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SEPTEMBER
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VOL. XVII
No. 9



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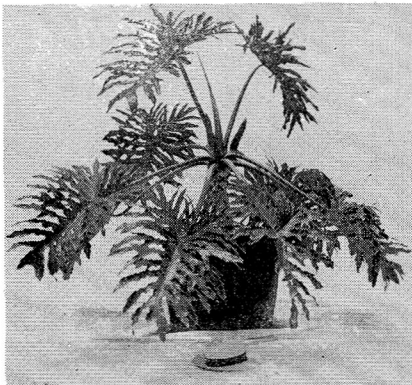
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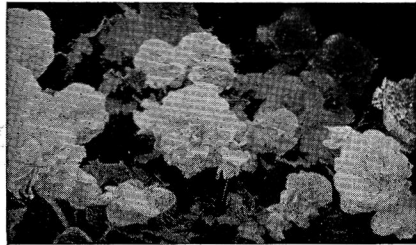
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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1305, 7:30 p. m., September 25, 1950. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

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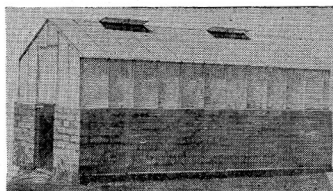
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THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

The Board of the American Begonia Society takes pride in announcing affiliation with the American Horticultural Council.

The Council is a movement which is taking shape gradually, but the aims are of high significance, adding prestige to the member societies and clubs, rather than to the Council.

Of particular interest to the American Begonia Society and its members, is the *Nomenclature and Registration Commission* which will set rules or recommendations for the terms used in describing and naming Begonias. These proposals are now before the International Botanical Congress and will be considered critically by the Specialized Plant Societies at the Congress in East Lansing, Michigan, October 26-28.

This will be a great step forward in working out uniform rules to be used by the separate societies. Problems of registration and evaluation of new varieties will be discussed there.

The *Testing Commission* is working on a scientific color standard, to be printed in a handy book form for use by all fields of natural science. This will be an improvement over the old hand colored charts which were visually imperfect and changed in shade. These will be machine printed and will include greens, grays and other desirable shades in absolute accurate increments of color.

Many organizations are working on it and the Specialized Plant Societies are expected to attend the Congress in October and give final advice on the colors they need.

—Dorothy S. Behrends



Courtesy of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum

NEW ARBORETUM OFFERS POSSIBILITIES TO BEGONIANS

No! This scene of palms and water is not in Florida, Brazil, or Panama. Very few Californians know that this view of tropic splendor is in the City of Arcadia, only forty minutes from the heart of Los Angeles.

Pictured here is the five-acre lagoon which is a part of the 120-acre Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. From the year 1771 the site has been known as the Rancho Santa Anita. The history of the property is a beautiful story in the colorful days of early California. Now, through the efforts of the founders, the Southern California Horticultural Institute, our old Rancho is destined for great prominence as an internationally known Arboretum.

There are many growers of begonias who would like to have a headquarters. This would be a place where the plants are growing, both out-of-doors and under protection. Here the hobbyist could learn to identify begonias and receive practical advice on the propagation and cultivation of the Begonia Family. The Arboretum offers facilities as a center of research and scientific study. Because the nomenclature of our royal hobby is in need of clarification, here might be the place to untangle the knot of begonia names.

The early owners of Santa Anita have left us a precious legacy in buildings and trees, but not in begonias. It will be our pleasure to see that they are not forgotten for coming generations to enjoy as we do now.

Because of heavy construction work to adapt the grounds as an Arboretum, it will be closed to visitors for a while. During this interim the American Begonia Society, along with various other horticultural organizations, has the opportunity to plan for mutual cooperation with the Arboretum.

Recognizing the value of this project, the A.B.S. has seen fit to take the first step by joining the California Arboretum Foundation, which operates the enterprise.

One of the objectives is the maintenance of a catalogue of all plants cultivated in Southern California. If the American Begonia Society sees fit to collaborate, the Begonia Family may well be represented, not only in the catalogue, but in a suitable situation in the grounds. Let's keep these possibilities in mind while awaiting the completion of the first construction phase of the Arboretum!

The Talbot Manor Begonia Collection

By F. J. Bedson, F. R. H. S., Founder President, National Begonia Society (Of England)

Most Begonia enthusiasts in Great Britain specialize in the tuberous hybrids, and although an increasing number are gathering together popular representatives of the begonia family there only seem to be three of us who are serious amateur collectors, with over 200 different kinds. These are Mr. Richard Stansfield of Ealing, a real enthusiast, who has recently given some account of his collecting in the "Begonian;" myself; and Mr. L. Maurice Mason, of Talbot Manor, Fincham, King's Lynn, Norfolk. In these notes touching on our mutual hobby, I want particularly to refer to the magnificent specimens grown by Mr. Mason and his gardener, Mr. Sayers.

That we are still only a modest trio is perhaps explained by the fact that, unlike some of our more fortunate American friends, we have to grow our begonias in glass houses all the year round, and heat is required for about 8 months of the year for most—some even requiring it all the year round. Then, apart from depleted Botanic Garden collections, few survived the wartime restrictions and difficulties, and few have yet returned to commerce.

I made the acquaintance of Mr. Mason just after the war finished when, seeking to replace my lost pre-war collection, I found we were mutually interested, had small collections, and so gladly made exchanges with each other. We both ardently sought to find all kinds remaining in British cultivation, and to preserve and extend the range. Other than tuberous, however, few were found in private or trade hands, and our main help has been from our Botanic Gardens and Public Parks.

We also turned our attention abroad, and quite a number of plants have been got together from Europe, the British Dominions, and from the U. S. A., with the help of one or two good friends and fellow members in the American Begonia Society. It has needed a considerable amount of effort and searching, but as we all three have different contacts and freely exchange with each other this has enabled us to build up our numbers quicker than would otherwise have been possible. For it must be remembered that seed is not true with most named hybrids, that rooted cuttings need air-mail to ensure safe arrival, and that our regulations make it almost impossible to remit for purchase abroad. All these are snags, but we hope will not prevent further cooperation and exchanges with American collectors. There are many more kinds, both species and hybrids, including modern American crosses, we are keen to grow, and we have many plants that are not in any American Nursery catalogues

that we have seen, nor are they referred to in the Krauss and Buxton books, nor in my complete file of "The Begonian." Whether some are grown in the U. S. A. under another name remains for further check, but meantime gives us scope to invite exchanges of seed and cuttings.

We each have our own angles on the hobby. Mr. Stansfield is in the running for the title of the Rex King, nearly a third of his collection comprising this group. My own catholic taste has led to embrace every member of the wide begonia family, including all named tuberous, and fibrous and rhizomatous plants, I have the largest number of distinct varieties, even of little horticultural value, but although now around 500, glasshouse space limits the number which can be grown to full size. The Talbot Manor collection, however, although excluding tuberous doubles, and those of little beauty, comprises, mainly, fine well grown plants at their best, amply spaced in large electrically lit greenhouses, under excellent conditions. Numbering as it does around 300 kinds it must surely represent the best private display of this genus in Europe.

The highlight of the year for us has been the Exhibition of these which Mr. Mason put up at the R.H.S. Chelsea Flower Show recently, and for which he was given the highest award of the year for a private exhibit of outstanding botanical interest. At least two horticultural writers praised it as the most meritorious exhibit of the Show,* and the interest shown by the many visitors to the Stand should ensure a fillip to the growing of this fascinating genus.

The large superbly staged Island Stand comprised four vanloads of begonias, which were banked up to the center, mountain fashion, all pots and staging being hidden with live sphagnum moss. The photograph, taken from the narrow side of the roped off oblong site, to give greater detail, therefore cannot fully convey the impressive wealth of plants. All groups of the genus, except tuberous hybrids and the winter flowering semi-tuberous hybrids were represented, and as can be seen were clearly labelled.

The plants ranged from the almost hardy *B. Evansiana* to stovehouse plants such as *B. Arthur* and *Niobe Mallet*, and *B. cathayana*. In the top center can be seen fine specimens of *B. lucerna* and other cane stemmed varieties, and a 4 foot *B. venosa*. In the middle center may be noted *B. rubro-venia* flanked by three kinds of *B. imperialis*, with *B. metachroa* above. The large rex in the left foreground is *B. La*



Courtesy of Mr. L. Maurice Mason

Triumph Scored by "Third Musketeer" of British Begoniadom

Marquise. Another large dark leaved variety at bottom right is *B. Vesuvie*. The fine plum coloured cut leaf rex duplicated on the left side is *B. filigree*. An uncommon plant, *B. vitticbotoma*, is about dead center. It grows adventitious leaves, is rough white hairy, and quite distinct from all others growing adventitious leaves.

