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Merry Christmas

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BEGONIA



Plant of.
Mrs. Freeman



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"Tropical Gardening"



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MIAMI BRANCH



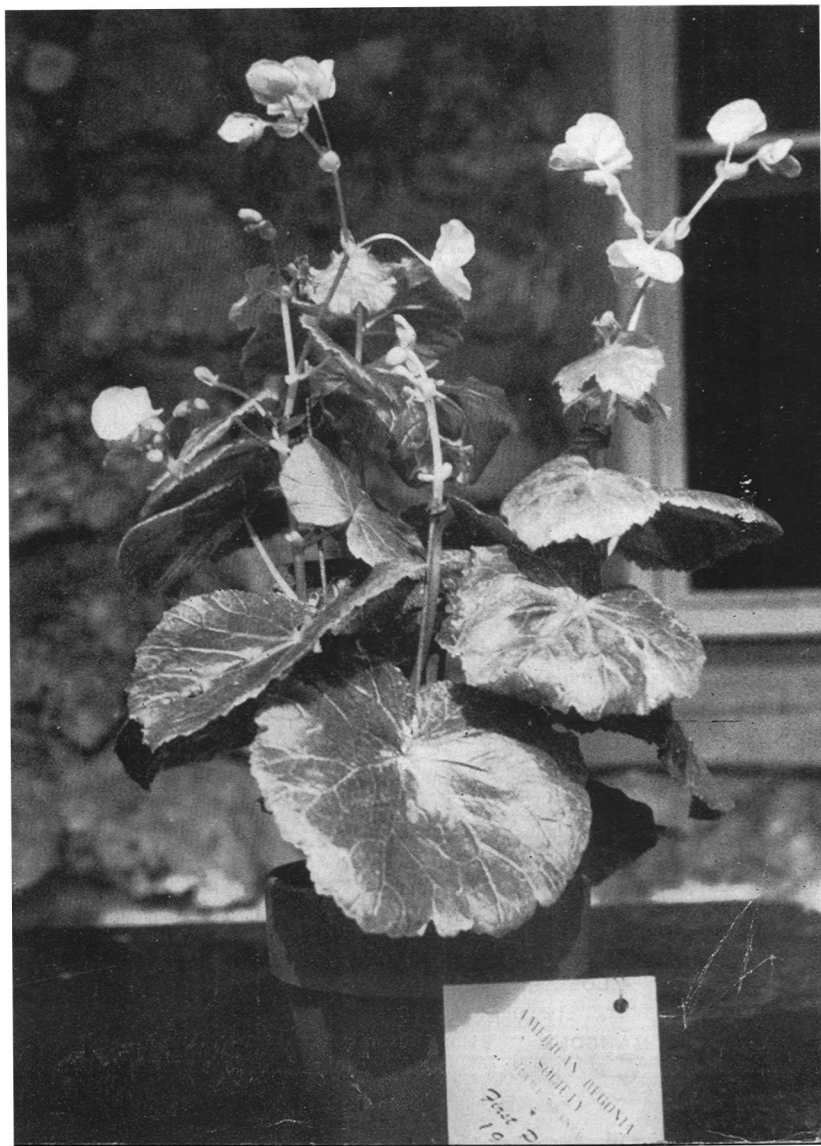
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VOL. XVIII
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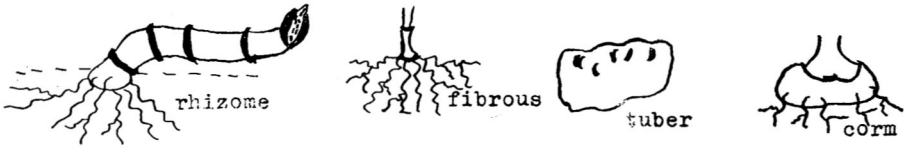
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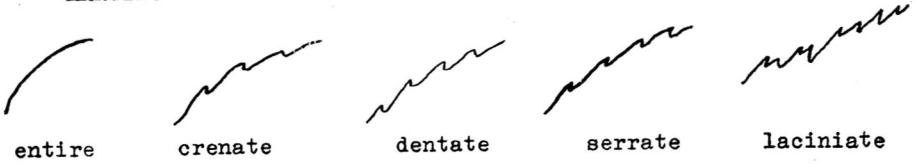
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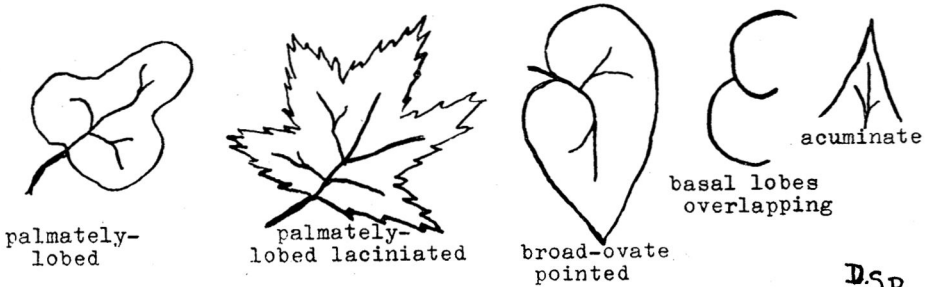
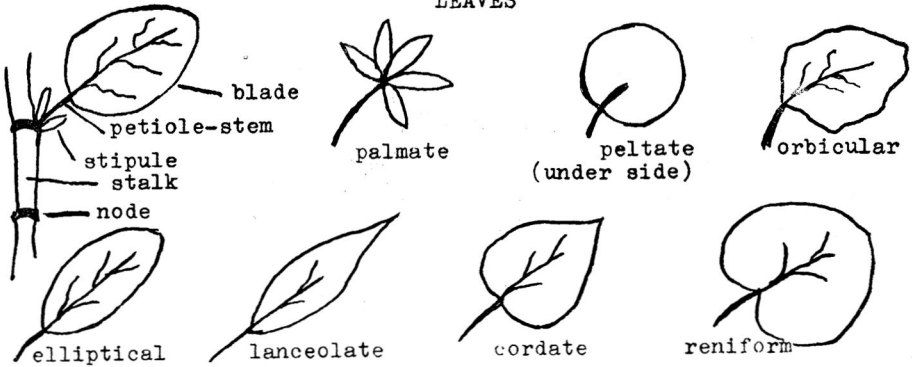
ROOTS



MARGINS



LEAVES



D.S.B.

Drawing by Dorothy S. Behrends

Botanical Descriptive Terms

Slanted Toward the Beginner

By Dorothy S. Behrends, Los Angeles

WE OFTEN HEAR, "How can I tell which begonias I have, by reading those awful descriptions?" Or even, "Isn't there a more simple method in describing begonias?"

There have been times when this feeling has discouraged the would-be begonia grower from spending a little leisure time, pouring over a book describing begonias, to try to find the proper name to place on the label.

Many people (some are long-time Begoniaites) say, "What's in a name? Who cares what I call it, if I grow it well and like what I see?"

Really, no one cares. That is up to the individual.

If some one prefers calling a *Begonia erythrophylla*, Begonia 'Mary' or Begonia 'Paducah,' no one cares but that person is certainly alone in a conversation pertaining to that particular begonia. No one else knows which begonia they are talking about!

You may say, "Who cares if I am alone?" You are right, no one.

However, hobbies are of particular importance and pleasure, because they bring together the minds of people with something in common, from near and far. The mental stimulus is exceedingly important, whether we analyze it or not.

Hobbyists love to talk to others having a similar hobby. Comparing notes of "what I do" is great fun.

To get back to the descriptions of begonias. Unless a fairly standard rule is accepted, everyone is at a loss.

To help the reader review, or acquaint himself with a small amount of botany, may be a painless way of assistance toward this end.

The accompanying illustrations are those most often found when reading the descriptions of begonias.

Additional concise information may be of help.

SIMPLE LEAF—one blade.

SERRATE—notches like those of a saw.

CRENATE—with teeth rounded.

DENTATE—with tooth-like notches.

LOBED—indicates the notches extend about one fourth the distance to the base or mid-rib.

PENDUNCLE—flower stem.

PUNCTATE—having translucent glands so that the leaf appears, when held toward the light, as though full of holes.

GLABROUS—smooth.

PUBESCENT—covered with fine, soft, plainly seen hairs.

TOMENTOSE—densely covered with matted hairs.

HAIRY—having longer hairs.

SUCCULENT—fleshy.

When we understand the meaning of some of the so-called *awful* names, we realize they are not *awful*—they are descriptive.

