

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Photo by Boutrelle-Sevecke Assoc.

Begonia Exhibit in New York

AT THE annual meeting of the Horticultural Society of New York, in January, a begonia exhibit was staged in behalf of the A.B.S. For interested members, here is a condensed report.

Preparation—The purpose of the exhibit was to illustrate the wide variety of plants within the genus begonia. First, an outline was prepared showing the characteristics of the genus, and the four general types of begonias—fibrous, rhizomatous, rex, and tuberous—with sub-groups under each type. This outline was checked for accuracy with the A.B.S. Research Department; and charts were then made up.

Next, lettering was copied from a letterhead to make up a small sign—the lettering painted in “A.B.S. green”—and excerpts from A.B.S. material on the culture of begonias was mimeographed for distribution at the meeting. A total of 54 plants were groomed for display.

Execution—Tables set up for this exhibit provided an area 2½ feet wide, by approximately 15 feet long. In the center,

elevated on an artist’s easel, the master chart was set up. The four smaller charts (one for each type of begonia) were set on smaller easels at four points along the tables.

From each of these smaller charts, ribbons extended from the appropriate sub-group to the plants displayed which belong to that group. For example, on the chart for Fibrous Begonias, the sub-groups were: Cane-type, Semperflorens, Hirsute, and Miscellaneous. Green ribbons ran from the words “Cane-type” to B. “Pinafore” and B. “Veitch’s Carmine;” from “Hirsute” to B. luxurians; and so on. Several plants for each sub-group were shown. In addition, a small card in front of each plant gave its name and source or parentage, with any special interesting note about it.

Results—Although not all of the plants were shown specimens (many, in fact, you could call “poor specimens,” but were included to illustrate variety), the exhibit attracted many members’ close
(Continued on Next Page)

Dr. Lawrence Addresses Nomenclature Group

WHILE visiting California recently in his capacity as Chairman of the American Horticultural Council's commission on nomenclature and registration, Dr. H. M. Lawrence met with that committee of the American Begonia Society and interested friends at a special dinner meeting. Purpose of the meeting was to hear details of a provisional draft of a new code of nomenclature which is to be submitted for adoption in April at the XV International Horticultural Congress at Nice, France. The preliminary code was completed last May at Cambridge University by specialists from Sweden, France, Great Britain and the United States. It will be presented to some sixty organizations throughout the world for approval prior to the April meeting. Then, for the first time, the world's horticulturists, agriculturalists, and foresters may have a single set of procedures by which each new variety may have the same name.

In a sparkling approach to his subject which revealed, nevertheless, great knowledge of his speciality, Dr. Lawrence outlined the organizational structure of the American Horticultural Council, and its functions in setting up the new horticultural code, giving examples of suggested changes. The recommendation is that the new code be adopted as international procedure as of Jan. 1, 1959. Suggestions as to ways of setting up conforming regulations within a participating group were followed by an enthusiastic question period.

Dr. Lawrence is a graduate of Rhode Island State College and received his doctorate at Cornell. He was an assistant at the Rhode Island State Experiment Station in 1932 and '33. He has been director of the Bailey Hortorium since 1951 and previously had been associated with Dr. Bailey. Since 1947 he has been a professor of botany at Cornell. An author of several books on taxonomy, probably his best known is his "Taxonomy of Vascular Plants," which is one of the outstanding texts on this subject today.

Very active in international taxonomic circles, he has been one of the United States representatives at both International Botanical and International Horticultural Congresses. As chairman of AHC's commission on nomenclature and registration, he is largely responsible for its fine handbook for plant originators and registrars now being published.

Mrs. Edna Korts heads the nomenclature committee for ABS. Other members who were approved by the National Board at the January meeting include Mrs. Louise Schwerdfeger, Mrs. Barbara Phillips, and Rudolf Ziesenhenné, all of Santa Barbara; Mrs. Emma Carleton of Berkeley, Mrs. Ernest C. Drew of Narberth, Pa., Mrs. Alva Graham, South Pasadena, and George Spaulding of the State and County Arboretum. H. M. Butterfield has consented to remain in an advisory capacity. Arrangement for the meeting was made by Bert Slatter, ABS president-elect.

—B—

N. Y. Show

(Continued From Preceding Page)

attention. Naturally, members of the Horticultural Society are interested in plants of all kinds. Few, however, grow begonias in any great variety. And most were surprised with the wide range of plant type and habit. Begonias that caused the most comment were: *B. "Cyprea"*; *B. luxurians*; *B. phyllomanica*; *B. "Bunchii"*; *B. acida*; *B. caroliniaefolia*; *B. "Ricky Minter."* And, of course, the *rexes*.

For future references, the exhibitor noted several "points to improve on."

The high spot of the day was the arrival of Mrs. Kingsbury from Brookline, Mass. She made many friends for the A.B.S. Also, it was exciting to find that the judges had awarded a Gold Medal Certificate to this non-competitive exhibit.

Teuschers Visit Santa Barbara

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Teuscher of Montreal, Canada, were visitors in Santa Barbara in October and were shown begonia gardens and other points of interest by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Ziesenhenné. It was Mrs. Teuscher's first visit to Santa Barbara.

Returning from the second world orchid conference in Hawaii, Mr. Teuscher, who is the curator of the Montreal Botanical Gardens, has been for many years interested in begonias and has assembled at the Gardens a large collection of begonias which he keeps at peak condition for public exhibition by frequent propagation. He also conducts an American Begonia Society test garden.

Natives of Germany, where the curator received his degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture at the Horticultural College in Berlin, the couple first came to the United States where Mr. Teuscher directed the activities at several botanical gardens, going to Montreal in the twenties.

After spending a morning with Mr. Ziesenhenné going over his collection, Mr. and Mrs. Teuscher were shown the gardens of Mrs. Elsie M. Frey, Mrs. Louise



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Teuscher

Schwerdtfeger, and Mrs. Barbara Philip, as well as the Dos Pueblos Ranch near Goleta

Welcome to Our New Editor

It is with high hopes for the future capability of *The Begonian* to better meet the needs and desires of all members that we announce the acceptance by Mrs. George DeCoursey of Paoli, Pa., of the post of Eastern Editor. Mrs. DeCoursey, a member of the William Penn branch, is known to many begonia enthusiasts along the eastern seaboard.

We will tell you more about our new editorial member in the next issue, but we are happy to report that she is already busy making contacts and gathering material for the magazine. Other than branch news which, because of the time lag should be sent direct to the editor's office, all materials and communications

from New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland should be channeled through her. Here's to a happy cooperative effort, the only aim of which is to serve everyone better.

Report of the replies to Mrs. Nancy Alvord's letter, sent, at the editor's suggestion, to eastern branches, is being included under the above news for two reasons: Mrs. DeCoursey is already working to meet some of the suggestions received, and because of the fact that we are hoping to receive more information from you in this matter. As compiled, from answers to date, we have three requests for more basic or fundamental

(Continued on Page 70)

Leafmold Preparation and Potting for Begonias

By MRS. HAROLD L. WITHEE

LEAFMOLD is more vital to any begonia I find, not using it in quantity required, they do suffer immeasurably in every way or just die.

Leafmold is found only in the woodlands made up by many years of decomposing leaves, roots and other woody litter, but that true leafmold soft, black, velvety material just suits the debutante whims of these exotic plants, I have in my house as houseplants.

The leafmold has to be sifted to remove all the twigs, leaves, roots, etc.; leaving a soft non-fibrous feeling material lush in nutrients vital to the begonias which themselves are woody plants found thro' out the world in the tropics.

Not only do I use leafmold for any size begonia or type but I use it as a rooting medium, especially for rex leaf wedges, and do they respond!! For me they delight in reproducing themselves in this medium with about $\frac{1}{4}$ amount of sand added, for aeration, to the amount of leafmold used.