Mr. Mason's "Weeds" as he affectionately calls them, were a silent tribute to the skill and care with which he and his keen gardeners tend them. A great lover of plants of all kinds, Mr. Mason is the most generous of gardeners and derives real pleasure from sharing and exchanging his treasures with those keen enough to appreciate them. That others also have this proper gardening spirit is evidenced by the remarkably wide range of plant genera at Talbot Manor, no little part of which has been built up by exchanges from those appreciative of his readiness to encourage keen amateurs. Many plants of widely differing genera, from hothouse to hardy, difficult or impossible to find in commerce, are thus preserved to amateur cultivation. The Talbot Manor collection is something of which he may well be proud.

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**Gardening Illustrated*, the venerable and excellent English publication on file in the A.B.S. Library, notes in its July issue "It was, nevertheless, a Chelsea which contained its surprises and none more pleasing than the delightful exhibit of begonia species and hybrids staged by Mr. L. Maurice Mason. This gentleman is not only an amateur but also a novice—at least so far as exhibiting is concerned. Yet he brought more than 300 plants all the way from Norfolk to London and staged them with the skill of an old hand. He was awarded a Lindley Medal for the botanical interest of his exhibit and might well have had a gold medal in addition for its charm."—(Ed).

(How about U. S. begonia collectors interested in exchange of hybrid cuttings contacting Mr. Bedson at Forest Gate, Crowborough, Sussex, England, listing those you have for exchange? Surely some method can be arranged to your mutual advantage—The Editor)

HOUSECLEANERS! In straightening up Aunt Emmy's room or Grandma Perkins' trunk you may find some old Begonians or an ancient plant book you don't care to save. Consult Librarian Gladys Nolan, 2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif., before you throw them away or sell them to the rag-man. Perhaps our Library can use them—certainly all Begonians!

MISSOURI PUBLICIZES BEGONIAS

By Leora Calmese, Kansas City, Mo.

The Missouri Branch of the American Begonia Society display at the Spring Flower Show of the Kansas City Garden Club, in connection with the Better Homes Show at the Municipal Auditorium, April 15-22nd, was seen by 84,000 people.

We did not know we could procure space until six weeks before show time, so we had to hurry our plans. Also the booth would have to be set up in two days' time. Our one advantage was an abundance of good plants.

We were very short on man power, as our organization was young and we did not have money to hire union labor—the only kind allowed. Therefore, we had to plan to use our woman-power, and ours was the only display set up by four women wielding hammers and saws like mad. I had the help of Mrs. Lucille Taylor, Mrs. Hester, and my daughter. These ladies are younger than most of us, and if it had not been for them and their husbands, we could never have completed the booth. The men helped to make the framework at home and did not help at the arena at any time.

As Kansas City was having its Centennial Celebration this year, I finally decided I would try to make an old-fashioned garden, and I must have succeeded, because one lady told me it looked like a garden she had seen in Texas and another said it looked like one in Denver, Colorado.

Our space was 9 x 15 feet. The most difficult problem was the background. We decided on a frame work of three 3 x 6 foot sections, made so it could be bolted together after we arrived at the auditorium. It was built in my driveway. The girls made a picket fence from old laths. You can imagine the fun they had, never having done anything like that before! It was so cold they had to work with gloves on all the time. It was also built in sections so that it could be put together later. We spread papers on the dining room floor and stained the fence dark oak to look weathered. It was nailed to oak posts to make it stand up and frame the garden.

We wanted a natural background for the garden. We thought about bark but didn't know how to make it stay on the framework and wiring it on was suggested. We knew where there were some trees which had been cut down two years ago and from which the bark could easily be pulled. We went out and brought in all we could carry, wet it down and weighted it with bricks to make it flat. We also sprayed it with DDT in order to kill any bugs. The framework was finished by this

time and the fun was on. We used the electric drill to make the holes and wired the bark to the framework with stove pipe wire. It looked surprisingly nice when finished.

Next the garden. I wanted it to look like the plants were growing right out of the ground. We didn't have grass, of course, but we knew where there was plenty of moss; however, the season was so early it was not as green as it should be, but we could think of nothing better. We brought in bushels and bushels in our baskets, spread it on gunny sacks in my back yard and watered it with warm manure water; it really greened up before the show. (We had a snow before the moss was brought in!)

Then came the day to take our moss, flowers, framework, hammers and nails to the show. We rented a truck and I wouldn't know what they thought of us when we unloaded. We bolted the background together and put up the fence and started on our garden. We hung as many pots on the background as we dared, extra green was added by long trailing branches of ivy stuck in tin cans and hidden in the bark. This stayed green through the eight days of the show. We put our tallest Begonias along the fence. We used chicken wire covered with wet gunny sacks and covered this with the green moss. The wire was cut so that the plants fitted down and it gave the effect of the flowers growing out of the moss. We staggered the plants and pots and built them up in order to make it look like a garden in the open and not one that had been built.

Mr. Rose brought Mrs. Cooper and her plants over from Excelsior Springs, Mo. Mrs. Cooper had potted up all her tiny rex plants and many other rare plants and after she arrived we put these in an aquarium 18 x 36 inches furnished by Mrs. Cooper. This made a very nice display for the front of our garden. The rocks for the border were furnished by Mrs. Lucille Taylor. On Saturday morning, opening day, I still didn't know what to use for a walk so decided to use peat moss and chat. This was mixed in a tub at home and watered and used, giving a very nice effect. Mrs. Eager, President of the Kansas City Garden Club, loaned us a bark basket and two bark pots, which were filled with plants and hung on the background. Mrs. Miller, Chairman of the Show, gave us an old fashioned rope to use as a gate, really adding a rustic touch.

We had 139 plants in the garden with over a hundred different varieties. The largest, a



Photo by Harper's Photo Studio, Kansas City, courtesy Missouri Branch

decorus in a water bucket, stood over 30 inches high. Visits were made to all members and they furnished their very best plants for the show. All of the plants were grown by the organization except some rex seedlings which I bought from Mrs. Susie Zug. All members cooperated beautifully. We had someone in the booth at all times and people stood two and three deep asking questions while we explained about the seedlings, wedges, etc., which we had displayed on an old oak table in front of the garden.

One good thing was that the floor was cement and we could use as much water as we needed. The background was sprayed with water every night after closing time and every

morning, so it kept fresh, and we did not lose a single plant, not even the *calla*.

We received a great deal of publicity in the Kansas City Star and mention over television and many were nice enough to say that they thought we had the best display at the show. I might add that ours was the only home made display there. (Total cost was \$57.00, of which we paid \$45.00 for our space.) At the end of eight days we were all worn out but felt it was worth all the trouble.

(It seems to me that our Missouri Branch must have had many pleasant dreams after it was all over, though, from such well spent effort—Editor.)

