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AUGUST
1948
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VOL. XV
NO. 8



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The next meeting of the American Begonia So-
ciety Board will be held in the Los Angeles City
Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday, August 23,
1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main.

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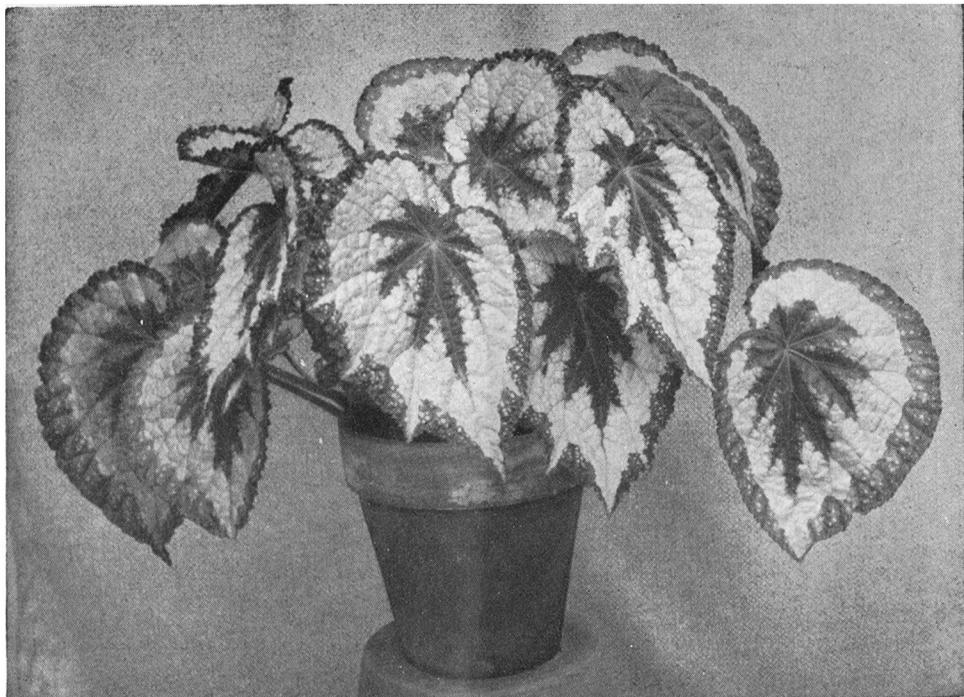
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REX RAJAH JOY WITH MY REX BEGONIAS

Mrs. Perry V. Grout, Whittier

There are several species of Begonias, all well deserving and beautiful in their own class, but to me the Rex is the most beautiful of all and just as easy to grow as the other species.

Why are they called Rex and what does Rex mean?

In Assam, India, about a century or more ago, a new begonia species was discovered. It was a low spreading pink blossomed plant, (most of the Rexes have pale pink blossoms of no special beauty) zoned with silver and edged with purple. It was brought to Europe and when Jules Putzeys of the Belgian government saw it he joyfully exclaimed, "A King's Begonia." That is the way the new Begonia was named, Rex meaning King.

The original species which were found in Assam have been crossed and recrossed until today we have hundreds of named Rex.

Rex Begonias belong to the rhizomatous type, they do not thrive in the house as they require a moist cool air. If they do not have artificial heat, by that I mean a glass house with heat, they drop their leaves to a certain extent and rest during the winter. They stand some cold weather and even if they are frozen, as sometimes they are, just let them rest and when the new growth appears repot them, and they will recapture their former beauty.

In February or March the new leaves begin to show and by July one should have beautiful plants.

There have been some new types introduced lately by crossing the rex and fibrous, one being Evansiana; also Butterfly. They grow rather tall, have smaller smooth leaves and are considered more hardy.

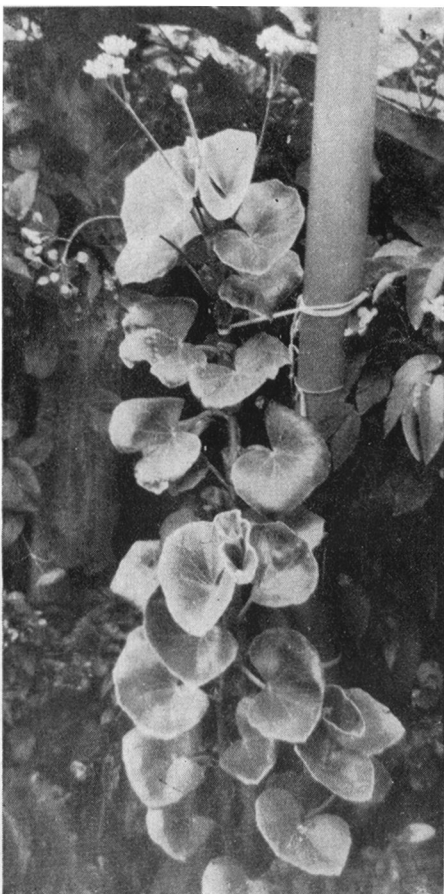
If I could have but one Rex it would be Rajah as it has all the colors of the rainbow. My next choice would be Mountain Haze, as it so well suggests the beauty of the mountains and desert in its gray and lavender coloring.

The helix or spiralled type is a must in ones collection. Countess Louise Erdoedy being one of the best. It is a cross between a Von Humbolt and Argentea Cupreata, introduced to County Erdoedy, a Hungarian nobleman, in 1884 by his gardner. Sometimes the leaves which grow very large have two or more spirals.

Lucy, sometimes called Louise Closson, is a deep red shading to purple spiral and also straight. It is quite tempermental but often changing its location it does very well.

Midnight is also a must, as is the very similar Helen Lewis, oftentimes nearly identical.

Turn to page 186



A B. venosa five feet high growing in the garden of Mrs. Wm. D. Nisbet, Brooklyn, Conn.

BEGONIA VENOSA

Marie Minter, Encinitas, Calif.

The *Begonia venosa*, rather scarce in the average collection, perhaps because slips are few. It is an upright grower and is inclined to be top-heavy, so should be staked. I raised my large plant from seed two years ago and contrary to authoritative reports, my plants developed stipules the first year, but were quite good sized before they showed the characteristic hairy leaf.

While the plant does not have many side shoots, it will send up new growth from the bottom and could be divided. It is considered to be hard to root from cuttings due to the succulent stem. Raising the plant from seed is the best way, but sources of seed are just as hard to find so perhaps it would not be remiss to say that two of the eastern nurseries list this plant in their catalogs.

I have found *B. venosa* a very satisfactory plant and it should do well in window gardens.

FERNS

By Sylvia B. Leatherman, El Monte, Calif.

Thoreau said, "Nature made ferns for pure leaves." We grow ferns, not for the beauty of blossoms but for the cool, soft, soothing shades of green, and for the beauty of this foliage. A beautiful, healthy fern is indeed a great part of nature's art.

One fern of very easy culture and one that should be in all collections is *Pteris* (*ter-ris*) *tremula*, usually known as the Australian Brake. This fern is ideal for a background planting or for inter-planting or a lovely potted specimen. This is one fern that adapts itself readily to many uses. The height ranges from two and one half feet to four feet. Along the coast it will take considerable sun but for the interior regions it is best planted along a building or wall with a north or east exposure. It does very well planted where it will get filtered sunlight. An important point to know about this fern is that it must be given enough room to spread out as it bushes quite rapidly. If given enough space to allow the fronds to droop at will it will grow to a nice full specimen plant. The fronds are broad at the base and taper to a point at the tip. These fronds rise on stiff stems from the crown. Basic fern soil given in the November, 1947, *Begonian* is a good growing medium.

Commercial growers grow plants under one name and botanists class them under other names. This is all very confusing and why it is done is a mystery to me. Large eastern growers grow *Aspidium* (*as-pid-ium*) *tensemense* while botanists name it *Polystichum* (*poh-listi-kum*) *Tsus-sinense*—J. Smith. This desirable compact fern is a Japanese species and is ideal for foreground planting and also grows well as a potted plant. The twice pinnate (lobes or divisions of a frond) are slender, compact tufts, 12 to 15 inches in height. It requires a growing soil of equal portions of peat moss, oak leaf mold, coarse sand and loam. This is one of the so called exotic greenhouse ferns but it grows very well in a position where it does not get too much strong light. It is

See page 173

It will stand lots of sun in the winter time but should not be fertilized. It is a summer bloomer and while it is possible to set seed on it, the seed pod ripens slowly. As it has a succulent stem, overwatering should be avoided. Most of my eastern and mid-western friends grow their begonias in a much heavier soil than I, but with ordinary precautions about having a well-drained soil and a little "careful neglect," I see no reason why they should not have as much success as I do, with growing this lovely species plant from Brazil.

FUCHSIA ANSWERS

Q. Since so many of your readers raise Fuchsias as well as Begonias can anyone tell me if there is really such a thing as a winter flowering Fuchsia? One of my books lists *Fuchsia magellanica gracilis* and *Fuchsia procumbens* as winter bloomers?