I mix sand in well with my hands, then I put this medium into a six inch deep rectangular pan filling it about one-half way, leveling off, shake down easily and moisten it by a fine spray. Now I am ready to go to work, armed with a sharp knife, sharp shears, and enthusiasm.

Depending on the variety it isn't long before new plants appear . . . Merry Christmas . . . sends its greetings up fast within 2-3 weeks . . . King Edward . . . closely follows and Fireflush . . . which I am given to understand is rather difficult to root I find responds nicely in this medium; its wedges rarely die off.

I always keep the rooting medium moist and never spray the wedges in dull weather and I cover them only in summer when the atmosphere is hot and dry using only cheesecloth. If it is humid weather I remove all covering and we do have changeable weather fast here in Rhode Island.

The rest of the year I use no covering

and give them all the bright light possible and in some instances especially if several new plants have started and there has been a prolonged spell of dull weather I "dash" them into the sunlight for a short time only. I never darken the newly set wedges, nor do I set them away from bright light. I find that the wedges and new plants enjoy circulating fresh air (not drafts) tempered with sunlight and I make it a point to see to it wedges and all plants receive fresh air every day year round regardless of weather.

The new plants grow vigorously for me in this leafmold medium being compact and sturdy, when about one inch high I remove the clump carefully with an old table fork and pot up in leafmold only. I wet it thoroughly, let drain well, and then set into bright light but no sun for a few days. My begonias seem to appreciate some sun especially in the winter months. Unless care is used the summer sun is too hot and it burns the leaves.

Rarely do I have any of the new plants wilt or collapse from moving. These youngsters I keep moist at all times and I never fertilize them. I did once when I first started with rex, I learned my lesson very well. When the clump has grown enough so that the youngsters are all about $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches high I wet thoroughly and carefully separate. These I pot up individually, using one size larger pot than root system, into a medium of about four parts leafmold, I part sand, one-fourth part definitely old rotted cow manure, a handful of bonemeal and some fine charcoal which I have mixed well with my hands clear up to the elbows to be absolutely sure that the cow manure is well mixed thro' out for begonia roots are very temperamental and put up a fuss when it comes to fertilizer.

Leafmold of course dries out quickly and with the sand and charcoal it aerates easily so it has to be watched carefully in regards to having sufficient moisture at all times.

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

Intergeneric Hybridization

THERE are two types of hybrids: interspecific and intergeneric. An interspecific hybrid is a cross between two species such as a hybrid between *Begonia boweri* and *B. kenworthyi*. Much rarer is an intergeneric cross, which is a cross between plants of two different genera such as occurred when *Fatsia japonica* (shiny leaved aralia) and *Hedera hibernica* (Irish ivy) were crossed to produce *Fatsiberdera*.

To understand the distinction a little better we need to look at plant classification for a moment. At the bottom of the heap is the species and any of its varieties. A variety being a plant that differs from the type in flower color, leaf size, or some other small detail that does not merit classing it as a distinct species. An example of this would be *Begonia manicata aureo-maculata*. This scientific name says, in essence, that this plant with yellow blotched leaves is a special type of begonia of the species *manicata*.

When the difference becomes greater we have another species and when the difference becomes still greater we have a different genus established. *Begonia manicata* differs from *Begonia goegoensis* in a number of characteristics (not to mention that they are found on opposite sides of the world) but they have enough characteristics in common to be classed in the same genus. The Hawaiian "begonia" *Hillebrandia sandwicensis* differs from ordinary begonias enough that it is in a different genus.

Genera are grouped together in families. Related families are classed in orders. By this time the differences between the groups is rather great. Begonias and cucumbers are related families and this does not seem so strange when you contrast them with a more distantly related family such as the amaryllis. Both the cucumbers and the begonias are mo-

noecious (bearing flowers of two different sexes on the same plant).

Now to back to the original discussion of interspecific and intergeneric hybrids. It is often impossible to make hybrids between species within the same genus and frequently when a hybrid is produced it is sterile and will produce no seed of its own. Considering this, there is no wonder that it is seldom that two less related plants such as those in different genera are successfully crossed.

In begonias there is little opportunity for intergeneric hybridizing as all of the plants familiar to us belong to a single genus. There are three other genera in the family and they collectively contain only five species.

In the orchid family fertile intergeneric crosses are made all the time. In the gesneria family intergeneric crosses are at least infrequently dealt with. Our Seed Fund this month is offering seed of such a cross. This is a cross between *Sinningia eumorphia* (the seed parent) and *Recksteimeria cardinalis* (formerly *Gesneria cardinalis*).

The reciprocal of this was made three or four years ago and named *Gloxera longiflora*. The plant was very vigorous and regarded as superior to either parent.

The seed offered should produce similar plants and it will be very interesting to see the results.

—B—

In Memoriam

The Long Beach Parent Branch, with deep sense of loss, reports the passing of another old member, Mrs. Jack (Flora) Williams, early in February. Both Mrs. Williams and her late husband were very active members, not only of their branch, but served also in national offices. Mrs. Williams was a former editor of the *ABS Bulletin* and Mr. Williams served the national board in 1938 as president.

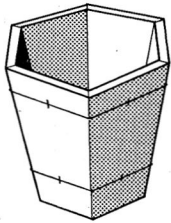
Have New Begonia Tub That Will Travel

By MARGARET BUELL

HAVE husband with no job-worried mind! Keep his hands busy-relax his nerves. His hobbies: begonias, orchids, and using his power saw. Combine-and use.

Contained in the paragraph above is a brief but to the point explanation and reason for the "birth" of our new and special tub for our beloved begonias, and the answer to all my dreams of having only two sizes of containers for them to grow and live in.

No more different sizes of small clay pots that only dry out without constant watering and that are always getting up-



*Buell Tub dimensions:
top, 8½"; depth, 7";
sides, 17° angle; inside
bottom 1" above out-
side bottom.*

set or "lost" behind another larger pot, thus losing the valuable circulation of air they need. No more changing or rearranging them as the plants grow larger.

Now I can, and will have only two sizes of containers on my lath house benches—a large container that begonias are finally moved into for their permanent home and one tub (half-size) that will take care of all the odd sized miscellany of pots I have been using.

Knowing that my husband's best health insurance at this trying period was keeping his mind and hands busy at a task he enjoys, and that he delights in the use of his power saw, I designed the tub he consented to build. I kept in mind, at all times, the kind of a home my begonias would love to live in. We would make it of redwood, with width across the top for space to grow in and for fibrous roots—yet narrowing near the bottom allowing more space for circulation of air. Over the one large drainage hole we

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San Miguel, Cover Story

By MARGARET M. LEE

THE LARGEST plant of the new introductions entered in the 1957 Begonia Society Show was a hairy type fibrous begonia from San Diego.

One of the questions most frequently asked was, "What would happen if you planted it in the ground?" The answer to that question is not known, as yet, because as far as we know no one has planted *B. "San Miguel"* in the ground to date. It was suggested, however, that perhaps a new type of timber might be obtained.

The plant at the show was well over 40" above the 9" pot that contained it. There were four sturdy basal stems, with a few side branches on some of them. The stalks were a reddish brown, though the new growth was green, and emerged from large green stipules that turn brown and papery as they age.

The leaves are broad ovate, approximately 10" x 13½" at the largest, and when they first emerge, liik like soft velvet of the palest green. As they unfold, they disclose the red backing of the underside, while the upper side retains its green color that deepens as it ages. The petioles are long and sturdy, holding the leaves well away from the stems. The entire plant is covered with soft white "fur," which tends to hide the shiny surfaces of the leaves.

The upright habit of growth, and the large stipules show the characteristics of the seed parent, *B. venosa*.