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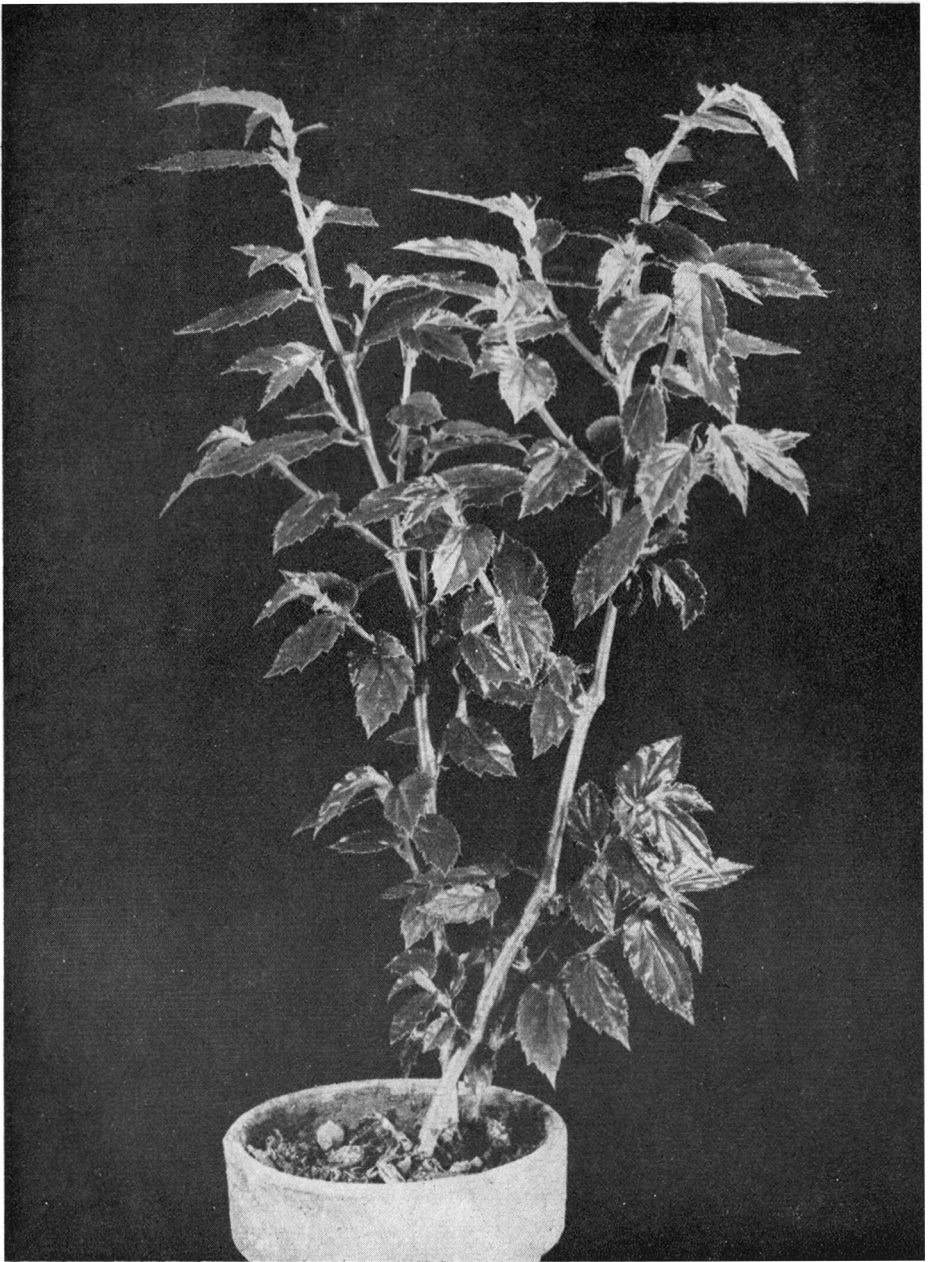
Time to think of grooming and preparing those plants which you plan to bring indoors is upon us and we have just the book you need for this purpose. Mrs. Sophia Naumburg has donated a copy of *THE TRICK OF GROWING HOUSE PLANTS IN EVERY WINDOW* to your library for the use of the membership—a very generous gesture, on the part of the author, for which we are grateful. See Mrs. Michaelson's review in your May Begonian.

The 1949 issues of the *NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE* Vol. 28, 1949, are bound and ready for circulation—Good reading to any gardener as well as a valuable reference acquisition.

Watch for the new books which have been added to the library for winter reading.

Your generous response in donating back numbers of the *Begonian* for complete files is about to pay off and I am sure you will be pleased and surprised with many of the new acquisitions. The need for back copies is still in demand and your librarian will be glad to pay the postage and any expense you may entail in sending them in to the library. *Never destroy a copy of the Begonian*—it might be just the number some one else really needs to complete a file and will help buy a new book for your use at some future date.

—Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian



Begonia Ingrami

By Marie Minter

While this is a fairly old begonia as years go, I find that there is still a lot of confusion regarding it. And it seems as if very few people have the plant under its correct name. It not only has had several synonyms but is also confused with *B. digswelliana*, and *B. Decker's select*, which at one time was known

as *B. improved robusta*.

Mr. Robinson listed this plant as *B. robusta* in his catalog and it has also been known as *B. Laura* and *B. Saundersi*. It is a cross between *B. nitida* x *B. fuchsoides* and was introduced in England about 1849. There is an excellent plate and description of this plant

in the Garden Magazine of Botany in 1850.

(The name of *B. robusta* correctly belongs to a species discovered in Java by Bloom.)

This plant has long, narrow, thin green leaves, much the same shape as the parent *B. fuchsioides* but much larger—about 1" wide by 3" long for fully matured leaves. The edge of the leaf is serrate and it has a few scattered hairs on the surface. The veins run lengthwise through the leaves giving them a ribbed effect.

It is a bushy grower, throwing many canes from the base and will stand full sun. However, when grown in the house, it does like cool circumstances and will not bloom if the room is too warm.

The blooms range from pink to red, depending on the amount of light given it. When in the right growing conditions it will bloom throughout the year, which makes it a good plant for bedding purposes, or where a small bush is needed.

For anyone confused between this plant and *B. Decker's select* and *B. digswelliana*, I would recommend Mrs. Alice Clark's drawing of these two begonias in the October, 1945, issue.

BEGONIA SILVER STAR

Our Cover Picture

This plant raised by Mrs. Jessie Topham of Riverside is two years old.

Silver star is one of the three *Begonia caroliniaefolia* x *Begonia Liebmanni* hybrids introduced by Mrs. Elsie Frey in 1945. Another, *B. bright star*, was pictured on page 257 of the November, 1948, *Begonian*. The latter is very similar to this, but this one, according to Mrs. Krauss, has smaller leaves. They are all rhizomatous, being from rhizomatous parents, but take more after *B. Liebmanni*, (pictured in a 1949 *Begonian*) not being compound-leaved as is *B. caroliniaefolia* (pictured in Mrs. Krauss' book).

New plants may be started from pieces of the rhizome for they root easily after the manner of *Liebmanni* and they enjoy a good gritty, leafmold loam—F. W. S.

Mrs. Topham tells her plant's life story in the following letter:

"While we were in Santa Barbara in September, 1948, I decided to renew a past acquaintance with Mr. Ziesenhenne and also revive my interest in begonias. Accordingly I just asked to "wander through and look." I soon discovered some types of rhizomatous begonias new to me and decided I would enjoy growing them in my kitchen window. So I bought three of the smallest available.

"One died early in the game. *Silver star* and *Joe Hayden* survived the unfavorable location and too close association with coleus and

their pests.

"In May, 1949, we enclosed a tiny lathed-in shelter with cello-glass. I salvaged the few rexes that survived the winter, shifted my house-grown pets into five-inch pans and enjoyed watching them grow through the summer.

"In September, 1949, I shifted all my rhizomatous types into redwood boxes. *Silver star* stepped into a nine-inch box, was given a generous handful of fish meal, and was placed on a high shelf to winter.

"I carefully taped and stuffed the many cracks in my poorly constructed little house and added the further protection of a small fan-type electric heater, which I could turn on when low temperatures were forecast.

"Every plant grew and in late February this year my *crestabruchii* and *Joe Hayden* started my mid-winter flower show, to be followed with *Mrs. Mary Peace, Sunderbruchii, manicata*, and latest but not least, *silver star* held the show place through May.

"Perhaps my success was due to fall shifting, over-potting, fish meal, or to a very restricted watering program.

"I never watered oftener than once a week and, if weather was consistently cold, ten days, and once two weeks apart. I always used warm water, as I used the laundry tap and used around 102° temperature and no further fertilizer—so my winter care was very light.

"*B. silver star* has summered since June 9th this year in the patio among my camellias. I have given it light liquid fertilizer weekly.

—Jessie Topham

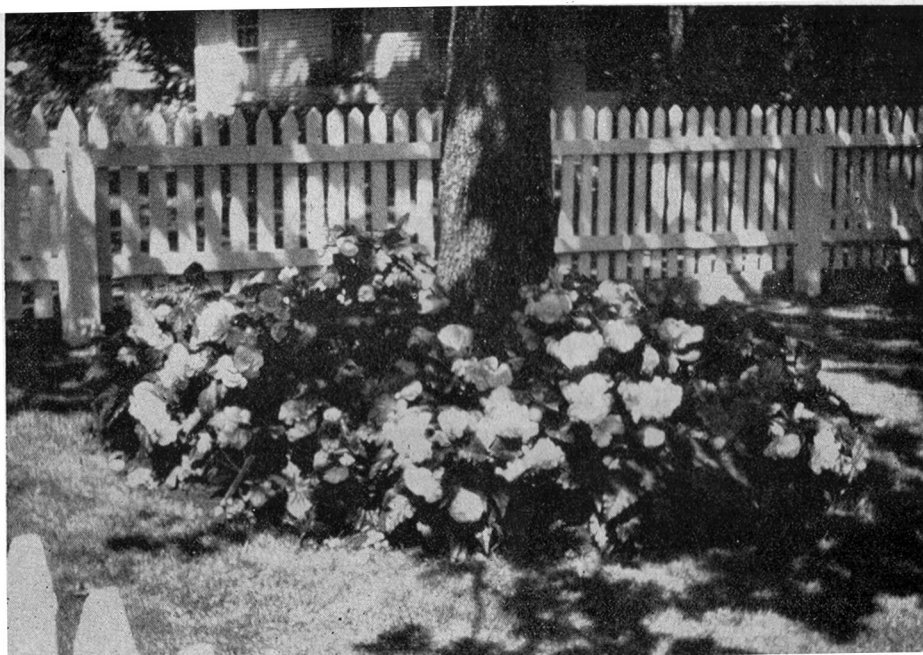
PERSONALITIES OF THE BEGONIA WORLD

Constance Bower was born in San Diego, where she has spent most of her life. In 1910 she became the secretary to R. F. Paine, chief editorial writer for all the Scripps-Howard newspapers. She held this position for eighteen years, when she decided to devote all of her time to her nursery business.

