be selected and applied often, but very sparingly. The feeder roots of the plants are usually one to two inches below the soil surface, and any heavy application of fertilizer salts is almost certain to result in a disastrous burning. Liquid fertilizer applied in solution is a safer procedure, especially while plants are small. The first feeding should be done about March 15th, and repeated each month until September. Many growers use well-rotted barnyard fertilizer with a great deal of success. It has the added advantage of providing a mulch which is very beneficial to good plant growth. Cultivation of the ground around the plants should always be avoided, since it results in disturbing the tender feeder roots.

Pruning of Camellia plants is done only to shape the bush. Flower picking usually takes care of tipping the branches to make the plant bushy. Therefore, in picking flowers be assured that taking an inch or so of stem with each flower is actually beneficial to the plant. Any pruning necessary can be done at almost any time of year, although January would perhaps be best.

Fortunately Camellia plants are not subject to many insect pests. Aphids sometimes attack the lush new growth in Spring, but can easily be controlled by using nicotine spray. Some infestation of scale occasionally occurs and can be checked by an application of oil spray. Garden Volck is often used with satisfactory results when applied in late August or early September.

Growing Camellias in pots or tubs has many advantages in areas where soil conditions are poor. The same general cultural rules apply to pot culture as apply to garden growing. However, fertilization and water-

(Continued on Page 37)

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The Foothill Branch 1st Anniversary Celebration

• The first Friday in March marks the first milestone for this group and the occasion calls for an entertaining and interesting program after the special \$1.75 dinner at 7 o'clock in the Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa, Calif. Make your reservations with Mrs. James Reid, 643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

Mealy Bugs on Saint Paulia Violets

• So many growers of this wonderful house-plant are bothered by the continued recurrence of these nasty mealy bugs. Their white cottony masses sap the best of the plant vitality out of the stems and leaves and soon the plant is beyond saving if one does not take good care to clean every last one of the mealy bugs off it.

Suggestions have been to touch the masses with toothpicks dipped in alcohol and many other methods, but the writer has had excellent results through the use of one of the products advertised in THE BEGONIAN, that it is passed on to others for proof and enjoyment.

Make a solution of the Orchid Spray according to directions, enough of it to allow the potted plant to be dipped head first right up to the crown and swirled gently around in the solution for a few minutes. Turn the plant right side up and place the pot in the same solution for a few minutes—and the nuisance will be cleared up completely. It is better to have the soil of the plant on the moist side before putting the pot in the solution. The leaves will not mind a bath of this kind, tho' they generally do not like to be wet.

The Editor would appreciate other reports of pest control on house plants and all shade plants.

San Francisco Camellia Show

• Mr. Alfred Stettler writes to tell us about the Third San Francisco Camellia Show, to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, March 12th and 13th, all day and evening, in the Rotunda of the San Francisco City Hall, the beautiful setting for the annual San Francisco Fall Flower Show.

Specimens from all parts of Central and Northern California will be on display, with particular emphasis on the use of camellias in flower arrangements, corsages, etc. This part of the show is in charge of Mrs. William J. Roth, well-known authority on flower arrangements.

Admission is free.

GLENDALE BEGONIA BRANCH

• Congratulations and felicitations to the newly elected officers for THE GLENDALE BEGONIA BRANCH:

President: Helen Grigsby; Vice President: Frank Moore; Recording Secretary: Grace Spencer; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Richardson, 1441 Fairfield St., Glendale 1, Calif.; National Representative: Edna Korts; Director: Fred Kaye.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

By FRANCES DOWNING, Calera, Alabama

• And here is February! Though snow and icy winds still have their way in many of our States, there is a quickening and a stirring in the cold earth—and in the hearts of gardeners everywhere.

For this is *seed-sowing month!* Many of our choice annuals, many kinds of window garden plants and a number of vegetables may be planted now. Some perennials and biennials, if started early will also give bloom this summer, and begonias may still be sown.

For most of us, this seed sowing must be done indoors, or in the hothouse or greenhouse, especially begonias.

A certain amount of knowledge is essential for starting seed indoors. To insure good germination, to prevent damping off of the young seedlings and to grow these seedlings into strong, sturdy plants, one must do more than plant seed—"any old way"—and hope his luck will be good."

A Seed Sowing Round Robin which deals with the planting of seed of all kinds has been asked for. I am hoping that some well seasoned "Seed Sower and Grower" will offer to direct this Robin.

Our first Iris Robin has started its first flight.

Who will direct our AMARYLLIS ROBIN? This Robin is ready to fly but the need of a Director is holding it at home.

The same situation applies to the ORCHID ROBIN.

The Zonale Geranium Robin No. 1 is complete and No. 2 is awaiting new members. The Director of the Geranium Robins has over 200 varieties of her "favorite plants."

New members are wanted for the Rex Begonia Robin for EASTERN ZONE.