While it can not definitely be stated that *B. scharffiana* is the pollen parent, all indications point in that direction: The coloring of the leaves, and the texture of them; the placement, in the garden, of both plants—*B. scharffiana* was hanging directly above *B. venosa* at the time both were in bloom, and no other begonias in the garden were blooming.

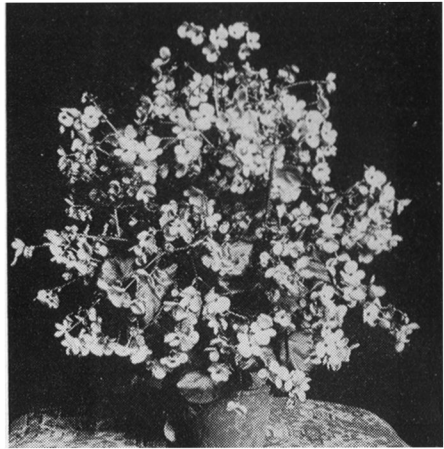
This begonia was developed by Mr. Virgil Stark in the North Park section of San Diego, and won the Award of Distinction for new cultivars at the show, with a total of 96 points.

B. 'Gloire de Lorraine'

By DR. GIAN LUIGI SANI, *Italy*

THIS plant, that in the U.S.A. is cultivated by amateurs, in Italy the culture is done solely by a few professionals because the culture is considered difficult. The reason for this disagreement is mainly because of the diverse conditions of planting and the diverse habits of our people. Italy is a small country and here there isn't found the great climatic difference that is found in the U.S.A. Our climate can be divided into two parts, cold and damp in the north and warm and dry in the south. In both the plant houses that one must own must be the hot-house type. So it is rather difficult here in Italy for most. To grow plants that are large in apartments is rather new to us. Our cities are rather old or antique, with narrow streets, the houses are tall and quite dark, and not too well heated, so not well adapted for the cultivation of plants.

This is why Italy has such a tradition in small gardens, because Italians love plants, so they are beginning to grow them indoors. With the development of new living quarters on the outskirts of cities, which have destroyed thousands of small gardens. The new people cannot have their small plots of land, so they have turned to growing indoors. They have discovered that with the modern architecture it is relatively easy to do so. Having learned this the culture of pot plants is spreading rapidly. But, as I said, for the major part, the people want plants that grow easily and keep, as *Ficus*, *Aralia*, *Monstera*, etc. Slowly with the growth of knowledge and practice acquired they try plants more difficult and it won't be many years before *B. "Gloire de Lorraine"* will become a plant of common culture in the homes of Italy. This is why this begonia is cultivated mostly by commercial people which have a vast number of them in bloom at Christmas. The large and long blooming period that comes at the poor and cold months of winter help to open the door to a pre-



B. "Gloire de Lorraine"

cious spring and helps to brighten the homes during the feasts of Christmas.

It is useless to repeat that this begonia came in 1891 by V. Lemoine by *B. "Socotrana"* x *B. dregei*. I want to say only that the cross created such a plant, that to see one in full bloom can raise only admiration. Some one defined this plant as "a rose cloud over a prairie of March."

The industrial growing is a typical thing. In November the cuttings are made. The leaves are taken off of the plant without using scissors or knives. Use a fine soil made of 5 cm. of decayed forest soil, 4 cm. of forest soil sifted mixed with 1 cm. of pure sand. The leaves are placed in the bed with a wooden stick to make the hole, so that the cuttings will be in the soil about half way. When the size of the leaf cuttings are rather large it may be preferable to prepare the bed directly in the bench of the house.

With a temperature of not less than 20° centigrade the roots will start in from 15 to 20 days. After a period of a month to a month and one half there will start to appear the shoots. In February or March the tiny plants should be planted in pots of 12 cm. and in Septem-

ber or October in pots of 14 cm. At the end of October to the first of November place the plants into a warmer house so that they will be in full bloom for Christmas. All this cultivation is done in a hot house. The pots of terracotta that we use in Italy have these dimensions, using a 12 cm. pot that has an inside diameter of 12 cm., 12 cm. tall and a base of 6 cm. The few amateurs that grow these plants generally use the same system or the cuttings may be made in March and instead of using leaf cuttings use tip cuttings of three nodes. In April transplant to 6 cm. pots and June to 10 cm. pots and then in October to 14 cm. pots. As the industrial growing takes thirteen months, the amateur can do it in nine months because he can use tip cuttings instead of leaf cuttings, because this ruins the looks of the plants. With the second method the plant must be sacrificed almost entirely. This is why commercial people prefer the leaf method of propagation even if it takes four months longer.

The care that the plant needs during this period isn't too much, just the regular, routine care. When the leaves have thrown the shoots and there may even be small bunches of flowers, they must be removed. The soil must be kept damp and great care must be used in cutting away the old leaves, after the plants have started, because they will rot. Due to *Begonia* "Gloire de Lorraine" being susceptible to attacks from the white disease (*Oidium begonia*) it is necessary to periodically sprinkle with soil sulphur. In autumn when there is less solar light, the sulphur will lose its efficiency, in case of infection at this time use potassium permanganate (KMnO₄), an experiment that I have tried personally with very good results, in fact plants badly diseased with *Oidium* came back immediately after treatment with a solution of 10 gr. in 100 liters of water, repeated at ten day intervals. Another practice of importance in cultivating industrially consists of providing the plants a rod or wand to tie them to (stake) because they are not strong enough to stand

by themselves. The amateurs oftentimes let them trail to make a handsome effect. We can't do this in our establishments because they have to be packed when sold. This has to be done according to taste and also according to ease. When the cuttings are taken and growing in the culture bed precautions must be taken because often mold will start. To eliminate this inconvenience use a sprinkling of soil sulphur. Personally there is a well known system, known to the old gardeners, that of sprinkling the surface of the bed with wood ashes.

The potting soil used is as follows: $\frac{1}{3}$ soil from under Chestnut trees, well decomposed, $\frac{1}{3}$ soil from forest leaves, $\frac{1}{6}$ fine sand, well washed, $\frac{1}{6}$ sphagnum treated.

The B. "Gloire de Lorraine" produces mainly male flowers. In the ten years that I have worked with this plant only one time have I found one plant with female flowers. Naturally I tried right away to hybridize, but the few seeds apparently were not normal, none grew. To sow the begonias I have a system that always gives good results but on this we will speak another day.

Notes: We certainly do thank Dr. Sani for this timely topic, for the work he put in on it for us and for the photo of one of his plants. We also thank Mrs. Terry Olmsted for translating the material. Sylvia B. Leatherman, Research Director

—B—

Have Tub . . .

(Continued From Page 56)

would place a double piece of window screen for keeping out those busy intruders such as snails and slugs.

Now I know that the year which had such a bad beginning has ended up with the best start of all, both for my husband and myself, and our begonias in their new homes. Floyd is back at work in a fine new job and the plants are thriving in neat arrangements in a refurnished lath house. This article should end in the same fashion as it began, so:

HAVE MORE TIME NOW—TO TRAVEL

An Exotic Peperomia From Santo Domingo

By HAROLD B. KANE

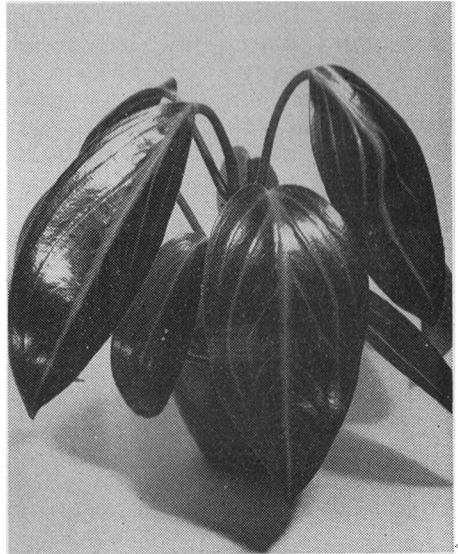
DO YOU enjoy the aroma of sweet milk chocolate? The tang of crushed pineapple? The bouquet of a vintage wine? These are all characteristic of the plant that I am going to describe to you.