When just a young woman, Miss Bower obtained her first begonias from Kate Sessions. She met with a study group started by Mrs. Frank Waite, the person really responsible for the begonia fever in San Diego. Mrs. Fleetwood, for whom *B. Orrell* was named, Mrs. Frevert, whose special hobby was rexes, and Mr. Vedder, were the other members of the group. Miss Bower belonged to two of the *Begonia Round Robins* to which Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Buxton also belonged.

In no time at all, this young enthusiast had enough begonias to start a mail-order business. She sent out her first mimeographed catalog when she was only twenty-one years

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Colorful Tuberous Begonias in Salem, Ore.—1948

A black and white reproduction of a colored slide he snapped in Salem, Oregon, on vacation in August, 1948. From this the above cut was made. It doesn't show the brilliant colors of this "Ring-Around-A-Rosie-tuberous" but it does give a part of the atmosphere of hospitality and abundant charm that surrounded the little front yard as viewed over the garden gate on a warm summer day. It seemed like a key to the character of the people who lived in the house. Your Editor doesn't know who they were—they might even have been one of our Salem members—and inasmuch as he can never resist an opportunity to point out good practical uses for our favorite plants, he inserted this as a reminder that if we want our hobby to be catching we must put our plants on parade. If our Oregon branch knows the house, we will be delighted to make the acquaintance of another begonia grower with ability and artistic appreciation.

Advice from a little bird that Mrs. Dorothy S. Behrends, former Editor of *The Begonian*, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. Congratulations, F. R. H. S.!

An A.B.S. Library copy of "Gardening Illustrated," London publication on our exchange list, in which, under the title "A Scientist's Dream Fulfilled," Emil Zubryn presents detailed diagrams and one of the best

descriptions your editor has seen of the Cal Tech Earhart Plant Research Laboratory. From England! Borrow this and read it if you are interested in scientific plant study. (July, 1950).

News flash from the New York Botanical Garden, courtesy of Dorothy E. Hansell. This contains the 1950-51 Educational Program at the Garden. Of especial note to Sheltered Garden Lovers are the Field Botany classes, commencing Sept. 9th and for 7 more Saturday afternoons; Two-Year Course in Practical Gardening, commencing Sept. 27th, with particular regard to the six sessions on Cultivation of Greenhouse Plants starting Jan. 11, 1951, instructed by Joseph W. Tansey, Supt. of the Mrs. W. A. M. Burden estate at Mt. Kisco, N. Y.; lessons in landscape gardening directed by Alice L. Dustan—8 sessions from 8-10 p. m. Wednesdays, Sept. 27—Nov. 15; and six lectures on "Plants of the Tropics" by Mr. Richard S. Cowan on alternate Wednesday evenings Sept. 27.—Dec. 6. For detailed information contact Dorothy E. Hansell, N. Y. Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York 58, N. Y.

Letter from Mr. Manson E. Hume, Interlaken Road, RR 2, Orlando, Florida, to Mrs. E. Carrell, Armchair Explorers Club. Mr. Manson has learned to garden from a wheelchair. He promises to write a story soon of his experiences in growing begonias.

TUBEROUS TRIUMPH AT LAND'S END!

(From a letter by Wm. Kirkwood to Mrs.
Bessie R. Buxton)

Last fall Mrs. Buxton received a letter, quoted below, from Mr. Kirkwood, and this year visited his garden; although he had not planted tuberous this year, her description of the terrain complements his own remarks: "I drove down to Rockport to hunt up Mr. Kirkwood. It is in the Land's End section—and it is literally that. Penzance Road is a one-car-wide lane, between high hedges of bayberry, wild rose and elderberry, very fragrant, but it makes blind driving . . . His lawn goes down to the rocky shore—big round boulders with a sand beach beyond. And nothing between him and England but the broad Atlantic. Lovely in summer, but in winter—! I'm sure he finds those big boulders all over his lawn in the spring."

* * *

"Penzance Road, Rockport, Mass.
October 22nd, 1949

"Mrs. Buxton:

"For a few years I have been looking with longing eyes on Tuberous Begonias, in seed catalogs, but considered there was no suitable location on our premises. However, over a year ago we acquired property adjoining ours but it was thickly wooded and matted with bull brier (known locally as gingerbread) and grape vines. The terrain is about 50% solid ledge with remainder boulders and embedded rocks. I have cleared undesirable woodgrowth and moved tons of stones. Last Spring I cleared a pocket between ledges for Begonias. I thought I gave them ample room but discovered later they were going to be crowded, so I moved three, without injury, even although they were well budded.

"Our place is on the shore and subject to salt spray damaging foliage. Many flowers and trees suffered from such spray a month ago but Begonias were evidently protected or withstood the salt.

"It has been interesting to hear comments of visitors regarding the Begonias. Comparisons were made, by different people, with Begonias at Ropes Memorial, Salem. The gardener used to be Harold Stevens, a Rockporter. He may still be there. Also mentioned was a public display at Ogunquit, Maine. These were the two outstanding displays.

"I have been interested in gardening for many years and am resigned to poor results at times. At present I am excavating and preparing added locations for Begonias next year but am not going to guarantee to myself I will equal this year's specimens.

"Our largest specimen is apricot-colored. Total height of plant (including two separate flowers) 32 inches. Height of plant—24 inches. Length of stems and flowers 8 inches. Width across of two flowers 6 inches. (Others were larger a month ago.) Largest tuber—circumference $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

"As I have never seen a display which has had methodical preparation and care I am not in a position to assess quality.

"I take no credit for my results because I followed instructions accompanying bulbs.

"From one season's experience and results I am really surprised so few people who claim to have flower gardens are unable to identify them." (signed) "Wm. Kirkwood"

PERSONALITIES, cont. from page 195

old. In addition to her secretarial and nursery work, "Connie," as she was known to all her friends, became a begonia hybridist.

In 1927, after four years in San Francisco, she produced *B. pink Neely Gaddis*, still a hardy and floriferous favorite of the hirsute type. *B. Conbow* followed in 1928.

At this time Miss Bower specialized in succulents and cacti, instead of begonias, but she went on hybridizing the latter. The silky, dark-leaved *Druryi* appeared in 1932. Five years later saw the introduction of two very different hybrids. One of these was *Rufida*, whose fire-red flowers and beautiful thick-hairy leaves keep it in every good collection of begonias. The other cross between *B. peltata (incana)* and *B. ricinifolia*, brought forth a group of seedlings of recumbent growth of which *palomar*, with its lovely white spring bloom, is the most characteristic. *B. ramola* was more unusual.

In 1940 Miss Bower attempted to get an upright orange-flowered fibrous with *B. dichroa* as seed parent and pollen from *B. cyprae* in one cross and *alzasco* in the other. From the latter came the salmon-red flowers and very dark leaf of *B. Lulu Bower*. A lovely large-leaved seedling of *Elaine* came in 1943.

Of late Miss Bower has added Saintpaulias to her plant list with the result that she has had to give up begonias entirely. This is a great loss to the begonia world, but there are few who can retire with such worthwhile hybrids to their credit. We are especially grateful to Miss Bower for keeping and publishing a record, not only of her own introductions, with dates and crosses, but also of others in San Diego that she heard about.

It is very fitting that Mr. Ziesenhenné has named a new species, *B. Boweri*, to pay permanent honor to Constance Bower for the begonia beauty she has added to our gardens.

—A. M. Clark



Armchair Explorers

I've been gadding! Maud Nichols, that gal who packages those begonia seed for you and assists with our booth at the convention, spent a few days with me and we did a lot of visiting Seed Fund members and nurseries. Of course we brought home a carload of plants. At Marie Minter's place on a hilltop overlooking the ocean we saw some beautifully grown plants, and wished we could take home some of that wonderful sea breeze for our plants. We saw *B. decandra* with its crinkly light green leaves, practically climbing *B. Kellermani*, sturdy plants of *B. Mazae*, *Ludwigii*, *Manni*, and so many other rare ones. On to the Nunwood Orchid nursery at Leucadia where they are growing cattleyas splendidly in benches filled with a redwood leafmold mixture; gave me the idea of growing some of mine in this method. One always picks up ideas to adopt in one's own garden, visiting is really quite educational. We bought some rex begonias, ferns, succulents, vines, etc., at several nurseries.

