

BEGONIA SUBVILLOSA

(syn. scotch luxurians)

☆

Photo by Bill Bayer

Plant Grown by Mrs. Grace Bayer Burbank, Calif.

☆

APRIL 1950

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THE BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of The American **Begonia Society**

23



Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

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Easter Message

It is at this time of the year that the greatest pleasures are derived from our gardens. Now is the time I have the most desire to go into the lath house and see that every little necessary thing is done for the plants to assist their growth.

What can be more wonderful than watching the development of a new crop of seedlings? What color will the flowers be? How large will the plant grow? Can I keep them symmetrical and beautiful? What soil does this one over here like best? When will the first tuberous bloom? All these things are uppermost in mind and bring to me happily anxious days of waiting, working, and watching as the annual wonders of plant growth unfold.

It is my sincere wish that this same pleasure will come to all of you during this Easter Season.

Wm. E. Walton.

CONVENTION AT INGLEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Now that the dates for the 18th National Convention have been set, we eagerly look forward to the time when we can all once again get together and cuss and discuss our begonias. However, before that time rolls around there is much to be done. (You know, don't you, Mr. Moore and Mr. Hall!)

Mr. Bert Slatter, Inglewood Branch president and show manager, has secured the Inglewood High School gym for the flower show. Many of you will remember this building where the lovely dahlia show has been held for so many years. In the center portion of the floor there will be plenty of room for a huge begonia garden that will be made up of branch exhibits. Across the aisles will be spacious tables for competitive plants. I can't wait to see this huge garden come into being; how about you?

We at Inglewood are counting and depending on each branch and each individual to help make this convention a success. It will be your convention and your show. We are only staging it for you, so let's all set our eyes on Sept. 2nd and 3rd.

Cal Trowbridge, Publicity.



OUR A.B.S. PRESIDENT: WM. E. WALTON

For you many, many fellow members who cannot meet our energetic president in the flesh, may we at least present him "in the photo"; but we hope many more of you can come to Inglewood for the Convention and personally meet "Bill" and his charming wife Alma, and daughter, Connie, as well.

Born in Alameda, California, he spent his youth in Fresno, attending Fresno State College and graduating from Berkeley's University of California with a major in chemistry and a minor in metallurgy. Finding employment with Columbia Steel, he switched from the Metallurgical Control field of work to Production as an Industrial Engineer and has now been with this great company 17 years. While all this has kept him within the confines of the State of California, it has not kept him from developing the "Royal Hobby" of begonia growing, and a very marvelous talent in carpentry and furniture building. He tells us one day some six years ago a neighbor invited him to see his beautiful tuberous begonias, so naturally he had to buy some. Who should wait on him? No one but Maria Wilkes, who promptly sold him a copy of The Begonian. And here he is today!

Library Notes

I am happy to announce two new books for circulation to the membership—"Orchids for Amateurs" by T. W. Briscoe has been donated to our library by the membership secretary, Mr. Elmer Lorenz, and should prove of interest to all amateur growers and lovers of this plant. A copy of INTERNATIONAL RULES OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE, adopted and revised by the International Botanical Congress of Amsterdam, 1935, reprinted from BRITTONIA, VOL. 6, No. 1, April 9, 1947, has also been added to the library as reference material.

The following is a complete list of the books which may be purchased from the library at this time:

BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES & GARDENS, Helen K. Krauss, \$4.00.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS, Worth Brown, \$2.75.

TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS & THEIR CULTURE, Geo. Otten, \$2.00.

THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA, Allan G. Langdon, \$2.00.

ORCHIDS ARE EASY TO GROW, Logan & Cosper, \$6.00.

ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS, Montague Free, \$3.50.

Pamphlets and bulletins:

THE CAMELLIA—So. Calif. Camellia Society, \$1.25.

CAMELLIAS AS A HOBBY—Oregon Camellia Society, \$0.60.

A TO Z ON FUCHSIAS—California Fuchsia Society, \$1.25.

HOW TO GROW TUBEROUS BEGONIAS —Cecil Solly, \$0.30.

SUCCESSFUL METHODS OF PROPAGA-TION—A. A. Longmire, \$3.00.

CARE & CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIO-LETS-4th Ed.-Lindsay, \$0.60.

GESNERIACAE PROPAGATION—A. A. Longmire, \$0.50.

BEGONIA PROPAGATION—A. A. Longmire, \$0.50.

Cultural bulletins on Fibrous, Rex and Tuberous Begonias, \$0.15 each.

Complete back files of the BEGONIAN (used copies) for 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, \$2.00 per file.

Single copies of the Begonian—back numbers, \$0.15 each.

Support your library by purchasing books and pamphlets direct since only in this way may new material for your use be added. Send in requests for any book in which you may be interested and the librarian will make every effort to obtain worthwhile material for your use. A stamped, self-addressed envelope will bring you a copy of the library list of books which you may have on loan for one month by paying the postage to and from the library. Send for your copy at once. Read your Begonian for information on new books which will be added for circulation from time to time.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

The A.B.S. Library Is A Busy Place

During February there were 26 books in circulation; 15 books, bulletins, etc., sold; two copies of Everett pamphlet rebound and 1949 Journals of California Horticulture Society and California Gardens in process; courtesy copies of The Begonian sent to five public libraries and seven university libraries-the College of Agriculture Library of Cornell University has requested to be place on the permanent mailing list of The Begonian as they have found it valuable for reference material; exchange of publications have been arranged with the following: Popular Gardening, The Home Garden, Northwest Gardens & Home Magazine, Cactus Digest, Cactus & Succulent Journal of the C.&S. Society of America, Home Gardening for the South, and Plant Life (journal of the American Plant Life Society) - which should provide excellent reference material. Read your Librarian's Notes each month for the latest additions to your library. Take advantage of the Library Lists.

COVER PICTURE

B. subvillosa

Often when we read descriptions of plants, we are discouraged from growing them because they are classed as "weedy". But these same plants serve a very definite purpose in certain circumstances. Two of the loveliest plantings I have seen of *B. subvillosa* have been in among shrubbery in front of Mrs. Zug's house and Mrs. Turner's. Used as bedding plants in this manner, the weed iness is not so apparent. As the plant sets seed freely, it isn't long before quite a large bed of plants appear. The whole plant is soft-hairy.

B. subvillosa is succulent stemmed, has medium-size plushy leaves, quite thin, light green, irregularly toothed. Flowers are either white or pink.

Mrs. Bayer's plant in the picture was about 36" tall and is less than a year old. The plant has few branches, but it does send up enough canes from the bottom to make a well rounded plant. Chevalier in his description of the plant says that the leaves are very subject to rot, which can be prevented by giving the plant lots of air. Perhaps this is why *B. subvillosa* does so well as a bedding plant among our other shade loving plants.

Marie Minter.

Leaf Propagation of Rex Begonias

By Mrs. P. J. Miller, Whittier, Calif.



photo by P. J. Miller r.c. Ellen Nelson Mostly silver; olive green in center shading to lavender. Green and brown border. Stems hairy, red. Leaves to one foot across.

As this is the time of year to clean house in the garden, cut all old leaves from your rexes and repot if they need it. You will get a larger percentage of strikes from leaves put in now.

If you have a heated bed, they do well all through the winter, keeping it at 65° F., or in flats in a glass house.

If you are having success with your present rooting medium, by all means continue using it. My preference is washed plasterer's sand in the hotbed and one-fourth oakleaf mould (not dirt) with sand in flats. Keep it moist, not wet.

Always be sure to us healthy and matured leaves. Never let them wilt before putting them in the rooting medium. Use a sharp knife and cut 3/4 inch of stem (petiole) off with the leaf; cut off the outside edge of the leaf all around to within 2 inches of the stem, where it joins the leaf making a wedge-shaped cutting. Now dip the stem in Hormodin No. 1 powder, shaking off the excess. Insert it in the rooting medium just covering the base of the leaf; put it in upright for best light and air circulation and to prevent unwelcome visitors underneath the leaf wedge. Then water all around.

If you wish more plants from a leaf, use the outside of the leaf making wedges from each cross section containing a large vein—which serves the same purpose as the leaf stem in the first cutting. However, I find I get a healthier plant from the base of the leaf.