As a test, to quote from Mrs. Krauss' book, *BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES AND GARDENS*, let us look at "B. 'Verschaffelti'—large; rhizomes very thick, ascending; petioles long, erect, older ones sometimes drooping; leaves roundish, fleshy, shallowly and roundly six-lobed, irregularly toothed, glossy bright green; flowers clear pink, drooping, in tall panicles. One of the handsomest begonias of its class."*

Incidentally, it is pronounced Ver-shaff-el-tie, accent on third syllable.

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Spaulding Photo

B. VERSCHAFFELTI

Plant of Mrs. Marie Turner

Sometimes it is spelled Ver-shaff-el-ti-a-na, which is pronounced "ay-na"—as in "day", accent on the "ay."

Compare this description with the accompanying illustrations.

Not so difficult, is it?

* Courtesy MacMillan Co., and author

"SEEDS FOR DEMOCRACY"

Committee for a free Asia, Inc., is backing a drive for the donation of vegetable seeds to help in the development of Filipino vegetable gardens to overcome a critical inadequacy in food production. Last year's experience indicates that the following are the best: green string beans, Chinese cabbage, green pepper, mustard, collards, egg plant, cucumber "straight 8", kohlrabi, and loose leaf lettuce.

Persons wishing to donate such seed should send them to SEEDS FOR DEMOCRACY, 596 Clay Street, San Francisco, California.

Remember, the Philippines are one of our sources of Begonia seed. Perhaps some of us are in a position to help return a favor. Communists find many converts among the hungry.

Library Notes

Every garden magazine, in our files, at this time of the year, stresses the importance of the proper culture and background for house plants and I am sure that members would be glad to know that we have books available for your use. The following may be had on loan at this time:

ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS, Montague Free, a most complete, informative volume on this subject; *THE WINDOW GARDEN*, Bessie R. Buxton, now out of print, but valuable for the wide range of plants and culture described; *THE TRICK OF GROWING HOUSE PLANTS IN EVERY WINDOW* Sophia Naumburg, invaluable for instructions on the proper background and light needed by various plants; *ENJOY YOUR HOUSE PLANTS*, Dorothy H. Jenkins and Helen Van Pelt Wilson, another excellent volume full of ideas for decorative arrangement.

On Saintpaulias:

HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS, Carolyn K. Rector; *ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS*, Montague Free. Either of these excellent books should stimulate the interest of any grower of these endearing house plants.

See your November Library notes for any of these books which may be purchased thru your library for holiday gifts.

NOTICE

Due to circumstances beyond our control (namely, the rise in cost of binding) the price of *BEGONIAS, AND HOW TO GROW THEM*, by Bessie Buxton is now \$3.00 per copy. Kindly remit this amount in future when ordering from the library and note this change of price in our November book list.

Send in your requests and be prepared to care for those lovely things the holidays bring to all lovers of growing things. Happy holidays!

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

ANOTHER POWDERY MILDEW REMEDY

Mrs. Ada Schaefer, secretary of Santa Barbara Branch, reports that Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné, eminent Begonian of that city, during his lecture discussed his method of combatting powdery mildew on begonias. He recommended the use of a solution combining $\frac{1}{4}$ th teaspoon Fluorescein (the same chemical used in liferafts to dye water as a rescue signal), $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon "Dreft" or equivalent detergent powder and one quart water, used as a spray. He explained when the solution hits the mildew, the light reflection inactivates the spores, thereby stopping the spread of the mildew.

The Garden Called Gethsemane

Since the time when Christ, in his hours of mental anguish turned his face from the walls of the city and went out into the nearby Garden of Gethsemane to pray and find strength to bear his burdens, men and women have turned again and again to the strengthening soothing beauty of gardens and plants to heal wounded minds and hearts.

The soft uncurling of a fern frond after a winter's nap — the recurring miracle of the dying plant covering itself with lovely flowers which seed and replenish the barren soil a thousandfold—the renaissance of a queenly flower from a rough, brown tuber—remind us that God knows, far better than we, what He is doing. And we are comforted, because we remember the promises given by God to those who will listen, that He will supply the needs of His children even more than those of "the lilies of the field."

Our special plant family of Begonias has been blessed because since its discovery, its members have been taken into the very homes of the people and have lived with them in their windows and on their doorsteps to become living symbols of the love of God to which many a troubled soul has turned to find solace and peace of mind.

Mrs. Jessie L. Clark says: "I've been growing begonias almost sixty years, and I've learned how they can heal; how they rest the human mind worn by terror and pain; how they can ease the strain, if only for moments, when we, though not physically disabled, are called upon to watch a loved one die by inches." How many of us can second her testimony!

In the gaiety of the Christmas celebration, let us not forget the helpful code of living that Christ gave to us during his brief lifespan on earth, nor that he, too, turned to the garden to replenish his strength and his courage.

Christmas Begonias

Our cover picture is of Mrs. Freeman's prize-winner at the Miami Branch 1950 show and displays well the form of leaf and flower on this young plant. Popular gift plants in the east, they are not so often seen on the west coast. With their gay blossoms ranging from white through all the pinks to red, they can add much to the holiday picture.

Sometimes the sellers lump them together as "Christmas Begonias" but there are named varieties, the most important of which are listed in Helen K. Krauss' book, "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens" (q.v.), and many of you undoubtedly read in our July number, the article by Mrs. Dorothy P. Barton in which she noted the new Norwegian strain being readied for introduction by Neilsen Greenhouses.

If you receive one of these begonias this season, you will want to know how to keep it healthy and blooming. Mrs. Bessie Raymond Buxton answers your questions in her book, "Begonias and How to Grow Them," on page 7, as follows: "First, keep the room as cool as possible, under 70 degrees F., certainly, and under 60 degrees F. at night. See that the air is moist. Get an inexpensive air meter and keep the humidity at 50 per cent or over, by means of pans of water on the radiators, and moist sand or pebbles under the pot. Make certain

that the soil is always moist, but never soggy. No water should stand in the saucer. Give the plant morning sun, but not an all-day blaze of it. Admit fresh air to the room sometime between ten in the morning and three in the afternoon, unless the day is bitter cold, but be careful to protect the plant from drafts. This care should give several weeks of bloom."* If this should sound like a complicated procedure, think it over and see how much of it is a good recipe for human health as well!

After blooming, it should be rested like other tuberous plants, but not allowed to dry out completely at any time. Then after a couple of months, it should be carefully repotted, being sure not to disturb the roots very much while removing some of the old soil. Don't forget that humidity is important to the *socotrana* hybrids.

Use your Christmas Begonias in the holiday spirit. For you who do not have a copy of the December, 1945, *Begonian*, we reprint a portion of Mrs. Buxton's delightful article, "Christmas Window Garden":

"Instead of trimming my house on the outside with ropes of evergreen and electric lights, I enjoy filling the windows with flowers. One of my front windows will be arranged in red and green, with red or white candles, the

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other in pink and white with pink or white candles. Vines will frame the windows . . . Strings may be used to hold the vines in place, or Scotch tape will hold them securely and invisibly to the window frame. A row of red and white semperflorens in green pots fits snugly on the window sill, and behind them on a wire plant stand the plants are placed. The lowest shelf of the stand is a bit below the window sill, so I choose tall plants for that, so that the height is properly graduated. I set smaller plants on the other shelves and take a critical look from the outside as I work, to detect the errors in placing.

"Begonia lovers will take pride in filling their windows with their favorite plant, to interest the passer-by as to its variety and decorative possibility. However, no one would object to the use of other plants with the begonias, and if you have a large plant of Poinsettia or Jerusalem Cherry, it would make a fine center for the window arrangement." (For the red window she suggests blooming 'Mme. Fanny Giron', 'Calla Lily', 'Corbeille de Feu', 'Corallina de Lucerna', 'President Carnot', 'Di-anna', 'Sachsen', and 'Jinnie May', and tall red *rubras* (*coccinea*).

"Use as many white flowered plants as possible, for white lights up the window garden as well as it does the outside garden, especially at night, when red recedes into the background unless well lighted." (She suggests the small-

flowering but profuse blooming *Mac-Bethi*, *Richardiana*, *Dreget*, and *acuminata* and you could add the white-flowering Christmas Begonia 'Caledonia'.)

"When the arrangement of the window satisfies you, set two tall red or white candles among the plants, placing them so that the wax will not drip on the leaves. A row of small red and white candles on the window sash will add to the brilliancy of the window.