A. Fuchsias, ordinarily, are spring and summer bloomers. However *Fuchsia magellanica gracilis* is listed as a winter bloomer. This plant originated in Chile and we must remember that the seasons are about reverse of our own but certain plants retain the regular cycle and will bloom at the same time in another latitude. *Fuchsia procumbens* is a native of New Zealand and again we are up against the problem of the Antipodes. However, given favorable conditions such as temperature, light and moisture, bloom will be produced at the winter season. By taking cuttings in summer you can get good blooms on those plants in winter. Remember that the temperature most suited to Fuchsias run from 50 degrees night to 60 degrees day. Fuchsias are heavy feeders and are classified among the cool greenhouse subjects. Many of our garden Fuchsias emanate from *Fuchsia magellanica*.

FERNS, (Cont. from page 172)

quite hardy and this as well as *Pteris tremula* will take temperature down to 26 degrees without freezing. This fern is grown heavily for use in dish gardens and terrariums as it is dwarf and keeping it root bound will not harm it and this keeps it very dwarf. It can be grown for a period of two years in a two and one fourth inch pot, and it will have a nice appearance and remain dwarf. I have these ferns that are two years old in four-inch pots and in the small pots. As soon as you give them more space for the roots to grow they will grow to full size.

I often wonder why our native American Ferns are not grown in our gardens more extensively. Many of these ferns adapt themselves readily to our gardens if given a woody soil and plenty of moisture. There is a wealth of material among our native ferns.

Dryopteris (dry-op'-ter-is) *marginalis*, commonly known as the Leather Wood Fern or Marginal Shield Fern or Evergreen Wood Fern is a stately and common wood fern of eastern North America. It is of a very unusual blue-green coloring and the fronds are rather leathery and are from one to three feet long. This variety likes a fibrous well-drained woods soil, (oak leaf mold being ideal), with some sand, plenty of moisture and not too much strong light. It is an evergreen fern and if the growing conditions mentioned are given it can be grown in our gardens and in all climates.

CATLEYA FEVER

"Sooner or later we catch the Cattleya Fever" says Mr. Keller of Kelso, Washington. We all make mistakes at first, (I have made many) so I am hoping my errors will help some victim of the fever, forego some of the mistakes I have made.

My first error was in trying to buy bargains. There are few, if any, bargains in good Cattleyas.

If I were to start out anew, I would buy a few well established, good plants, in four or five inch (or larger) pot size and the bulk of my plants as unflowered seedlings of well-known and newer crosses. The size of these seedlings to be from one and one-half to four inches, depending on how fat my purse was at the time! I would also have a flask or two of seedlings and perhaps a community pot, recently transplanted from a flask.

This will give one an opportunity to have blooms immediately, the seedlings will give one hybrid varieties, which are far superior to species and the community pots or flasks will keep one puttering indefinitely, which satisfies a desire to "mother" the little ones.

When writing this, I am waiting with tense anxiety, wondering whether the floods will subside soon enough to keep the water out of my greenhouse. There is water all around us and all we can do is *wait*.

After the 'begonia bug' bites you, you are an easy victim for the Cattleya Fever.

COLORED SLIDE LIBRARY

Slides are available to all branches. The branch requesting them should have access to a projector and screen. In making requests, I would advise your sending your choice of a first and second date to avoid disappointment.

At this time, I would like to thank the Glendale Branch for its contribution of ten slides, which makes a total of two hundred and eight in the library.

GROUPS OF SLIDES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SELECTION

Selection No. 1, consisting of Rex, Fibrous, Tuberos and rare types.

Selection No. 2, a different selection of Rex, Fibrous, Tuberos and rare types.

Selection No. 3, Miscellaneous: Fuchsias, Epiphyllums, Orchids, Begonias and show displays.

Selection No. 4, Miscellaneous Begonias and shade plants and the Annual Spring Hat Parade of the Ventura Branch.

Each of these selections is accompanied with a list of names in commentary form.

Grace L. Bayer, *Chairman Slide Library*

B. DREGEI X B. r. c. AUTUMN

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego

It seems as though rex begonias do not have their share of attention in these columns but their colors and form are so very subtle it has appeared hopeless to attempt to depict them. A young plant with few and smaller leaves does not do justice to the king of begonias at its best, but since the one I have selected is a dwarf variety, it will give a fair idea of its main characteristics.

We are indebted to two of our best Begonians for the hybrid under discussion. B. r. c. autumn was a maple-leaf type with russet coloring introduced years ago by A. D. Robinson. In 1931, Roy Berry, who passed from our begonia world last fall, succeeded in crossing this rex with semi-tuberous, B. *dregei*. This was not only an interesting achievement in itself but it gave rise to a line of choice dwarf types that are most useful for window gardens or small lathouses. Several of these are named, and I am sorry the one of my sketch does not have a handle. Because of its dark color and perky outline, I would like to call it B. r. c. silhouette, if Mrs. Krauss approves.

My plant comes from the new local nursery of Smith and Walker. This is owned by two veterans who began from a standing start right after World War II, just in time to take the force of a bad freeze the first winter. It is a wholesale firm handling shade plants in a way to give a lift to a gardener's heart. Everything is so fresh and shipshape, so clean and healthy that you know it will grow. It is a pleasure to think that this good stock is being distributed through the country in trucks bearing a big begonia blossom as a trademark. My special joy at the nursery is a fine collection of fibrous and rex begonias, choice selections from the best representative growers of the west, correctly labeled and displayed in show beds. It is fun to see what youth, hard work and begonias can do when they get together. Mr. Walker recommends this month's rex as a good doer.

On second thought, how would you like the name of "Black Beauty" for this hybrid? That could lead to a lot of equine titles, like "Hi-Ho Silver," "Smoky," etc. The sheen of a rex leaf as well as many of its colors is really quite reminiscent of the shining flanks of a prancing horse. Write your new editor what you think of this idea. Let's give her every support and wish for her the patience, understanding and untiring energy of our beloved Marie Wilkes.

As you can see, B *dregei* x B.r.c. autumn is an upright grower, about 8 inches high, very much like its mother in sturdiness, but entirely rhizomatous without any swelling on the trunk, which is dark red with white flecks. It is too

young to have any scars and no ring around the stem, so far. Each pair of stipules is bright red, an inch long, ending in a pointed hairy tip, with paler, reflexed sides. There is a sparse beard of white hairs at the base of each leaf.

Petioles are a dull red with white hairs and a marked groove, topside. They average just under four inches. I selected this particular begonia because the two upper leaves show the characteristic slash in the sides. The longest is 9x4 inches, and the middle one 6x4, with the hook straightened out. All the edges are puckered in a reverse curve, with hairy points. The color is a sooty wine, with a faint red splash in the lobes. It is very much the tone of the fibrous begonia we used to call Tingley Mallet. (B. Mme. Lionnet), darker than I was able to convey. I wonder how a plant without a touch of green chlorophyl can manufacture sugar, but perhaps this rex is color-blind. This wine shade is an intensification of that in its semi-tuberous forbear. The older leaf at the base has tinges of green in the veins and more of the bronze tints of its male parent. The backs of all the leaves are a brilliant, crackled, copper-red, like a battered old kettle.

It looks as though B. *dregei* x B. r. c. autumn was going to be a free bloomer, like the former parent, as the red, bullet-nosed bud is early on such a young plant. I am sorry not to be able to paint it open. All I can tell now is that the flower is that of a typical rex.

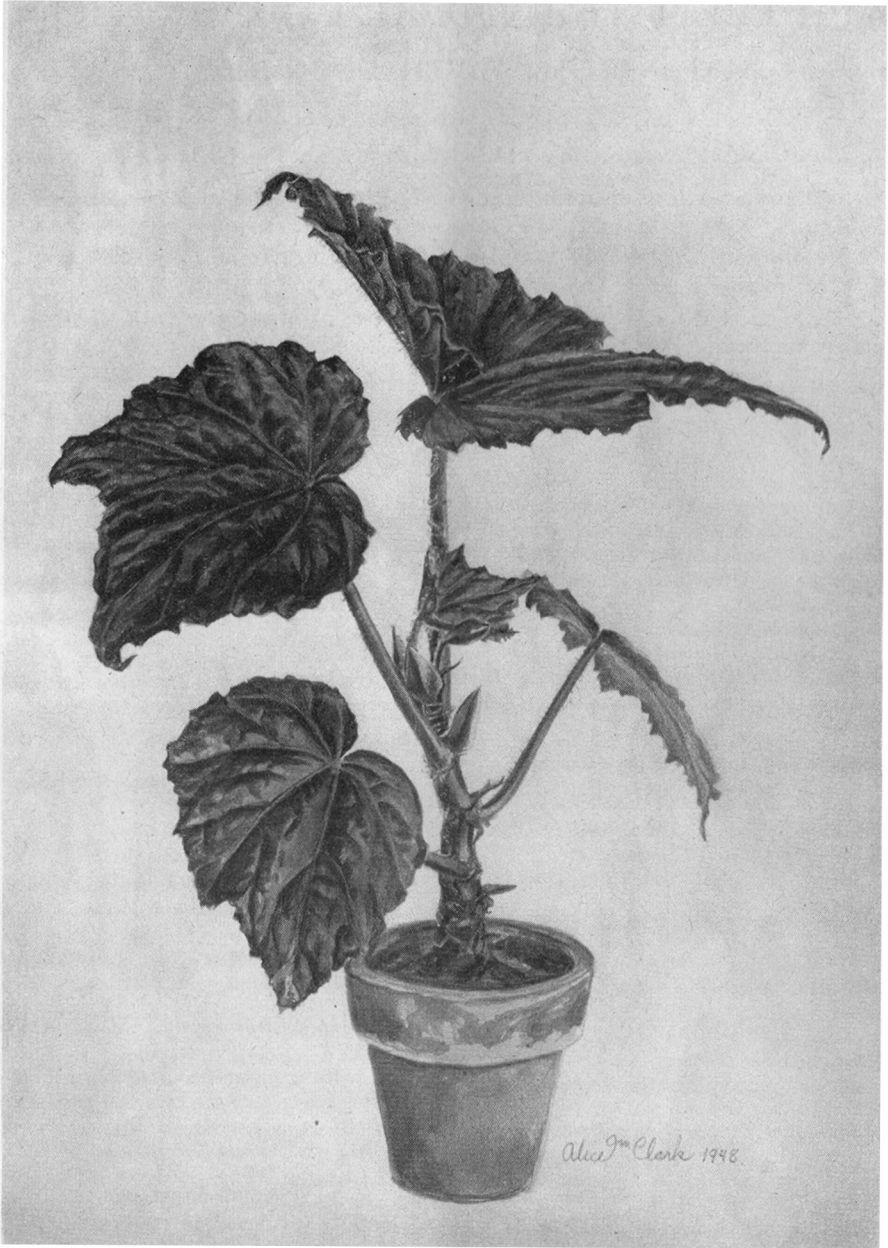
Older plants of these dwarf hybrids make a nice foreground for a rex bed as they can be depended upon to be bushy and low. Try some if you can get them, as they add a pleasing variation to any rex collection. And don't forget to write the editor at once the name you would choose for this orphan.