At present I am making cuttings from my 1948 seedlings. If you grow rexes from seed, keep them at least three years, as not until then can you really be sure of their permanent appearance. We have some in 6" pots and some still in 3" pots. The small ones are very interesting.

Your leaf cuttings should do very well outside now, keeping the flats off the ground in partial shade.

Make growing rexes your hobby, as I have, and discover the pleasures I am enjoying.

If you make the Begonia your friend, it will make you begonia friends.

NOW

The latest book on (THE TUBEROUS BE-GONIA) by Allan G. Langdon. \$2.00 P.P. in the U.S.A. May be obtained exclusively from the LIBRARIAN OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, 2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

ORDER

BLACKMORE & LANGDON, Bath, England Specialists in Begonias, Delphiniums, Cyclamen, etc.



Photo courtesy Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger

Begonia Mrs. W. A. Wallow

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Santa Barbara, Calif.

In 1946 Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton in her book "Begonias and How to Grow Them" describes *B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow* as one of the important new begonias:* seed by Mr. Wallow of Long Beach, California, about 1928.... is a vigorous grower, branching well. The long, narrow, olive green leaves have a wavy edge and a red spot at the sinus, and are covered with minute white hairs. The

"Mrs. W. A. Wallow, raised from German

under side is so deeply red that it shines through the leaf, giving it a bronze tone. The long red pedicels and the veins are sparsely white-hairy, and there are large pale green stipules. The flowers are white or pale pink in erect clusters."

The begonia pictured opposite was rooted in 1947, planted into a four-inch pot, and placed in the sheltered garden. It was periodically repotted into larger pots until last spring it had graduated into a half-nail-keg. Oak leaf mold with a little well rotted cow manure was used as a medium for all the repotting. It has not received additional feedings. Grown (in California) out-of-doors with full sun until about eleven A.M., then sheltered by high boughs of a cypress, it takes on deeper hues than when grown as a house plant. The foliage is a deep satiny bronze and the young leaves are almost black.

It has been in bloom since early spring and continues to bloom through the winter, with large clusters on long graceful stems, each carrying a cluster of male and later one of female flowers. The individual flower is deep pink and upon opening fades to a lighter pink. The stamens are deep yellow and the seed pods remain a deep pink. These large pink clusters are very attractive, particularly in contrast to the dark foliage.

Tall, graceful, and gowned in bronze satin, Mrs. W. A. Wallow continues to retain her charm and popularity among the cane-type begonias in the grower's garden.

* Courtesy of Massachusetts Horticultural Society, c. owner, and Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton.



Ceropegias -- from Seed

Gladys C. Nolan, Los Angeles, Calif.

Imagine my surprise and delight, when I read Mrs. Kline's article in the September, 1949, BEGONIAN on wick-fed pots, to note "the fleshy leaved Ceropegias have grown rapidly from seed in a wick-fed pot". Immediate correspondence followed as to her source of Ceropegia seed, as I had boldly stated in the January, 1949, article in the BEGONIAN that "none ever seems to set seed"-the latter statement made after growing many species in the open and under lath in Southern California for nearly twenty years. Mother Nature promptly showed how limited our knowledge of her ways can be or perhaps an interest in a subject makes one more conscious of our lack of wisdom. I quote, with her permission, Mrs. Kline's reply to my request as to her source of seed.

"I do not collect Ceropegias but had a C. Woodii and a C. Barklyi growing in the greenhouse next to each other. They both flowered freely but I confess I did not pay much attention to them until one day I saw that both of them had seed pods on them. The pods looked very much alike, a long whitish sheath, pointed at both ends, and about 11/4" long and about 1/8" diameter in the middle. Each pod contained a few seeds and these were equipped with little parachutes of white hairs. As I was experimenting with wick-fed pots, I sowed the seeds of both plants and labelled them. They all came up but all looked alike, in fact still do. I thought since they looked more like C. Barklyi, maybe only those were fertile seed but now it occurs to me that they might also be a cross between the two."

Mrs. Kline assures me that there could be no bees in her glasshouse in winter and in January of this year, upon her return from a trip to the West Indies, she forwarded a pod of C. Barklyi seed found on her flowering plant this winter. Since the former seed pods proved fertile and grew fine plants there would seem little doubt that these later seeds will not produce. Time will tell. Comparison of a plant grown by her from the so-called "possible" cross of C. Woodii and C. Barklyi (sent to me last summer) did not indicate a variety since the characteristics of the plant were definitely those of Barklyi; growing conditions, water, fertilizer, soil, light, and numerous other outside elements definitely affect plant structure to the extent that only a trained botanist could determine the possibility of a hybrid.

Further research indicated that *C. Barklyi* and *C. Sandersonii* commonly set seed when grown under stove or glass house conditions. Knowing that Ceropegias belong to the Asclepiadaceae family and are closely related to

Turn to page 79



April Newsletter

I can feel Spring in the air and March 10th finds me busy indeed. I have just spread ten sacks of steer fertilizer and a large bale of peat moss over the flower beds in the lath house and yard. I mix and dig it in around the plants. I see many signs of new growth and have now cut back all frozen tips. With pansies, violas, and stock I will have some quick color in the vard while waiting for shrubs and perennials. One whole morning was devoted to the glass house: laelia orchids moved to the lath house and hung on the walls, the large potted ferns moved to the brick wall along the flower beds, and some other hardier potted plants moved out. Now this gives me space to plant some begonia seeds. I am using a mixture of leafmold, peatmoss, and sponge-rock which I like so far very much. Another half dozen jars of fern spores were planted; I never get enough ferns to satisfy me.

I must tell you about a new interest in my yard—an aviary. Four lovely canaries and one parakeet have nests so far. These will be my first little birds and I am very excited about them. Christmas brought the little girls a Dachshund puppy which I am hoping I can teach to keep out of my flowers.

Have you ever tried your hardest to do something just right and then seemed to fail? The seed and tuber orders are always carefully packaged and separated for hand stamping at the post office. Now I have found out that one batch of mail which contained some tubers was run through the stamping machine and badly crushed. As I have told you so many times, I only want to please you and if you are not entirely satisfied with what you receive I shall be happy to send back your money. I render a service to our members for the A.B.S. and wish to remind Seed Fund subscribers it is a privilege for A.B.S. members to secure seeds at such low prices. Let me hear from any who are not pleased. One other thingsome folks do not understand that I could not send a package of each seed listed because there is not enough to go around. We have to list more seeds than we send to each person for this reason. Each of you received the same Turn to page 80

Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: I have a plant which could fit the description of *B. Thisbe* in Mrs. Krauss's book, but I am hesitant about naming it definitely. Do you know this particular plant or can you direct me to anyone having it, so that I may further check on it?

Answer: I have taken this matter up with Mrs. Gray and find that we have an entirely different description of the plant in question. According to Mrs. Gray, *B. Thisbe* was of the hairy fibrous group instead of the rhizomatous. The leaf was rather coarse, hairy and round, ending in a point. The texture was much like *Scharffiana* but quite different in shape from her plant of *B. Irene.* The veins were very prominent on the upper side. The female parent was *metallica.* We have no description of the flowers except that the bud was long and very red.

This plant was destroyed when Mrs. Gray's lath house burned down and she has no knowledge of ever having given any slips away, so there is the question of whether this particular hairy fibrous exists today. I do not have the rhizomatous plant in my collection but I have seen this particular plant in a friend's collection and it does resemble Mrs. Krauss' description. However, until the time comes when all this information is in the hands of the Nomenclature Department and we have the proper herbarium sheets with which to check these begonias, I would be very hesitant about naming your plant.

Matters of this nature might be straightened out very quickly if we could find someone who has the rhizomatous begonia in question with a different name. For the benefit of anyone not having the description of the plant in question, it is a *manicata* seedling, differing from the seed parent in having broader leaves which are sparse-hairy rather than smooth; flowers pink, drooping, in tall, erect, panicles.

This department would like to know from what source you received the begonia in question, with names and addresses, so that we may write to the proper people and see if we can turn up any more information.

Question: I have never noticed a red blotch on the leaves of *superba Elva S*. Isn't this supposed to be characteristic of the plant?