I should like to hear from our members
(Continued on Page 36)

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To the first 100 MEMBERS of The American Begonia Society who send us 5 names and addresses of plant loving friends, who are not members of the A.B.S. . . . We will send YOU FREE any one of the following HARDY ORCHID PLANTS — your selection: LAELIA anceps, Laelia autumnalis or Laelia grandiflora. These plants are all blooming size retailing for \$3.00 and up ea.

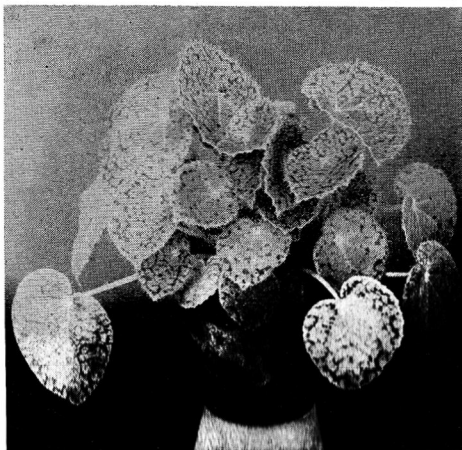
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San Diego Christmas Program

By JENNETTE MOORE, San Diego, Calif.

• On December 23rd the San Diego Branch had their Christmas party. The speaker's platform looked festive with plants and poinsettias and a decorated tree stood at one end.

Those who were at the banquet of the American Begonia Society convention in August surely remember Dr. Alfred Hottes of La Jolla. That time he told us of "Plants and How they got their Names." This time he spoke of "Christmas Facts and Fancies," talking as only he can to make us all laugh so many times.

Every copy of his very interesting book "One Thousand and One Christmas Facts and Fancies" sold that evening brought us fifty cents and he also autographed each book for the person purchasing it. He told us that Christmas customs were a hobby with him, and that in journeys abroad he patiently dug out odd practices, and ideas.

The plants on the speaker's table were for door prizes and Dr. Hottes added an autographed volume of his book. The other tickets, numbered, claimed gifts that were banked where the usual plant sale is held, so that each person bringing a gift received one.

It was a fitting climax to a very interesting year and fitting that Dr. C. E. Collins, retiring president, who had the heavy responsibility of that wonderful convention, together with Mr. E. Lee, president-elect, who was general chairman of that same convention, should have a real party at the end of this exciting, venturing year.

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

DIRECTORS ROUND ROBIN

By BESSIE BUXTON, Peabody, Mass.

Inquiries have been made about the state laws for shipping plants. Only a few answers have been received as yet, but these show how widely such laws vary, from none at all to very strict ones. Minnesota, for instance, does not require a certificate of inspection or shipping permit for greenhouse or house grown plants, herbaceous annuals, vegetable plants or tubers, but the California laws are very strict. A California member who has a nursery tells us that it is inspected by a state inspector each spring. Every outgoing package of plants must be properly labelled with an inspection certificate supplied by the local inspector before it is mailed. All plants, rooted or unrooted, coming into the state, are held at the post office for inspection before being released. If the plants were so marked and not inspected before delivery, an inspector should be notified. Plants may be sold within a County without inspection, but any one selling outside his own county is supposed to be a dealer, with a license, costing ten dollars a year. All persons shipping plants should acquaint themselves with their state laws, thus avoiding much trouble.

Massachusetts is in the Japanese beetle quarantined area, so regulations are very strict. Plants may not be shipped anywhere with soil on the roots, and must be inspected by a Federal inspector. The package must be marked with name and address of consignor and consignee, and have the permit attached to it. The state and Federal inspector is at 144 Moody St., Waltham 54, Mass.

The state of New York issues an excellent booklet on this subject which may be obtained by writing to the Department of Agriculture at the State House, Albany, N. Y., or from a local inspector. Certain sections of the state are quarantined because of Japanese beetle, and plants may not be moved from this area unless accompanied by a Federal Japanese beetle certificate. The Federal Japanese beetle quarantine No. 48 covers the entire states of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island, also parts of Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia. All plants from these states must be inspected before mailing, and the package must be accompanied by a certificate from a state or Federal inspector. The parcel must be marked with the name of the sender and the nature of the contents. Certain states, among them California and most of the Western states,

(Continued on Page 37)



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B X Gloire De Lorraine Series Var. Marjorie Gibbs

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, California

• Western growers who rely on outdoor plants are not as familiar as Eastern fans with "Christmas Begonias," so-called because they flower at that season. A gift of one of these, *Marjorie Gibbs*, came to me during the holidays. It was so attractive that my interest overcame my inertia and the lady sat for her portrait, as you can see.