"For the pink window, use a large plant of 'Melior', 'Marjorie Gibbs', or any of the pink flowered Christmas Begonias . . . for a centerpiece, and a row of pink and white semperflorens on the window sill. 'Mrs. W. Kimball' (*dipetala*) is usually in bloom for Christmas and one of these tall slender plants, dripping with pale pink flowers, on each side of the window would help to frame its beauty. 'Corinthian Pink', 'Annabelle', (s.-c.) 'New Hampshire', 'Pink Rubra' and *incarnata Sandersi* are good pink flowered varieties for this window. The tall candles in this window should be pink or white, like the small ones across the sash. A light colored screen behind the plants makes a good background and gives privacy if you live in a city . . ."

Isn't that a wonderful idea, and you can go on and on from here, using your own available plant materials and imagination. Merry Christmas!

(* Courtesy of the author and Massachusetts Horticultural Society.)

NOW

These ideas for gardening now were presented by Joe Littlefield, Red Star Garden consultant, at the Orange County Branch meeting recently and reported by Helen Meyer.

Among plants suggested for putting out in California gardens now were cinerarias, primula malacoides, English daisies, forget-me-nots, coral-bells, new varieties of English primroses as well as daisies, amarcrinum, hybrid billbergias, columbines, tulbaghia, sweet spire shrub, camellia sasanqua.

Potting Soil

During the question period Mr. Littlefield gave a good potting mixture:

2 parts good garden loam mixed with 1 part composed of half peat moss and half leaf mold, and some good manure.

One-half cup or more of bone meal does wonders for delphiniums when worked in the ground.

Camellias

When camellias are growing in tubs, put the tub off the ground on blocks. Camellias should be fed with "Camellia-gro" every six weeks after flowering until September; they do just as good in big tubs as they do in the ground, although they do need to be watered more often. He suggests filling the tub to the top with water

twice at every watering. An idea he gave was to *plant some bedding begonias in the tub with the camellia.*

NOW

Notes from Florence Carrell:

Make up your lists now for tuberous begonias you want for next summer and place your orders with advertisers in the Begonian.

This is a resting period for many begonias and some of the foliage may fall from your fibrous types at this time, but it is nothing to worry about, as they will be better plants later on for having had a rest. Keep your plants a little on the dry side now and do not try to force any new growth until spring.

It is a good time now to clean up the greenhouse. Cuttings can be put in if you have bottom heat. Groom up your gardens and greenhouses for the Holidays and select a few plants to give as presents.

Give memberships in the Begonian for Christmas also. Tell others about your wonderful hobby.

BEWARE: I remove at once all leaves that look diseased or show odd spots to keep disease controlled.—*Elinor Slocum*

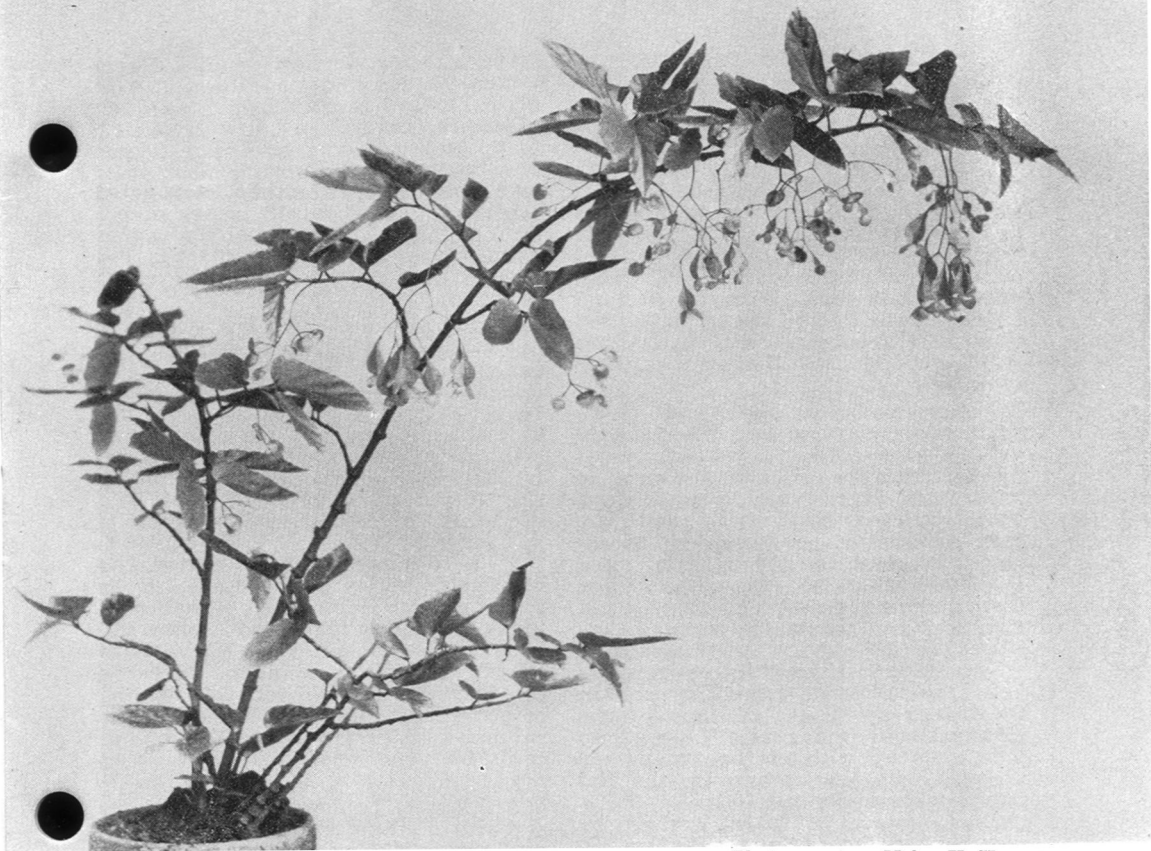


Photo courtesy Helen K. Krauss

Begonia Jinnie May

By Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

One often needs either a good pot plant for the home or, if planting begonias in the ground, a good plant to use in the foreground. I believe that *B. 'Jinnie May'* answers both purposes equally well.

In 1925 Mr. Robinson introduced a *B. coccinea* cross which has stood the test of time very well. It is still very popular as an almost fool-proof house plant. It is not too tall, is well branched and meets the specifications of being almost a constant bloomer. There is hardly a time during the year when the plant does not show some flowers.

The leaves are quite small for a *B. coccinea* cross, although they retain the typical shape of *B. coccinea*. On the small plant I have before me as I write this description, the leaves measure about three inches long by about one

inch wide. The petioles are short, holding the leaves close to the main stem, and are bright red. The young leaves have a red flush to their backs but this disappears as the leaf grows older, leaving only red veins on the back of the leaf.

The nodes along the stem are quite close, especially on the branches. The stems themselves are quite slender for this type of begonia, reminding one of *B. albo-picta* rather than the known parent of *B. coccinea*.

The plant itself will grow to two feet or more if allowed plenty of root room but, as a house plant, judicious pruning will keep it in the dwarf class.

The flowers are in small, short, drooping clusters. They are bright red on red stems. A truly lovely sight when in full bloom.

Timely Tips

John P. Toberman, Bellaire, Texas

When a person has been in business for well over thirty years he is bound to have come across and tried out quite a few very useful ideas, which if passed on to other garden enthusiasts would mean a lot to them. With this in mind I have chosen twelve ideas I have used time and again and feel that other A.B.S. members will find some of them useful.

1. A majority of the A.B.S. members are women and find the standard greenhouse flat, when filled with potted plants, quite heavy and tiresome to handle. To overcome this, go to your grocery store or meat market and have them save the "cheese heads" or "cheese rings" in which the cheese is delivered to them. Each cheese ring will give you a shallow and a deep flat that is just right for you too handle easily when filled.

There are just two things to remember: Do not leave damp soil or pots in them for any length of time or the plywood will warp; also be sure to pick them up with the bottom boards parallel with you, otherwise the flat may buckle under the load.

2. A number of plants raised by members, including Saintpaulia, are allergic to the alkaline secretion or "pot snow" on the rim of pots which causes the petioles or leaf-stems to rot when they come in contact with the rim of the pot. To overcome this trouble take a pound coffee can and melt a block of paraffin in it; dip about an inch of the rim of a new or cleaned pot in this quickly. Hold the bottom up for a few moments until the paraffin congeals. As soon as the paraffin becomes hard, the rim is insulated against any further alkaline secretions forming thereon.

3. The use of plant bands for potting up seedlings and rooted cuttings is coming more into general use and gives very fine results. With the passing of the old fashioned milk bottle and the advent of the paraffined carton in their place you have a potential source of all the plant bands you will need. As soon as the carton is emptied, rinse it out, cut off the top and bottom and fold the carton flat; mark it off in thirds and with a heavy pair of shears or light tin snips cut the folded carton on the two lines thus giving you three plant bands from each milk carton.