About five years ago it was my good fortune to acquire a set "Nicholson's Garden Encyclopaedia," published in England in the year 1875. It is a rare and immensely interesting record of the "Golden Age" of exotic plants. Many beautiful tropical plants had been brought back to England from far off lands, by returning Mariners and intrepid explorers in the early and mid years of the nineteenth century. Many of the plants have since been lost to cultivation.

The Peperomia tribe has always been one of my chief interests as a plant "Hobbyist" and I am always on the lookout for new varieties or species, so that my almost immediate action was to thumb to the Peperomia listings in the proper volume. If you are a keen collector or fancier of rare plants, you can well imagine how my interest quickened when the following description appeared before my eyes.

"PEPEROMIA MACULOSA; Leaves very fleshy, ovate, lanceolate, 7" to 10" long, bright shining blueish or bottle green with ivory or white veinings and midrib. Petioles beautifully spotted with purple or maroon; fragrant; Tropical America. A truly magnificent plant."

This description had been written over seventy years ago, but it seemed that a plant of this sort would not easily be lost to cultivation, though the species name was unfamiliar to me and I could find no listing in modern plant dictionaries. I began an exhaustive search of seed lists and catalogues of dealers in rare and unusual seed, but as Peperomia seeds are rarely listed, nothing came to light. A great number of letters written to botanical gardens and collectors produced negative results, so I was finally forced to admit that this plant was also among the



Peperomia Maculosa

missing, but as seldom happens, fate was unusually kind to me. A fortunate meeting with a citizen of the "Dominican Republic" of which "Santa Domingo" is the older and more romantic name, led to a warm and lasting friendship. In time, our discussion just naturally had to lead to the subject of the Flora of his native land. I was most pleasantly surprised to find that he was a keen tropical gardener and had a wealth of information on a lot of the exotics we grow in our greenhouses that are garden plants at his home.

It did not take me long to inquire about my favorites, the Peperomias. He informed me that quite a number of species grew on his island home. He did not know Peperomia Maculosa by its latin name, but the description sounded very familiar to him and he would have his sister obtain for me that and others.

Promises are usually made to be broken, but this one wasn't and in due time the seed arrived along with other varieties which I may tell you about at a later date. They are very beautiful and rare.

Many thanks to Maria S. who shall

remain anonymous as she is at the present time unable to carry on any correspondence which is sure to result:

I immediately planted the seed of "Maculosa" (Later identified), in jars containing a soil mixture suitable for Begonias or African Violets, which in the past had been quite suitable for germinating tropical seeds. Later on I found that I had made a very great mistake, probably the same error that gardeners had been making with this plant throughout the years and the reason it had never attained great popularity. I have since learned that the seed must be sown and the plants grown on in nothing else but Sphagnum moss to which a nutrient solution has been added, in my case "Rapid Grow."

As soon as the plantings show green, which should occur in about ten days at 70 degrees with slight bottom heat, the containers should be placed under fluorescent light or where they receive good light with out direct sunlight. I usually cover my jars with a pane of glass and allow the seedlings to become well grown before transplanting.

I am able to carry along plantlets in this manner for two or three months without adding any additional moisture. I just lift the glass once in awhile in order to admit a change of air. If the seedlings have had a good start don't worry about algae or moss in the jars, as it will have little affect upon them.

To get back to my original planting in the soil mixture. Germination was very poor and from a large sowing only a dozen or so seedlings survived at transplanting time. As chance would have it I was at that time carrying on experiments on the growing of plants in Sphagnum moss which had been soaked in a nutrient solution and squeezed free of surplus liquid. From then on the fertilizer was added monthly according to the manufactureres instructions. I decided to risk four of the young plants in this medium. Now here is the astonishing thing that came to light. Four or five months later (I am not very good at keeping records) the plants that were

potted in the moss had so far outstripped their relatives growing in rich soil, that it was truly amazing. The plants potted in moss had become sturdy glowing young specimens in replica of the original description in "Nicholson's." While the plants that had been unfortunate enough to be planted in soil were of a very dull and stunted appearance. They had only about half the number of leaves and appeared very straggly. At a later date I made various plantings in different types of soil mixture under sterile conditions and have arrived at the conclusion that "Peperomia Maculosa" in order to make a beautiful specimen plant must be grown in a loose, fibrous medium allowing the roots to have free access to the circulation of air. Sphagnum moss seems to be the correct answer, according to results.

When the young plants have been well on their way, they should be transplanted to their permanent pot. The plant in the picture is about two years old growing in a three inch pot. A four or five inch pot would be more suitable. The leaves are about eight to ten inches long. Individual leaves can obtain a length of fourteen inches and last for a year at a time. A color photo would be more in order to show off the real beauty of the plant.

When the plant is potted for it's permanent home. The Sphagnum moss should be packed in as firmly as possible. Just pack in as much as the pot will hold and don't worry about the circulation of air. The moss is very porous and will admit air when soaking wet. The reason for this is that the plant gets quite heavy as it grows on and will topple unless the roots are given firm support. The plant can also be supported by a rod until the roots have grown enough to keep it erect.

I have never worried about growing temperatures or light conditions. The plants have done well wherever grown, living room or conservatory, but keep them out of direct sunlight if you wish dark and beautiful foliage. Another important point is that the plants should never be allowed to go completely dry, otherwise the leaves will wilt and lose

(Continued on Page 71)

Begonias in Landscape

THERE is a begonia for every landscaping situation in coastal Southern California. Basis for this statement is the fact that begonias in the wilds of South America, Central America, Mexico, and India are found growing under all conditions, according to Rudolf Ziesenhenné, begonia specialist and president of the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society, who addressed members and guests at a meeting in the Neighborhood House Thursday evening, January 9, at 8 p.m.

Ziesenhenné said, "My collectors tell me that they always find begonias growing where their roots find lime; the limestone cliffs of Mexico, the wooded mountains of Brazil, the steep sides of the Himalayas all provide a limestone base for the plants, although the mulch of leafmold and other organic matter furnish the other food elements and retain the water necessary for the plants' survival."

Water is the most important element in the survival of any plant, Ziesenhenné pointed out, but this is especially true of begonias in landscaping. If the begonias are provided with this necessary commodity, and support or protection from strong winds, they will reward the grower with many months of bloom and many years of faithful growth.

"Ingenuity and insight are necessary qualities of the begonia grower," Ziesenhenné asserted, "and this is especially necessary when using begonias in landscaping. Knowing your begonias, where it originally came from, the conditions it survived in each season in its native habitat, and the courage to let nature take charge, having first provided the correct soil and regular watering, will result in a happy, healthy plant."

Ziesenhenné exhibited plants which are suited for outdoor use in Santa Barbara, encouraging his listeners to take their plants out of the category of house and hot house plants and giving them the full benefit of California's climate.

First exhibited was *Begonia incana*, a

medium-growing, woody-stemmed begonia with a peltate leaf on which, when grown in the sun, appears a white tomentum. Ziesenhenné pointed out that *B. incana* was found in Mexico growing in exposed positions on lava beds, the tomentum appearing as a protection from the heat of the sun, demonstrating its ability to withstand conditions under which cactus may be grown.

B. venosa, another begonia on which tomentum appears, was found in Brazil in exposed locations, standing long months of drought to be rejuvenated when the seasonal rains came.

Contrasting the extreme dry conditions in which *B. incana* and *B. venosa* were grown, Ziesenhenné told of begonias which are found in Mexico growing on cliffs down which the water runs all the time. Santa Barbara is fortunate for location, Ziesenhenné pointed out, because begonias can be grown here which cannot be grown in the coastal area of Hawaii; even Florida cannot grow the tuberous begonias that beautify Santa Barbara's summer gardens.