Answer: According to the information I have about this particular plant, the red blotch appears only occasionally and usually only on the older leaves. Soil seems to have a good Turn to page 78

Beginners Only

IF

by John Bauman, Walteria, Calif.

"If" is the little word with much meaning that must be used at this stage of tuberous talk. If the plants are at least two inches in size they are ready to be transplanted into their permanent situation. If the night temperatures are no longer dropping below 45° they may go outside. If the young tuberous have been hardened to the weather and light they may be potted or shifted to a ground bed. If you follow the alphabet you should have good results.

A—Prepare the potting soil as instructed in the A.B.S. Tuberous Begonia Bulletin. This is one of several good mixtures: 3 parts oak leafmold (coarse), 1 part peatmoss, 1 part rotted manure, 1 part coarse sand.

B—Select a six-inch pot for small tubers and a seven or eight-inch pot for medium and large tubers.

C—Place a one-inch layer of gravel or broken crockery in the bottom of the pot.

D—Fill the pot with the prepared soil mix after stirring in a tablespoon of fish meal or cottonseed meal.

E—Allow space for the pot to hold water and place the sprouted tuber at the same level it was growing in the flat.

F-When planting in open shade beds, space the young starts from 12 to 18 inches apart.

G—Provide adequate drainage if it is not a raised bed and use the same soil mix around each plant or in the whole bed to an 8-inch depth.

H—Plant in the same manner as potting and water the soil thoroughly. No more soil soaking will be necessary until new growth starts unless your soil dries out, as the young starts might rot in damp conditions until adequate roots are formed.

I—Apply a mist of water lightly each morning, without soaking the soil, to create moisture around the leaves.

-Maintenance hints will appear in the May issue.

Busy People

Fibrous and rhizomatous begonias are asking for help now at the beginning of their natural growing period. By answering their call with the seasonal needs, begonia growers will be busy people.

Overgrown pot plants should be re-potted before new growth is too far along. Wash the soil from the roots and plant in a fresh soil mixture previously prepared. Use the size pot that will accommodate the root system. Those plants that do not require larger pots may be fertilized to assist the new growth as it appears. Weak solutions of liquid commercial fertilizer or "barnyard tea" may be applied as often as every two weeks. This system of feeding prevents burning the roots and forcing the stem growth. Begonias do not enjoy a Thanksgiving Dinner at Easter time and then going without their "three square meals" until the Fourth of July. Potted begonias are not the only ones that eat and drink. Be fair by starting a feeding schedule for those forgotten plants in the open ground.

Fibrous begonias need a "haircut" as they start the new growing year—cut off the old whiskers. Remove the oldest canes and shorten the longest young ones. Flowers come on new growth. Pruning makes the plant bushy with more flowers and vigorous canes. Don't throw away the prunings, as they will make more plants for you. Now is the best period to propagate the fibrous without bottom heat. Grow some for your neighbors and yourself. Surely there are plants in your garden that are not half as delightful as begonias. Throw away these undesirables and have masses of begonias in full splendor this summer from the prunings you were going to dispose of.

Follow Mrs. Miller's instruction on rooting the rex begonias. Other rhizomatous types may be propagated in the same way. If you feel that the plants are too big and shabby and the rhizome is quite long, then make new ones from it. Short sections imbedded in oak leafmold and sand will root and be ready for pots as shoots appear.

As protection against sun and wind, the begonias in the open would like an insulation of leafmold or manure. A mulch retains fertilizer, water, and uniform temperature.

The best information obtainable on the care and propagation of begonias is in the A.B.S. cultural bulletins. Enclose 15c for each bulletin when you send your name and address to the Librarian for Special Bulletins No. 1 and No. 2 on Fibrous and Rex Begonias.

ARE ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR BRANCH RE-CEIVING THEIR MAGAZINE? If not, write details to Mr. Elmer Lorenz, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California—no other address is correct.

When you buy your sprinkler, plants, bulbs, fertilizers, sprays, etc., from our advertisers, don't forget to tell them you saw their advertisements in *The Begonian*. Let them know our magazine is helping them.



Drawing by Rudolf Ziesenhenne



By Rudolf Ziesenhenne

BEGONIA (section MAGNUSIA (KLOT-ZSCH) Irmscher, subsection GIREOUDIA (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher) Boweri Ziesenhenne, new species, herbaceous perennial: stem, fleshy, dull, a creeping rhizome which roots as it arise obliquely (see figure 1), (the seedling plants grow erect), oval, 3 inches long and 1/4 inch in diameter, branching all along the stem, the entire length covered with foliage; internodes 1/4 inch long, 5/32 inch the shortest, 9/32 inch the longest; oxblood red 00823/3. (The numbers refer to the Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart), smooth, pimpled with undeveloped roots; lenticels whitish, more abundant below; leaf-stem scar light brown, bordered with a few semi-stiff white hairs 1/8 inch long (figure 2): stipules remaining, like paper; ones on top of the rhizome (figure 3) uneven triangular, outer side rounded, tip sharp-pointed, margin even 5/16 inch wide at base, 5/16 inch long, keeled with the tip runinng out to a long hair-like point and extending about 1/8 inch beyond the tip of the stipule, one or more soft hairs (figure 2) about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long on the edge of the keel; the lateral ones (figure 4) unequally triangular, tip sharp-pointed, 5/16 inch wide at the base, 3/8 inch long, keeled as the top ones; pod green 061/3: leafstem (figure 5) round, 1/16 inch in diameter at the base, 31/2 inches long, shortest 11/2 inches long, longest 41/2 inches long, pod green 061/3 with longitudinal lanceolate currant red 821/1 stripes, dull, lenticels long and narrow, greenish; thinly covered with long white hairs (figure 2) which grow from currant red 821/1 base and point downward; lenticels long and narrow, greenish: leaf firm but not thick nor fleshy; above (figure 6) satiny luster, spinach green 0960/3 with irregular triangular blotches of raven-black along the margin; below (figure 7) pod green 061/3with irregular triangular blotches of oxblood red 00823/3, bare except for one or two scattered hairs (figure 2), leaves slanting and strongly irregular in shape, egg-shaped and tapering gradually to a long sharp point, the basal lobes very short and rounded, the margin (figure 8 greatly enlarged) vertically wavy (figure 9), toothed and minutely saw-tooth, both occasionally tipped with short, firm but not stiff hairs (figure 10) 1/32 inch long, with many long, white, semi-stiff eye-lash-like hairs standing erect at a right angle to the upper surface of the leaf at the margin edge and occasionally one or two of the same hairs with their basal half red, extending downward at a right angle to the lower surface of the leaf

near the margin; 11/2 inches long, 3/4 inch wide; palmately 7 veined (figures 6 & 7), outside basally 2, laterally 2, inside 1 basally, 2 laterally: infloresence (figure 11) an evenly, not much divided flower cluster, few-flowered, blooms in winter, January-March; flower-stems come from the leaf axils, round, about 31/4 inches long, longest 41/4 inches long, 1/16 inch in diameter at base, the first internodes (figure 12) about 5/8 inch long, the second (figure 13) about 5/16 inch long, pod green 0960/3, currant red 821/1 stripes at the base of the soft white hairs (figure 2) growing downward, these eventually become brown; largest leaflet on the flower stem (figure 14) turns brown early, papery in texture, roundish tip blunt, margins not broken but covered with long, white hairs (figure 2) extending out in the same plane as the surface, about 1/4 inch wide, about 1/4 inch long, pod green 061/3 with lanceolate currant red stripes, dull; secondary ones irregularly roundish (figure 15) 1/4 inch wide, 1/4 inch long; tertiary ones (figure 16) 5/16 inch wide, 1/8 inch long: male flowers (figure 17) petals 2, pure white with a thin band of currant red 821/1 encircling the base of the filaments, back currant red spotted, bare; pedicels 1/8 inch long, inverted eggshaped; tip blunt; margin even; 7/16 inch long, 13/32 inch wide; stamens 10 (figure 18), filaments of unequal length 1/32 inch long, free, anthers arranged like a hand of bananas (figure 19), 1/16 inch long, oblong, blunt tip, the connective produced: flower female (figure 20) petals 2, pure white, inverted eggshaped, tip blunt, 5/16 inch long, 11/32 inch wide; margin even; stigmas 3 (figure 21) 1/8 inch long. united 2/3 of the way from the base; stigma branches not twisted; tip two-lobed, half-moon shaped (figure 22); papillae on the tip and around the edge (figure 23): capsule 5/16 inch long (figure 24) and 5/32 inch wide, oblong with regular, rounded ends; wings (figure 24 & 25) unequal, one larger 5/16 inch wide at the base, 1/4 inch long at the stigma end, triangular, blunt tip, other two marginal 5/16 inch wide at the base and 1/16 inch long: ovary (figure 26) 3-celled, placenta divided and carrying seed on all sides: seed (figure 27) oblong.