THE 'UNKNOWN' BECOMES KNOWN

The Librarian is grateful to Marie Minter for suggesting a way of naming our "unknown" begonias we either raise from seed or buy incorrectly labeled. With all good Begoniastes cooperating by taking a snapshot of the begonia in question and sending it to the Librarian, where she in turn will paste them in an album, then interested people may borrow the book for a limited time and compare the pictures and their begonias, helping them to recognize the right name.

These snaps need not be suitable for publishing, but will help many members. Send in your snaps with a short description of the begonia and we shall try to help one another.

National Librarian



B. DREGEI x B.r.c. AUTUMN

BY ALICE M. CLARK

American Begonia Society

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

And Ninth Annual Begonia Show

SEPTEMBER 11th AND 12th, 1948

Glendale Civic Auditorium — 1401 No. Verugo Road — Glendale, California

Auditorium will be open for setting up booth exhibits on Friday, September 10th, 1948, from 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

Auditorium will be open Saturday, September 11th from 7:00 A. M. to 10:00 A. M. for receiving plants entered in competition.

Show open to the public Saturday, September 11th at one o'clock P. M. and on Sunday, September 12th from 10 o'clock A. M. to 6 o'clock P. M.

DIVISION A—Fibrous Rooted Begonias

CLASS

1. Bedding or Semperflorens: such as Westport Beauty, Carmen, etc.
2. Group baskets of bedding begonias.
3. Tall growing or Tree forms: Lucerne, Coccinea Red, etc.
4. Intermediate Growth: Preusen (Lady Waterlow), Digswelliana, Medora, Rosea Gigantea, etc.
5. Low growing branching type, Tingley Mallet, Nitida, Foliosa, Olbia, etc.
6. Scharffiana Group: as Haageana, Loma Alta, Houghtoni, Duchartrei and Scharffiana.

DIVISION B—Rhizomatous—Thick Stem or Procumbent Begonias.

CLASS

7. "Star" types: as *Sunderbruchii*, *Rubella*, *Ricinifolia*, *Mrs. Townsend*, etc.
8. Helix or Spiral and Crested types: as *Bunchii*, *Conchaefolia*, etc.
9. Other Rhizomatous types: as *manicata*, *Feastii*, etc.

DIVISION C—Rhizomatous—Rex Begonias

CLASS

10. Large leaves: as *magnifica*, *Rajah*, *lesoudsii*, *Cardoza Gardens*, etc.
11. Medium or Small leaves: as *Modesty Mulberry*, *King Edward*, etc.
12. Miniature Rex: as *Annie Robinson*, *Dewdrop*, *Toy*, *Ramona*, etc.
13. Helix or Spiralled: as *Countess Louise Erdoedy*, *Bronze King*, etc.
14. Discolor or Branchings: as *Van-ex*, *Mrs. Moon*, *Bertha Macgregor*, etc.

DIVISION D—Tuberous-rooted

CLASS

15. Tuberous: Floral type, Double.
16. Tuberous: Floral type, Single.

DIVISION E—New Seedling Begonias (Classes as necessary)

CLASS

17. Divided as necessary.

DIVISION F—Baskets

CLASS

18. Wall Fern Baskets
19. Wall Fibrous begonia baskets
20. Wall Rex begonia baskets
21. Free hanging Fern baskets
22. Free hanging Fibrous baskets
23. Free hanging Rex baskets

DIVISION G—Odd or Rare Begonias

CLASS

24. Hybrids: as *cally lily*
25. Species: Fibrous, as *Braziliensis*, *Gogoensis*
26. Species: Tuberous rooted—as *Pearcei*, *Evansiana*

DIVISION H—Other Shade Plants

CLASS

27. Fuchsias
28. Ferns, Adiantum (Maidenhair)
29. Ferns, other varieties
30. Saint-Paulia (African) violets
31. Shade Vines
32. Decorative plants
33. Succulents

DIVISION I—Miscellaneous

CLASS

34. Flower arrangements using Begonia blooms and foliage only, accessories permitted.
35. Corsages, any shade plant flower.
36. Dish gardens and Terraria.

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

RIBBONS will be given for first, second and third in each class.

SPECIAL RIBBONS will be given for best Begonia in each Division.

AWARDS will be given as follows:

- Best Begonia in the Show
- Second Best Begonia in the Show
- Third Best Begonia in the Show
- Also added Special Awards

The Glendale Branch Trophy will be awarded to the individual winning the most points in the show, based on the following:

- 3 points for each first place
- 2 points for each second place
- 1 point for each third place
- Special Awards for Branch Exhibits
- American Begonia Society Certificates will be awarded for meritorious plants.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. There will be no entry fee.
 2. All plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least three months prior to the show.

3. Entries in new seedling classes. The cross must have been made by the exhibitor, the names of both parents must be given and the plant must not have been placed on the market.

4. Begonias used in flower arrangements (Class 34) need not be grown by the exhibitors.

5. Any person, other than those who propagate, grow or sell plants for profit, may make as many entries as desired.

All entries must be made according to schedule, by Class.

7. All entries must be in place ready for judging by 10:00 a. m. on September 11th. Entries received after 10:00 a. m. will not be judged, but may be exhibited with the entry card marked "Not in Competition."

8. All exhibitors will report to the Show headquarters and make out an entry card for each exhibit, which will be placed in a sealed envelope at the time of placing the exhibit, allowing same to remain sealed until after the judging. No other card or label will be permitted.

9. Botanical name, common name and variety of each Begonia should be given if possible. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but the judges will recognize correctness of naming as telling in favor of an exhibit in a close competition.

10. Premiums will not be awarded unless the exhibit is considered sufficiently meritorious by the judges.

11. The decision of the Judges shall be final.

12. No exhibit shall be removed until the close of the show unless the exhibitor resides outside of Los Angeles, in which case the exhibit may be removed (if necessary) at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 11th, 1948.

13. All entries must be removed at 6:00 p.m. on September 12th, 1948.

14. All exhibits are from the commencement to the close of the Show, in charge of the Exhibition Committee.

15. While the committee will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.

16. Each person who becomes an exhibitor

thereby agrees to conform to such rules and regulations as the Exhibition Committee may make or authorize.

Fibrous Begonia Specimens

	Points
Cultural perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Quantity and quality of flowers	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	100

Rex Begonia Specimens

Cultural perfection	50
Form	15
Distinctiveness	15
Size of plant	10
Rarity	10
	100

Tuberous Begonia Specimens

Number and size of blooms in proportion to size of plant	40
Distinctiveness and clearness of color	15
Healthy foliage	15
Erect flowering stem	15
Quality of flower	15
	100

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A DAY LONG TO BE REMEMBERED

Mary A. Jenks, Publicity Chairman

The American Begonia Society was invited to present an all day program for the Garden Conference sponsored by Gordon Baker Lloyd, who says "The Garden Club is the life line of civic beauty."

Mrs. Etta Pinnell, Flower Show Chairman, united amateur and commercial growers in planning a non-competitive begonia exhibit June 15th in Hollywood. This fine plant display and program featuring important begonia topics by four of our outstanding begonia enthusiasts, gave much inspiration for the growing of begonias and will long be remembered by those who were able to attend.

Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, of El Monte, displayed some of her fibrous specimens and told of important points to remember in their culture. Humus and feeding for lush growth, double potting to avoid excessive dryness, and sprinkling to moisten the air, but warns against keeping plants too wet as that is more injurious than being too dry. She urges pinching back severely to encourage branching. If plants are naturally a sprawly type they should be trained against a trellis or a wall instead of staking them, as stakes are ugly and unnatural looking. She gave many good suggestions for using fibrous in garden and patio design. Mrs. Leatherman advises the use of ferns and other shade plants interspersed among the begonias for the best effect.

R. G. (Scotty) Hudson, of Huntington Beach, gave a potting demonstration of tuberous begonias. He emphasized the importance of having good stock to start with as no other is worthwhile. He provides perfect drainage with two inches of rocks, then potting mixture up to within one and one-half inches of the top of the pot, pressing down firmly around the edges. Moisture in the soil and surrounding air at all times are necessary, also proper feeding and free circulation of air, the plants must not be crowded. He says without a doubt, the best tuberous stock in the world comes from Frank Reinelt's in Capitola.

Convincing proof of Mr. Hudson's statement was evident in the gorgeous display of tuberous blooms flown from Capitola, to be used by Mrs. W. C. Drummond, our National President in her talk on "The Styling of Tuberous Begonias for Corsages." Some of these blooms were eight inches in diameter, in all colors and shades of color from white to yellow, thru orange to deep maroon and in the rarest flower types. In her demonstration she deftly wires the blooms for necessary support in designing the corsage. Floral designs for weddings as head pieces, bouquets and chiffon muffs, as well as numerous other accessories for the bridal

MORE ON SOIL ALKALINITY

By W. C. Drummond, Hollywood, Calif.

It is indeed a compliment to have a man with Mr. R. B. Peters knowledge of soil-chemistry to read and comment on one's articles. When we think of alkali in the soil we should never forget that soil salinity (the saltiness) can give us the same effect as alkali. The regular flushing of the soil together with good drainage, either in pots or the field helps overcome this trouble. A low water content of the soil may give us the same effect then as alkalinity.

In my observations good tuberous begonias can be grown all summer where the humidity is high enough, and summer temperatures are cool, even with high alkali content of water as of Metropolitan Water. Rex seem more critical of alkali and low humidity than others. They quickly show marginal leaf burn. We should never forget that soil acidity is only one of several environmental factors. That in the growing of begonias high humidity, coolness of summer temperature, and correct kind and amount of water are vital environmental factors.

For those interested in salinity and alkalinity of the soil and water read the Annual Report of 1935 of Smithsonian Institute by Dr. Carl S. Scofield, of U.S.D.A.

party, using tuberous blooms, were shown and explained by our talented President.

Herbert P. Dyckman, of Long Beach, the founder of the A.B.S., gave the fourth big treat of the day when he told of Rex Begonias and Rex Hybrids. 'Rex begonias,' Mr. Dyckman tells us, "were first found in Assam, India in about 1884 in Hungary, the first hybrid was made, after that more crosses were made in Belgium, France, and Germany. Mr. Robinson of San Diego, Calif., and Roy Berry of Keystone, Calif. made more crosses from 1920 to 1940. Mr. Berry bringing out Van-ex and the small leafed group in gorgeous shades of dark reds and bronze colors. The Rex likes more shade than other begonias on account of growing in draws (shallow gullies) in the underbrush, where they get very little sun and are watered a good deal by sub irrigation. The annual rain fall in Assam is 428 inches a year, and has been known to rain as much as 28 inches in 24 hours." Mr. Dyckman exhibited one of his own rex crosses made in 1935. Mrs. Mohn and Evansiana, which is named Moh-neva.

An American Begonia Society Life Membership was presented to Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, A.B.S. Secretary for seven years, by Raymond T. Wilson in behalf of the Hollywood Branch.

LEAF MOLD UNNECESSARY IN EAST

My own experience tends to strengthen my belief that soil of itself, for begonias, is not the important factor if proper soil fertility and moisture are present, the actual ingredients are not important. At present I am growing begonias in the following formulae and there is no apparent difference:

Good garden soil. (No other additions).

Equal soil and manure, with peat. (preponderance of organic matter).

Soil, leaf mold and peat.

Screened sphagnum, soil, manure and peat.

If anything might be deduced from my experiments, it is that in the *East*, leafmold is not at all necessary. My plants with the most vigorous growth are in a mix without leafmold.

A Vermont member uses pure woods soil with superphosphate and charcoal added.

A Kansas member uses almost pure compost which tests neutral or better.

The finest calla begonias I have seen, are being grown by a man in West Hartford, using a mix of sphagnum, soil and peat. Contrary to the generally accepted method of growing them, he keeps them very moist.

The fact that begonias can be grown by hydroponics would tend to substantiate my feelings, that soil ingredients per se, are not important, providing the elements are present in one medium or another. I feel as did the New York grower, that "situation" is a much more important factor.

My feelings with regards to the Robins is a mixture, it has done much to promote a feeling of fellowship among members at large and many members have made some fine friends, but there are times when I deplore the dispersal of unscientific advice, especially when it falls on the ears of a beginner grower. The use of baking powder, saltpetre, etc., while it may prove satisfactory in the case of the grower using it in Nebraska, may be a death blow to the grower in Maine, whose soil does not need additional nitrogen or potassium, but is crying aloud for a pinch of lime to release the nitrogen already present in abundance in her soil. I think members should be more circumspect in these matters and realize that successful growing cannot be reduced to *pat* terms.

Winnifred Piper, *Wethersfield, Conn.*

Plan to attend the Annual Convention on Sept. 11 and 12.

Since the printing of the cover picture on the July issue of the *Begonian*, we have found the *Begonia rex* cultorum Betty is a cross made by Mrs. Henry Flaitz of Ojai, Calif.

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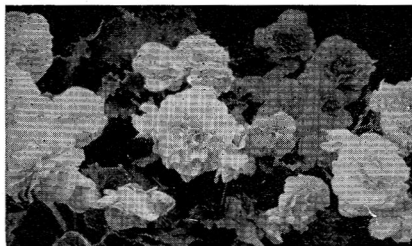
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NATIONAL SECRETARY HONORED — Mrs. A. N. Hartwell of Monrovia (left) secretary of the American Begonia Society for the past seven years, was guest of honor at a special Begonia Day meeting in Hollywood, June 15th. Mrs. W. C. Drummond, National President, presented her with a corsage designed from tuberous blooms flown here from Capitola, by Frank Reinalt for this event. At the right is Raymond T. Wilson, President of the Hollywood Branch of the society, who presented Mrs. Hartwell with a Life Membership in recognition of her exceptional service.



YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Lt. Col. Carroll Gale is a retired Army Officer and has served two years as President of the Pasadena Branch and is National Representative at this time. Col. and Mrs. Gale have a large collection of begonias, ferns, epiphyllums, bromeliads and hardy orchids. They have been very generous with their home and it has been a pleasure for many A.B.S. members to feel welcome to view their spacious grounds.

Mr. George Fitch, Veteran of World War II, and Vice President of the Ventura Branch has been a successful and enthusiastic begonia grower for many years. His wife and two young sons share his enthusiasm in growing all types of shade loving plants. The Welcome Mat is always out.

Mr. W. E. (Bill) Walton of the Inglewood Branch has served as National Treasurer for the past two years. He specializes in tuberous beborous begonias and azaleas, while his wife, Alma, has a very large collection of pelargoniums and African violets. Both of these hobbies are enjoyed by their young daughter.

Mr. R. H. Terrell of the Riverside Branch is

an enthusiastic 'inland' shade plant gardner. He writes a column in the Garden section of the Riverside Press & Enterprize and is successful with many exotic plants and has a lovely garden in which to practice his ideas.

Mr. Fred J. Bozon of the newly formed Southgate Branch, is their National Representative and is an enthusiastic shade plant gardener. He has instigated some novel ideas in this new active branch. Mrs. Bozon and 'junior' are his every-ready helpmates.

Mrs. J. W. Jensen is now serving her second year as President of the Bellflower Branch and along with her duties as a pharmacist, she finds time to be an active Begonianite and her generosity with her time and efforts, has built up an active, well attended Branch.

Mrs. R. L. (Thelma) Sommerfield is President of the Santa Barbara Branch. She has served as Secretary for three years and was Vice President last year. She raises tuberous begonias and many other shade plants in her lovely garden and is active in staging the flower shows in Santa Barbara.



GROWING THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA

By Francis C. Wilson, Ottawa, Canada

Have you a shaded spot in your garden? If so, then you are indeed fortunate, for there you have an ideal situation in which to grow the gorgeous tuberos begonia, the only shade plant which will produce a display of large flowers in almost every color except blue over a period of six months or more under favorable conditions. Few plants in the sunny border can do better, and none surpass the begonia in sheer exotic beauty.

It is true that the tuberos begonia is considered by many gardeners to be a difficult plant to grow, yet, since its introduction into England in 1864 this plant has slowly increased in popularity, especially over the last 40 years, as we learned more of its really simple cultural requirements and as new hybrid forms and colors have become available.

In its native habitat of Central and South America the original plant grows in moist but well drained shady places where the soil is supplied with rich, spongy, slightly acid humus. To grow our own plants successfully we have to duplicate these conditions as far as may be possible in our own gardens, which usually means a specially built up soil in the begonia bed. Here is the way I prepared my own garden soil.