Then the next day we started off in the opposite direction. Visiting first at the P. J. Miller's home in Whittier, where they grow the grandest *rex* in the world. Most of their plants are from their own crosses and many are named for members of the A.B.S. The entire back yard is a *rex* garden, covered with a lattice shade, trees, and vines. There is a cage of parakeets and of finches, a fish pond, fireplace, tables and chairs. We wanted to spend the rest of the summer right here in this paradise of *rex* begonias, but we finally did leave. At Marie Turner's we again saw a great assortment of rare plants and all kinds of begonias. I was especially interested in her seedlings grown from Seed Fund begonia seed. I couldn't begin to name them all, but did see gorgeous specimens of all those from the Mulford Foster seed collection, also *India spotted*, *acetosa*, even some *Griffithii* and *Cathcartii* just starting. Again it was difficult to leave; on to Mrs. John Cheney's place at Pasadena (the little lady who brings her ferns to our convention and explains how to grow them from spores). Of course she had lots of lovely ferns, fine begonia plants, some *B.*

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Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: I seem to have trouble keeping *B. ivy ever* over from one year to the next. During the winter the stems gradually fall off at the soil level and soon I have no plant at all.

Answer: The trouble does not come from your growing practices but rather from the blood lines of this particular plant. You are apt to have trouble with any plant having tuberous lines and this particular plant was a cross of *B. martiana* x *B. Limmingshei*. *B. martiana* goes completely dormant during the winter months and some plants of this particular cross seem to have inherited this tendency to a very marked degree. I have found that withholding water during the winter months will help somewhat but sometimes even this does not keep the plant from shedding nearly all the stems. Instead of throwing the plant away as so many people do, figuring that it is gone, I would advise turning a glass jar over the pot, keeping it in a warm position, and only slightly moist. Oftentimes there will be a resting period, then new growth will start from the soil. A very careful examination of the top of the soil will often show that there are several very small bulbs that will come to life in good time.

Question: What are the characteristics that designate an undernourished begonia? How does it differ from a diseased plant?

Answer: Begonias have very few serious diseases. A plant that isn't growing well should be examined for such things as mealy bug, white flies, mites, and aphids. If evidences are found, spraying with Black Leaf "40" will usually control them. If the leaves are not curled or distorted in any way and no evidence of mealy bug is present, the plant should be shaken out of the pot and the roots examined for root nematode. Swellings appear at the base of the stems or on the roots. A moderate attack will make a plant appear sickly and stunted. A severe attack will cause the plant to die completely.

Heavy soil and excessive moisture in the soil will make a plant appear to be diseased. Too strong a light will often give plants a stunted appearance. Under its influence, leaves will become reddish and the leaves of the more tender kinds may be badly scorched.

If you have checked all the possibilities and you are satisfied that there is no evidence of disease, you may have a cutting that just got a poor start in life. Some cuttings lack the vigor of others and it often helps to either

start all over again with fresh cuttings or report the entire plant in a deeper pot so that new roots will form.

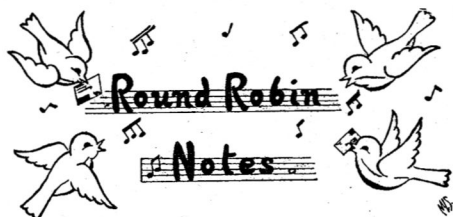
Lack of growth—a plant seemingly standing still for several months, especially during the summer months, would be characteristic of an undernourished begonia. Small leaves, few and small blooms signify trouble of some sort. The soil can become depleted of all nourishment which will cause a plant to stand still for a long length of time.

Sometimes repotting begonias in a larger pot will be all that is needed. A few begonias require lots of root room to do well, while on the other end of the scale, some begonias form little root growth for the size of the plant.

A plant that shows vigor in growing, especially during the summer season, by sending up new growth, is doing well. You should be able to at least have enough growth during any one season, everything being equal, to shift the plant to a larger sized pot during that particular growing season. If you are unable to do that, then you either have a weak plant or an undernourished one.

Question: Where can I obtain *Rex Begonia* seed and is there anyplace where one can get cuttings of the newer begonias?

Answer: For the seed, try Mr. Ziesenhenné or Di-Vista Begonia Gardens. Both addresses are in past issues of the *Begonian*. I do not know of anyone selling cuttings of the newer begonias.



Mrs. C. Falconer, Canyonville, Ore.—“If you don't have leafmold for medium—add a pinch of aluminum sulphate to each pot of soil.”

Mrs. J. Humphus, Tyler, Tex.—Has success rooting most all begonia cuttings in water—and does this the year around.

Mrs. K. Wibtol, Red Banks, N. J.—I use No. 1 Valencia Pumice to root cuttings. It is light and fine of texture and you can pull the rooted cutting out without having to dig for it.”

Mrs. Mona Ayers, Kansas City, Mo.—“Rhizome types such as *Feasti*, *manicata*, the star begonias, etc., may be propagated by removing the rhizome and cutting into 2 inch pieces, cover tightly with sand and when well-rooted place in 3 inch pots. The rhizome may be cut while still attached to the plant and left

undisturbed until new shoots appear then lifted carefully and potted up.”

Mrs. Leora Calmese, Kansas City, Mo.—“If begonia leaves start to turn brown or get bruised—cut away the injured part with a razor-blade and dust the wound with sulphur.”

Mrs. Lillian Brown, Londonderry, N. H.—“Root rex leaves by first putting them into a jar of water a day or two before placing them to root on damp sphagnum moss.”

Mrs. Sophia Baker, Portland, Ore.—Method for growing seeds on bricks: “I cut paper about an inch and a half wider than the brick. Tie this firmly around the brick so that the edge extends up to hold the soil mixture. Use 1/3 sand, 1/3 soil and 1/3 peat sterilized and sifted together, place a little vermiculite on the medium to prevent damping-off. After sowing seed place the brick in a pan of water (about half way up the brick). Keep a little water in the pan at all times. If mold should start, sprinkle with sulphur.”

Glancing Back --

It has been called to our attention that many of our newest members would like to know the origin of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund and Research Department. Active in this field until the time of his death in 1942, it was appropriate that this department was given his name.

Perhaps the best possible story is found in Mr. Kelly's own words printed in the A.B.S. mimeographed bulletin for June, 1937, as follows:

“IN QUEST OF THE UNUSUAL, A report of the Seed Fund.

“In reading of the travels of adventurers into those countries of the tropics where begonias grow as wild plants, one seldom sees any reference made to the observation of these plants in their forest homes—even though the traveler be a naturalist or plant explorer. They have eyes for obscure fungi and ancient dinosaurs, but only occasionally report a begonia. The species of this family of plants which is so widely distributed throughout the warmer sections of the world must often be encountered; but probably are so inconspicuous among the riot of exotic flora as to escape attention.

“It is difficult for the common garden variety of begonia fan, unfamiliar with botanical phraseology, to get a thrill from a scientific description of the rarest of begonias; while a passing allusion in a travelogue of a foreign country to the commonest sort, if it be one unknown to him, arouses a desire to go to similar places and bring 'em back alive.

“We recall reading, in a National Geo-

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News of Our Branches

FOOTHILL: "Country Store in a Poke" is the summer theme for our branch. The members have enjoyed two old fashioned pot luck picnics so far with the September date to be the same. All of them are held in the Glendora Recreation Park. Come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere with us.

Bring your own table service. Coffee is furnished by the branch. We'll be looking for you then.—Edwin O. Williams.

GLENDALE: Note our show date! At 8:00 p. m. there will be a meeting and Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné will speak on the plants in the show. SATURDAY, SEPT. 23rd. It is always a treat to hear Mr. Ziesenhenné speak and impart his knowledge on begonias. The public is invited and there will be refreshments, door prizes, and a plant sale.

—Violet A. Moore

Mr. F. E. Roberts' return engagement at our July meeting brought out an extremely large attendance, including many visitors. Persons unable to attend may be interested in notes taken of his talk:

"Perhaps no other group of plants is so widely distributed in Arctic, Temperate and Tropical zones and both high and low altitudes. Ferns are the second oldest living representatives of the plant world.

"They may be divided for convenience into several groups:

"Arborescent—tree types reaching heights of 75 feet;

"Creeping—some almost moss-like hardly over 1 inch high;

"Terrestrial—the shallow rooting types;

"Epiphytic—types with roots that cling to a supporting medium such as tree bark or baskets in cultivation;

"Aquatic—such as *Acrostichum aureum* which thrives in full sun if necessary; and

"Climbing—such as *Lygodium scandens* with twining leaves many feet long.