Mexico, Oaxaca, Sierra Madre, Cerro Atravesado, north of Niltepec, about 4000 ft. alt. In humus along stream in shady ravine. Mr. Thomas MacDougall. No. C.62. March 13, 1948.

This plant is closely related to strigillosa Turn to next page Dietr. from which it can be easily distinguished by its ovoid blunt wing, triangular acute stipules, obovoid petals in both flowers, by the narrower and more gradually tapering leaves, by the single hairs instead of clumps of hairs, by the lack of hairs on the veins, by the straight single hairs on the leaf-stem and peduncle instead of clumped and reflexed ones of *strigillosa*, and most easily by the blotched margins instead of marking over the entire leaf, by the wavy margin instead of the deflexed ones of *strigillosa*.

The plant is named in honor of Miss Constance Bower of San Diego, California, who has done so much to further the interest of begonia growing in the early '20s of this century and to salute her production of many fine

BEGONIA (section MAGNUSIA (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher, subsection GIREOUDIA (KLOTZSCH) Irmscher, Boweri Ziesenhenne, spec. nov., herba perennis: caule rhizomatico repenti, in cultu nonnumquam obliquo erecto, 7 cm. longo, 7 mm. crasso, tota ramosi, tota foliato; internodis 5 mm longes, 4 mm. brevibus, 6 mm. longibus, opaquibus; lentacellis albidis, plus subtus, sanguineis bubalis 00823/3 (Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart, nitidis, papillosis, inchoatis radicis; cicatribus hebaticis, marginibus raribus hispidis-villosis albidis, 3 mm. longis, 2 mm. latis ad basis: stipilis persistibus, papyraceis; super rhizoma obliquis triangularis, extis rotundis, apicibus acutis, 9 mm. latis in basis, 9 mm. longis, carinatis, apicibus acuminatis, piliferis portruderibus 3 mm. apicibus, uno aut plus villosis 3 mm. longis, carinatis instaris aliter, viridis valvalaris 0960/3; 4 cm. brevibus, 11 cm. longibus, viridis vavalaris 061/3, ruberis ribis 821/1 vittatis, opacies; lenticellis portiolis viridis spinaciae 0960/3, triangularis, glabris excipere uni aut deux raris hispidis-villosis irridis valvalaris soprio margonibus, blabris; subtis viridis valvalaris soprio margonibus undatim dentaris et sertunatis aliquando brevis setiferis 1 mm. longis, ciliaris erectis 3 mm. longis hispidis-vellos;, aliquando uno aut deux porro subtis margonibus undatim dentaris et sertunatis aliquando brevis setiferis 1 mm. longis et 2½ cm. lateralibus 2, intus basilaribus 2, inture basilabibus 2, int begonia hybrids which have been enjoyed by so many hobbyists in this country.

This description was made from the type and the many plants grown from this self-pollinated plant. This is an ideal plant for the terrarium, since it is so small and it does produce a multitude of its beautiful leaves. The leaf marking is beautiful with the shiny black on the pod green and the lovely little hairs standing like erect eye-lashes. The plant the drawings were made from stood in a open-gas heated room for two months and stood up nicely and was in fact sending out new leaves. The plant should be handled like the rhizomatous begonias and be planted in shallow pots with a rich soil.

florescentis subdichotomo, paucifloris, tempo, Januari-Marti); pedunculis axillaribus, teretis ca. 8 cm. longis; internodiis secundariis 8 mm. longis; virivis valvalaris 0960/3, ruberis ribis 821/1 lanceolatis virtatis; hispidisvillosis descendens, albis ultimis villosis ferrugineis: bracteis primariis paris diciduis celris ferrugineis; ciliatis, 7.5 latis, 7.5 longis, viridis valvalaris 061/3, ruberis ribis 821/1 lanceolatis vittatis, opacis; secundariis paris inaequaliteris ovatis, obtusis, 5.5 mm. latis, 5.5 mm. longis, tertiis paris 4.5 mm. latis, 3.5 puncticulatis, glabris, obvasis, lobusis, margonibus integris; 10 mm. longis, 10.5 latis; staminibus ruberis ribis 821/1, extus ruberis ribis puncticulatis, glabris, obovatis, obtusis, margonibus integris; 10 mm. longis, 10.5 latis; staminibus 10, filamentis inaequalis 1 mm. longis, labris, antheris 2 mm. longis, oblongis, obtusis, connetivo producto: floribus femineis ebracteatis, tepalis femineis 2, candidis, ramis brevibus, apice lunulato-bilobis, stigmatibus ramis brevibus, apice lunulato-bilobis, stigmatibus ramis brevibus, apice lunulato-bilobis, stigmatibus ovata, obtusa, 6 mm. longa ad basi 8 mm. longa ad apice capsula, tous les aures marginiformibus, obtusis, 8 mm. latis et 2 mm. longis ad apice capsula; oudie ovatifer is semen oblongis, obtusis, superfice aveolato longiorius ad basis.

Mecico, Oaxaca, Sierra Madre, Cerro Atravesado, north of Niltepec, about 4000 ft. alt. In humus along stream in shady ravine. Thomas MacDougall. No. C.62. March 13, 1948.

QUESTION - ANS., cont. from page 74

deal to do with the appearance of blotches, poor soil bringing them out very clearly.

Question: In looking over Begonia books, I often find just one reference to a particular begonia without any description at all. Does this mean that these begonias are no longer in existence?

Answer: No, I don't believe so. We have often found some of the older types masquerading under such names as "maple leaf" or altogether unnamed. Take the case of *ricinifolia magnifica*. It is one of the older types of begonia which is not often found in any collection. As far as I could find out, there was only the one plant in San Diego: But this last year a friend in Kansas said she had bought a plant under the name of "maple leaf" from a small dealer which reminded her of the one her Mother grew years ago as *ricinifolia magnifica*. We have always more or less assumed that anything listed as "maple leaf" belonged to the semi-tuberous group, but in this instance an old begonia came to light which we had thought practically extinct. Many more of these begonias are in existence today, but our greatest trouble is getting them into the hands of the people who know the plant in question or people who have access to records who would be willing to do the necessary research for correct names.



A 'special delivery' robin just flew in with the following news direct from AUGUSTA, GEORGIA:

Mrs. Theresa H. Ryan (one of our best begonia growers in the South) says:

There are four seasons of the year, no matter in what part of the globe we live. There are begonias for each season.

The coldest weather in the South is from November through February. Old Man Weather occasionally gives us spring in January and winter in February.

In my back yard I have a little plant-house built of an old store-counter and hot bed glass. I planted my begonia seed in late summer and early fall. The seed came up and lived in the little house without any heat. The temperature has never gone below forty degrees. In January these little plants were set out and I lost only a few. Others are growing nicely and are about four inches high.

In summer the semperflorens and the cane types do well on the north and east side of the house; however, the semperflorens are good the year around.

The rhizomatous do not start growing until about June; and by November they are handsome. They will continue to grow until about April, at which time they take a rest period. The rex require a moist and shady place; they grow better for me under the corner of the steps.

I have never been fortunate enough to keep a rex begonia more than six or seven months. They all die.

Mrs. Kimball, which starts new growth in April, begins to die the last of August; *Mrs. Kimball* has never bloomed for me, but its foliage was always very pretty.

Evansiana peeps up in the pot in January, blooms all summer, and takes a rest in early fall until January.

I have never been successful with the hirsute type; it seems as though I can never find the place which suits them best.

As a whole, my best growing season is from April to November.

My Begonia reference books consists of Bessie Buxton's and Helen Krauss' books, Bailey's Standard Cyclopedia, and The Begonian. My subscription to The Begonian was started August, 1944, and I have each number up to date, to which I often refer.