4. You may have use for medium weight annealed (soft, easily bent) wire in your work. Have your news dealer save all the wires that come around the bundles of newspapers that are delivered to the stand. It is a good idea to

take the dealer a strong corrugated cardboard box about 18 inches square to hold them. This is usually a copper washed wire and after a time you will wonder how you ever got along without them.

5. Go to your hardware store and buy two putty knives, one an inch wide and the other about three inches wide. It is best to select knives with the "tang" extending the full length of the knife handle and two pieces of wood, one riveted on each side of the tang, for the handle. The narrow knife is fine for cleaning pots and tools and the other for weeding and digging in the garden.

6. A filing cabinet or box and a rotating index is indispensable. By a rotating index I mean an alphabetical index, a monthly index and a numerical index with numbers from 1 to 31 inclusive. Place the numerical index in the front of the file, followed by the monthly index and then the alphabetical index. Also get a good supply of cards for your index and file.

Next make up cards of all the plants and things to be done on special dates and also anything you might need to be reminded of. All of these reminders for January place behind the January monthly card and so on for each month through December. Just before each month, take out of the monthly index the cards for the approaching month and file them in the numerical index behind the date on which you want to be reminded, lastly place the monthly card for that month at the back of the monthly index. Now, each night go through the cards for the next day and make notes of everything to be done the next day and place those cards behind the monthly or numerical card on which they are to be done again. Never take the cards with you, for invariably they will get lost, soiled or torn. You will soon wonder how you got along without that type of file. Use the alphabetical index for inactive cards or non-rotating cards.

7. Every one knows how tired or sore one's instep gets from a lot of spading or digging. To relieve this strain a lot, take two short lengths of garden hose, split each one and slip it on the top of the shovel or spading fork blade on each side of the handle. You will be surprised at the relief this will give you.

8. To keep the top of the soil moist and from drying out so fast, just take some sphagnum moss and rub it through a screen sieve. Place the moss

in a bucket or pan of water; squeeze it out and fill the top of the pot around the plant. This mulch, if watered when necessary, will keep the soil from becoming hard and stop the forming of algae scum on the top of the soil and give better aeration.

9. When I came to my present job they had just flatted off a lot of tomato seedlings and you could see them toppling over with damp-off. The owner begged me to do something at once or she would lose all her tomato plants. I sent to the wholesale house for a bag of sphagnum moss. As soon as I got it, I had a batch rubbed through a screen sieve, and the seedlings mulched heavily with it and wet down. It stopped the damp-off at once as if I had waved a magic wand.

10. In Louisiana it gets hotter "than blizum" and you have to devise every means possible to lower the temperature in a greenhouse. Sawdust is free for the hauling so I put 6-inch baffle-boards on each side of the aisles, filled in 4 inches of sawdust and kept that soaked with water. You would be surprised how much that brought the temperature down in a few minutes and kept it down. Do the same in your lath house and sheltered garden aisles. The water will quickly soak down through the sawdust and under the benches and the evaporation will do wonders.

11. Put a 4 inch to 6 inch mulch of sawdust on your flower beds and it will keep the soil cool and moist. Keep down the weeds and all grass, except bermuda and cocoa or nut grass (just keep pulling this out and you will soon starve it out for lack of tops to make food). I do not find that sawdust robs the soil of any appreciable amount of nitrogen, if you do not mix it into the soil until after frost. In fact they dumped a big load of sawdust under a big tree and three months later I spread it and was surprised how the roots of that big tree had come up into that sawdust pile.

12. If you do not have anything for a hanging basket for your trailing plants, just take a three pound lard can and a one pound coffee can, scrub them out well. Paint them inside and out with three coats of good aluminum paint. Punch a ½ inch hole in the bottom of the lard can for a ⅜-inch Plant Glaswick. Take a nail and punch three equi-distant holes in the top rims of both cans. Use the wire mentioned in Idea No. 4 to make the hanger for the "hanging planter" and for suspending the coffee can Automatic-Irrigator. (See photo No. 5 in the Sept. issue of THE BEGONIAN to see how such a hanger looks.) That one has been in use for over 18 months without repainting.



Armchair Explorers

Thanks so very much for the nice letters now on my desk which I hope to get answered and seeds sent out in the next few weeks. I have *Philodendron Sellowii* seed for you at 50c. Order right away if you want them. Also 6 kinds of fern spores including the giant adiantum, all just in from the Philippines, at 25c per packet. This is all I am going to offer this month because I want to have time to get the new seed list made up for the January Begonian and it is a big job. Thanks to you who have sent in Begonia seed from your plants, please let me know what you wish in exchange, either seed or money. Please continue to save seeds for our Seed Fund.

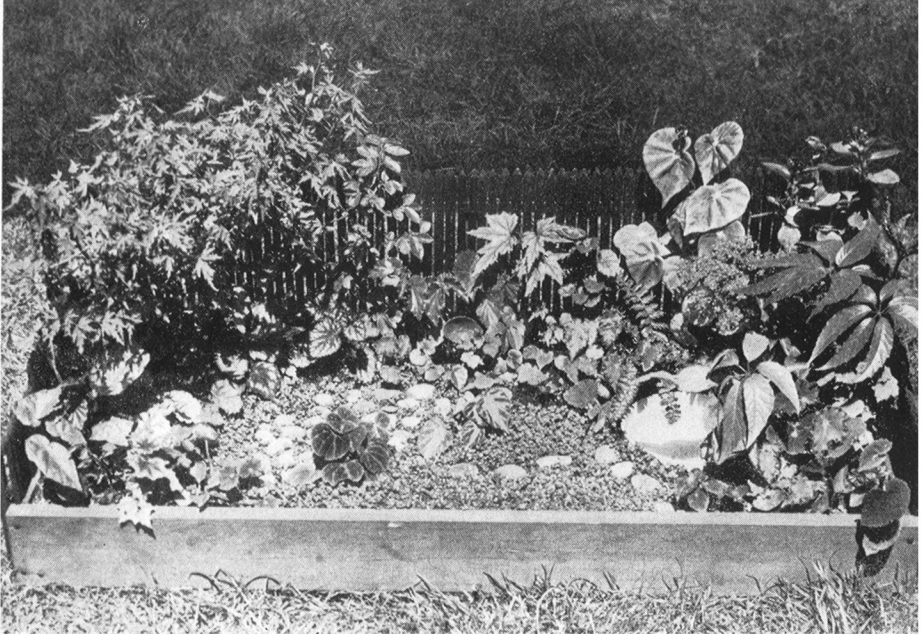
Ferns are good for busy folks to grow, for you can leave the spores in the glass jar until you get around to transplant them, or for a year or more without worry. When I finally get time to transplant mine, I just prick out the largest ferns from each jar (those large pickle jars from the butcher's for 10c each) and place into flats. I have one jar now with ferns reaching the top; the spores came from Haiti several years ago and still I haven't had the time to transplant them. Begonia seeds may be grown the same way but they need lots more light. Do take the time to sterilize the soil before planting, either by baking in the oven or by pouring boiling water over the soil mixture.

From Brazil I have had seed of *B. cantareira* and some members have reported that the little plants growing from these seeds are the same as what we call *B. acetosa*. My plant of *B. acetosa* does not, however, agree with the description in Mrs. Krauss' book, as my plant is a lovely ruby-red underneath the leaves, which are rather round and a little heart-shaped, hairy on both sides of the leaf—sort of rhizomatous type—a most attractive plant. Does anyone know if these are the same? I still have seeds of *B. cantareira* for 50c per packet—also seed of those other Brazil begonias mentioned recently in my Newsletter.

A Merry Christmas to you all,
Your Skipper, Florence Carrell.

Begonia In Miniature Gardens

By Louise Schwerdtfeger



Photography by Louise Schwerdtfeger

Few plant arrangements entered in Flower Shows attract the attention of the public as does the miniature garden. The exhibit can easily be made to scale to produce the miniature effect. Careful landscaping and the proper choice of "props" are "musts" if the display is to appear in miniature replica of the usual flower show garden exhibit. The garden should have a theme and follow the rules outlined for larger exhibits in the Show schedule.