The parentage of this begonia goes back on one side to the species, *B. socotrana*, found in 1880 on the Island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean. It is a bulbous type that had never been known before. It was with some difficulty that the nurserymen discovered that the bulb was dormant in summer, with new growth starting in September and flowering in winter. This reverse season proved a boon to florists who set out to improve on the peltate leaf, which rotted when it held water, and to enlarge the flowers.

John Heal, of Veitch and Sons, in London, made his first crosses with tuberous hybrids. Others followed and, in 1912, doubles of several shades were perfected. Today, under Fotsch's group name of "X B. hiemalis," the results of crossing *B. socotrana* with *B. tuberhybrida* are found in many named varieties that cover a wide range of colors, including orange. Difficult to grow, except under controlled conditions, this strain is not well known.

In 1891, that master hybridist, Victor Lemoine, crossed *B. socotrana* with *B. Dregei*, the well-known semi-tuberous species, with bronzy leaves and dainty white flowers that makes a handsome bush all summer in California and also does well indoors in winter. The French expert named his hybrid, *Gloire de Lorraine*. Later, when it was found that this begonia could be propagated from leaf cuttings, its culture was greatly increased. New varieties and improvements appeared in this country until, at long last, plants were developed that had amazing resistance to the dry, warm air of the average home.

All of these hybrids are grouped under the name of "X *Gloire de Lorraine Series*." Mrs. Buxton in "Begonias" says that *Marjorie Gibbs*, which comes under the above classification, was produced in 1918 by Gibbs Bros. in Lynn, Massachusetts. It has the largest flowers of its type, which may be the reason that it is the only "Christmas Begonia" stocked by our local florists. *Lady Mac*, by Mr. Edgar of Massachusetts, in 1932, has flowers of a softer shade of pink. Mr. Esson

mentions *Lucille* as a newer plant with bright red flowers.

The variety, "*It*," by Woodriff, does not belong to the above series, as it has *B. Rex* by *B. socotrana* parentage and is fibrous rather than bulbous.

My *Marjorie Gibbs* has four main stalks in a six inch pot. These are only $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, even at the base. They are round and green their full length, with short internodes. Little cupped flaps of pale green that do not turn brown while the plant is blooming, persist at each joint. This begonia branches early and needs small hidden supports to uphold its slender growth. The lower leaves have a chance to reach full size on yellow-green three-inch petioles. My largest is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 4 inches long, shamrock green above, paler below. The leaf has a narrow "U" shape opening an inch down from the top to its axis, with a few veins running to the pinked edge of its almost circular shape. It was astonishing to discover that the baby leaves have no protecting bracts, but start right out on tiny pedicels as scalloped miniatures of a full-size leaf. The new growth has a touch of red at the center and edges. The young leaves remind one of children dressed in the same style as their elders.

The flower stems spring from terminal leaf axils. The buds develop on individual $\frac{5}{8}$ inch pink stemlets out of two hollow oval cocoa-green bracts with irregular tips. The peduncle continues to grow in a curve beyond each pair of stipules, which persist after the flower has fallen, making a bracelet of twin bangles tipped with pink buds. So far the blooms are all male. The four petals are folded in on the edges and somewhat puckered, which gives the buds a thick anvil-shape, quite different from their usual purse-like form. They open out flat, except for a slight cupping. It is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the two major petals, which are much wider than long, and a little less over the other two narrower oval petals inside. The color is a bright cerise-pink.

I figure that there are at least four flowers, from fully-opened ones to buds, on every raceme. With as many as seventeen flower stems on each of the four stalks, that would mean that *Marjorie Gibbs* wears a rosy halo of close to three hundred blooms most of the time, a record that would easily account for her popularity.

(Continued on Page 34)



B. x GLOIRE de LORRAINE SERIES
var. MARJORIE GIBBS

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● *The 1947 American Begonia Society Convention in Long Beach is scheduled for August 16th and 17th. Mark your calendar now.*

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BOB ANDERSON

1415 ECHO PARK AVE. LOS ANGELES (26)

SAN FRANCISCO'S BIG YEAR

By IRA L. ALLYN, San Francisco, Calif.

● The progress made by the San Francisco Branch of the American Begonia Society during the year of 1946 is a record of achievement of which the officers and members can be proud. In December 1945, President George Hesketh, upon taking office, appointed Mrs. Christle Geer as Board Member and Ira L. Allyn as Representative Director who, with the officers: Mrs. Daphne McDonald as Vice-President, later Irvin Kramer when Mrs. McDonald resigned, Mrs. Lillian Ashe and Mrs. Ellen O'Brien made up our Board of Directors. The newly elected officers started the year with twenty-eight members from which President Hesketh appointed the various committees for the year.

The first activity of the Branch was the decorating of one hundred and thirty-five small Christmas trees for the American Red Cross which were used at the Letterman Hospital in Presidio, San Francisco.

Meetings were held monthly during the year and in each program a lecture was given on various phases of Begonia culture.