Round Robin News

Dear Members:

Spring must be here with so many fine Robins flying!

Our "What's New Robin", a month old, is almost full grown and a second one will have to be started soon.

The Collectors' Robins and Mr. Kuester's House Plant Robin No. 2 are flying high with membership complete.

Of the Begonia Robins, Dot's, a strictly Advanced group, has completed its membership and No. 2 is being formed. "Hybridizing of Begonias No. 2" is open for new members. How about a volunteer for director of "General Begonia Robin No. 4?"

We need directors for the following as well: Tuberous Begonia No. 2, Epiphyllum No. 2, Gloxinia No. 3, Fuchsia No. 2—also a few members.

Herbs No. 2 has a fine director but needs members to start flying. Vacancies also appear in the following: African Violets—Beginners and Advanced, Gloxinia No. 2, Oxalis, Pelargoniums for the West Coast, and Swap Robin No. 3.

Our three Swap Robins are doing a thriving business, as is Mrs. Margaret Olsen's African Violet Trading Post—address: West Grove, Pa. Many thanks to the directors who have reported as requested; please, may I hear from the others?

See you in June!

Frances Downing, Round Robin Chairman.

(Our cheerful Robin Notes cut is the handiwork of our talented Public Relations Director, Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger.—Editor)

CEROPEGIAS, cont. from page 73

the Stapelias and Hoyas, the question again came to my mind as to the means of pollination. Are the seed pods actually formed on the flower stem? Is fecundation by its own pollen? Due to the close tube and its little umbrella on the flower, could this possibly be a cleistogamic plant? Here is a fertile field for research to those interested and also a controversial subject since, to date, the writer has been unable to find any authentic descriptive material on the subject. Apparently no taxonomist has attempted a monograph on this plant. It seems to be up to the amateur grower to find out by observation and experiment. I again commit myself with the statement, made before, that I do not believe there is such a thing as a Ceropegia variety-all known to date are species. Has any one any further information?

ARMCHAIR EXPL., cont. from page 74

number of packets. I shall do my best to please all this year.

At the convention last August one member asked me to secure seeds of the "Jade Vine" of the Philippines for her, and I have finally located a source. The collector writes that he will send them as soon as dry, together with full description and a photograph. I have lost the lady's address, so, if she will write me, I will see that she receives some seeds when they arrive. At this writing the philodendron seeds are not here; they will be mailed as soon as received.

A letter came in from Oahu, Hawaiian Islands partly as follows: 'I cannot understand why our beautiful endemic Begonia Hillebrandia is not in cultivation. It is a corm bearer, growing about 3,000 feet elevation in some of our islands, Kauai and Maui. I could furnish you with about a dozen corms for \$25.00. Would any of your readers be interested?" Several years ago Mrs. Virginia Gillespie attempted to gather seeds of this begonia for us, but after making several trips she was unable to find seeds. In the April, 1947, Begonian Helen K. Krauss quotes Mrs. Gillespie's description of this plant and tells the interesting story that its correct name is Hillebrandia sandwicensis, a sister plant to the Begonias in Begoniaceae family.

Now I will hurry back to my greenhouse and plant those begonia seeds. Cheerio until next month---

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

(How about you Armchair Explorers who are delighted to have Mrs. Carrell serve you dropping a postcard in the mail to her. Just one sentence telling her of your appreciation of her efforts will show how much joy her management of the Seed Fund brings. It is a herculean task performed solely for the purpose of giving ABS members added pleasure. Accidental disappointments are inevitable, but if you want to find out just how much service you are receiving, try to purchase the same seeds from a commercial dealer some time! In the words of a famous entertainer—"Let's give the little girl a great big hand!"—Editor)



When plants are moved from places of high humidity to places of low humidity, they often drop their leaves.

MY EMBARRASSING MOMENT

By Paula Hoisington, Hays, Kansas

I was embarrassed in an interesting sort of way when a friend posed the following question: "What are the distinguishing characteristics that make a certain plant a *Begonia?*"

Up until this time I had been primarily interested in *collecting* begonias. I chose the begonia because for indoor gardening I felt my plants would add beauty even though they were not in bloom—the leaves are so varied as to shape, size, and color. I really had not given too much thought as to why a *Begonia* is a *Begonia*.

The question has proven to be an interesting one for me and I thought it might prove equally interesting to other amateurs in the realm of begonia-lovers.

In general, I found there were five characteristics:

1. The leaves—variable as to size and shape; usually one side is larger than the other.

2. Axillary* cymes (sims) of large monoecious (mo-ne-shus) flowers.

3. Stamens numerous. These may be free or basally united.

4. There may be two to four styles and the stigmas are branched or twisted.

5. The seed case, found on the female blossom, has three wings. In this capsular sac are found thousands of tiny seeds.

I have often wondered about the different parts of a begonia flower. Since *lucernas* have bloomed more freely for me, I have had an opportunity to thoroughly examine the blossom. However, I did not have material on hand for research and, in all truth, I was just too lazy to delve into the subject.

Upon viewing my plants most people have been content just to know they were begonias. In most instances they were amazed to learn that they were named, even as you and I. Genus Begonia is the surname and the species (spee-sheez) name serves as the given name (followed by the variety name, if any. Hybrids —crosses between two or more species or varieties—are usually known simply by the variety name bestowed by the originator. Editor)

There is a wealth of interesting information concerning begonias to be found through our public libraries, our A.B.S. library, and in our own magazine, "The Begonian". Though I am a fairly new member of the American Begonia Society, I have passed by some of the most informative articles. Had I read these, I could have answered the question and missed one of life's embarrassing moments.

(* axillary—in the upper angle between the stem and the leaf-stem or petiole; cyme—broad flower clusters; monecious—male and female flowers on the same plant.—Ed.)

Starting A Begonia Collection in England

By Richard Stansfield, Ealing, London, England

It was during my many years of service in the Royal Navy in the tropics that I first became interested in tropical foliage, and when I was demobilised at the end of the war, in 1945, I determined to build a greenhouse and to grow some for myself.

After several years of 'dabbling' with various types, in 1948 I read Mrs. Buxton's "Begonias and How to Grow Them", and was so impressed that I at once decided to specialise in begonias. I knew little about them, and found that there were no books published in England on begonia species; and so I wrote to Mrs. Buxton at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to seek her help. By this time I had assembled about six species, after considerable difficulty. All the stocks of decorative and hothouse plants in this country were completely depleted by the war, and nurserymen had none to offer. However, Mrs. Buxton was more than helpful, and introduced me to both the American Begonia Society and Mrs. Carrell of the Seed Fund.

It was far from easy to obtain permission to send the money needed for my membership out of this country, owing to our shortage of dollars, but finally all was well, and I became a member of the A.B.S. and of the Seed Fund.

Mrs. Carrell very generously sent me about twenty kinds of seeds in the autumn of 1948, and a further supply when the Seed Fund was distributed at the beginning of 1949. With this material, which I cannot praise too much, I was able to lay the foundation of my present collection. Germination was generally very good.

Through the Society I was brought into contact first with Mr. L. Maurice Mason, one of our English enthusiasts, and later with Mr. J. Bedson, a well-known contributor to the 'Begonian'. Both these gentlemen have helped me very greatly in adding to my collection.

Quite recently, I communicated with Mrs. L. Schwerdtfeger of Santa Barbara, and she, in the spirit of your country which we here have such good cause to appreciate, has already sent me two very helpful supplies of seeds of species which were lacking from my collection.

I have now about *two bundred* species and varieties of begonias, and all have been assembled in about *fifteen months*. This in itself demonstrates how generous has been the help of fellow enthusiasts, particularly when it is realized that these plants cannot be bought anywhere in this country since the war. In fact, my collection out-grew my greenhouse, and in August last year I had another house built. My enthusiasm for these plants has been growing as fast as my collection, and I am still eagerly seeking for new species. This 'begonia bug' certainly gets a real hold on one. Of all the types that I have so far grown, I feel attracted towards the rexes, and so I fear that I give them preference, although of course every type has a certain individuality which appeals in some way or another.