Leaf mold, Ziesenhenné said, is not necessary if begonias are watered properly. He cited the experiments of Henry Teuscher, curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden, who visited him recently, in using straight sphagnum moss for growing begonias. This method, Teuscher found, eradicated nematode, a persistent soil pest, and resulted in healthy root systems.

Soil should be prepared, Ziesenhenné said, to hold water and fertilizer, and to be of such a nature that it will hold the plants up. The happy plant is the one which has enough water. Begonias do not do well in clay soil alone as clay has a great affinity for water and the plant cannot pull the water off the soil. Clay is the richest soil in the world, Ziesenhenné asserted, calling attention to the years the lima bean growers use their fields without the addition of fertilizer. For begonias, however, it is necessary to

open up the clay for water and fertilizer, and the best and cheapest method, according to the begonia grower, is the use of dairy fertilizer or steer manure.

In sandy soil it is necessary to put in organic matter and dairy fertilizer is again recommended by the begonia specialist, who said that manure improves any soil, and if it is placed on the soil now, will benefit it for ten years. Ziesenhenné recommended the further addition of bonemeal and lime to bring out the full advantage of the investment in the dairy product.

February and August are the best months for fertilizing begonias with manure, Ziesenhenné pointed out, recommending that a sufficiently heavy mulch be placed around the plant so that it will show at all times. "You may be sure that the plant is getting sufficient food," the speaker interjected, "if the mulch shows. Begonias are the greediest plants next to fuchsias."

In fertilizing the plants, Ziesenhenné cautioned against any of the manure being allowed to touch the stem of the plant.

Contrary to the belief that begonias are an acid-loving plant, it has been found that an almost neutral soil is best, it was pointed out. The controlling factor, he again repeated, is water, even if the plant is shade-loving.

Hairy-leaved begonias are next to the tomentum-leaved plants in ability to withstand outdoor conditions, according to the speaker. These begonias can stand temperatures from freezing to 100 degrees but each begonia needs certain conditions to do best. Hairy-leaved begonias, Ziesenhenné cautioned, should not be placed at the bottom of a lawn where the excess water from lawn watering may collect.

Ziesenhenné displayed several hairy-leaved begonias which may be used in Santa Barbara gardens. *B. "Vespera"* is a tall-growing begonia, reaching four feet in the garden. *B. rufida* is next in height, having very hairy leaves with red backs. *B. "Cydraea,"* a small-leaved plant, grows to three feet, and is distinctive for its triangular-shaped leaf. The family of *B. laetevirides* is characterized by its soft,

velvety leaf with red backs. *B. "Ramirez,"* one of the speaker's hybrids from this family, was described by Ziesenhenné as being a very strong plant with dense growth. He mentioned that the plant was named for Ben Ramirez, a member of the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society, because of his success in growing prize-winning specimens of the plant for the annual 19th District Horticultural Shows.

B. involucrate, with light green, velvety leaves, will make a ball-shaped plant, according to Ziesenhenné. He described a splendid specimen at the Hope Ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sommerfield, where the plant with at least a dozen stems growing in the partial shade of an oak tree.

B. "Haageana," with yellow-green leaves, does well in the garden, according to Ziesenhenné, because its woody stems are strong enough to support the thick leaves and heavy blossoms.

B. "Marguerite," which is a little off the hairy type according to Ziesenhenné, is interesting because of its tendency to trellis when placed in a breezy spot. When in an unprotected location, instead of making tall, upright growth, the begonia presents a mound-like effect.

In Mrs. H. E. Adams' garden on E. Canon Perdido St., *B. "Mrs. Fred Scripps"* is being grown against a white wall, according to Ziesenhenné, making a striking picture with its dark-green irregular-shaped, hairy leaves and growth of almost eight feet.

Ziesenhenné said that all the hairy-leaved begonias have white flowers, the effect of color in some of them being given by the hairs which range from white to red. The hair of the flowers goes into the smooth-leaved plants, according to Ziesenhenné who described the smooth-leaved *B. Frieda Grant* as a plant that will make a perfect, straight column if used on each side of a door.

B. "Caroline de Lucerne" will grow outdoors in Santa Barbara, according to Ziesenhenné, although in too much sun it will lose the lushness and size of leaf. Clusters of dark-pink blooms, in which

the female seedpod is large and colored, have made this plant a perennial favorite, growing to eight feet in the garden.

B. "Richmondensis" and *B. "Catalina"* or "Lady Waterlow," were compared in growth and use by Ziesenhenné. *Richmondensis* is characterized by three-foot growth while the older begonia, which was originated in Ventura by Theodosia Burr Shepherd at the turn of the century, grows only to 18 inches. *B. "Richmondensis"* has pink flowers and shiny leaf surface. A plant similar to *B. "Richmondensis"* with chocolate-brown leaves and white flowers will soon be released to the public, Ziesenhenné said. The three stand considerable sun, while the smaller *B. "Catalina"* is excellent for borders in the garden.

B. fuchsoides is a plant which Ziesenhenné has found to be puny in pots but will grow tall and bloom in the garden. He described a plant in his own oak-tree shaded back yard, which grew to about six feet and then spread itself across a large limb of the oak, blooming for several years with cinnabar-red, heart-shaped blossoms.

A plant similar to *B. fuchsoides*, *B. multiflora rosea*, will take much sun, according to Ziesenhenné, and grow very tall if given the support of a wall.

B. angularis, so named because of its angular stems, will take a dry location. Ziesenhenné cited a six-foot specimen in the garden of Mrs. W. B. Frey, on upper Laguna Street, which is planted between her residence and lathhouse and needs only occasional waterings.

Two delicate plants but which will grow to six feet if given protection are *B. "Zebrina"* and *B. compta*. Both of these begonias have white flowers and silver-leaved marked leaves; they enjoy the

morning sun to 11 and the afternoon sun after two if they are watered regularly.

Cane type begonias which are good in Santa Barbara gardens, according to Ziesenhenné, are *B. "Lugano."* which grows to five feet tall; *B. "Bayern,"* which reaches three or four feet; *B. "Alba Picta"* and *B. "Perfectiflora,"* three feet tall; and *B. "Pink Cane,"* which grows only to 18 inches.

A begonia which needs to be in the ground to bloom with beautiful pink blossoms is *B. incarnata*, a small-leaved begonia which grows to three feet. *B. "Corbeille de feu"* makes a bush similar to *incarnata*. *B. "Thurstoni,"* with bronzy green, shiny leaves is another three foot grower, while *B. "Dorothy Grant,"* with leaves sometimes as large as a platter, will grow in a fan-shape sometimes to six feet.

Ziesenhenné emphasized consulting an expert to make sure that the plant fits the spot in regard to watering, exposure, and soil. All begonias do better in a rich soil.

Rhizomatous begonias, with giant elephant ear effects as provided by the 242-S series and *B. 1031* from Mexico, are used as creepers in landscaping. With water stored in their thick stems and their strong growth headed up rocks or hillside, they are almost everblooming, with small lacy flowers on long stems. If a rich, moist soil is provided, each scar on the heavy stem will be a new plant, making lovely mass-effects. *Begonias "Bunchii,"* Fischer's "*Ricinifolia*" and the old-fashioned beefsteak are marvelous in the ground, according to Ziesenhenné, who recommended their use in the planting foreground.

Reported by MARGARET ZIESENHENNE
—B—

It seems to me that we all look at nature too much, and live with her too little.
OSCAR WILDE

WANTED

Old Lists of Begonia Names
Also Lists of Praetorius Begonias
by Nomenclature Director
Mrs. Edna Korts

ILLUSTRATED CATALOG 25c

... listing 200 varieties of Begonias, 350 Geraniums, 300 odd plants plus Herbs and Perennials.