The gardens pictured were made up the first week in July and during the middle of the month exhibited in a Flower Show for eight long days. At last they were brought home and set upon boxes at the edge of the lawn, protected by trees, to wait their dismantling. They had suffered no casualties and in a few days were looking happy in their new location. Time went on and at this late date in October they are still intact and, although the paths have grown over and many of the begonias have outgrown their miniature

appearance, the plants are sturdy, healthy and happy. We notice each day they are getting more and more direct sunshine and that their foliage and blossoms are taking on better color and texture than when grown in the greenhouse, proving that we need to make a deeper study of the cultural requirements of many of our begonias. Contrary to all cultural advice *B. imperialis* is growing rapidly and blooming in more than four hours of full autumn sunshine.

Our Editor, on viewing the pictures, remarked, "Why can't our begonia growers in the colder climates grow their plants in miniature gardens during the winter months?" That's an idea well worth following up and so we suggest that those of you who are forced to bring your plants into your home during the cold of winter might plant your small begonias and cuttings in miniature gardens. The gardens could be placed on gravel in water-proof containers. When planted in four inches of

growing medium and placed close together, it would be no problem to keep them moist and they should need less attention than if cared for in pots. Begonias are slower growing during the winter months and without feedings they should retain much of their miniature appearances. It would be an interesting way in which to house many of your plants and yet give you a delightful display during the cold weather. Because of the great number of plants that can be planted in the five to ten square feet of garden, it should be well worth trying. One would not only be housing many varieties but would have, instead of many potted begonias, a REAL GARDEN to play with.

Being a begonia addict, the writer used all begonias in two of the miniature gardens pictured and several in the tropical garden. Many of the small or medium leaved begonias were planted for the background trees and shrubs and small seedlings of the larger begonias fitted in nicely. *B. D. MacBethi* was used as a maple tree under which were planted young plants of the miniature rex arranged to bring out their contrasting colorings. A young *B. MacDougalli* made a perfect palm, as did *B. caroliniaefolia*. *B. foliosa* took the place of a fern by the pool. *B. Faureana* was used as a stately tree in the lawn near the entrance of one garden. A large *B. Sutherlandi* was planted near the path, shading a birdbath, and looked like some exotic tree covered with tiny orange flowers.

To give the garden a variation in leaf formation and color, the following begonias were fitted into the background; *B. 'Sachsen'*, with its bronze foliage and tiny red flowers; *B. incarnata*, green, graceful long leaves, and bright pink flowers; *B. 'Medora'*, spotted-silver foliage, bright stipules and pink flowers; *B. Dregei* in bronze leaves; the silver and the plain *B. rubro-venia*; a maple-like *B. D. MacBethi*; the low branching *B. 'Clemence'*, with silver spotted leaves; a *B. ulmi-folia* for a small elm tree; *B. 'perfectiflora'* with its light green foliage and snow white blossoms; the *B. floribunda* with rose-like leaves and pendent clusters of pink flowers; and there was the *B. fuchsoides*, bright with its shiny small leaves and dainty scarlet heart-shaped blossoms; the *B. 'Stitch-leaf'*, whose green leaves are blanket-stitched in black; the new *B. quadrelocularis*, with its lance-shaped leaves coarse and pebbly, added a variation in texture. The hybrid *B. 'Rudy's Richard'* (similar to *B. 'Richard Robinson'* but hardier and with pink flowers) contrasted with the redwood fence.

In the sunny areas were *B. Johnstoni* with pink bloom; *B. 'Perle Lorraine'*, leaves marked in chocolate brown; *B. 'Sylvia'*, a seedling of *B. incarnata*; several of the semperflorens group in red, pink and white flowering—both singles and doubles, and a red flowered *B. 'Calla Lily'*; with an edging of the *B. 'Bijou de Jardin'*, a true miniature begonia even to its tiny blossoms of red.

Turn to next Page



For the low-growing shrubs there was a low growing *B. 'Limminghei'* with orange flowers, the new hybrid *B. 'Pauline'* with orange-pink blossoms and a few *B. imperialis*, whose leaves are as soft as green velvet. Beneath the begonia trees and shrubs nestled many of the small rhizomatous: *B. rotundifolia*, *B. hydrocotylifolia*, *B. Dayii* with its brown veins, a silver *B. 'Skeezar'* and the new *B. Boweri* hybrid named *B. 'Zee Bowman'*. There were several plants of little *Boweri* (that baby-sweetheart of all begonias)—so distinct with their eyelashes and dark markings on bright green leaves; a small plant of *B. Mazae*, bronzy and lovely, right next to a *B. imperialis smaragdina* of brightest green velvet; and a small plant of *B. Kellermani*, its white-scurf-ed peltate leaves giving a soft tone among the brighter green leaves. Then there were many seedlings of unnamed hybrids tucked in so that they might make their first public appearance. There were others that we have not mentioned but this will give you an idea of the number of plants and varieties that can be used to complete a begonia miniature garden.

The "tropical garden" was planted with young palms for tree-ferns, several species of the philodendrons, tall-growing fibrous begonias for trees and many types of ferns around the sunken pool. Artillery ferns made excellent weeping-willows, and a lone *B. Kenworthyi* with its bluish, ivy-shaped leaves added a touch of color. Much of the tall planting was behind the curved fencing. Again many of the small plants of rhizomatous begonias were tucked around in the shaded areas and here

and there a flowering fibrous for color and variety of foliage.

The lawn areas of all the gardens were plantings of helxine moss or baby tears, that had been grown on clay in the open garden to keep it dwarfed and low. However, the moss put on rather rapid growth and had to be trimmed (twice before Show date) with manicure scissors to keep it in bounds.

Yes indeed — miniature gardens are fun to make and a joy to behold.

MAKING THE GARDENS

If intended for Flower Show display, a miniature garden should be made up well in advance of the Show date to give it that "natural growing", appearance and there is considerable preparation necessary before it is ready for the actual planting. One must obtain a suitable container and it is well to choose one that has good drainage. For gardens of three square feet or more, a wooden frame can be made of planed 1" x 4" board with a bottom of shakes reinforced with cross slats. It will be light in weight and yet strong enough for transporting to the Show. A wooden container can readily be stained green or natural. There are many materials suitable for making fences or enclosures. Almost any garden fence can be copied to scale. Tiny stakes whittled from redwood and tacked to cross pieces will make the popular "grape-stake" fencing. Small redwood rails dowed into posts makes the "ranch type" fence. For the tropical effect, bamboo stakes as used for plant supports can be cut to length and strung on two thin wires. To make the bamboo windbreak so that it can be set in curves, cut every tenth stick three inches longer at the



bottom to act as posts in setting the fence up. The straight fences can be nailed to the frame of the container. In making lath shelters, use a thin batting and have it cut to scale for the lath.

Bear in mind that everything used in making a miniature garden must be worked out to scale otherwise the desired effect will be lost.

Various materials can be chosen for making paths and patio areas. A stick of dried wood can be cut into rounds and will make a good imitation of redwood slabs. Fragments of flag-stone or smooth flat stones if fitted carefully together will be attractive. Sifted gravel, sand or even plain dirt, if bordered with rocks or logs in miniature, will tend to give a natural look. Any number of things can be used for bird-baths and pools. A clay fern-pot with its drainage hole plugged and painted in color or shiny black makes a fine deep pool. Colored pottery, when sunk into the soil and filled with water, is very attractive as a miniature pool or fish-pond.

Weeks ahead of planting time one must prepare a goodly supply of plant material. The greater the variety of plants the more interesting the exhibit will be. Choose small-growing plants and newly rooted cuttings or one can use young seedlings. Pot these in very small pots in order to have well established root systems and thus eliminate wilting during the Show period. It is surprising the number of small plants a miniature garden will require, for

you can crowd in a great many more than you anticipate.

When the time comes to plant the display, prepare medium for the container. In order to keep the garden easy to handle, place "Sponge-rok" or a similar material in the bottom to about half the depth. Over this add screened leafmold, WITHOUT fertilizer, filling to the top, for there will be some settling. It need not be packed down. Sprinkle the medium until it is thoroughly moist and let it stand for a few hours. Outline and shape the garden for the landscaping, marking off the areas and paths. To try out the plan of planting, one can set the plants, still in their pots, around in their approximate positions. As in larger displays, be careful that plants are set in "natural environment"—sun plants in the open and shade-plants under light protection. Now set the plants aside, and, keeping the picture in mind, start the actual planting. Tap the plants from their pots, disturbing the roots as little as possible, and place the potted soil just below ground level. You may have to rearrange some of the plants in order to obtain the desired effect. When you are truly satisfied with the planting add a mulch of fine leafmold to give that "growing" look. Pools can be placed either before or after setting the plants. Now you can place the ground covers in the lawn areas and, last of all, add stepping stones, paths and patio areas.