"Leaves may vary from the tiny leaflets of *Adiantum microphyllum* (still smaller than *Adiantum gracillimum* which was pictured last year in 'The Begonian') to those the size of banana leaves such as in *Asplenium nidum*.

"Among the tree types one of the most commonly planted here is *Alsophila australis* but the *Dicksonias* such as *antarctica* and *squarrosa*, from New Zealand are proving even superior in growth and hardness to the *Alsophila*. (Mr. Roberts displayed an 8 foot, lacy frond of *Dicksonia antarctica*.)

"*Cibotium Schiedei* of Mexico is a tree fern whose trunks I have seen up to 12 feet high.

"*Cyathea medullaris* of New Zealand, reported up to 122 feet tall, is the largest fern

in the world and is found growing on red clay banks, where, if the roots were washed away, they would fall over and take root along the trunks, starting up anew. I have seen a frond in Golden Gate Park 16 feet long.

"*Cyathea dealbata* is silver underneath.

"Among the epiphytics are the *Davallias*, making enormous hanging baskets and *Polypodium aureum* with large graceful fronds.

"*Davallia fijiensis major* is very fine, with lovely carrot-looking leaves."

(Mr. Roberts passed around fronds of the following ferns as he spoke about them and later informed us we had breathed in millions of would-be ferns during the evening—from the invisible spores shaken into the air.)

Polypodium nigrescens with long, broad frond.

Acrostichum scandens.

Polypodium caespitosum—very dainty, once pinnate, frond.

Polypodium musaeifolium—simple, undivided frond like the bird's nest fern; as was that of *P. iridioides*.

Asplenium Hendersoni—good either in the ground or hanging, had very unusual pinnae.

Cyclophorus lingua has vein-like markings.

Hoonariaria radicans is extremely graceful for a large frond.

Pteris Childsi, an oddly-cut frond, is very lovely in this class, as is the medium-sized *Pteris flabellata*.

Alsophila decurrens, the Hawaiian brake, is large and graceful.

Cyrtomium falcatum crispum is a very intriguing form of the popular Holly Fern.

Adiantum formosum—deeply lobed leaflets on its thrice-divided fronds.

Polypodium subauriculatum Knightii was notable for its extremely long light green lacy fronds.

Pellaea adiantoides has a dainty bi-pinnate frond, each pinna being formed of three little leaflets instead of one.

Microlepia platyphylla is a bi-pinnate type with large light green graceful frond.

Pityrogramma calomelanos had one of the most finely divided fronds shown.

Nephrodium molle is silvery beneath.

"For potting we use one-third peat (completely saturated—sloppy) and two-thirds leaf-mold (coarse, with pieces of bark, twigs, grit, etc.)

"For a hanging basket add a lot of peat because the leafmold will be decomposed in a couple of years and the plant would settle otherwise.

"Can ferns be watered by overhead spraying? Yes, indeed. We use that method all the time.

"I do not believe in mixing fertilizer with the soil mix—various gases can be formed in pots or cans that cannot escape and may start root rot. Dust the fertilizer over the surface for best response.

"We have used Milorganite, however, a 4-inch potful to a wheelbarrow load of soil mix. Afterwards we use fish emulsion and organic liquid fertilizers, well mixed.

"There are not too many pests. Sometimes long-tail mealybug are found on tree ferns if no natural enemies are present: Use Super-destruxol 5 tablespoons to one gallon; Use

50% wettable DDT on the ground for cut worms and it should last for a six months' period.

"Ferns multiply by spores; one adiantum spore will produce one prothallium (little green body that spreads over the surface of the soil); that prothallium may produce 600 ferns vegetatively!

"Ferns will tell you when light conditions are not right; if they turn light-colored, reduce the light; if the leaves are very, very dark green and some-what extra-willowy, give more light."

This is only a part of Mr. Roberts' talk and a fraction of the ferns he showed us—You folks should have been there!



Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch of La Jolla, California, placed high against commercial competition at the San Diego County Fair with this exhibit.

Courtesy of the La Jolla Light

GRAY, EVA K.: We scored a triumph against commercial competition in winning fourth place at the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar, California. Pictured is the at-

tractive large booth which entailed a lot of hard work.

We are sponsoring the La Jolla Flower
Turn to next page

Show in conjunction with the La Jolla Social Service League in August, proceeds of which will be contributed to the fund being raised for the construction of a home for senior citizens at Olivetas Avenue and Pearl Street. More of this will be reported to you next month.—Mrs. Frank T. Butler.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH: September 14th—will hear Maria Wilkes speak on Shade Plants, and as an added attraction our meeting night will be the same date as the "Indian Summer Flower Show" in Plummer Park. SEE "Show Dates."

HUB CITY: Has two past-presidents to date and a nice gesture recently was a presentation of ABS pins to each with the year of their service engraved thereon.—Reported by Mr. Walton at Natl. Board Meeting.

HUMBOLDT: Met for pot luck dinner at Mrs. T. Krieg's summer home. Tables were set, under trees, with bright red and white checkered cloths and lots of good food. Afterwards a business meeting was held. Under garden problems it was noted some of us are having trouble with cut worms and web worms and wondering where they came from. Often they are in the leaf mold, old manure, and dirt. Insect eggs and cocoons are also found in the leaf mold and dirt. Those of you who do not have a large amount of potting soil can bake it in the oven. Put it in a shallow pan and heat it at 300 degrees for two hours. Stir the soil so that it is hot all the way through. This will also kill the fungus that causes the little plants to damp off. For you that already have your begonias planted in the soil, spray with Isotox, or try Bug-geta-Meal on top of the soil. Do not use very much and renew it often, as it spoils soon after getting wet.

Now is the time to take cuttings. Make cuttings of your choice tuberous begonias to be on the safe side in case something happens to your original plant. A cutting is a small side branch, or a tuber sprout; root in clean sharp sand. The sand is kept moist at all times. The larger leaves are trimmed from the cutting. It takes a month for the cuttings to make roots. Transplant to a small pot of begonia soil. Shift to larger pots as needed. Cuttings make small tubers the first year, and often times they bloom. The blossoms sometimes are single, but this does not mean it will always be so. The next year your flower will be like that of the mother plant.

—Violet Wooden

INGLEWOOD: Although the business of staging the National Convention occupied most of the agenda at our August session, we also talked about shade gardening.

Mr. Walter J. Husband of Inglewood described soils and mixtures enjoyed by shade

plants in general. "The sodium salts in the irrigation water can soon accumulate in the pots and beds where there is not fast drainage. Calcium as a plant nutrient becomes deficient and leaves turn brown on the margins and growth is stunted. These plants should be replanted in fresh compost and in new pots. Correct the poor drainage problem and add gypsum to the mixture at the rate of one pound to the square yard or one teaspoon to a six-inch pot every ninety days."

Mr. Fred Schultz displayed specimens of begonias that resemble each other and described their differences and characteristics by which certain begonias are identified.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER: *New meeting place: Alamitos Library 1836 E. 3rd St., Long Beach.* Don't forget to visit us.

MISSOURI: The weather in and around Kansas City has been ideal for growing Begonias—and slugs! Ordinarily we expect temperatures of 90 to 100 degrees and over in July. This year a record of 48 degrees at night and 68 degrees one day and nine inches of rain. We will probably never have such Begonias again.

Begonias, being the aristocrats they are, have a summer as well as a winter home. Miss Mays' rexes are doing nicely on an iron stand on her north porch protected on the west by shrubs and vines. Some members have lath houses for summer homes, others the porches, and some out in the open, either in pots or planted right in the ground like perennials. But some have to be content sitting on the window ledges.

The June meeting was with Mrs. O'Day, who has a Wood Rose vine. The seed was bought from Mrs. Carrell. It is a fast grower but has not yet bloomed. Mrs. Lucille Taylor conducted the meeting in the absence of President Cooper. Two subjects were under discussion: Mrs. Breshears' method of making a compost, and the progress of our seedlings. Mrs. O'Day had nice plants from a pod gathered at Mrs. Wood's last September. Mrs. Fischer reported plant in bloom from seed given at January meeting. Mrs. Carr had lost a few. Mrs. Ayers reported plants pushing the jars apart. Mrs. Hattie Taylor gave a step by step report on her packages from the seed fund—75% germination, but lost most of them because of the size of her containers, which were pint jars. She later bought a package of mixed seed and one of *calla* seed, displaying them, planted in round fish bowls—very sturdy with the *callas* showing their white leaves. She later reported transplanting them 50 to a flat and gave 25 away and has that many more left in the seedling bowl. We are anxious to see what she can do. As far as we know, only one *calla* seedling has ever

reached maturity in Kansas City, started by Mrs. Calmese and raised to a mature plant by Mrs. Breshear. Mrs. Taylor reports her mixed ones are growing like mad. She has given away about 75 and has over 50 left. Mrs. Green reports her rex seedlings are doing fine.