On July 14th, members with their families and friends (about two hundred) visited the Vetterle and Reinelt Begonia Gardens at Capitola, California, where we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Hart, President of the American Begonian Society.

After enjoying the beautiful Begonias in these gardens and listening to a very educational and interesting lecture by Mr. Frank Reinelt on Begonia Culture, we adjourned to Sea Cliff Park, a short distance away and held our picnic. Mr. Hart addressed us on the activities of the American Begonia Society.

In August, members of the branch participated in the San Francisco Flower Show, with a beautiful exhibit of Rex, Fibrous and Tuberous Begonias.

At the October meeting, we had the pleasure of granting a life membership in the San Francisco Branch to Mr. Frank Reinelt of Capitola.

In December we elected and installed the following officers for the year of 1947:

President: Irvin Kramer; Vice President: Arthur Boissier; Secretary: Mrs. Lillian Ashe; Treasurer: Mrs. James M. Ramsay; Representative Director: George Hesketh; Board Members: William Sharp, Mrs. Ethel Sauer.

Our 1946 Christmas Party was held on December 20th with about one hundred and fifty members and their families present.

With a membership of twenty-eight at the beginning of 1946, and with one hundred and five regular members and twenty-three

(Continued on Page 36)

February Letter to the Armchair Explorers

By SKIPPER FLORENCE CARRELL

● The Begonia seeds are mostly packaged and we sincerely hope that they will have reached you by the time you read this. You folks who sent in your contributions to the Seed Fund after November 1st will have to wait a bit longer. A good many more people sent in for seed than we had anticipated. Seven members of the Orange County Branch of the A.B.S. spent an evening with your skipper helping package seed—many thanks to you kind folks. A few members have sent in their \$2 contribution and the following week write to find out why they have not received their seed. Please remember we are not in the seed selling business, but members may make contributions to a fund for the purchase of seed and when it is obtained and ready it is sent out. From time to time we have offered miscellaneous seed for sale—the only Begonia seed actually sold has been that left over from last year. Also—please send all questions relative to *Begonia* seed directly to your skipper—you are causing your other officers a lot of unnecessary work and expense in forwarding letters to me. Find my address in the list of officers at the front of your BEGONIAN.

We have just received several new lots of seed from Colombia. The Mulford Fosters have finished their collecting trip and are now home. Two kinds recently received from them are Begonia No. 2098—"plant 12 feet tall, tallest single stalked Begonia outside of Brazil, flowers white. Begonia No. 2108—"petals white, pink blush, grows like a shrub, compact 6 to 8 feet, very nice garden Begonia."

From India we have a letter stating that the rex species seed is to be sent out shortly, they have waited for a fresh crop of seeds, they also advised that they could supply us with Begonia cathcarti and B. roxburgi—these we have now ordered.

Mr. W. H. Rolston, an A.B.S. member in New Zealand, wrote us a very fine letter, and also a letter to the Society (see it in next BEGONIAN). He writes that there are no Begonias native to New Zealand. He grows tuberous Begonias and a few rex, is interested in getting seed of tuberous species. We have sent him by airmail seed of all tuberous species we had on hand. Mr. Rolston has kindly sent us seed of the national flower of New Zealand and others he felt would be of interest to us. These we will sell at 25c per package.

Myosotidium hortensia (nobile). This is the Chatham Island lily, the flowers are like a giant forget-me-not. It grows about 18 inches high, has large glossy leaves, likes sandy soil and warm situation.

Ourisia macrophylla (mountain primula). A low growing plant, stems 12 to 20 inches high, bearing numerous white flowers in successive whorls, very hardy alpine plant.

Sophora tetralix (*Edwardsia grandiflora*). This is the national flower of New Zealand. It is a tree and grows to 15 feet, flowers are golden yellow, a glorious sight when in full bloom.

Cleanthus punecius. This tree is more of a shrub—about 5 to 6 feet high, spreads out like an umbrella, the masses of scarlet flowers gorgeous when in full bloom, resemble the beak of the New Zealand Ka-ka bird.

Other rare seeds available:

Large packet *mixed houseplant* seed from the tropics, 50c; Mixed *fern spores*, 50c; Mixed *Begonia seeds* (left over from last year), 50c each packet.

Collector in India writes he can supply these *Impatiens* species: *urticifolia*, *balsamina*, *radiata*, *juripea*, *arbuta*, *longipes*, *diffusus*, *cathcarti*, *puberula*, *discolor*, *bicornuta*, *stenantha*.

Those wanting to buy this seed, get your orders in early. Same price, 25c per packet.