Work? Oh no!—Just lots of fun and satisfaction to use begonias in miniature gardens.

BRANCH BUILDING BLOCKS

From the Glendale Branch Annual Report we quote some items they feel contribute most to its success:

"I believe the topic given greatest attention has been friendliness. Our efforts have been constantly focused on seeing to it that everyone was made to feel that he was personally welcome, guest and member alike. Every way possible of doing this has been discussed and tried. This is the reason, without a doubt, that we have so many of our charter members still attending. Two things also stressed are good speakers and good plants on the plant sale tables. These are always drawing cards for a good attendance.

In 1950 we added an extra table of outstanding plants. People buying \$1.00 worth of the regular tickets were given a special ticket on these plants. This seems to be the most successful way of increasing sales. The most painless way of getting money from the greatest majority. Our dollar unit sales jumped from about 30 to 54 and remained al-

most constant. In addition to this, there were special drawings on donated plants during the year. This plan was not adopted by the 1951 Board, however, since it was considered by some to be undemocratic. It was felt that those spending or having a dime had as much right to the better plants as those spending \$1.00.

"In 1951, one of the biggest improvements in our branch was the added stress in gaining new members and retaining old ones. Mr. and Mrs. Winans (Membership Directors) have done an outstanding job in visiting prospective members and members who have been thinking seriously of dropping out.

"Another job that has been done in an outstanding manner this year has been the plant lessons. All plant lessons this year have been on Begonias, regardless of the main topic. Gladys Nolan has done an outstanding bit of research and presentation. The year's lessons were planned in such a manner so that all types of begonias and all phases of culture have been discussed."—Charles R. Richardson.

Fun From the Seed Fun

By Stanley Spaulding, Editor

A small package of begonia seed may lead an innocent beginner to the shady ways of a seasoned gardener in one easy lesson. Be warned by the fate of Mrs. Lillian Saylor, who was merely a normal housewife of the Westchester district of Los Angeles until she contacted a little packet of this seed.

Having a normal sized city lot, she displayed a great desire to be her own gardener. Lacking previous gardening experience, the lady presented me with many questions of cultural procedure. Always following instructions explicitly, Mrs. Saylor grew different types of common flowers with beautiful results. Finding that tuberous begonia hybrids were not difficult to have in an open garden bed, she became curious about other begonia varieties she saw in the nursery.

In order to go further into the study, she joined the Inglewood Branch of the A.B.S. and saw what an amazing variety of begonia types could be had to decorate the sheltered corners in her yard.

Mrs. Florence Carrell, the Armchair Skipper, sent a little package of mixed species of begonia seeds. Oh, Pandora! They were started in casserole dishes on a kitchen window shelf. Dozens, then hundreds sprouted. Because Mr. Saylor still wished to live in his house, he decided to make a separate house for the ever increasing horde. He built two benches and an 8 x 20 foot lath shelter on the rear of the garage. Now Mrs. Saylor's babies could grow to their heart's content in their roomy new home. Here they were spaced out to 80 tiny seedlings to an 18 x 18 x 3 inch nursery flat. They continued to germinate for a period of several weeks, causing Mrs. Saylor to fill the new lath house with many flats of transplanted seedlings. She put a sheet of glass on top of each to maintain the constant humidity that they were used to in the casserole dishes. Of course, all the little 2-leafed plants looked alike, but after more leaves unfolded, the glass was removed and they appeared to take on different characteristics.

By summertime, Mrs. Saylor had 2,300 begonias around the yard and in the lath house. All came from a little package of seed from the Seed Fund. By following directions carefully, she lost very few from transplanting.

Now, if this were an 1890's drama, there would be heavy, ominous chords

of music and jeers and catcalls from the audience as the Villain, Powdery Mildew crosses the stage. Some of the *Sutherlandi* and *Johnstoni* perished as it swept the garden. As described in last month's *Begonian*, the spread of this plague was checked by a new fungicide called Iscothane. As Mrs. Saylor had more plants than she needed, they were used as "guinea pigs" for Mr. John Ferguson, the pathologist from the University of California at Los Angeles. His tests proved the effectiveness of Iscothane, and Mrs. Saylor still owned more begonias than she could use.

A church bazaar lowered the population, and the plants undoubtedly went into homes where begonias are a delightful novelty.

Mrs. Saylor was a true novice but discovered that growing begonias from seed is quite simple and very intriguing. She has had many delightful hours in the pleasure of watching the seeds develop into maturity.

If you are having fun from the Seed Fund, tell a neighbor or friend. They can share this delightful pastime with you by joining the A.B.S. (To join is simple; send your name, address and \$2.50 to Elmer Lorenz, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, Calif.) The address of Mrs. Carrell, Seed Fund Director, is in the front of *The Begonian*. Printed cultural directions will come with the seed on request.

The A.B.S. has many privileges to offer the amateur gardener that cannot be found in most horticultural societies. Any one of the national officers listed in the front of *The Begonian* is willing to assist a beginner in the ways of enjoying a grand pastime—growing begonias.

TUBEROUS TIPS

Reported by Alma Walton from Robert Lundblad's talk at Inglewood Branch:

Good stock is to be had from growing from seeds. Buy the best seeds available. Often seedlings are more vigorous than tubers. They will bloom in 6-7 months and have 5-inch flowers the first year. Seeds germinate best at temperatures not under 65-70 degrees, in about ten days. Charcoal pressed on a brick arranged to retain moisture and heat, can be used as a propagator. He plants 150 seedlings to a flat, then, when they are touching, transplant to 64 to a flat—then to 5-inch pots. You can start seed in December.



Q+A=Success

by Research Dept.

Rt. 1, 505 Hermes, Encinitas, Calif.

Question: I have been having serious trouble with foliar nematode that has been attacking my begonia plants. I tried the hot water treatment but I find that the plants are seriously weakened and may remain stunted. I have always had trouble off and on with root knot nematode but find that Rex leaf cuttings usually prove free of this pest. I am wondering if Mr. Knecht's treatment of spraying the plants weekly with a solution of Acme Kopper Queen or Liquid Pordo (these are not obtainable in the East) has proven completely successful. (Knecht article—June 1945.)

Answer: I took your problem to a nurseryman here who has been in the business a good many years. He seemed to feel that the copper solutions are only successful against certain leaf blights caused from something other than leaf nematode. There are several companies putting out copper solutions under different trade names, so you should be able to obtain something in your locality.

We know how leaf nematode is spread. The moist conditions in a greenhouse, where frequently sprinkled potted begonias touch each other, are ideal for the spread of this disease. As far as possible, keep potted plants separated so that the leaves do not touch.

Now would be a good time to sterilize all the soil you are going to use for repotting your plants next spring. I would recommend either D-D or E-D-B. You should be able to obtain these products in your locality. If not available, I'm sure your nurseryman will be able to tell you where to get them.

Ideally, one should discard all infected plants, burning both the soil and plants. However, I know what it means to have to throw out some choice plant. You may be able to make cuttings that would be free of the leaf nematode and these should of course be rooted in sterilized soil.

After the plants have been thoroughly gone over, then I would recommend watering the plants monthly with a solution of sodium selenate. This is a product that is not too well known here but is available I believe from Vaughn's in Chicago or New York. You can also get it from Yoar's House Plant Nursery, Bunker Hill, Indiana, at 25c per package (enough for 1 gallon of solution). It comes in powder form. I understand that some places they are also putting it up in capsule form but

I have not been able to locate where.

Sodium selenate is a poison, so all precautions dealing with poison should be observed. The plants watered with a solution take up this poison into every part of the plant. Any sucking or chewing insect immediately gets a dose of this poison and departs this earth. A good many dealers in plants such as African violets, gloxinias, etc., use this method of watering to control the cyclamen mite which attacks these plants. It has been used by several of my correspondents with good success on begonias. Out here, we are often troubled with the Bird's Nest fern getting foliar nematode and, by using clean soil and watering with sodium selenate, this trouble has cleared up.

(The hot-water treatment mentioned in this letter is as follows: Submerge the plant in water 115 degrees five minutes, or 120 degrees one minute. It is important to keep the water stirred constantly during the bath, and there must be enough water to prevent a temperature drop of more than three degrees during the immersion. This treatment will surely kill the nematode. It will kill the leaves too, but new, healthy ones will come out in time, free from pests. When the plant is removed from the bath, lay it on its side to drain, and keep it in the shade for forty-eight hours.)



May we present your new Round Robin Chairman—Mrs. Sophia Baker, 2733 South East 35th Place, Portland, Oregon. Now we are off on new "Bon Voyages." (Sounds more like seagulls than robins, doesn't it?) Send all your inquiries to Mrs. Baker regarding joining a Robin. New ones will be formed as needed.