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No. 2. B. Circumlobata—This is the upright variety being about 18 inches high with large pink flowers. 25c per pkt.

No. 3. B. deliciosa—Borneo. Attractive, fibrous-rooted, smooth with thickened red joints, leaves are palmately lobed and are dark olive-green with silver spots, flowers pink. 25c per pkt.

As spring and the planting season approaches we are prompted to offer a real bargain in begonia seed. In our files we have seed of many worth while begonias that should be growing in your garden or greenhouse and as we are anxious to clear our files, we offer the following:

No. 1. B. cane type—A delightful mixture of many cane type varieties.

No. 2. B. rhizomatous—Many good rhizomatous begonias.

No. 3. Begonia—Distinctive foliage plant with white flowers.

No. 4. B. rubro-venia—Low growing species with creeping rhizomes, flowers red with white veins.

No. 5. B. sanguinea—Brazil. Fibrous rooted, olive-green leaves and white flowers.

No. 6. B. Dregei—South Africa. Semituberous, small growing, white flowers.

No. 7. B. scarbrida—Brazil. Decorative, fibrous rooted, beautiful white flowers.

No. 8. B. Ricinifolia—Old standby with large bronze-green leaves and pink flowers.

No. 9. B. caffra—African species.

No. 10. B. evansiana—China and Japan. Tuberous with bulbils forming in leaf-axils, flowers pink.

No. 11 B. sutherlandi—Natal. Slender, drooping plant with yellow flowers

—tuberous and popular as a hanging basket plant.

12. B. Hirtella—Small growing plant with white flowers.

13. B. Superba—Tall, ornamental plant with large pink flowers.

14. B. Maculata—Brazil. Leaves green silver-spotted, flowers pink in large clusters.

15. B. longibarbata—Brazil.

16. B. Sparkler—Beautiful semperflorens with white tinged pink flowers.

17. B. Salmon Queen—Low growing, bushy semperflorens with salmon flowers.

18. B. Carmine—Semperflorens with dark foliage and carmine flowers.

19. B. Indian Maid—Semperflorens with dark foliage and pink flowers.

20. B. Semperflorens mixed—Every color and size in this mixture.

The above—20 pkts. for \$2.00 or any 10 for \$1.00.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Saintpaulia—Our friend of the Gesneria Society produced these seed from his large and beautiful collection of plants. None better available anywhere. 50c per pkt.

Episcia Westwood—Large leaves with red veins. 25c per pkt.

Kohleria lindeniana—Ecuador. Pretty plant with velvety, ovate leaves vivid green changing to copper toward the margin. Flowers are small, bell-shaped, white with purple throat. 25c per pkt.

Episcia mixed—Includes E. Westwood and canal zone varieties. 25c per pkt.

Kohleria mixed—Mixture includes K. lindeniana, K. bogotensis, and K. sciadotydaea. 25c per pkt.

Smithiantha—Gesneriaceae. "Rose Queen," beautiful hybrid with velvety green leaves mottled purple, and bells of lovely rose-pink. 25c per pkt.

Streptogloxinia "Lorna" (Streptocarpus x Sinningia)—Flowers are deep rose. 25c per pkt.

Sinningia eumorpha x Rechsteineria cardinalis—A cross by Don Horton. 35c per pkt.

Streptocarpus montana—A species with purple flowers. 25c per pkt.

Peperoma maculosa—Have many

fresh seed from Mr. Kane (Canada). See story and picture in March The Begonian. 25c per pkt.

Billbergia porteana—Formerly listed as *B. Nobile*. Largest of the varieties listed both in foliage and flower. Leaves are wide, stiff and deep green. Bracts are brilliant red. 25c per pkt.

Ceroegia woodii—"String of Hearts." Trailing succulent vine having heart shaped, bluish leaves marbled silver; flowers purplish. Just a few of these seed at 25c per small pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Cissus sicyoides — Brazil. Tendril climber of the rain forest of Brazil. Should be grown in the greenhouse and if given high humidity it will send down many string-like aerial roots sometimes more than ten feet long, forming a veritable curtain; leaves are light green somewhat fleshy. Seed are dried berries and whole berry should be planted. 25c per pkt.

Campula fragilis — Now have ample supply of seed and these plants make a charming little border plant and are unequaled as a hanging basket subject. Flowers are large star-like, petals are grooved, purplish blue with white center. 25c per pkt.

Asarina—Also known as *Maurandia purpusii*—Has showy trumpet shaped, purple flowers with white throats. 25c per pkt.

Pelargonium zonale—Zonale and Inquinans mixed, good range of color, very floriferous. 25c per pkt.

Nomocharis mairei—Hardy bulb for the shade garden, has strikingly handsome, satin white flowers spotted with reddish-purple; edges frilled and crimped. Does best in semi-shaded location. 25c per pkt.

FERN SPORES

No. 1. Davallia bullata mariesii—Japan. "Ball Fern," having long, creeping, hairy rhizomes and fine, lacy fronds; beautiful basket fern or can be trained on fern wood, logs or other material. 50c per pkt.

No. 2. Davallia fijeensis plumosa—Polynesia. A dainty and extremely beautiful dwarf variety with finely cut, plume-like pendulous fronds and can be grown in the same manner as the above. Creeping rhizomes are brown and woolly. This is a rare and very choice fern and should be treated as such. 50c per pkt.

No. 3. Polystichum acrostichoides—Christmas fern. Distinct fern having fairly long fronds with bluish tips. 25c per pkt.

No. 4. Athyrium alpestre—Alpine lady fern. Fronds numerous in a vase like arrangement at the end of the rhizome. Hardy. 25c per pt.k

No. 5. Polypodium vulgare—Rhizome with licorice taste, creeping, densely covered by pale cinnamon to chestnut, uniformly colored scales. 25c per pkt.

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Ave.
Los Angeles 66, Calif.

Condensed Minutes, National Board, Jan. 27, 1958

The meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Coe at 7:45 p.m. on January 27, 1958. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the minutes of the previous Board meeting were read and approved. The Aims and Purposes of the Society were read by President-elect Bert Slatter.

A report by Mr. Charles Lovejoy, National treasurer, was read and approved. The report covered both general business of the Society and the 1957 convention. The convention showed a profit and the general funds have improved over the past year.

President-elect Bert Slatter reported he had visited several branches since the last board meeting and found them starting the new year with forward looking plans.

Second Vice-President Mrs. Graham reported she had also visited some branches.

and had sold two begonia pins and some stationery.

Finance chairman Cal Trowbridge congratulated the Society on the increase in funds. He also reported relative to progress being made for Begonia Society entries in the Boston and New York Flower Shows this spring. The eastern representatives seem to have matters well in hand and report progress is being made for representation in the shows. A copy of the New York show schedule was received by President Coe. It shows a large amount of prize money.

Membership Secy. Walton reported that the Society has been getting new members at the rate of about 56 per month during the past three months, that renewals are coming in well and the membership as a whole is improving. Mr. Walton reported that Mrs. Casley, widow of Dr. Casley, had recently been elected president of the Long Beach parent chapter.

Motion was made and carried that Dr. Casley's life membership be transferred to his widow. Motion made and carried that Mr. J. S. Williams' life membership be transferred to his widow.

The Editor, Mrs. Brest, reported that she had, in accordance with Board action in November, contacted Mrs. George DeCoursey of Paoli, Pa., regarding acting as eastern editor; that Mrs. DeCoursey had accepted and had already contributed some articles and pictures, with promise of more. Motion made and carried that Mrs. DeCoursey's name be put on the masthead page of *The Begonian*.