The July meeting was held at the home of Mrs. William Breshear. She has some plants—*ricinifolia*, *Sundercrata*, *Thurstoni*, *Paul Bruant*, *nitida*, *weltoniensis rosea*, and *MacBethi*,—which were given to her by a friend twenty-five years ago. Mrs. Breshear has over fifty named varieties growing in a small greenhouse which is attached to her home. Mrs. Cooper gave the pronunciation lesson (from *rubella*, including *scabrada*.) Mrs. Gray was a visitor by proxy; she sent a nice letter in a round robin with a picture of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch exhibit at a fair. We all read the letter and passed the picture.

The lesson, propagation of leaves, was chosen because Mrs. Breshear has a shining example of what can be done with a leaf in one year. In July, 1949, Mrs. Behrends visited Kansas City, during the July meeting. She gave a similar lesson. Mrs. Breshear bought a leaf of *page 13* and now the plant is in an 8 inch pot, 19 inches high, 27 inches across and with leaves 10 inches long. We feel this should be an inspiration to everyone. The propagation of leaves was gone into thoroughly. Different methods and materials were used. Mrs. Hester brought her *purple glory* put down in vermiculite in a square glass baking dish. She put this down after the May meeting and has one plant four or five inches high and several smaller ones. Mrs. Baughman, a new member, reports her *rex* leaf planted at the same time has one started. Two *purple glory* leaves were used to demonstrate one cut up into wedges. Other leaves discussed were *Jessie*, *Paul Bruant*, *Templini*, *Fernando*, and other rhizomatous types. Leaves were given to everyone with the hope they all can report a nice plant soon.

We always report on the progress of our *tuberous hybrids*. So far Mrs. Breshear and Mrs. Hester are the champions. Mrs. Breshear has a bloom measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches across and Mrs. Hester has one almost as large. This is not bad for Missouri. Mrs. Hester grows hers in the ground and Mrs. Breshear has hers in pots sunk in the ground on the north side of her house.—Mrs. Leora Calmese.

(This whole program is not bad—for Missouri or anywhere—from where I sit! How about comparing notes on tuberous, etc., with Ohio, Michigan, and Texas branches—let's hear from you other folk in the mid-section of our U. S. A.—Editor.)

PASADENA: Jimmie Giridlian, rare plant expert, speaks on Billbergias at Col. Gale's

home on our September meeting date. Welcome all!

PETALUMA: The July meeting of the directors of the Branch was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hauser at Cotati, eight miles north of Petaluma. On entering the driveway the sixty year old elm trees seemed to welcome us with their great encircling branches; then, as we stepped into the garden, we were charmed by a small singing stream from the pool which was bordered by a great bed of Croft lilies in full bloom.

The regular business meeting was soon disposed of and time was devoted to the coming flower show in August, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Earl Wilson. It is a cause of great lament that our good member Henry Ross has accepted a much better position as City Engineer of Arcadia, and if the branch there realizes what an asset he is to a Begonia Society, they will annex him at once. He has been our program chairman and given us splendid programs as well as individual help.

—Martha Phillips

REDONDO: J. J. Littlefield was the speaker at the last meeting. He is very interesting and always has something new to tell. He brought several guests and called on each to tell of something in his or her garden.

Mrs. House conducted the usual plant sale and light refreshments were served.

This branch celebrates its first birthday at the August meeting. (Congratulations to a "branch" that is "leafing out" well.—Editor.)

—Arline Stoddard

RIVERSIDE: July meeting was at the Porter home with fine pot luck dinner in the garden followed by pictures of European gardens and azaleas in England up to 18 feet tall taken on their recent tour. August we meet at Dr. Frazer's residence and he is showing his beautiful movies of European gardens. These are proving gala evenings.

SAN GABRIEL: Will have a report on a top-notch show for you in the next issue.

We had a busy month starting with a pot luck dinner July 16th, a round-table discussion at the regular meeting July 26th and television August 6th with Dr. Siebert, Director of the State Arboretum, as our speaker. (See Arboretum article in this issue.) Our September speaker will be a Begonia expert—so be sure to visit us then.

—Clarence W. Johnston

SANTA BARBARA: The murmur of running water as it cascaded over the pebbles and waterfalls of a brook into a rock-filled pool attracted many a spectator to the Garden Display of the Santa Barbara Branch in the Floricultural tent at the Santa Barbara Fair and Horse Show in July. The background of

Turn to next page



Photo courtesy of the Santa Barbara Branch

Blue Ribbon and \$150.00 to Santa Barbara Branch Exhibit

the display was a redwood grape-stake fence upon which hung moss-covered baskets of specimen rex begonias, flowering tuberous, and ferns. Banked high against the south corner where the brook entered through a cluster of ferns and pampas grass and graduating to a low border of rustic oak logs, hundreds of the choicest begonias, intermingled with ferns, were arranged in a naturalistic setting. The brook was bordered with moss and ferns, and large baskets of brilliant red hanging tuberous begonias stood at the first waterfall. Directly back of the pool a planter box of *incarnata sandersi* with its bright pink blossoms hugged the fence. Tall fibrous, both species and hybrids, were used for contrast of flowers and foliage. A large staghorn fern hung in the north corner to balance the exhibit. Numerous *calla* begonias, *multiflora* tuberous and the old reliable *semperflorens* were grouped to give color to the foreground of the display.

Many of the rarest as well as the newest begonias could be found nestled among the ferns. There was the soft red-velvet foliage of a *laetevirides*, native of Africa; the new and graceful *circumlobata*, introduced in 1949 from China; a silver-spotted *rubro-venia* of far-off India; the soft plush-green-leaved *Fernando Costal*; and the hairy *bispidavillosa*. The tree-like *boliviensis* with its orange bell-shaped flowers stood at the end of the pool surrounded by *multiflora tuberous*.

Above the pool were the low growing rhizomatous begonias from Mexico, the small shiny leaves of *hydrocotylifolia* and the dark satiny leaves of a specimen *Mazae* cast their reflections in the water. A large-leaved *Mrs. Scripps* towered above the graceful *macBethi*; here and there was the fern-like *foliosa* and the tiny delicate *Boweri* (the newest of begonia introductions) cuddled by a bit of grey driftwood. A silver *Skeezar* nestled beneath the leaves of a large purple *rex*. And so begonias were put "On Parade"—a harmony of plants in a Begonia paradise.

(Entry took the blue ribbon and cash award of \$150.00)—Louise Schwerdtfeger.

SHEPHERD: Following is a picture of Mr. Knecht's exhibit of new rex crosses and some older introductions which was one of the fine features of the Ventura Garden Show in July:

Key to the Knecht Begonia Exhibit

From left to right: 1. "Elephant Ear" leaved deep zoned rex; 2. "Star of Bethlehem" (*Begonia cathayana* x *B. rex-cultorum*), soft and deeply spiralled; 3. "Theodosia Burr Shepherd" (*B. cathayana* hybrid given as a prize at the 1949 Convention at Ventura)—deep green and silver; 4. and 5. "Fantasy"—lovely *B. cathayana* hybrid, spiralled and in lush greens; 6. "Whirlpool"—silver spiral rex hybrid. All of the above are Mr. Knecht's own hybrids.

Miniatures:

1. and 8. *Calla* begonias; 2. "Kitty"; 3.



Photo by C. Kreger, courtesy Mr. Knecht

Walter Knecht's Begonias in the Ventura Show

Berry's (green overlaid with bronze); 4. Berry's *carnelian* (bright red); 5. Berry's *satsuma* (deep plum red); 6. Berry's brown curl; 7. "my joy" (Mrs. Schwerdtfeger's cross).



SHOW DATES

September 14th

Indian Summer Flower Show, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, Calif., sponsored by San Fernando Dahlia Society, Los Angeles County Park Recreation, Los Angeles Garden Center, and Los Angeles Daily News. There will be cut flowers, flower arrangements, corsages, educational and commercial exhibits. Admission 50c to the public; Hollywood Begonia members will be admitted free with monthly notice card.

September 23rd

Non-competitive Begonia and Shade Plant Show of the Glendale Branch will be held September 23rd, Saturday, at the Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central, Glendale. Exhibit open from 10:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. An open meeting will be held at which Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara will be guest speaker—8:00 p. m. sharp.

All visitors will be warmly welcomed.