* * * * *

Mrs. Leora Calmese, Kansas City, Mo.—Pinch out the tip leaf of canes when 3 or 4 inches high. Makes nicer shaped plants than if you wait until they are tall and then take slips.

—If your plant beds are damp and musty, dust with sulphur, a good preventive.

PUBLICITY PROBLEMS?

Mrs. Dorothy Powell, new A.B.S. Publicity Director, 3180 Carlin Ave., Lynwood, Calif., will be glad to assist you.



Photo by Genereux

B. Dora Swisher

New England's Harvest Show

As customary, the New England Branch held its annual meeting in Horticultural Hall, Boston, on the occasion of the Harvest and Plant Show. Mrs. Bessie Buxton reports the exhibits were large and the standard of cultural perfection was excellent and that Mr. Nehrling, the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, said he considered it the best house plant show ever held in the East.

The Ernest Kimball Logee Memorial Cup was awarded to Mrs. Carlo Fronda, of Ashland, Mass., for her Begonia 'Dora Swisher' (pictured opposite) as the best fibrous begonia in the show. It was a perfect specimen of its kind.

In memory of Mrs. Charles H. Had-drell, a prize of \$15.00 was awarded Mrs. Percy I. Merry, of Needham, Mass., for Begonia r.c. 'Peace', best rex in the show.

Mrs. Buxton also gives credit to Mrs. George Greenlaw of Lexington, Mass., for the excellent staging of the show, accomplished by long hours of toil on her part.

Regarding Begonia 'Dora Swisher', Mrs. Buxton reported, in December, 1949, the introduction of five Swisher hybrids, "seedlings of *B. aconitifolia*, var. 'Hildegard Schneider', and raised

in 1943 by Mrs. Ross Swisher of Sycamore, Penn. . . . named for members of her family... B. 'Dora Swisher' has light green leaves, not so deeply cut as the others, and with few spots. The flowers are white." (Two small clusters barely show near the top of the plant against the light background in the picture opposite.) "It is a tall grower."

(Wish we could have a display of Eastern introductions at the 1952 National Convention by someone who has a collection. BY THE WAY: Easterners, if you are planning a big vacation, why not plan to attend the Convention in San Francisco?—Editor)

MISSOURI

Reports keep coming in about the great success of the Missouri Branch's first independent begonia show. We hear they had 378 registered visitors (all of whom had to be genuinely interested in begonias because the show was held in a somewhat off the beaten path location where casual visitors could not be expected). 30 towns were represented as well as 3 states. The educational table in charge of Mrs. Calmese was very informative and should have excellent results in months to come.

CAMELLIA SYMPOSIUM ON SEEDS

Camellia Notes, official publication of the Pacific Camellia Society, Inc., published a remarkable symposium on planting camellia seed in their September issue.

Interesting to note was the abandonment of the method of planting seed in jars of damp peat. Of special interest was Mr. Edmund K. Greer's experiment: "Has used two methods side by side with interesting results. Several flats of seeds were planted in cold frame which stands 3 feet off the ground and is heated with electric cable; two flats were planted in a similar cold frame standing beside the first, but without heat. Planting medium was half sand, half peat. All seeds were planted in early fall of 1948. Seeds in heated flats germinated in a few weeks and were transplanted to quart cans in March. Seeds in the unheated flats germinated in February-March and were transplanted to quart cans in the summer. Both lots were fertilized periodically with dilute liquid fertilizer. A year later both lots were exactly the same as far as size and health were concerned; no gain was made by bringing about early germination through heating the flats except a slightly higher percentage of germination, but this was offset by a larger number of deaths among the heated plants.

"A small percentage of seedlings from

both lots just described was placed on the south side of a house where they received six hours of full sun during the summer of 1950 and of 1951. They had been moved from the flats into quart cans, then into gallon cans. A surprisingly large number of these developed flower buds in the summer of 1951 when they were approximately three years old."

Julius Nuccio also reported placing his transplants in full sun in order to obtain earlier bloom.

Dr. Walter Lammerts (of Descanso Distributors, and rose fame) uses clinical methods to obtain astounding results: "Dr. Walter Lammerts plants most of his seeds in small pots in heated glass house. Certain others get special treatment: the seeds are 'skinned', that is, the outer husk (not to be confused with the seed pot which splits open on the plant) is removed, the seed sterilized in lime-water, then germinated in agar-agar. The plants which result from both these methods of operation are later planted in 6-inch pots and kept under continuous light in heated glass house. Sometimes these plants achieve five or six feet of growth in one year and bloom the second year."

Camellia Notes is published quarterly (P.O. Box 898, Glendale, Calif.) at a subscription price of \$2.00 a year and is a big factor in keeping Californians up to date on the Camellia front.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE A. B. S.

It is time again to pick up the old writin' iron and give you a little of what's new around the A. B. S. Somehow or other I feel it in my bones that this is going to be a thank you letter. There are so many people in our Society who are doing outstanding jobs, I think it might be nice to mention a few.

First there is Frances Downing, who has done an outstanding job as Director of the A. B. S. Round Robin for a number of years. We miss Mrs. Downing as she is no longer directing the Round Robin. So to one who has given a lot of time to the A. B. S. we say thanks so much Mrs. Downing.

A tip of the old Chapeau to a new member of our official family, Mrs. Ruthanne Williams of the Sacramento Branch. Mrs. Williams has taken on the "Herculean" task of mailing to all 48 branches the minutes of our National Board Meetings. Being a firm believer in "get the news while it's hot," Mrs. Williams has set out to get the news to each branch within two weeks after it transpires at the National Board Meetings. It is a big job I know, but it is being done with great dispatch. Keep up the work Ruthanne, your spirit of cooperation is superb.

Gosh fellows, looks like the gals are getting all the back slapping, but your time is coming.

As I sit here and write I can think of several more outstanding personalities I shall mention from time to time. Wish I could do it right now but time or space does not permit. However I do want to say thanks to all of you out there for the splendid support I have received since taking office as President of the A. B. S.

Before I forget it how about that new member, have you brought yours in yet? You haven't, well, let's get going, only nine more months before Convention time, you know. I am counting on you now. Art Mann up in San Francisco I am talking to you, Mrs. Talbot, up there in Portland, how about it; keep the pot boiling, we need those new members. You know we are really working up a neat package deal for all new members, I have to keep you in suspense until January; have to get it by the board you know, I am sure it will pass, after which time all the details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Spaulding, our editor, is breathing down my neck again. These deadlines sneak up on you before you know it. Before I say thirty for now, though, I want to sincerely wish every one of you the very best of everything over the holidays. Hope you all have a grand Christmas and a bright prosperous New Year.

Cal Trowbridge



**A few of Mrs. Essie Morris' begonias — Elsa Fort Branch.
Mrs. Morris leads the branch study period each meeting.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)
December 6th

Orange: Christmas party.
December 15th

Inglewood: Christmas party and election of officers.
December 17th

Hub City: Christmas party with surprises.

Pasadena: Turkey dinner — reservations \$1.50.
December 26th

Glendale: Mr. William G. Brooks will tell of his trip to Mexico for the purpose of gathering native Begonias, Bromeliads and Orchids.
December 28th

Redondo Beach Area: 7:00 p.m., Christmas dinner, potluck; installation of officers. For reservations call AX. 2-2459 or FR. 2-5657.

NATIONAL BOARD NOTICE
No December meeting, as usual.
Next meeting January 28th.

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SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

All NEW (first time) members will receive with membership cards:
THREE cultural bulletins covering Rex, Fibrous and Tuberos Begonias.
A packet of easy-to-grow begonia seed with complete instructions.
AND a subscription for 12 issues of The Begonian. ALL only \$2.50!
**MAKE MEMBERS
OF YOUR FRIENDS TODAY!**

NEW OFFICERS

Hollywood: President, Mr. E.C. Beaufore; Vice-president, Dr. Harry Goodman; Treasurer, Mrs. W. J. Butt; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Alberta King; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Florence F. Flynn; National Director, Mr. Walter J. Butt; Branch Director, Mrs. Josephine Steinman.

New England: President, Mrs. Charles W. Allen; Vice-president, Mrs. Percy I. Merry; Secretary, Mrs. Lester H. Fox; Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Atherton.

Philabegonia: Secretary is now Mrs. Earl Wurster, Route 25, Riverton, New Jersey.

Margaret Gruenbaum: 1951 officers re-elected for 1952.