Plant begonia seeds this month. Start "tuberous" with growth in leafmold.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

● We are happy to welcome among the ranks of officers for The American Begonia Society the following new officers for the ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH of San Diego, California:

President Sally Bancroft
 Vice-President Mrs. Don Hunter
 Secretary Mrs. J. P. Stibolt
 Recording Secretary Mrs. J. J. Howarth
 Treasurer Miss E. Steiger
 Directors Mrs. L. M. Westcott,

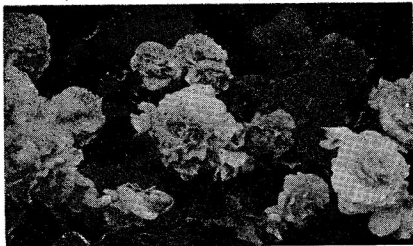
Mrs. R. H. Greene, and F. C. Berger

Our congratulations and wishes for a fine year of activity.

**Eastern Home of
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SPECIAL.....Six Begonias for \$5.00
 Acutangularis, Dorothy Grant, Loma Alta,
 Mrs. Fred Schripps, Zebrina and Conbow.
 BEGONIA VITAMINS.....5 lbs. \$2.00

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OF THE
PACIFIC STRAIN
OF
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Write for Catalog
Vetterle and Reinelt
Capitola, California

It is suggested members read the first page of *The Begonian* once in awhile to become thoroughly familiar with the new OFFICERS and APPOINTEES.



TRUE ORCHIDS

The following choice orchids are all ideal pot plants, for home, conservatory or patio.

LAELIA ANCEPS—Very showy orchid bearing purplish rose-colored flowers. 3 to 4 on a stem. Ea. \$5.50 prepaid.

LAELIA AUTUMNALIS—Showy fragrant flowers of deep purple. A lovely orchid, easy to grow. Each \$5.00 Prepaid.

ODONTOGLOSSUM GRANDE—Borne 3 to 4 on a stem. Individual flowers about 5 inches across. Yellow, lined and spotted dark brown. Deep golden yellow throat. Each \$5.50 Prepaid.

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A Note By-The-Way of Baskets

● An article on **BILLBERGIAS** . . . or rather, some of the **BROMELIADS** . . . set the Editor wondering how many there may be throughout the United States—especially in the warmer regions—growing these rather fascinating and exotic “pineapple flowers”? It would be interesting to all of us to learn of the species and varieties in circulation, of the modes of culture, of the manner of housing them, and their blooming season as they compare to Southern California. It would be quite in keeping to relate experiences with them as house-plants and under greenhouse culture, as so many of our members either have greenhouses or are planning to have even the smallest “bit of glass” under which to expand. Those in cooler and cold climes could then benefit by the experience of the more fortunate ones.

BEGONIANS will be seeking greener fields and it is now possible for us to entertain members from all parts of the world. The prospect of widening our scope suggests a keen lookout by all of our present members to help make **THE BEGONIAN** always better.

And by-the-way, **WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HANGING BASKET PLANTS? WHY? HOW?** Thank you, from Maria Wilkes, for your answer.

B X GLORIE DE LORRAINE SERIES

(Continued from Page 30)

If you wish to propagate this begonia by leaf cuttings, you must have a steady temperature of 70 to 75 degrees, over a long period. The strong but diffused light of a glasshouse is necessary to bring them along. Given these conditions you should follow the careful directions of Mr. Esson or Mrs. Buxton, to which you are referred. Anyone who has a “*Christmas begonia*” is going to do his best to keep it in full bloom in strong light through February. After that let it taper off and mature without over-watering. Watch for the crucial moment in August when a crack in the skin of the bulb shows the green of new growth. Repot, with good drainage, and try to find an ideal location where it can enjoy light, heat and humidity.

Marjorie Gibbs, as I have sketched her, is a foot across by about ten inches high, a nice size for a basket. During her growing period she is always attractive, from the first round leaves and buds to the last pink-tipped tangle of bracted inflorescences. She is another begonia to uphold the family reputation for seasonal beauty. Remind me sometime to tell you that I like Begonias,—“Summer, Winter, Spring or in the Fall,” as the old song says.

CYMBIDIUMS

*A paper read before The Point Loma Begonia Branch, American Begonia Society,
Feb. 27, 1946.*

By H. G. PLOGER, 7711 Lookout Dr., La Jolla, Calif.

PART I

● In the beginning, as rank amateurs, we would like to say this:

Statements which will be made in this paper are generally our own ideas, gathered from experience—and largely by the trial and error method.

Cymbidium Orchids are only one of the several hundred genera of Orchidaceae. They are natives of the Old World, coming generally from the high elevations in Burma and surrounding countries. If you are familiar with the climate of this area you will know that it is humid—yet rather cool, except for the middle of the day. This means that the ground is cool—the air warm and moist. Therefore it is natural to assume that these orchids want to have their roots cool, their foliage warm and the air around them moist.

Duplicating the conditions mentioned above, anyone can grow Cymbidium Orchids. Pot culture is harder than ground culture, only by the extra work necessary to duplicate these conditions.