GLANCING BACK, cont. from page 199

graphic Magazine, of a horseback traveler in Northern India on his way to Kashmere remarking on the mammoth begonia plants overhanging the trail, which must be the species listed in Hooker's Flora of British India as *B. gigantea*. Guenther in "A Naturalist in Brazil," a very readable book, reports seeing there a climbing begonia with scarlet flowers. Dr. Merrill, head of the Arnold Arboretum, told Mrs. Buxton an intriguing tale of a similar one he observed in the Philippines,

a climber with great clusters of scarlet flowers, *B. oxycantha*. Also Mr. Lancaster, an orchid collector of Costa Rica, in response to our letter of inquiry, writes of finding *B. imperialis* in that country near the Panama boundary, though in isolated specimens. Bailey's Cyclopeda in its botanical description of *B. Baumanii* adds this much of human interest concerning it: 'It grows in the high, moist valleys of the Andes of Bolivia, forming large tubers eight or nine inches in diameter, which are eaten by grazing stock.'

"All of this, together with the colored illustrations in Curtis' Botanical Magazine, of many begonias unknown to today's begonia culturalist, piqued our curiosity and kindled an urge to become a plant and seed collector. With a fund of \$33.00 contributed by several inquisitive arm-chair explorers, all members of the society, we started on a world tour—conducted to our destinations by the United States and International postal systems at from three to five cents per trip—seeking seeds of any of the species of begonias that are not in cultivation in this country.

"We soon found the undertaking filled with delays and disappointments. Many letters of appeal for assistance are sent to many places and the results of two years of endeavor are here summarized:

"First were purchased from a commercial seed-house in India, three packets of seed. These were *B. Josephii*, *B. Jalapher* and *B. rubrovenia*, all Himalayan species unknown here. The *Josephii* seed germinated well; the others indifferently or not at all, and the seedlings for the most part promptly died. Mrs. Buxton has succeeded in growing a few *Josephii* plants and carrying them through the first winter. These are a tuberous sort that become dormant during the cold months."

Continued next month.

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, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 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
2nd Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
C. F. Jensen, Sec.
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:00 p.m.
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 60
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH
1st Friday, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary
360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH
Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secretary
129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N. J.

GLENDALE BRANCH
Show meeting, Sept. 23, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Ave.
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary
1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH
3rd Monday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Corres. Secy.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 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, Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy.
861 So. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

HUB CITY BRANCH
3rd Monday, Sept. 18, 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, Sept. 11, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Sept. 14, 8:00 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Minna Slatter, Secy.
4600 6th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH
2nd Monday, Sept. 11, 8:00 p.m.
Porter Park
Mrs. Jane Cook, Secy.
439 Carlos, San Diego 2, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER
3rd Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Alamitos Library,
1836 E. 3rd St., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.
1500 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8:00 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.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson
P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH
2nd Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
F. John Nachbor, Secy.
6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
1st Thursday, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 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, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
208 Social Hall, Pasadena
City College, Colorado Blvd.
J. F. Thompson, Sec.-Treas.
739 No. Wilson, Pasadena 6, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH
3rd Friday, Sept. 15, 8:00 p.m.
McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts.
J. Earl Wilson, Secretary
111 Hill Blvd., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH
Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec.
405 Cotswald Lane, Wynnwood, Pa.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH
3rd Monday, Sept. 18, 8:00 p.m.
Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue
Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Sec.
522 So. Guadalupe Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, Sept. 13, 8:00 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m.
3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif.
Mrs. Edyth Sherwood, c/o Mrs. Leta Wescott
1767 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Sept. 19, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary
293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH
1st Thursday, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Salem Y.M.C.A.
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secretary
2750 Lancaster Dr., Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Sept. 26
Lions' Club, 3927 Utah St.
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.
1059 Meade Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH
2nd Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, No. Hillywd.
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary
20047 Arminta, Canoga Park, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec., Mrs. Wm. Meyer
1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
4th Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Av., Arcadia
Mrs. Dorothy deHart, Sec.
509 So. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Roy C. Pierce, Secy.
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH
1st Wednesday, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.
225 - 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif.
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

See next page

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, 621 Santa Paula St.
Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 19
Member's Homes
Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secy.
6057-31, N. E., Seattle 5, Washington

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mr. Robert Renshaw, Secy.
560 So. Coronado, Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:00 p.m.
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Harvey Manning, Cor. Secy.
21455 E. 14th St., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park
Mr. Ray Venable, Secy.
8624 Garden View Ave., Southgate, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Friday, Sept. 22
Mr. E. Weaver, Pres.
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Sept. 12, 11:00 a.m.
Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. John C. Schmucker, Sec.-Treas.
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.

4th Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Sec.
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Hovanec, Secy.
630 Palm Avenue, Whittier, Calif.

ARMCHAIR, cont. from age 198

cathayana, which are doing well, and a good many orchids which she recently imported from Honduras. Visiting could go on and on, but Maud had to get back home to take care of her own plants, and I had to get back to my many duties and to see if I still had time to write you a few words as I heard that many of you missed me the month I took off.

At this time of year it is important to keep the plants well watered and this should never be done in the heat of the day, early morning or evening watering is best. Keep dead leaves and flowers picked off and some fertilizing can be done now as plants are growing fast and can use it. I like to mix peatmoss and steer fertilizer together and top dress pots and around the plants in the open beds, watering well afterwards.

From Singapore I received seeds of *Begonia Nurii* which is a species native of Malaya, it is rather like a miniature *B. rex* but it flowers much more freely and grows not more than 6" high. It is doubtful that this species is grown anywhere else in the world. Some of the better growers will have an opportunity to grow some of this seed and in this way I hope plants will eventually find their way into many of our gardens. Mr. Otto Degener

sent a box of shrub and tree seed from Hawaii. Those who are interested in such seed, please write me. Some of these are extremely rare, not even being listed in Bailey's. Perhaps some of our nursery members would be interested in growing them to later offer to the trade.

Members who have surplus begonia seed, please send it to your Skipper, for we can use it. At convention time we always give away free seed and in this way try to get folks to find out the great thrill of growing plants from seed. Hope you enjoyed the convention.
Cheerio—Florence Carrell.

When in doubt, ask your Research Department—Western Division, Box 512, Route 1, Encinitas, Calif.,—Eastern Division, P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

CONDENSED MINUTES Meeting National Board A. B. S. held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., July 24th, 1950.

Meeting called to order at 8 p. m. with President Walton in the chair. Board members present—Messrs. Walton, Moore, Gale, Trowbridge, Lorenz, Spaulding, Bailey; Mesdames Korts, Schwerdtfeger, Nolan, MacLanahan, Hartwell.

Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society.

President announced there would be no meeting of the National Board in August and asked Representative Directors to please Take Note.

Reports of officers read and laid aside for use of Branch Representatives. Branches represented at this meeting—Pasadena, Glendale, El Monte, San Gabriel Valley, South Gate, Riverside, Santa Monica, Santa Barbara. Reports from Santa Monica and South Gate were very interesting and given in a humorous strain much enjoyed by everyone.

Mrs. Korts reported she was still selling begonia pins—same price and readily available.

Mr. Trowbridge spoke on the coming Annual Meeting and Flower Show. Letters in the mail to the Branches giving instructions as to time of show; time and price of banquet; and asked everyone to read the Begonian for details and to get their reservations in at earliest possible date as they anticipated a large gathering and reservations must be early.

President appointed committee consisting of Mary Choate (Chairman), Jessie Gale, and Louise Schwerdtfeger, to go ahead with the work of classifying and naming (as far as possible) the Roy Berry miniatures; Rudolf Ziesenhenné to act as a reference member of this committee. In due time the Committee is to enter a resolution to the National Board and have this matter in shape to be added to the Show Schedule for next year.

Discussion concerning educational booths to be placed in the show. It was the feeling that for this year it would be impossible (due to lack of time and space) to have a department of Educational Booths. Mr. Trowbridge was instructed, however, to confer with the Committee and see just what they had to offer and at least have one educational display this year and in the future to emphasize this feature as all present thought it should be a vital part of our shows.

Representative Directors asked to hand in their yearly written reports to be made available to everyone and for use by the Editor for magazine copy.

Redondo Beach Area; Mr. Moore installed our new officers Mr. Ogen new Representative Director; meeting 3rd Monday each month.

Inglewood; Mr. Spaulding our last speaker; gave a good talk and everyone enjoyed it. Mr. Husband on shade gardening our next speaker.

Mrs. Korts spoke at San Fernando meeting and found members interested and working for their branch.

Respectfully submitted,
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

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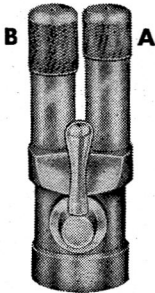
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