Mrs. Leatherman, Research Director, gave her report on that department. Read some letters from foreign correspondents who are interested in exchanging data regarding Begonias, etc.; a letter from Mrs. Brilmayer regarding classifications of Begonias for the New York Show; also a letter from Mrs. Elsie Frye reporting her pleasure in seeds received from Mrs. Gee, Seed Fund Chairman. Mrs. Leatherman also stated she had received some rather rare Multiflora begonia seed to be used in connection with Research department work. The Society is in need of foreign language dictionaries containing horticultural words and phrases, in order to facilitate the translation of foreign letters. Mrs. Leatherman asked permission to purchase such book.

Mr. John Thieben stated he had nothing to report regarding the Identification Garden but as advertising manager gave his report from December 21, 1957, to January 20, 1958, as 54 inches of advertising. Motion made and carried that Mrs. Graham investigate having some new advertising contracts printed.

Mrs. Gee, seed fund chairman, gave her report. Stated she had a working balance of \$100.00 in the seed fund after having turned over \$75.00 to the Treasurer. She read several letters from interested and pleased seed purchasers. Public Relations Director Hall stated that Mrs. Marie Reed had resigned as Round Robin chairman. Mr. Hall presented a complete list of the U.S. Savings bonds owned by the Society. Discussion followed as to the keeping of valuable papers belonging to the Society. Motion made and carried that the Treasurer make arrangements to rent a safety deposit box for storing bonds, insurance policies, etc. Mr. Hall reported a new branch had been formed in the San Fernando Valley, to be known as "West Valley Branch of the A.B.S." Mrs. Ward was elected president, Mr. Joe Ogden vice president, Mrs. James Holley secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Ogden representative director. Motion made and carried that West Valley Branch be granted a charter in the American Begonia Society. Mr. Hall also reported that the audit of treasury funds showed everything to be in order.

Mrs. Sault, National Librarian, gave a report as to the condition of the Library department, had sent 100 copies of *The Begonian* to Mrs. Brilmayer for distribution at the New York Flower Show, also that she had received letters from several people asking for back numbers of *The Begonian*. Some have been sent.

Mrs. Korts, Nomenclature Chairman, presented a finance statement received from Mr. Butterfield, former chairman, and reported that she had purchased a needed file for nomenclature data. She reported she has on hand \$30.00. Mrs. Korts submitted names for approval to serve with her on the nomenclature committee: Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Mr.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne, Mrs. Barbara Phillips, Mrs. Emma Carleton, Mrs. Mae Drew, Mrs. Alva Graham and Mr. George Spaulding. Motion made and carried that the names be approved. Mrs. Korts suggested that the Begonias already registered should be written up in *The Begonian*.

Branches reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange County, Pasadena, San Miguel, Ventura and the new West Valley Branch.

Mr. Small of the San Gabriel Valley Branch gave a report on the progress of raising funds for a Begonia Society glass house on the Arboretum grounds. He stated about \$75.00 has been raised to date, but that it will require between three and four thousand dollars to erect the kind of glass house required by the Arboretum as it must conform to certain standards.

Motion made and carried that the Treasurer send a check for \$25.00 to the Bailey Horatorium to help defray the expense of Mr. George H. M. Lawrence's recent visit to California.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Irma Jane Brown
Secretary pro tem

Calendar

- March 6—Inglewood Branch—Regular meeting set forward to this date. Inglewood Women's Club, 325 N. Hillcrest at Florence, Inglewood.
- March 13—Orange County—William L. (Jack) Taylor on Fuchsias, Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century Blvd. and Taft.
- March 14—International Flower Show, Hollywood Park, Inglewood.
- March 28 — Redondo Area — Film, "How to Grow Beautiful Begonias and Fuchsias."

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Chicken Dinners + Snack Bars + Steak House

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Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

ELSA FORT

Eleven members met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Johnston for our last meeting. After dessert, a program for the year was planned, including a birthday party, April; hike, May; begonia party, September; Christmas party, December. Other meetings will be devoted to the study of selected begonias. Some members have ordered seeds from which we hope to many lots of plants for our begonia party, to be held at the home of Mrs. Mildred Tait, Chews Landing Rd., Ashland Terrace, N. J.

—B—

FOOTHILL

Following a well attended jitney dinner, the regular meeting was held Jan. 16, with installation of officers for 1958 by Sylvia Leatherman. Mrs. Leatherman used a cleverly worked out scheme in which each officer represented some part of a begonia. New officers are: Mrs. Albert Gnagy, president; Mrs. Rodney D. Talcott, vice president; Mrs. R. N. Weaver, treasurer; Miss A. Esther Smith, recording secretary; Mrs. C. W. Hall, corr. secretary; Quincy E. Porter, nat'l. representative.

Lue Hale gave an interesting talk on soil conditioning and building and showed pictures which revealed the secrets of nature at work in the soil and in the life of all plants.

—B—

GLENDALE

The following are the elected officers for 1958: Mrs. Frances Cooley, president; Mr. Allen Radcliffe, vice president; Mrs. Doris Gifford, recording sec'y.; Mrs. Mildred Radcliffe, treasurer; Mrs. Clarence Hall, national representative Dir.; Mrs. Norma Boyd, membership director; and Irma Jane Brown, corresponding sec'y.

—B—

HOLLYWOOD

Wednesday, January 15th, the Hollywood Branch celebrated the 17th anniversary

of its founding in January 1941 with the usual custom of a Pot Luck Supper.

A birthday cake helped in observance of this seventeenth anniversary.

Mrs. Cora Lee Walters, of Temple City, demonstrated the "glass jar method" of growing fern spores and shade plant seeds. She displayed some of her own specimens.

Dr. W. C. Drummond, a Charter Member of this Branch, whose outstanding research on ferns, qualifies him as a consultant on fern names and identification, tells us he will be glad to answer questions. At present he is growing some 140 varieties, carefully labeled with names, origin, etc.

—B—

INGLEWOOD

The regular meeting in March will again be moved forward one week to March 6th to avoid conflict with the International Flower Show which opens March 14th.

April brings us the President's Dinner—a gala annual event, a real reunion, and good food, a noted speaker, Rudolf Ziesenhenné, and the finest of plants—a program you can't afford to miss.

A lot of the big growers think that February is the best month to start seeds. Why don't you try some too? If you have tubers be sure to watch for them to sprout but don't plant them until you see the color of their eyes.

—B—

LOS ANGELES

Members and guests enjoyed the usual potluck luncheon at the January meeting held in the Inglewood home of President Marie Zachau.

The program opened with a begonia lesson by Marie Zachau, who displayed a plant of *B. zugensis*, giving a short talk on its culture. An interesting discussion of Unusual Plants for Hanging Baskets was presented by Margaret Fenn, with everyone naming their favorites.

ORANGE COUNTY

Fuchsias—the dazzling Victorian favorite now returning to style—will be featured at the Orange County branch meeting Thursday, March 13, at 8 p.m. in Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century Blvd. and Taft Ave.

William L. (Jack) Taylor, president of the California National Fuchsia Society, will discuss the popular shade plant, according to Mrs. Owen Halling, vice-president and program chairman.

Mr. Taylor, in addition to carrying on his duties as national officer of the Fuchsia society, participates in meetings of the Orange County Begonia Society, which he joined last year, it was pointed out.

—B—

PHIOBEGONIA

The meeting of the Philobegonia Branch met at the home of Mrs. Fred Reuter of Merchantville, N.J. Our guests were Mrs. George DeCoursey and Mrs. Ernest Drew. Under the tutelage of our new program chairman, Ruth Allen, we hope to increase our knowledge of botany. Our first lesson was under the heading of leaves. A blackboard was used showing the blade, petiole, stipule, and stem. Most begonias have two types of leaves, simple and compound.

—B—

REDONDO BEACH AREA

Program for the meeting on March 28 will be a film titled, "How to Grow Beautiful Begonias and Fuchsias" presented by California Spray Chemical Co. Mrs. Alice Martin, flower show chairman, announces that Shade Garden will be the

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classification of the Branch entry at the International Flower Show to be held in March.