Cymbidiums are rather new to our country. There have been a few collectors growing Cymbidiums in scattered parts of the U. S. for a number of years but it has only been in the last eight or ten years that garden enthusiasts have really accepted them as a definite part of their garden scheme. This even now is limited to areas such as the coastal belt of Southern California.

The First Hybrids

Years ago some of the English orchid collectors found these plants growing in their natural habitat. Some plants were brought to England where an attempt at hybridization was made. The first cross was made by a fellow by the name of Veitch. This was a cross between Eberneum and Lowianum. The cross was named Veitchi but later was named Eberneo Lowianum. The resulting plants bloomed about 1894. From this cross has sprung hundreds of hybrid Cymbidiums.

Why Are Cymbidiums So High Priced?

Here is just one of the reasons. There seems to be no actual evidence of natural or insect pollination. (Some feel that there has been, but so far as we know it seems to be an opinion rather than fact.) Therefore except for the few species known, it is necessary to develop new varieties and colors by the camel

hair brush method of hand pollination. This is rather a complicated business and something for the experts. Pollination is not too hard in itself, but the work following is complicated.

First, after successful pollination, one must wait for the seed pod to set. This usually takes a year or more. In due time, however, if everything goes right, the pod sets and fills with minute seed. The pod is then taken off and the seed in sown under sterile conditions in flasks and finally put into a Wardian case. The case is controlled for temperature and humidity. Several months later germination begins and a faint green color shows up in the test tubes. Later little plants begin to show themselves—thousands of them.

When small plants are large enough, they are transferred to community pots, twenty to fifty to the pot and they are grown on in this manner for another year or so. When next shift time comes, they are placed in individual pots and spend another year in this home. From this point on they are shifted as growth continues until they come into bloom.

But here is the joker. You know there is always a joker. Out of the thousands of plants grown on for all these years (7 to 14), there will likely be a dozen or so worth keeping. All the rest will be discarded or sold for much less than the cost of growing them on from seed to maturity. Now to realize on the cross the grower must grow big plants on until they are large enough to be divided again and again. Of course back bulbs will be produced as the plant grows and finally one has enough stock to make a few sales. This may take another ten to twenty years. Maybe the price is too cheap instead of too high considering the effort, expense and years of work to develop an outstanding hybrid.

Fortunately, we have two plants in our possession which came out of the same seed pod. As plants become more involved with a family tree—the more ancestors there are to reckon with. This does bring about a caution however in purchasing plants. Unless you are a good gambler and like to take a chance, you had best avoid any cheap offerings of unflowered seedlings.

(End of Part I)

Cymbidiums are the aristocrats of the shade garden. They are here to stay.

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**CHOICE FERNS : POTTED CYCLAMEN
HARDY ORCHIDS : EXOTIC FOLIAGE PLANTS
LARGE SPECIMEN BEGONIAS**

Special collection BEGONIAS for the beginner
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**New Officers For San Gabriel Valley
Branch**

● President: H. M. Washburn; Vice-President: Dr. C. H. Lauder; Secretary: Myrtle Jones, 132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.; Treasurer: Josephine Hotz; Representative Director: Clarence Johnston; Director, R. L. Stockland.

We welcome them into office with the best of good wishes. San Gabriel is one of the largest Branches in Southern California and much is expected from this group.

THE ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

● The Orange County Branch celebrated the election meeting with a dinner which was well attended. Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman officiated as installation officer for the following leaders: President: Ed. Hall, 526 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, Calif.; Vice-President: Mrs. Rene Stedman, 1517 King Street, Santa Ana; Sec.-Treas.: Doris Burdick, R.4, Box 296, Anaheim, Calif.; National Representative: Mrs. Muriel Hylton, R.3, Box 355, Santa Ana.

We wish them all a Happy Year with fine achievements as recompense for their work.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

(Continued from Page 27)
in ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO and UTAH as to what kind of Round Robins they would like. These are the only three States not now represented in our Round Robin members.

Letter to Mr. Roy K. Dere

Membership Chairman, A.B.S.

● Dear Sir:
Enclosed find check to cover my 1947 dues. This will make my 10th year of membership. Would say ten years of great pleasure. I have seen the magazine grow from multigraph sheets to the magazine it is today.

Anyone growing begonias, certainly enjoys living.

Both to you and the Society, Happy New Year and many of them.

Sincerely, (Signed) Earle A. Sampson,
Mansfield, Mass.

SAN FRANCISCO'S BIG YEAR

(Continued from Page 32)
associate or family members, at the end of the year, we had an increase of three hundred and seventy-five per cent in membership.

This remarkable showing was due to the one hundred per cent cooperation which President George Hesketh, through his extraordinary ability as organizer, was able to command from the membership, plus a lot of intensive work on his part and the other officers.