The site chosen was a narrow border on the north side of the house, previously occupied by funkia lilies which had doubtless depleted the otherwise good average garden loam, which was, however, well drained and in good physical condition. I began by removing the

top three inches of soil, placing this to one side from where it could easily be replaced in the bed. Then I dug the bed to a spade's depth, taking out all large stones. The next step was to skim off a further two inches of soil which I used elsewhere in the garden, after which I replaced the top soil previously removed, spreading it evenly over the whole surface. With this initial work over the bed was now ready for treatment.

What I had to do now was convert this loose, spent garden loam into a rich, spongy, waterholding compost. I did this by spreading a thick layer of peat moss over the soil, following up with an application of sheep manure, one quart to the square foot, and a light sprinkling of bone meal, after which I ruffled the whole of this added material through and through the underlying loam. The peat moss, in addition to providing sponginess and waterholding capacity, also contributed to the soil the slight acidity which begonias require. Oak leaf compost would have served equally as well if I had had any. Had my soil been heavy, or less well drained, then I should have added a quantity of sharp sand to the bed. Incidentally the bed proved to be good for an indefinite period, provided only that I fertilized with the sheep manure and bone meal in each year. Organic fertilizers are preferred for the tuberos begonia, since chemical fertilizer, and especially those high in nitrogen, tend to make the plants so brittle as sometimes to break under their own weight.

I planted my started tubers into this bed towards the end of May at 15 inches apart, and they flowered from June until just before frost in October. I was careful to set each plant into the soil at the same height at which they stood in the pot, since too deep planting is a sure cause of rotting at the base. I watered sparingly until the plants were established, after which I kept them always moist, a condition maintained by an early two-inch mulch of peat moss which I later dug into the ground after the tubers had been removed in fall.

I start my tubers in the house in late February or early March, in shallow trays filled with peat moss or vermiculite. I set the tubers in the moss close together but not touching each other, and with the hollowed tops left exposed. I keep the trays in a shady place and in a temperature of about 65, although starting temperature may be somewhat higher without injurious effect. At temperatures below 60 the tubers start slowly, if at all, and are extremely likely to rot in the trays, especially if overwatered. Even at higher temperatures it is safer to water very sparingly until the tubers have sprouted.

When the tubers show little pink buds around the edges of the hollowed centers I pot them singly into 2-inch pots, using a potting compost made up of six parts good garden soil, one part peat moss, one half part sheep manure, and am careful to set the tubers with their tops level with the soil. And, with the ever present possibility of rot in mind, I continue to water sparingly until the plants are well established in their pots. I keep these plants in a lightly shaded window and continue to hold the temperature around 60-65 in order to produce strong, stocky material for planting out in late May.

In FALL I lift my tubers a little before the first frost, lifting the plants entire with any dirt which may still be adhering to the roots. I place whole plants loosely in flats which I hold in a cool dry place until the tubers have ripened and the tops fall away. Then, carefully, I clean the tubers and allow them to dry out again, after which I store them in clean dry sand in a temperature of 50. Tubers do, however, deteriorate after their second year in the garden, and better results will then be obtained with new stock.

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NAME CHANGE SUGGESTED

Many American Begonia Society members outside of California feel the Society should change its name to *The California Begonia Society*.

The reason for this is obvious, however, once we give the matter some sincere thought, it should be understandable *why* so much of *The Begonian* is given over to the activities of the California Branches. The editor is eager to report on all Branches, in California or outside California. The staff is constantly seeking articles and information from members in the North, South and East.

The American Begonia Society is a non-profit organization, conducted solely for the benefit of begonia and shade plant lovers, not only in California, not only in the United States, but for Begoniaites all over the world!

If you would like to see articles from your part of the world, in *The Begonian*, contribute something yourself or urge some successful begonia grower of your acquaintance, to contribute something.

The American Begonia Society is ready to serve you and to consider your articles, whether you live in Alaska or the dry plains of Texas.

To feel it is really *your* Society, you must participate in its activities and in its growth.

It is only the California climate so ideally suited for the growth of begonias, that brings so many begonia lovers together, in one great locality.

The fact remains, it is *The American Begonia Society*.

The Editor

Antonelli Brothers

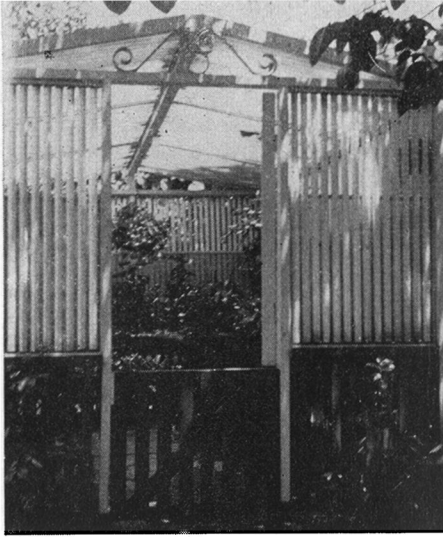
**Begonia
Gardens**

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

Route 2, Box 1296
Santa Cruz, California

Due to the many entries for the Contest, the judges are having a difficult time deciding the winners. Announcements of the winners will be made in the September issue of *The Begonian*.

Plan to attend the Annual National Convention September 11th and 12th.



A GLASS LATH HOUSE

Dr. Harry E. Goodman, Los Angeles

Located on the back corner of the lot, where shade and soil were not suited to the seasonal outdoor flowers and plants, we created this interesting flower house.

It seemed a most suitable spot for shade loving plants, as well as for a house in which to grow them. The urge prevailed until we laid plans to build such a house.

In the construction we utilized both glass and lattice, resulting in a house unique and attractive in appearance and exceedingly practical as a flower-house. The ground space covered was eight feet in width and twelve feet in length.

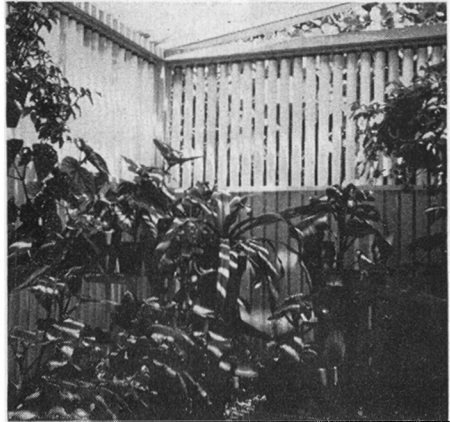
The cement foundation for the skeleton frame was eight inches deep and five inches wide. The frame was made of two by fours and two by threes, with seven foot side walls, with a height of eight feet in the center, allowing for a pitch to the roof. Thirty inches above the foundation a two by four stringer was placed between the uprights; from this to the mud-sill we used the conventional lattice stripping. Above this we used glass, both on the sides and on the roof. Instead of panes of glass we used one and one-half inch glass tubes, four feet long. The unique feature being the utilization of exhausted or burned-out fluorescent light tubes. These tubes are set in frames four feet square, the tubes being placed one half inch apart. The frame was so proportioned that each side contained three four foot sashes and the same number on the roof. The end contained two sashes and after providing for a door, two narrow sashes completed the front.

After the frame and sash were in place flower trays were built on both sides and across the end, approximately two feet wide, four inches deep in front and five inches deep in back. These were made of redwood and painted green; the frame and sash were painted white, the lattice green.

A brick floor was laid in the open space, leaving dirt under the flower trays. We installed a sprinkling system by running one-half inch pipe up each side and placing a master-type sprinkler-head at right angles with the pipes. We wired the house for lighting by placing a single outlet in the center of the building.

An attractive feature is the Dutch door, the lower portion is made of lattice and the upper of the glass tubes.

The building is very attractive inside as well as outside. The glistening white tubes have many features — probably the most outstanding is the light-reflecting medium, which increases greatly the quantity of light; but instead of direct light, it is diffused. These tubes placed one half inch apart will produce more light than lath placed one inch apart, being only half as far apart and will reduce the amount of wind by an equal amount. The very nature of the tubes, being vacuous, will repel the heat which lowers the temperature by several degrees during hot days, while in cold weather the plants are better protected due to the reduced air spaces between the tubes.



One of the most attractive features is the low cost. It required about three hundred and fifty tubes which cost the trouble of collecting them, as they are easily obtained from those who discard them in great quantities.

The pure white background for the plants makes an exceptional display feature. Another interesting feature is the manner in which rain or the results of sprinkling. *Never* produces a *drip*, as all the water follows the tubes until it reaches the end.

See page 184

MORE SEED FUND FOR SEED FUN

Charles P. Wilson, M. D., Portland, Oregon

I want to report the results of germination of my begonia seeds received through participation in the Seed Fund. Because of the generous variety of seed offered by the Fund and the limited space available, I had to devise a method whereby I could divide the propagating boxes into small sections. I took some empty cigar boxes made of Spanish cedar which have removable inner wall boards. These latter can be cut easily so as to be fitted and made to form nine little sections for each box. I tacked the bottom on securely with tiny brads and made multiple holes in the bottom for drainage. In this way I can have twenty-seven sections and the space required is eight by eighteen inches or thirty-six sections in a place of twelve by sixteen inches.