As so many of my plants at the moment are only 'pups', I shall have to wait for a year or two before I see them in all their real beauty. All the same, "Rome was not built in a day".

I find the 'Begonian' full of interest and a great help in many ways. Of course, many of the varieties mentioned there are only names to us in England at the moment. However, perhaps one day they will find their way across the sea, and then we too will have some of the modern hybrids.

In conclusion, I send my greetings to all fellow members of the American Begonia Society and especially my gratitude to all those who have helped me to build up my collection.

Here's to the future, with more and yet more begonias, and the distribution of this year's Seed Fund.

(The italics are the Editor's. We are grateful for Mr. Stansfield's appreciation and proud that cur members were of such great help, but we must congratulate Mr. Stansfield on his amazing energy, enthusiasm, and ability, which have built such a fine collection in a short period.)

Compliments to the Philobegonia Branch

We are happy to know that The Philobegonia Club has been re-organized and the A.B.S. wishes to congratulate the Eastern members and officers who have put forth effort to make the Branch up-to-date. The new and modern Constitution and By-laws for the Branch was accepted by the Board of Directors of the A.B.S. at their February meeting.

Many of the former members are active in the Branch and with the addition of several new members we know that the Philobegonia Branch will once again become one of our most interesting Branches. Mrs. Krauss, whose book "Begonias for the American Home and Garden" is widely used by begonia growers, will continue as an officer and act as Representative Director.

Officers and members of the A.B.S. wish you all the best of luck and many happy and enthusiastic meetings.

An Enumeration of Begonias of Southwestern China (Cont.)

By Te-Tsun Yu

Section 3. PLATYCENTRUM Klotzsch. BEGONIA HEMSLEYANA Hook. in Curtis's Bot Mag. 125:5..7685 (1899); etc.

SE Yunnan: Ping-pien, Da-shy-tsau, alt. 1250 m., ditch side, lf. light purple beneath, fl. pink, Sept. 19, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 81915. Ping-pien, Jwu-chien-ko, alt. 1250 m., side of stream, fl. pink, Dec. 1, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 82894.

This species has been raised from seeds in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute. It blossoms freely from Dec. to Jan. On account of its beautiful palmatipartite leaves and rosy pink flowers, it proves to be an excellent pot-plant. Easily propagated by stem cuttings.

Distribution: Kwangsi.

BEGONIA MEGAPTERA DC., Prodr. 15:348; Clark in Fl. Brit. Ind. 2:646.

SE Yunnan: Hokou, Ma-hwang-po, alt. 700 m., under woods, on shady rocks, rootstocks collected by the author, cultivated in the greenhouse of the Yunnan Botanical Institute. Flowers pink, blossoming from Feb. to April, 1942. F. T. Wang no. 2523.

Distribution: Nepal, East Bengal and Martaban Hill; newly recorded from Yunnan.

BEGONIA CATHAYANA Hemsl. In Curtis's Bot. Mag. 134:8202 (1908).

Se. Yunnan: Ping-pien, Tse-chi-chau, alt. 1250 m., under forest. Lf. green with silvery zone and crimson nerves above, crimson below, fl. light orange yellow, Oct. 5, 1939, C. W. Wang no. 82304.

This beautiful Begonia is remarkable for its richness of leaf coloration and its vermilion flowers. It has been introduced into cultivation by means of seeds collected from Ping-pien. Propagated also by leaf cuttings under glass. Flowering season from Oct. to Dec. The fruits are dried up when the flowers are over.

CORRECTION:

The Philobegonia Branch, the Margaret Gruenbaum Branch and the new Western Pennsylvania Branch make a total of THREE for the State of Pennsylvania instead of two as written last month; the address of the Margaret Gruenbaum National Representative is New Jersey but it is a Pennsylvania branch of long standing.

Send your research questions direct to the Research Department, Box 512, Route 1, Encinitas, Calif., for the most prompt service.

Branch News

BELLFLOWER: Held a covered dish dinner March 6th. Speaker: Mr. Claude Hearn of Arcadia on "Camellias" with fascinating colored slides and a collection of lovely blooms. With birthday plants being given, a door prize, and a fine plant sale, it was a big evening. Visitors are always welcome. Come and see what fun we have!—Mildred Marsball.

EAST BAY: A. F. Munson, program chairman, on January 19th, presented Dr. Stephens Wilhelm, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology for the College of Agriculture, U. C., Berkeley; he discussed "Diseases of Plants Brought on by Soil Fungi".

Dr. Wilhelm described the effects of both good and bad fungi on plants, illustrating his remarks with specimens and slides. He gave the following formula for killing harmful fungi and nematode: $\frac{1}{2}$ cc. chloropicrin (a larvicide) per gallon of soil in a closed container, left 3 to 4 days, then aired for two weeks. Our meeting night has been changed to the second Thursday of each month, 7:45 p.m. *C. F. Jensen, Secretary.*

FOOTHILL: Celebrated our 4th Anniversary March 3rd with a ham dinner—tables decorated as a "Prelude to Spring" by our feminine members. Doreen Middleton's accordion playing entertained us and the birthday cake, donated by Mrs. Robt. Weaver was won by W. E. Walton, National President. About 90 attended!—*Edwin O. Williams.*

GLENDALE: At our April 25th meeting Mr. Fred C. Schultz of the Inglewood Branch will speak about "Begonias in General—Soil and Culture". Visitors welcome always.—Violet A. Moore.

HOLLYWOOD: Invites the Hollywood Branch of the National Fuchsia Society as guests for our April 13th meeting at Plummer Park, 7:30 p.m., to hear Mr. Philip E. Chandler of Evans & Reeves Nursery speak on "Fuchsias and Shade Plants". There will be a large plant table and refreshments. All Fuchsia and Begonia Fans and their friends are most welcome.— Mrs. Hazel Drummond.

HUB CITY:Our February 20th meeting was spirited indeed, with Gordon Baker Lloyd talking about "Soil". He stressed, soil containing leaf mold, recommended peat and soil mixtures for all shade pot plants, and suggested camellias in large wooden containers for moving about the garden. For drainage use 2" of pea gravel in the bottom. Among our visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Moore and Mr. Calvin Trowbridge from the National Board, who gave highlights on the coming convention—Blanche E. Watts.

(By the way, Branches, Mr. Percy Hoyles of

Australia, whose interesting letter appeared in February, is a cousin of Mrs. Blanche Watts of Hub City Branch and a member of this branch! How about letting us hear about your most distant contacts!—Editor)

HUMBOLDT: February 13th Valentine meeting was full of pep. Our question box was as interesting as Pandora's, starting with a hearty laugh at the first: "How do you dry out the ground so it can be worked?" We are all impatient for the rains to stop. Next it was brought out that a potted sanseveria was dying because its owner left it standing in water while she was on vacation. A Volck spray was suggested for an ivy grown inside that had scale, aphids, and mildew. Then earthwormsshould they be allowed to remain in potted plants? The answer: NO! the worms grind the soil up in their bodies. This fine earth packs easily and when wet forms a mud that stops good drainage, often clogging the hole in the bottom of the pot. The soil in the pot becomes cold and wet and the plant dies. Worms are very good outside in the garden but are not for pots. Watering with a 4% alum solution is said to bring the worms to the surface, where they can be gathered. Some members who cannot get manure have tried "Moo Cow" obtainable at dime stores, and report very good results. Valentine refreshments were served. -Violet Wooden.

INGLEWOOD: Cordially invites all Branch Presidents, their boards, and as many members as possible to come to our SECOND AN-NUAL BRANCH PRESIDENTS' DINNER, April 13th, 6:30 p.m., 325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood. The cost One Dollar (\$1.00)—the food: spaghetti and tamale pie. If you cannot come for the dinner do not miss our speaker at 8:00 p.m., the well known Pacific Coast begonia authority, Rudolf Ziesenhenne of Santa Barbara, speaking on "New Species." Welcome all!—Cal Trowbridge.

MIAMI BRANCH: President Ramer had sent questionnaires to each member regarding the year's program, and at our January meeting he outlined the program voted per questionnaires.