Mrs. Terry Olmsted puts her *Darlingtonia* (bug-eating plant) amid her prize begonias. A line of ants runs up to its blooms but none come out. Her prize-winning specimen of "Emma Palmer" stands on the right. This begonia was a new introduction from San Diego in 1950.

Courtesy Herald American Newspaper and Hub City Branch



BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
Audrey Adams, Secy.
6139 Graywood Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
Member's Homes
Mr. Ted Wolf, Secy.-Treas.
Rt. 19, Box 3700, Orlando, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 7:00 p.m.
member's residences
Mrs. Russel B. White, Secy.-Treas.
919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Ward St.
C. F. Jensen, Secy.
3729 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 20, 8:00 p.m.
Christian Church Fellowship Hall,
304 E. Valley
Mrs. Gladys Adams, Cor. Secy.
11215 E. Elliott Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club Hse., 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Gertrude M. Cooper, Cor. Secy.
340 W. Electric, Glendora, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Dec. 8, Jan. 5
Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secy.
129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N.J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Dec. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.
1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads, St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Members
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mr. Homer Meek, Secy.-Treas.
1306 N. 28th, Kansas City, Kansas

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.
1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Roosevelt High School Cafe
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Sarson, Secy.
1108 E. Glencoe Ave., Compton 1, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 10, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 13, 8:00 p.m.
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Virginia Smith, Secy.
1419 W. 104th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Porter Park
Mrs. G. W. McManus, Secy.
7313 Princeton Ave., La Mesa, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.
2255 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m.
Amer. Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo,
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Mona Ayers, Secy.
6655 Bellefontaine, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson, Secy.-Treas.
P.O. Box 818, Denville, N.J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach
Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.
6050 Atlantic, Long Beach 5, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 303 S. Main St., Orange
Mrs. W. L. Everett, Secy.-Treas.
Rt. 2, Box 146, Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Casita del Arroyo, 127 S. Arroyo Blvd.,
Mrs. Harold Benson, Secy.-Treas.
3180 No. Crestford Dr., Altadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Dec. 21, 8:00 p.m.
McKinley Rec. Center, Wash. & Vallejo Sts.
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

Mrs. Earl Wurster
Rt. 25, Riverton, N.J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Dec. 28, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. George Venner, Secy.
7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon

REDONDO BEACH AREA

4th Friday, Dec. 28, 8:00 p.m.
2308 Rockefeller
Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Lucy A. Sault, Secy.
309 E. 220th St., Torrance, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Secy.
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, Dec. 28, 10:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secy.
4319 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 18, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. W. J. Holley, Secy.
2914 V St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Dec. 4
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secy.
3460 N. Lancaster Dr., Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Dec. 24
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & Unvsty.
Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.
2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Center, 11134 Weddington,
North Hollywood, Calif.
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.
7961 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m.
1641 Taraval St.
Mrs. William Meyer, Secy.
1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Dec. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.,
Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Hazel Snowden, Secy.
5956 N. Encinta Ave., Temple City, Calif.

REPORTS

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.
1103 W. Micheltorena St., Sta Barbara, Cal.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Dec. 4, 8:00 p.m.
V.F.W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.
Miss Hazelle B. Oxley, Secy.
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH
2nd Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7th St. Entrance,
Santa Monica
Mrs. Edith King, Secy.
2627 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles 64, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH
4th Thursday, Dec. 27, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, Secy.
621 Santa Paula St., Santa Paula, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Dec. 18
Members' Homes
Mrs. James Fariss, Secy.
17721 Bothell Way, Seattle 55, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura
Mr. Orville A. Rogers, Secy.
126 S. Pacific Ave., Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Dec. 20, 8:00 p.m.
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward
Esther Krabach, Cor. Secy.
8438 Fairview Lane, Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern
Mrs. Juanita Pritchard, Secy.
11150 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
4th Friday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. Fred M. Owens, Secy.-Treas.
1312 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, Jan. 9, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. John S. Schmucker, Secy.-Treas.
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEV., O.
4th Wednesday, Dec. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH
4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Gretchen Bauchop, Secy.
9741 S. Santa Fe Springs Rd., Whittier, Calif.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, American Begonia Society held in Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 22nd, 1951, with President Trowbridge presiding.

Meeting called to order at 7:45; opened with Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society led by Mr. Moore.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Trowbridge, Moore, Haskell, Spaulding, Small, Terrell; Mesdames Korts, Slocum, Spaulding, Nolan, Schwerdtfeger, Powell, Hartwell. Branches represented: Santa Monica, Inglewood, Southgate, Hub City, Redondo Beach Area, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Whittier, Riverside, San Branch, North Long Beach Branch.

Minutes meeting Sept. 24th read and on motion accepted as read.

Mr. Moore read letter from Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, and displayed file of 57 Kodachrome slides given by New England Branch with hope others will follow suit. Gratefully accepted.

Motion by Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, seconded by Mrs. Korts "That the slides be carried under the name of the Branch presenting them, in this case, as well as future donations to our slide Library, this group to be known as "The New England Group." SO ORDERED.

Reports of Treasurer and Editor were read and ordered filed. Membership Secretary on vacation.

Public Relations: "Submit to Board for approval Amendment to the Constitution and ByLaws of the Central Florida Branch to-wit "The first sentence of the first paragraph of Article 4 to read, "The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board, and two members nominated from the floor at the January meeting." SO ORDERED.

Regarding change in Article III of the Constitution of the A.B.S.—After full discussion, President asked Mrs. Schwerdtfeger to write Mrs. Hall and explain why Article III was so worded; it was the consensus of opinion that the change would not be needed.

Public Relations Director reported she was working on Round Robin Lists and hopes soon to have them completed; has two requests for Branch organizations; visited Mrs. Ashe in Oakdale and discussed plans for more branches in the Northern district.

Mrs. Korts to handle requests for Branch stationery; send your requests to her.

President urged again that branches send in the names and addresses of their new officers promptly after elections. Send this information to Mrs. Schwerdtfeger and she will compile the lists.

President Trowbridge called attention to the splendid work being done by Mrs. Williams in mimeographing the Board minutes and mailing to the 48 branches.

Slide Librarian Mr. Terrell reported we now have 500 mounted slides in good condition—over 550 with the ones Mrs. Buxton sent. Told of his need for a slide file and on motion was authorized to purchase one.

President spoke of the need of a portable folding exhibit to use in putting on Educational Exhibits at flower shows, hobby shows, etc. Submitted drawing, and promised to have a full report for the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Korts reported she had contacted many members to get their views on the four suggestions submitted by Mr. Hackler; after summing this up, the measures were turned down.

President stated that when requested to do so, "Mr. and Mrs." on a membership card would be granted, but would not be a general practice. ONLY in cases of request.

President stated that regarding the publication of a roster "We are hoping that sometime this year we can get to work on it; Mrs. Nolan is now compiling material to put on this list which will include the name and addresses of every A.B.S. member.

President called attention to the new Suggestion Box, built by Mr. Olmsted and asked that members make use of it.

NEW BUSINESS

President Trowbridge asked Mr. Moore to handle the matter of securing a bond written on the Treasurer in the sum of \$2000.00—as per motion duly passed.

Also to go into the matter of securing insurance on Begonia cuts now stored in the Editor's home.

Also stated he felt it would be necessary to have two Board meetings a month—first meeting for the elective officers to discuss things that come up, but no action to be taken; then the regular monthly meeting. More about this later.

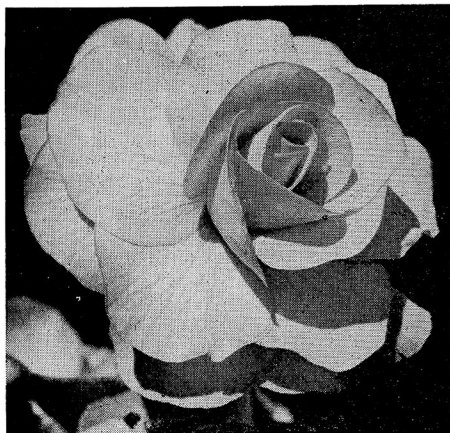
President stated "we are putting on a membership drive and expect to have many new members, and he felt that instead of giving just a membership card we should add the three cultural bulletins and a package of seed with a letter from the President telling the advantages of the Society and the privileges to the members. Promised to bring this before the Body and work it out.

Branch representatives reported on branch activities and of their efforts to stimulate interest in the Society. See other pages.

Respectfully submitted,

Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

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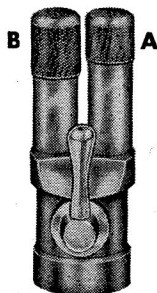
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