The propagating medium I am using is called Flowerite, locally. It looks like a fine white beach sand but is really one of the obsidians I think, although it is called pumice. It is light and porous, holding water well without packing. I have tried peat, vermiculite and mason's sand, but none of these have been as satisfactory as Flowerite. I have never tried sphagnum moss.

My propagating case is made of plywood which took me about four hours to make. It is heated by two sixty watt Mazda lamps and thermostatically controlled to maintain a temperature of seventy degrees F. Between the heating elements and the thermostat I have placed a removable screen on which I place the flats containing the seeds. This box is closed on all sides so the only light is reflected from the Mazda lamps and maintaining a high relative humidity is no problem. Under these conditions I expect germination in one week for the ambitious seeds and two weeks for the less energetic ones. As soon as germination is accomplished satisfactorily the seedlings are brought into the light. Since the propagating medium has no nourishment I set the cigar boxes in water containing a liquid fertilizer about every two weeks and at other times set them in warm tap water or spray them.

LATH HOUSE, (Cont. from page 183)

After a year we are very happy over our experiment and are delighted to pass the story on to others who may wish to play with a new idea and depart from the conventional lath house.

Today we are tempted to put a "No Vacancy" sign on the front door as the house is bursting with blooms of fuchsias, begonias and many other shade plants we were never tempted to grow before we had a house for them.

From here on I am less successful, but I am more successful than my first year which was 1946. The mortality is high but eventually I get more plants growing in pots than I can use. If it was not for this mortality and because I give so many away, I wouldn't have room to engage in next year's program and would thereby deprive myself of Seed Fun from the Seed Fund.

I have found some interest in trying to decide what seeds are apt to germinate before I plant them. I had noticed that the seed in some packets stuck to the sides of the paper and in others nearly all ran down into the creases. I put several samples under a microscope and saw why this observation was so. Those seeds which stuck were deformed, flattened affairs, where as those which ran down the sides of the paper were symmetrically formed like miniature hand-grenades. In speaking of this to a friend I was told that George Otten determined viability of begonia seeds by running them down an incline made of silk, using only those which ran down the incline readily.

When the new shipment of seeds came I decided to try the method with five packets. In three instances there was excellent germination of seeds which rolled and poor for those which did not. In one instance there was no germination for either, which may have been due to lack of courage when they would not roll down readily. This will have to be checked because the angle of the roll and the amount of tapping necessary to start the seeds rolling, the texture and tightness of the silk are all minor problems.

I will carry on these observations next year and will report again.

Report on Germination of 1948 Seeds

NUMBER	GERMINATION
1 B. venosa	Excellent
2 B. Dominica species No. 6 (Scabrida)	Excellent
3 B. Dominica species No. 7 (heracleifolia)	Excellent
4 B. Popenoei	Excellent
5 B. gigantea	None
6 B. Cathcarti	Poor
7 B. Andersoni	
8 B. Picta	
9 B. Josephi	Excellent
10 B. megaptera	Fair
11 B. tuberous hybrids	Excellent
12 B. Dominican Republic species No. 102	None
13 B. Mexican heracleifolia	Excellent
14 B. involucreta	Poor

See page 185

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 15 | B. Immense | Excellent |
| 16 | B. Malabarica | Excellent |
| 17 | B. laciniata | None |
| 18 | B. Bhotan species | None |
| 19 | B. ovalifolia | None |
| 20 | B. Himalayan Rex species | Excellent |
| 21 | B. Dominica species No. 8 (Franconis) | Excellent |
| 22 | B. Dominica species No. 9 | None |
| 23 | B. Dominica species No. 10 | Poor |
| 24 | B. Dominica species No. 11 | Poor |
| 25 | B. calla lily | Fair |
| 26 | B. Dominica species—minute | Excellent |
| 27 | B. Mexican Rockery (Schulziana) | Excellent |
| 28 | B. dwarf semperflorens | Fair |
| 29 | B. coccinea megarama | |
| 30 | B. decandra | Excellent |
| 31 | B. incana | |
| 32 | B. angularis | |
| 33 | B. Manda's wooly bear | Excellent |
| 34 | B. Colombia species No. 2098 | Fair |
| 35 | B. compta | Excellent |
| 36 | B. pink rubra | Excellent |
| 37 | B. gracilis var diversifolia | Good |
| 38 | B. India semperflorens species | Excellent |

Make your reservations for the Barbecue Dinner by sending remittance to Mrs. Carlise Slattery, 3201 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif., by Sept. 4.

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unnamed varieties, per doz \$5.00



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SEED FUND NEWS FOR AUGUST

Next month the call goes out for recruits for our next Armchair Explorer's Expedition. All of you Seed Fund fans start saving those pennies so you will be ready to set sail with us. Sailing fee will be two dollars and a membership in the A.B.S.

If you have thus far put off joining the Armchair Explorer's Correspondence Club, do not put it off much longer, write to Mrs. Marie Minter, Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, Calif. Mrs. Minter has just sent in the information that four of our unnamed begonias have been identified, No. 2 is B. Scabrida, No. 3 B. Heracleifolia, No. 21 B. Franconis and No. 27 B. Schulziana. She reports B. Cathcartii doing well.

Remember you have a date with your Skipper on September 11th and 12th in Glendale, Calif. We will have a booth with plants grown from our rare seed. There will be free begonia seed and free seedling plants, so do not fail to register at our booth and have a visit with us.

In our seed offers this month are several unusual items. Our collector in Columbia sent this description of Tibouchinas: "Tibouchinas are of the family Melastomaceas mostly found in Brazil and Columbia. All plant-hunters who have visited Columbia have spoken with great enthusiasm of this beautiful Andian plant. Pleroma (or princess flower) is often found in Southern California gardens and is of this family. Its true name is *Tibouchina semidecandra grandiflora*. Tibouchinas are considered among the handsomest of our intermediate greenhouse plants. The Columbian flower lovers have transplanted many wild plants of Tibouchinas to their home gardens and the public parks. The propagation of seeds is easy being the same as begonias. They do not mind light frosts. This should be an excellent plant for southern gardens."

SEED OFFERS FOR AUGUST

- Tibouchina species mixed
- Colombia wild fuchsia
- Colombia bromeliads
- Bomarea (climbing amaryllis of Colombia)
- Mexican Bromeliads
- Creeping tongue fern spores—Colombia
- Creeping tongue fern spores—Mexico
- Twenty-five cents per packet.
- Cheerio, your Skipper,

Florence Carrell

Plan to enter your Begonias and other shade loving plants in the Second Annual Long Beach Flower Show, Aug. 5th to 8th, inclusive. Fine awards are awaiting the winners.

Watch for the forthcoming article on Gesnerias by Mrs. Florence Carrell.

SEED STARTING BOX

By Irvin Kramer, San Francisco, Calif.

Following is a description of a homemade seed starting box or "incubator" which I have used quite successfully for over two years and which cost less than \$4.00.

With boards from a large packing box I built a smaller box 13 inches deep, and wide and long enough to hold two flats side by side. A wood rail or narrow shelf to hold the flats was nailed around the inside about 8 inches up from the bottom. The four inside walls and bottom of the box were lined with corrugated paper to insulate it. The whole top of the box was covered with glass cut into two pieces, making it easy to open the top for watering.

Heat was furnished by four electric lights controlled by a thermostat, which will maintain within two or three degrees any desired temperature. The electrical work was simple. I purchased four porcelain electric light sockets and fastened them to the inside walls of the box under the flats, one on each wall. I then wired them together and put in 40-watt light globes. At one end of the circuit I connected a fish aquarium thermostat which was in turn connected to the house light circuit. The thermostat will control the temperature by switching the lights off when a regulated temperature is reached and switching them on again when the temperature drops. The thermostat usually comes in a set with the aquarium heater but may be purchased alone at a cost of about \$2.50. I can furnish pictures or wiring diagram if needed to those writing me direct.

FUCHSIA — LA NURSERY

Announcing our 2 Latest Fuchsia Introductions
"CHECKERBOARD" and "MISSION BELL"
NOW ON SALE

See our large collection of Hardy Mexican
Orchids — Open 7 days a week.

3569 Atlantic Ave. — Long Beach 7, Calif.

JOY WITH MY REX

From page 171

In our busy lives we feel we do not have the time to propagate these from seed as perhaps two or three from a flat are all that is worth saving.

The seeds which are very tiny should be mixed with a little sand and strewn over soil made of finely sifted peat moss and sand, about half and half, in a clay pan which has been well soaked. Pat down with the hand, cover with glass and newspaper and keep in warm place about 70 degrees. Back of a Servel Refrigerator is an ideal place if you are not fortun-

nate enough to own a glass house. Keep moist at all times by soaking sponge or cloth in warm water to which has been added a drop or two of chlorox (to prevent damping off) and gently squeeze over soil. In about ten days tiny green plants will be showing. Paper should be removed and glass slightly raised. When the plants have formed four leaves, they should be transplanted into finely sifted leaf mould, using a pen point that has been pryed open, or small tweezers, for lifting. A toothpick works well for a trowel.