He also appointed a committee for the exhibits in the three shows we are entering. Mrs. A. E. Sackett, Natl. Director

ORANGE COUNTY: February 2nd had a listening post at an enjoyable "fireside chat" staged by Mmes. Perry Grout, E. K. Burdick, and Earle Tracy as they discussed Mrs. Tracy's collection of over 250 tuberous begonias, Mrs. Grout's many wonderful rex plants, and Mrs. Burdick's camellias. (She says they're for the lazy man's garden!) Altho conducted thus in a humorous vein, much valuable cultural information was passed on to the listeners.

March 2nd we saw color pictures of wild flowers and National Parks taken by Mr. Arthur Hughes of Monterey Park, a brother of our vice-president, Mrs. Woods. Mrs. Perry Grout, our garden expert, then answered several questions in the "Question Box", which is to be a regular feature of our meetings. Our Branch is giving 15 "Peace" rose bushes for a bed in the Santa Ana Memorial Park rose garden. This variety was selected by the committee as most appropriate for a memorial. A small plaque bearing the branch's name will be placed in the bed.—*Helen Meyer.*

PETALUMA: Our February 17th meeting was one of the best attended to date with over 70 present. We were privileged to hear Mr. Alfred Esseiva of Oakridge Camellia Gardens, Occidental, a true expert in our locality. He gave us vitally interesting material to remember, and we concluded with a fine social time. -J. Earl Wilson.

PHILOBEGONIA: Was reorganized in October, 1949, to include new members from New Jersey. October, November, December, and January meetings were held in the homes of original members and the February meeting at the home of Mrs. R. E. York, Camden, N. J. After a box luncheon, with desert and beverage served by the hostess and her daughter, and the necessary business session, Mrs. Fort gave a demonstration of the planting and care of tuberous begonias and answered many questions. All members agreed to put forth an especial effort this spring to plant and raise tuberous begonias and report on the results in the fall. We received a postcard from Trinidad written by Mrs. Helen Krauss, author of "Begonias for American Homes", one of our members, who with her husband is on a winter cruise to Africa and Europe - Mrs. Charles C. Keeler.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH: celebrated our second anniversary February 21st with sixty members attending a dinner at which potted begonias were used with red candles for table decorations and then given to those present as favors. Our new "Year Books", which lists the officers and chairmen for 1950 and the membership, were used as place cards.

Our speaker, John Paul Edwards of Oakland, is active in the Fuchsia, Rose, and Begonia Societies and is an active member of the Business Men's Garden Club of Oakland, which puts on the wonderful spring show each year. His photography is so excellent that some of his pictures have been chosen for display in the Smithsonian Institute. Talking on "This Year in Your Begonia Garden", the pictures that he showed were unusually fine ones of all types of begonias.

Mrs. John R. Williams, Publicity

In March we listened spellbound to Mrs. John Traub of Sacramento, a vivacious and entertaining speaker, tell us about the "Classification, Nomenclature, and Methods of Growing Narcissus". Mrs. Traub is well qualified to speak on this subject, having over one hundred named varieties in her own garden. She brought with her about fifty named specimens which added to the beauty of our meeting. Our Nomenclature of Begonias Contest was resumed again amid lively interest. Refreshments concluded the evening .- Mrs. John R. Williams. SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Our Feb. meeting seemed headed for disaster when we found our meeting place locked, but our good friend and member, Ray Wilson, came to the rescue by suggesting The Garden Center; so we caravaned to North Hollywood. Mrs. Grace Bayer showed colored slides from her private collection and gave us valuable cultural information on begonias. Mr. Wilson talked about The Garden Center, its aims and progress, and invited all to attend its meetings-held the 4th Monday each month at 8 p.m. This month the Begonia Society and Garden Beautiful Club are guests of honor; the speaker being Dr. Samuel Ayres, who is doing so much for promotion of tree culture in Southern California and introduction of Southern Hemisphere flowering trees and shrubs. He will speak of his recent trip to Australia. We thereupon voted to continue meeting at the Garden Center, 11134 Weddington St., North Hollywood-visitors warmly welcome.-Nel Schoenbrom.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH: Held their February meeting on the first and it was indeed a night of tropical beauty, for the guest speaker was Mr. Herbert Hager, of E. W. McLellan Co., of Colma, Calif., who is an authority on orchids. He gave a splendid talk and demonstration, showing numerous color slides of the different varieties of these gorgeous plants in bloom. One can hardly conceive how many types there are. A more detailed report of Mr. Hager's talk will follow and we hope you will enjoy it. We only wish that you could all have been here to have seen the beautiful display. Our programs for 1950 are going to be very fine and we will try to tell you just as much as we can about them (for those unable to attend), as the months go by.

March 1st we had the pleasure of hearing two speakers, Mrs. Marie Reed and Mr. Harry Swager, both being very well versed on rex begonias. Mrs. Reed brought some of her lovely miniature rexes from her Haywood green house and gave a detailed report on their growth and how to keep them miniature. Mr. Swager's wit and knowledge contributed greatly to our entertainment and education. "Now is the time, after all frost has gone," he said, "to begin

reporting (if your begonias need it) and to start the new plants." Both told how one can obtain as many as 80 plants from one large rex leaf. We are planning a picnic in July at Flood Park, San Mateo County, and a visit to Sherwood's Begonia Gardens in Menlo Park; also garden tours of members' gardens during July and possibly August to which all will be welcome. We regret losing our very enthusiastic member, Mrs. Lillian Ashe, to Oakdale, but perhaps she will make Oakdale a begonia community too—Paulyne A. Meyer.

SANTA BARBARA: February we held a round table discussion on "Early Spring in Shade Gardens". Esther Allen demonstrated repotting of an old rex, Barbara Phillips spoke on house cleaning in the lath house, Richard Broder showed how to prune leggy fibrous begonias, and Mrs. Frank showed a handsome double-flowering Saintpaulia, grown from a single leaf in water. A guest from Iowa, Mrs. Blanche Brimhall (a contributor to The Begonian), told us how she grew lovely Saintpaulias.

Our March speaker, Dr. William Johnson of the Destruxol Corporation of Pasadena, (subject: "Garden Soils and Pests") warned of the over-use of aluminum sulphate to acidify soils around our azaleas, camellias and shade loving plants such as begonias and fuchsias. He suggested ground sulphur at the rate of a 5" pot of sulphur to a wheelbarrow load of potting soil. Oak leaves and vinegar were also suggested. To heighten the color of begonia flowers and leaves he recommended spraying the foliage with magnesium sulfate (epsom salts) at the rate of 4 ounces to 3 gallons of water. The Fuchsia Society and Little Garden Club were represented. Our meetings are giving us real concrete help in our gardening!-Roy G. Pierce.

SANTA MONICA: Our March 1st meeting, held at the Brentwood Country Mart, Santa Monica, was spiced with pictures on "The Growth of Roses and plant life", followed by refreshments.—C. I. Hayes.

SANTA PAULA: Elected the following officers for 1950: president, Mr. Henry Brogdon; vice-president, Mrs. Shirley Friedrich; secretary, Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger; and treasurer, Mr. J. F. Daly.

SHEPHERD: We started 12 years ago and are still going strong, with 118 at our last meeting, but some of the things that make us strong are: recognition that 50% of all members are beginners and it is a good idea to ask your speakers to talk to beginners—the rest learn something every time, regardless; we try to keep members on their toes—an "Easter Hat Parade" (every member participating) next month—a June picnic—a flower

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show with no judging and no prizes and everybody who wishes to show a flower or a plant may display them-we entered the County Fair and came away with \$150.00 and a gold cup-we put out a year book every year containing a lot of information and the time every subscription expires, priced 25c this year. I like the Riverside plan of business being done in the executive meeting, making more interesting general meetings.-H. L. Weitz. (Excerpt from Board Meeting).

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY: Held our annual Christmas party December 15th with San Francisco members as guests and installation of officers by Mrs. Lillian Ashe of San Francisco.

Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, our new president, presented Mr. A. L. Parrish as speaker in January; he demonstrated the culture of begonias commencing with soil preparation and planting of seed and tubers and continuing through the care of both until maturity. Mr. Parrish was a charter member of our group.