—B—

SACRAMENTO

Our own world travelers, Ruth Gunther and Rowena Vanderheide, showed some of the pictures they took on their tour. President Clarence Fallon has announced the appointment of the following chairmen:

Decorations, Ann Huss; Sunshine, Ruth Gunther; Calling, Mary Smith; Nomenclature, Mercedes Matson; Show, Frances Flannigan; Librarian, Mae Sullivan; and Registration, Bertha and Ed Schnauss.

—B—

SAN FRANCISCO

The February meeting was an exciting lecture by Dr. Richard French of Berkeley, who took us on some "Leisurely Rambles Through British Gardens."

In addition, Al Stettler gave a demonstration on rose pruning. Also Carl Meyer brought a "Begonia Nursery in Miniature," a complete selection of new tubers, uprights as well as hangers, in a full range of colors and types.

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SAN GABRIEL

"Begonias in the Landscape" was presented by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Santa Barbara, at the birthday dinner meeting of the San Gabriel Valley branch of the American Begonia Society, Wednesday, Jan. 22. Mr. Ziesenhenné is a noted authority on begonias and research in begonia study. He is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and a member of the International Bureau of Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature.

Mrs. John Fahey has been elected to serve as president of the San Gabriel Valley Branch.

Other officers installed are: Mrs. Clarence Blough, Glendora, Vice-President; Mr. James Giridlian, Arcadia, Treasurer; Mr. Clarence Johnston, El Monte, Branch Director; and Mr. Calvin Adams, Arcadia, National Director.

—B—

SANTA BARBARA

Officers installed at the December 1957 meeting were: Rudolf Ziesenhenné, president; Hubert T. Jolly, vice-president; Mrs. Rudolf (Margaret) Ziesenhenné, secretary; Mrs. Rolland J. (Celia) Brines, treasurer; Mrs. Ethel Arnold, representative to National Board.

—B—

SEATTLE

Officers for 1958 are: President, Ed Cole; Pres. Elect, Dick Packard; Secy.-Treas., Mrs. Arthur Martin; National Rep., Sam McNall.

SMOKY VALLEY

The December meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. D. Melvin. The installation of newly elected officers was held amid the festive colors, lights and symbols of the Christmas season.

Mrs. John Irving officially charged Mrs. Arnold Romeiser with the responsibility of the presidency, Mrs. W. H. Vaupel the vice-presidency, Mrs. H. E. Brown, secretary, and Mrs. Clyde Capel as treasurer. Mrs. Chester Beineke is now delegat eat large.

As a Christmas gift and token of their appreciation for a successful and profitable year, the club members presented Mrs. Chester Beineke and Mrs. John Irving (past president and vice president respectively) a beautiful plant-a-terium filled with some prize specimens of both begonias and African violets.

Since Maj. Irving just returned from a short tenure of duty in Europe he was asked to show a series of color slides of such places as the formal gardens of Versailles, the Kew gardens near London, and many other unique scenes from Belgium, Spain, Luzembourg and Germany.

We were honored to have at our November meeting Mr. Elvin McDonald, associate editor of the "Flower and Garden" magazine who presented a very interesting rogram of color slides of various begonias, gloxinias and other shade loving plants that he had filmed in Logee's and other greenhouses around the nation.

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WEST VALLEY

San Fernando Valley boasts a newly formed group: West Valley branch, meeting every second Tuesday, 7 p.m., Orcutt Playground Clubhouse, 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park. The sparkplugs getting this new branch going are: Mrs. Alice Ward, president; Joe Ogden, vice-president; Mrs. James Holly, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Joe Ogden, rep. dir.

—B—

WHITTIER

Meeting at Palm Park Youth Center, Thursday, Feb. 6, the branch witnessed a demonstration on the proper planting of begonia seeds. There was also a white elephant auction.

—B—

New Editor

(Continued From Page 53)

material which could include reprints of former articles containing this type of information, especially useful to beginners. Three branches ask for line drawings one in color with full descriptions for better identification purposes. Several ask for more begonia material.

Taking the above in their proper sequence—we are including in next issue basic instructions compiled by Mrs Louise Schwerdtfeger for the growing of begonias from seed. We will try to include something of this type in each issue. Search for an artist to execute line drawings is now in progress by both your editors. If you know anyone who will undertake this assignment please let us know. Also in this regard we need more specific information as to type of plant, variety, etc. It is prohibitive, from a cost standpoint, to reproduce drawings in color, but we will try to include, when possible, exact color descriptions. Part of the problem in printing more begonia material lies in locating new sources.

Lastly, thank all of you who have responded to our pleas for contributions, and may many more reply to the end of a truly comprehensive publication in the wide, wide world of begonias.

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Peperomia

(Continued From Page 60)

their shining beauty. The plant will recover when watered but will take a long time to grow new leaves. There is really no excuse for this, as the moss holds enough moisture for days.

We now come to the exotic part of the story. When the plant is about six months old it will start producing it's flowering stalk. On some plants it will be in the shape of a rat's tail about twelve to eighteen inches long. On others it will take the shape of a deer's antlers. These are the ones to watch for. There will be many intricate branchings about two feet in height, which can be very striking, only a few of my plants have done this and I don't know the reason for it.

The flowers are very tiny and are difficult to distinguish with the naked eye, but you can tell when they are in full flower by the dull purpleish hue the catkins or stalks take on. At that time you will note in the evening the odor of a rich tawny wine. (Non alcoholic)

In a day or so this bouquet will change to the distinct aroma of sweet milk chocolate. The aroma is so real that I

have been tempted to make the taste test, but common sense tells me better. The pleasant fragrance will last for about five or six days and the plant will start to set seed, but only if you achieve pollination by gently blowing on the stalk or stroking lightly with the fingers when the stalk has taken on the purple hue. In nature it is probably wind pollinated. When the seeds form you will be able to see them as they are fairly large and grow as individuals on the stalk. I usually wait until the stalks drop off the plant before harvesting.

Now we come to the pineapple part. When the leaves are handled, bruised or plucked they give off a very pleasant pineapple like tang, which appears very inviting to the palate, but the leaves of plants of unknown quantity should not be sampled by the layman, as many tropicals are extremely poisonous, tho I don't think that the Peperomia family is particularly so.

I almost forgot to tell you that if you should desire to grow the plants for their pleasing foliage alone, it is a must to nip off the flowering stalks as soon as they are noted.

In closing let me state that I have found this plant to be very satisfying and capable of giving great pleasure.

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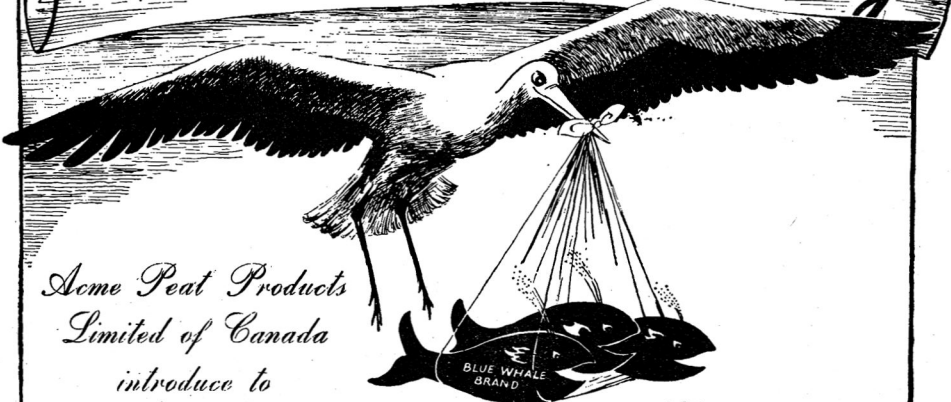
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