THIS IS THE WAY I DO IT

By EMMA M. CARLETON, Berkeley, Calif.

• ROOTING REX BEGONIA LEAVES.

Take a mature leaf, before it starts getting "old," cut away all of the leaf, except about one and a half inches around the stem. Cut off all the stem, except one and a half inches. Fill small glasses (I use small cheese glasses) with water. Place these shortened leaves in the glasses, and set them in a window where they get plenty of light, but no direct sun. It takes about six weeks for new leaves to form in the center of the stem and little roots on the bottom of the stem. Leave in the glasses until leaves and roots are well formed; about one month. The first soil mixture is as follows: leaf mold, peat and garden loam, well moistened. IN the center of the pots, put in a little BED OF SAND, and place the new plants in this sandy bed. Use no fertilizer in the first planting. When ready to be transplanted, use a regular Rex Begonia mixture. I have about 100% luck with this method.

CAMELIAS ARE EASY TO GROW

(Continued from Page 25)

ing need special attention since very little of either fertilizer or water can be retained in a limited amount of earth. Container-grown plants can easily be moved to display the bloom to best advantage during blooming season.

The varieties of *Camellia japonica* are so numerous and varied as to satisfy almost anyone's taste. Flowers are produced in many shades of pink, rose, red and white, solid colors, and variegated, striped and mottled. Flower forms also range from single, semi-double and double to fully imbricated. Blooms begin in October in early varieties and continue until May on late ones.

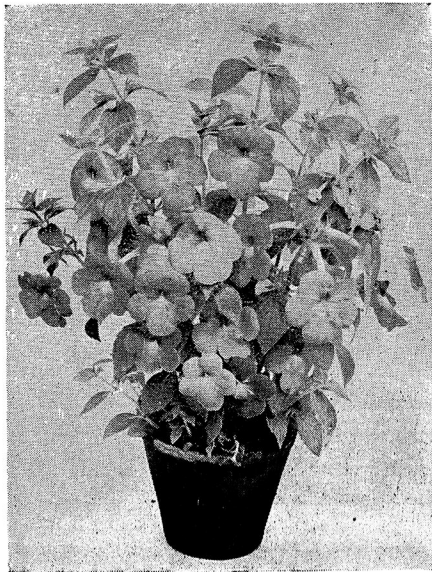
Beautiful as a garden plant with its lustrous foliage when not in bloom, and clothed in breath-taking beauty while in flower, the Camellia has no equal as a hardy garden shrub.

Pasteboard is hard to get. Members at large, however, may expect membership cards soon.

DIRECTORS ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 29)

have a terminal inspection of plants before they may be admitted. The New York booklet contains an excellent resume of the laws of each state on this subject. Nearly all express offices have copies of these laws, and information may be obtained from them.



Achimenes

Charming summer flowering plants that may be grown to perfection in a location having light shade and constant moisture, such conditions as you would give the Tuberous Rooted Begonia. They are ideal plants for pot or hanging basket culture, and may be grown in the house, glasshouse or in the open. For best results start the bulbs about February 1st to March 15th in soil containing a liberal amount of leaf-mold, but no fertilizer. After the plants are up a light top dressing of pulverized cow manure may be applied. Water carefully, never allowing the top soil to dry out. Plant out into their permanent location after the weather is settled. They bloom May to November. Delivery January 1st to April 15th.

CRIMSON GLORY. Large, crimson flowers with yellow center extending well into the flowers. Foliage light yellow-green. Low growing. \$2.50 doz.

PINK BEAUTY. Very large pink flowers. Green foliage. Low growing. Fine for pots or porch boxes. \$2.50 doz.

PURPLE KING. Pansy-purple flowers with yellow eye. Sometimes called pulcherima. A fine standard variety for pot culture. \$2.00 doz.

MAXIMA. Large white flowers with purple eye, and faint markings of light orchid. Free flowering and fine for pots. \$2.00 doz.

LONGIFLORA MAJOR. A free flowering dark blue variety. \$2.00 each.

MARGARET. Pure white. \$2.50 doz.

MIXTURE of all varieties listed and some others. \$2.00 doz.

★ ★

TYDEA species: mulberry flowers spotted lighter. \$2.00 doz.

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REQUIRE SO LITTLE TIME AND EFFORT... Yet give such a satisfying array of unusual floral beauty. A & M SWEET PEAS are grown as separate colors and FORMULA HAND MIXED for proper color combinations... DOUBLE TREATED for sturdy, disease resistant growth. BUY AGGELER & MUSSER SWEET PEAS BY NAME AT YOUR GARDEN SUPPLY DEALER.

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for soil correction on all acid loving plants



No odor, no messy, smelly concoction that soils your hands

May be had at your nursery or seed store



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34 Pico Street, Pasadena 2, Calif.