Rexes can be propagated from leaves either in sand or one of the new rooting soils such as vermiculite. Break off stem about one-fourth inch from leaf, then cut or break leaf about half an inch from stem. This is done to conserve space and if not done, oftentimes the underside of veins root and try to come up. Press down so that the leaf is well anchored.

The potting soil for Rex should be a pliable mixture containing mostly leaf mould. Each grower has his or her own pet mixture, so I say use the one with which you have the best success. Mine is the following and by luck or decision of the judges, I had the best Rex in the show at Long Beach in 1947.

To a wash tub two-thirds full of leaf mould and compost mixed, add one gallon cotton seed fed steer manure, one gallon nitrohumous (Kelloggs preferred), two gallons sand, one pound bone meal, two gallons peat moss and a quart of Scotch soot. Mix well.

After the growing season has begun, feed once a month with a liquid fertilizer or manure water.

One need not have an expensive house to grow Rexes. In fact I think they have better coloring with a roof of cloth. Either white feed sacks sewed together, or muslin sheeting. My begonias live in such a house. There is building paper three feet from the ground to prevent draft . . . then glass on three sides; the other side being a building.

Begonias have their enemies such as leaf miner and mealy bug. I use a spray called Pysect to which has been added a few drops of DDT Fly Spray. It does not hurt the finest Maidenhair.

Rex Begonias should be kept moist at all times but not soggy. On very warm days sprinkle twice to keep the air moist and cool.

Maidenhair Fern, gloxinias, calla lily begonias all do well under these conditions, soil and treatment, and with a small amount of labor one may have a spot where there is no jostling, bickering — only peace and joy.

Your friends may visit your garden of Rexes and Ferns and see your character reflected therein.

NEW ENGLAND REPORTS

The first 1948 meeting of the New England Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at the Logee Greenhouses, Danielson, Conn., on June 5th. The President, Mr. William E. Starr, of Southbridge, Mass., presided at the business meeting, and announced that the next meeting would be held in the historic town of Concord, Mass., on July 17th.

Mr. E. K. Logee gave an interesting and instructive talk on hybridizing begonias, especially those of the new Thimbleberry types with which he has been so successful. A magnifying glass is essential, and the one shown was a Berger Loupe No. 1600 (American Optical Co.) Tweezers, indelible pencil and tags are also needed. Examples of good and bad plants for use were shown. Leggy plants should not be used for parents, as results will be uncertain and surprising, but rarely satisfactory. Begonia pollen in New England is of short duration, probably only a day or two, and is abundant only in species plants. Double flowers do not produce pollen, but on each double-flowered plant are some semi-double and single flowers which carry pollen. Seed from these will produce a percentage of doubles.

Hybridizing requires patience and persistence, for pollinated flowers often drop without setting seed, or may ripen a pod which contains no seed. Several days of fine weather are required for successful work, as the pollen sacs ripen slowly. One damp day while the pollen is ripening may destroy its fertility. The male flowers, usually grow above the females, and open first, while the females are still in bud. Seed from species usually comes true to type, and a variation shows that wind or insects have carried pollen from nearby plants. From such accidental fertilization have come some fine hybrids. Seeds from hybrids show various ancestral types, but some hybrids are quite sterile. Robinson's Interlaken will produce large, handsome clusters of seed pods which are sterile, at least, in New England.

Mr. Logee chose a dwarf plant to cross with a semi-tall one. This should produce a bushy plant of medium height. The microscope will show when the pollen is ripe enough to use, usually not until the flower has been open a day or two. Several warm days are necessary to ripen the pollen, which will be at its best about noon-time, on a sunny day.

The second speaker was Mr. Louis J. Kuester, president of the New York Branch, who gave a most interesting talk on the recent begonia discoveries of Mr. Thomas MacDougall of New York, whose work has been done in southern Mexico, close to the Guatemalan

border. Mr. MacDougall, who was trained abroad, has spent many years in Mexico, and many Mexican species are credited to him. One of the most beautiful begonias which he discovered is *B. Mazae*, which he found on the ranch of Don Lisandro Maza, in 1946. It grows in the rain forest at 2000 feet altitude. In Eastern homes it will grow best in a Wardian case, as house air is too dry for a rain forest plant. A night temperature of 50 degrees F. is needed for good growth.

Another plant, one which has been named for its discoverer, is *B. MacDougalli* (1946) a very vigorous plant with large star shaped leaves and a flower spike eight and one-half feet high. This plant also grew on Don Maza's rancho, in the open country black soil of a lower altitude. Nearby, on limestone rocks, grew *B. imperialis*, Lembach. *B. imperialis* var. *maculata*, in its native home, is sometimes quite reddish, and very apt to have long, bare spaces on the rhizome, with the leaves only at the tip. Mr. MacDougall also found a dwarf *B. manicata*, at less than 1000 feet altitude. It lacked the red-tipped collar of hairs under the leaf, which is present in *B. manicata*.

B. Liebmanni was first found in Mexico by F. M. Liebmann in 1853. For some years, it was not in cultivation, but in 1936 it was found again by Mr. MacDougall on the slope of a volcano between 4000 and 5000 feet altitude. *Nelumbiifolia*, he found rather common in many parts of Mexico, and *heracleifolia* is also widely distributed. They are not rain forest plants, but grow in open country. *Strigilosa* is another of the older begonias rediscovered by Mr. MacDougall. This plant, named by Dietrich and discovered in Central America by the Polish explorer, Warszewicz in 1851, is the same plant discovered in Mexico in 1860 by Lembach and named *daedalea*.

Several of Mr. MacDougall's discoveries have not yet been identified, and are known only by number. C 36 was found in clearings, in half shade, below 1000 feet altitude. C 58 was found at 7800 feet. Four new begonias were found in 1948 and these will be introduced by Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara, California. All these tropical begonias are used to cool nights and heavy dews, which give us an idea how we must grow them to be successful.

After the program, members scattered about the greenhouses to admire Mr. Logee's beautiful begonias, especially the long bench of the new Thimbleberry hybrids, with dark brown leaves and long, berry-shaped flowers in many shades of red and pink, yellow tipped. Another bench was filled with the temperamental *B. calla lily*, and these showed amazing vigor of

See page 188

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

A recent letter from our Australian member, Mr. Arthur W. Craig, contained so much of interest that I would like to share it with society members. He writes:

Dear Mrs. Buxton:

"I was a member and keen exhibitor of the several horticultural societies up to the time of their disbanding. The societies all closed down during the war and we are only just beginning to start up again. I have received some seeds from the Seed Fund through Mrs. E. Carrell, also a nice letter from that lady. And of course, *The Begonian*. I venture to say, I look forward to it just as eagerly as your local enthusiasts.

My begonias are now starting to flower. B. Manda's woolly bear flowered last week. Isn't it a delightful little plant? Also B. Schmidtiana has commenced and all the rest are now starting to grow in earnest. I have three strays that I cannot yet identify. They came up on the bench, but so far I cannot reconcile them with the descriptions of any I have received. I placed B. Weltoniensis rosea through your book—had it for years, but never knew the name. In your section on rex begonias you mention B. Rex Glory of St. Albans, which I have. In fact, it is the only rex I have at present. I have tried in vain to get some seed from it, but it just won't set. If anybody could spare me a pinch of seed of B. Evansiana, B. discolor or B. metallica, I should be grateful. I want to try some crosses. I have had the idea, for some time, of trying to get the B. dichroa orange blood into the "Angel Wing" type, thereby developing an orange flowered tree type, but I see that Mr. Woodriff has already achieved this. I have also thought of crossing a white semi-double semperflorens with a suitable orange flowered variety to obtain an orange flowered semperflorens, but as yet I have no white semperflorens, not a suitable orange to use as male parent. By which you will gather that I am rather partial to orange flowers. I have some seedlings of Lucerna coming on and I am wondering what they will turn out."

Mr. Arthur W. Craig, care W. E. Eldridge, Pty., Ltd., 256 Mitchell Road, Alexandria, Sydney, Australia.

Let us make a drive for members by every Begonia member interesting at least one NEW member in the joy of shade plant gardening.

NEW ENGLAND REPORTS, (Cont. from page 187)

green and white leaves and red, pink or white flowers. Many new and rare begonias were shown and a great variety of Rex hybrids.

Bessie R. Buxton, Co-Editor

SAN GABRIEL BRANCH: Will hold a Begonia Show starting at 1 p.m. August 15th, at 27 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia. A potluck dinner will be followed by a "Swapping of Trade Secrets," for better Begonias.

Mrs. Myrtle Jones, *Secretary*

PETALUMA BRANCH: Had a large gathering of members and guests at their June meeting, to hear Mrs. Lillian Bradbury, a very successful grower of all types of begonias. Mrs. James Cornelius, Branch Librarian, displayed the books in the Library and a great deal of enthusiasm was shown in her efforts to accumulate a supply of books on Begonias, shade plants and pests and their control.

Mrs. Cuma D. Wakefield, *Secretary*

MIAMI BRANCH: Held a very interesting meeting with Mr. Dean talking on soils and chemicals in the soils. He stressed the point of the necessity of unlocking chemicals in alkaline soils. Refreshments were served following a lively plant sale.