Mrs. Merle L. Williams. Publicity

WESTERN RESERVE: Due to the illness of Mr. A. S. Gulas, recently elected branch president, at his request we appointed Mr. Leo Lackamp as president for 1950. He immediately called an officers' meeting and programs of great interest and educational value have been outlined. Mr. R. F. Lauer was appointed Chairman of the Annual Begonia Show.--Ida Lobser.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, A.B.S. held in Room 1305, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., with President Walton in the Chair: Meeting called to order at 7:45: Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society.

Board members and Branch representation pres-

Society. Board members and Branch representation pres-ent-Messrs. Walton, Gale, Moore, Spaulding, Trow-bridge, Lorenz, Bailey; Mesdames Korts, Nolan, Schwerdtfeger, Hartwell; Ventura, Southgate, Glen-dale, Hollywood, Inglewood, LaMesa, San Diego, Santa Monica, Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley, Re-dondo Beach Area, Parent Branch, Santa Barbara. Guest-Mrs. Brimhall of State Center, Iowa, who told very interestingly how they grew begonias in Iowa and the pleasure they had in their plants. Reports of Treasurer, Business Manager, Editor, and Membership Fees read and laid on the table, after acceptance by the Board, for further inspec-tion by members should they so wish. Public Relations Director submitted for approval and acceptance the new Constitution and By-Laws of the Philobegonia Branch of Penna. So ORDERED. Amendment to the By-Laws of the Riverside Branch-"The President and other officers shall con-stitute the Executive Board. The President may call meetings of the Executive Board at his discretion. This Board has the power to make business trans-actions for the good of the organization. A record of all Board activities is to be kept by the Secretary and read at business meetings of the club." SO ORDERED. Round Robins-More activity all the time; get-

Round Robins-More activity all the time; get-ting new robins started; still begging for new material.

Trowbridge, Flower Show Chairman-"The Show Committee will have a meeting on the 11th of this month to work on the new flower show schedules; anyone having new ideas on what should be in-cluded in this schedule, please let us know. We have sent out 15 letters to every part of the coun-try where begonias are growing, trying to get ideas of what they want included in the schedule and I

ask help from all of you. Either write me, or see me after the meeting." Librarian Nolan's report showed the library going ahead and also getting new material for the use of the members. See report elsewhere in the Begonian.

Frank Clark for the Slide Library–Slide Library in very popular demand; in the last six weeks they have been shown in New York, Kansas City, El Monte, and Inglewood.

Elmer Lorenz, Membership Fees, stated he was working hard to get all complaints checked and adjusted and asked everyone having a complaint readjusted and asked everyone having a complaint re-garding receipt of the magazine to please write him direct and immediately, using the address as given in each issue of the Begonian, as a great deal of the trouble has been caused by delay in receiving the complaints promptly. Committee consisting of Messrs. Walton, Moore, Trowbridge, and Lorenz appointed to go into the matter and see what can be done to straighten this out

appointed to go into the matter and see what can be done to straighten this out. Mrs. Korts stated all the Begonia Pins had been sold and money turned back to the Treasury. Motion by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mrs. Nolan, "I now move that we join the United Horticultural Council, which is composed of single plant societies such as we are. Dues \$25.00." SO OR-DERED.

DERED. Mr. Lorenz asked approval of the Board to send to the Miami Branch (as per their request) some 400-500 leaflets by air mail, they to refund the mailing charge. SO ORDERED. Mr. Trowbridge promised more information very soon regarding the Annual Meeting and Flower Show but asked everyone to save Saturday, Sept. 2 for the annual meeting and dinner and Sunday, Sept. 3 for the Flower Show and asked members to start 3, for the Flower Show and asked members to start working on their plants to get them in shape.

Many interesting reports were given by Repre-sentative Directors but lack of space prevents publication in full

Respectfully submitted, Gonda Hartwll, Sec.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGE-MENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, and JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

Area JOLT 2, 1940 (11tle 39, United States Code, Section 233)
Of The Begonian published monthly at Los Angeles, Calif. for Oct. 1, 1949.
1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher American Begonia Society, 5110 Monte Bonito Drive, LA. 41, Calif.; Editor Dorothy S. Behrends, 1633 Golden Gate Ave., LA. 26, Calif.; Managing editor none; Business manager Frank S. Moore, 425 N. Avenue 56, LA. 42, Calif.
2. The owner is: American Begonia Society, 5110 Monte Bonito Drive, LA. 41, Calif.; Pres. W. E. Walton, 1415 Acacia Ave., Torrance, Calif; Pres. Elect, Frank S. Moore, 425 N. Avenue 56, LA. 42, Calif.
3. The known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.
4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the mothed bar.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowl-edge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions

edge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trus-tees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. 5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This informa-tion is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY BY W. E. Walton, President

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of March, 1950.

(NOTARY SEAL) L. M. Fernley

(My commission expires December 12, 1952)

Branch Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH Regular Meetings 1st Mondays in February, May, August and November. Two annual exhibits, May and September, 1:30 p.m., Dessert Mrs. George W. W. Barton, Director 929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Michigan. BELLFLOWER BRANCH 1st Monday, April 3, May 1, 7:30 p.m. I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts. Mrs. Mildred Marshall, Secretary 8733 East Flower St., Bellflower, Calif. EAST BAY BRANCH EAST BAY BRANCH 2nd Thursday, April 13, 7:45 p.m. Willard School, Ward Street C. F. Jensen, Sec. 3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif. EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH 3rd Thursday, April 20, 8:00 p.m. Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 60 Mrs. Mary. Bradley, Cor. See. 701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif. FOOTHILL BRANCH Ist Friday, April 7, May 5, 8:00 p.m. Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary 360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif. GLENDALE BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 8 p.m. 206 West Cypress Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary 1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif. GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH 3rd Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Community House, LaJolla Tillie Genter, Corres. Secy. 7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif. GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 10:30 a.m. Home of Members Box Lunch 12:30, Program following Mrs. Ernest Jones, Sec. R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa. HOLLYWOOD BRANCH 2nd Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy. 861 So. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif. HUB CITY BRANCH UB CHTY BRANCH 3rd Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Roosevelt High School Cafe 1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif. Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy. 114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif. HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH 2nd Monday, April 10, 8 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif. INGLEWOOD BRANCH 2nd Thursday, April 13, 8:00 p.m.—dinner 6:30 325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Dorothea McBride, Secretary 3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif. LA MESA BRANCH 2nd Monday, April 10, 8 p.m. La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif. Mrs. Ida M. Barker, Secy. 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif. LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER
 3rd Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
 Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
 Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.
 1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif. 1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Ca MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 8 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Misse Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec. 2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla. MISSOURI BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 2 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Ruth Edwards, Sec. 2539 Holmes, Kansas City, Mo. NEW ENGLAND BRANCH Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec. 114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

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NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH Sec.-Treas.; Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.
 NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH 2nd Monday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. Houghton Fark Club House
 Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach 5, Calif.
 ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
 1st Thursday, April 6, May 4, 7:30 p.m. Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange Sec.-Treas., Mrs. W. L. Everett, R. 2, Box 146 Orange, Calif.
 PASADENA BRANCH 3rd Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. 208 Social Hall, Pasadena City College, Colorado Blud. I. F. Thompson, Sec.-Treas. 739 No. Wilson, Fasadena 6, Calif.
 PETALUMA BRANCH 3rd Friday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. 208 Social Hall, Pasadena 6, Calif.
 PETALUMA BRANCH 3rd Friday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts. J. Earl Wilson, Secretary 111 Hill Blud., Petaluma, Calif.
 PHILOBECONIA BRANCH 4th Friday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif.
 REDONDO AREA BRANCH 4th Friday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif.
 RIVERSIDE BRANCH 4th Griday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif.
 RIVERSIDE BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif.
 RIVERSIDE BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. Carden Center, McKinley Park Mr. J. C. Roberts, San Diego 6, Calif.
 SACRAMENTO BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 8 p.m. 3030 Homes Street, San Diego 7, Calif.
 SACRAMENTO BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 25, 8 p.m. Garden Center, McKinley Park Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary 2939 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.
 SALEM. OREGON BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 26, May 4, 7:30 p.m. Garden Center, McKinley Park Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary 293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.
 SALEM. OREGON BRANCH 4th Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. Garden Center, 1134 Weddington, No. Hilywd. Mrs. Nel Schae

THE BEGONIAN



APRIL, 1950

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