The Long Beach Parent Chapter Change of Date for February

• The February meeting of the Long Beach Parent Chapter will be held at the home of Miss Julia E. Rodgers, 355 Junipero Street, Long Beach, on February 27th, at 7:45 o'clock.

Our congratulations and good wishes are extended at this time to the new officers for this, the Parent Chapter:

J. S. Williams, President; Mrs. Hugh Hixon, Vice-President; Mrs. Mary E. Congdon, Librarian, and Mrs. E. G. Arbuckle, Secretary and Treasurer.

Miss Elizabeth Crane, 444 N. Ave., Haverhill, Mass., Director of the Gesneriaceae Family Round Robin Clubs, invites correspondence with people who are interested in and grow these interesting plants.

• The Bellflower Branch enjoyed a program on Fruit tree pruning and spraying as a good starter for the New Year. Much helpful information was given on this subject by Mr. Cox, of The Gloria Gardens Nursery.

Mrs. Thelma Rock resigned her post as Secretary due to having to move to a new home in Paso Robles. We hope she will make a nice place for her Begonias and other shade plants and many begonia friends there, too.

The new Secretary, Mrs. Edna Leistner, invites us to their meetings when traveling that way. Make a note of it. Washington Street School, Cafeteria, 201 S. Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, Calif. First Monday at 7:30 o'clock.

• The Hollywood Branch January meeting was an important one to all the Camellia enthusiasts of the group who came to hear Mr. J. Howard Asper, Manager of El Rancho del Descanso, La Canada, in spite of the wrong date published in the Hollywood paper. We are glad to publish most of the highlights of the talk in this issue for the benefit of those who believed the paper and our friends everywhere.

A feature of the regular Hollywood meetings on each second Thursday is a BEGONIA LESSON. Another is a short resume of the shade plant of the month. You are welcome to come and enjoy our programs, especially are you invited to the BIRTHDAY DINNER on February 14th, \$1.50 per person. Make your reservations early through Mrs. Pedgrift, Hempstead 3472, or Secretary Mrs. Vera Lynde, Granite 9225, or Mrs. Packard, Wa. 7740. Note: The day is Friday, Feb. 14th, instead of the usual Thursday.

Meeting Dates and Places

The January meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in Model Room of L. A. Public Library, Grand Street entrance, Monday, Feb. 24th, at 7:30 p.m.

BELFLOWER BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 3rd, 7:30 p.m.
Washington Street School Cafeteria
Mrs. Edna Leistner, 610 Nichols St.,
Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 4th, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H. 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Harry Meyer, Secretary, 111 Leighton Dr.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 7:45 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Mrs. Lillian Ashe, Secretary,
1855 - 33rd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, Feb. 6th
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Mrs. E. K. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 4, Box 296,
Anaheim, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

Friday, Feb. 7th, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa:
Mrs. James M. Reid, Secretary
643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 10th, 7:30 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. J. Porter Hock
4494 - 32nd St., San Diego 4

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 10th, 6:30 p.m.
57th Street and Dairy, North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Harry H. Boyd
5670 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 10th, 8 p.m.
Fortuna Monday Club.
Sec.-Treas.: Dorothy Lark,
Box 16, Scotia, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

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

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 8 p.m.
Mrs. Helen Hansen, Sec.-Treas.
9757 Magnolia, Arlington, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Feb. 13th, 8 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Laura Crandall, Secretary,
2730 Redondo Blvd., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Feb. 13th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.,
Mrs. Roslyn Duval, Secretary
843 N. Sierra Bonita, Los Angeles, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Thursday, Feb. 13th, 2-4 p.m.
Neighborhood House, 800 Santa Barbara St.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. E. H. Mercer, Secretary,
2019 Bath Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, Feb. 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes.
Mrs. Esther L. Randall, Sec., 3638 Cerritos Ave.
Long Beach 7, Calif.

SEQUOIA BRANCH

Friday, Feb. 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes.
Mrs. Albert Lowery, Secretary,
620 W. Grove St., Visalia, Calif.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

February or March. Date later.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley,
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
May T. Drew, Pres.
Box 331, Narbeth, Pa.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 17th
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

Thursday, Feb. 20th, 8 p.m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, Feb. 24th
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.
624 Arroyo Dr., San Diego, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen,
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19,
Lindley Ave. entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Madeleine Hall, Secretary,
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 8 p.m.
Council Chambers, Berkeley City Hall
Mrs. Emma Carlton, Secretary-Treas.,
1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 7:30 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Charles Richardson, Secretary,
1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Wednesday, Feb. 26th, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, Feb. 27th, 7:45 p.m.
Home of: Miss Julia E. Rodgers
355 Junipero Street, Long Beach, Calif.
Mary Hotalling, Sec.-Treas.
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, Feb. 28th, 7:30 p.m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secretary,
4319 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau
Nipomo, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Norman Hedley,
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

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