Francis Michelson, *Nat'l Repr.*

FOOTHILL BRANCH: Mr. Gordon Baker Lloyd delightfully entranced the 110 members of the Foothill Branch on June 4th with his witty and humorous talk, "Through Sun and Blisters." He maintains that through careful observation of the amount of moisture and presence of acidity in the shade garden the culture of beautiful plants can be a source of joy instead of a chore. Watering shade loving plants thoroughly and deeply is an often overlooked practice, and it is becoming apparent that these plants should develop a deeper root system than is commonly encouraged.

To grow these plants successfully in the intermediate valleys, humidity by spray or fog several times a day is an absolute necessity. Mulches also help maintain a humid condition. Through applications of soil sulphur or a liquid acidifier the alkalinity of most of our water supply can be counteracted and kept on the acid side for better plant growth.

The most noteworthy thing to be remembered from Mr. Lloyd's talk is his profound philosophy of life—the ability to live together peacefully as human beings through the sharing of our thoughts as well as our gardens with others. Edwin O. Williams, *Pro. Chairman*

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CONDENSED MINUTES — Meeting National Board A.B.S. held in the City Hall, Room 55, Los Angeles, Calif., June 28th, 1948, with President Drummond in the Chair.

Present at the meeting — Representative Directors from Pasadena, Hollywood, Ventura, Long Beach Branch and Parent Branch, Southgate, Inglewood, San Gabriel Valley, San Fernando Valley, Glendale, Bellflower, Santa Barbara, Editor Behrends, Treasurer Walton, President Drummond, Directors Hixon and Bailey, Membership Fees Dere, Past President Lawrence and Secretary Gonda Hartwell.

Minutes meeting May 24th read and approved as read.

Reports of Treasurer, Editor, Advertising Chairman and Membership Fees read and approved as read and filed as part of the minutes.

Branch Reports

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger reported as Public Relations Director—I hear there is a Constitution and By-Laws in the mail from El Monte; very wonderful news from the branches up north; several letters from people in Washington and Oregon who want to start branches. Mr. and Mrs. Swagger attended our last meeting. We are getting along nicely and are also celebrating Founders' Day with the Ventura and Santa Paula Branches at Foster Park.

Mrs. Bayer of Speaker Bureau and Slide Library. Asked for a ruling from the Board as to whether or not we wished to loan our slides to groups outside the Society. Motion by Mr. Bozon "That we make a charge of \$2.00 and mailing charges to outside groups." Motion carried. Mrs. Bayer further stated the cost of reproduction and postage of sixty slides.

EL MONTE BRANCH: Our newest Branch reports an active program. After election of officers in June, Mr. P. J. Miller of Whittier showed colored slides of the beautiful rex begonias growing in his garden. Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman gave an interesting talk and display of many varieties of her begonias, in July.

Laura Dashiell, *Public Relations*

RIVERSIDE BRANCH: Will have a Patio Family Supper Picnic on August 8th. Talks on birds, pests and pets, with movies comprising the program.

Mrs. William Allen, *Secretary*

INGLEWOOD BRANCH: Will hold a Begonia Show and a special meeting honoring Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, August 12th, in the Inglewood Woman's Club, 325 North Hillcrest. Mr. Dyckman will present the awards. Members of all Branches are cordially invited. Another date to mark on your calendar, is Aug. 22nd. Inglewood Branch is planning a Garden Visitation to Rosecroft Gardens in San Diego. The time is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plan to join this group and bring your picnic lunch.

Mrs. Thomas Crandall, *Secretary*

FOR OUT OF THE ORDINARY PLANTS

Our 1948 Catalog Is Yours for the Asking

KALLMAN'S GARDEN NURSERY
"EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN"

228 N. Milpas St. Santa Barbara, Calif.

The consensus of opinion is such that slides are not to be loaned outside our branches until we feel they are representative of the Begonia Society.

Mrs. Pinnell for Flower Show sent in the following report: "We have a letter from the Pacific Flower Shows inviting our National Board to exhibit at their Flower Show but after discussion with her Committee they felt we should decline the invitation for this year. This of course has no bearing on individual branches entering their exhibits as several of them are planning to do."

The San Fernando Valley Branch, Bellflower Branch, Southgate and Inglewood all reported good meetings, good speakers and good plant tables with interest keeping up and new members being added.

Mr. Knecht for Ventura stressed the Founder's Day meeting held July 25th at Foster Park and invited every one to attend. Santa Barbara and Santa Paula are joining with Ventura to make this a really outstanding picnic to pay homage to the Founder of our Society. Many branches are planning to charter busses and go in a body.

Mrs. Korts for Glendale reported a very successful meeting with a nice plant sale and White Elephant sale. Mrs. Bayer showed slides and Glendale accepts Ventura's invitation to celebrate Founder's Day with them.

Mr. Krebs, as Alternate Representative Director from San Gabriel Valley reported a Flower Show with Branch Members exhibiting and a Pot Luck Dinner for their August 15th meeting. Everyone invited. S.G.V. has chartered a bus to go to Ventura.

North Long Beach and Parent Branch reported by Mr. Hixon. Miss Hoak came down from Pasadena to speak before the Parent Branch and gave us a very informative talk on plants and their names. N.L.B. Branch had a nice meeting and plant sale and will have a nice sized group going to Ventura.

Mrs. Flynn for Hollywood reported a good meeting June 10th with Miss Hoak giving a begonia lesson and a fuchsia talk was given by Jack of Baake's. A pot luck dinner and garden tour was also held in June.

Mr. Bozon for the Southgate Branch stated "We get very fine cooperation from our nurseries and each one permits us to put up a sign telling where we hold our meetings and inviting the public to attend." We appreciate this gesture of cooperation.

Unfinished Business

Col. Gale reported he and Mr. Humble had contacted Geo. Johnson relative to his resignation as President Elect—as instructed by the Board—but after due consideration Mr. Johnson still felt it was for the best interests of the Society that his resignation stand. Therefore the following motion was made, seconded by Mrs. Korts—"I therefore move that the resignation of George Johnson as President Elect be accepted with regret." CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bills with proper O.K. were read and ordered paid.

New Business

Motion to include names of Representative Directors under title of "Officers of the Association" and Secretary instructed to mail notices of any special Board meetings to each Representative Director. Matter placed in Editor's hands to make the adjustment.

Editor asked permission to have some colored pictures for the Begonian providing the cost was not prohibitive. Motion by Mr. Brown "That we authorize the Editor and Editorial Staff to make sufficient expenditure at their discretion to give us a good magazine and pay for colored pictures whatever sum is considered reasonable first contacting the treasurer and stating the probable amount to be expended — a good magazine is what we want and are interested in putting out." CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Col. Gale brought up the matter of filling the vacancies on the Board and voiced the following motion — "I move that the President ask the Nominating Committee to supply two candidates each for the Office of President, President Elect, Treasurer and one Director." CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment on motion, to meet again same place July 26th at 8 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
GONDA HARTWELL, Sec'y.

Meeting Dates and Places

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Louise Gardner, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
Mrs. Margaret Hanson, Sec.
9652 E. Center Street, Bellflower, Calif.

DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

1st Friday, Aug. 6
2110 Lapeer St., Dessert, 7 p.m.
Mrs. Edwin Crosby, President
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, C.-lif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, August 19th
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 64
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Corr. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Aug. 16
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Aug. 6, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, Secretary
5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Edith Pedgrift, Rec.-Sec.
6551 Fountain Ave., Hollywood 28.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Hi Sch. Cafe., 1200 E. Olive, Compton
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3586 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Aug. 9, 8 p.m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Miss Margaret Smith, Farmdale, Calif.
P. O. Box 635, Farmdale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Aug. 12, 8 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Dr. Constance Holmes
133 Prescott, El Cajon, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Third Tuesday, Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rose C. Hixon, Sec.-Treas.
76 W. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

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

MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2592 Trapp Ave. Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sunday, Sept. 12th, 2:30 p.m.
Crestwood Public Library
Crestwood, N.Y.

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Miss Evelyn Peterson
1414 E. 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center
Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m.
2031 E. Villa Street
Mrs. Frank Clark, Sec.-Treas.
2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Mrs. Lee Kraus, Pres.
Wynwood, Pa.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Aug. 11, 8 p.m.
Mrs. Wm. Allen, Sec.-Treas.
7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Aug. 17, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. A. Boyd Collier, Secy.
2777 Harkness Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Aug. 24
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Frank Ecker, Secretary
21003 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Aug. 25, 8 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Mrs. Bertha Aversman, Secy.
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.
345 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A
Santa Paula, California

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Aug. 19, 8 p.m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,
Mrs. Mary Casey, Sec'y-Treas.
4085 Tweedy Blvd., Southgate, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Miss Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
335A So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

See page 191

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.
 4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, Aug. 25, 8 p.m.
 Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
 Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
 Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m.
 Union High School, Room 19
 Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
 Mrs. Isamae M. Capell, Sec.
 445 N. Comstock Ave., Whittier, Calif.

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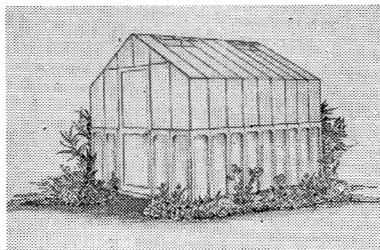
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