SEED FUND ISSUE

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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The Begonian

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Advertising Manager.....John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

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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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National Board Meets 4th Monday, 7:30-10 P.M., Echo Park Clubhouse, 1632 Bellevue Ave.

In Memory---Our Founder

Herbert P. Dyckman, Founder of the American Begonia Society, was laid to rest Friday, May 9, surrounded by friends and flowers, each of which he had loved and served faithfully during his life span of seventy-four years. Mr. Dyckman has gone away, but he saw the fulfillment of a cherished dream; an idea, which, through its accomplishment, brought beauty and satisfaction to his fellowmen; one that will remain a continuing tribute to his ideals.

An interest in nature began, for "Pop" on the farm in Aurora, Illinois, where he was born April 11, 1884. When he was 14, he had already focused on the begonia as his major devotion, although he delighted in all flowers. This was demonstrated later when, as a young man, he went to Livingstone, Montana, as an auditor for the Northern Pacific railroad. Here, after meeting and marrying Gladys, he surrounded their home with a garden that was the admiration of the entire town in that somewhat barren area. During the years in Montana, Mr. Dyckman longed for a warmer climate, so that he might grow his beloved begonias, and this, of course, meant California.

So, in 1922, when family circumstances permitted, the Dyckman's came to Long Beach, where he went to work at the Mayflower nursery. Meanwhile, at home, he pursued his goal in hybridizing — to develop a blue tuberous begonia. First he built a lath house, however, and filled it with specimen plants of such quality that very soon kindred lovers of begonias were gathering there to discuss mutual interests and problems.

This interchange concerning a common enthusiasm led, first, to a small group meeting regularly, then, in 1932, to the formation of the California Begonia Society. The name was later changed to the American Begonia society. The credit for organizing and delevoping the group is largely due to Mr. Dyckman. He, with the nine charter members, gave unstintingly of time and energy to strengthen and encourage interest in begonias. During the years that followed, "Pop's" interest in his plants and the resultant society never flagged, and he busied himself constantly in all phases of the work. So it was that from those first difficult "pioneering" years, when a small group dedicated themselves to a common purpose, he saw the organization grow to encompass hundreds of members in many parts of the world.

Retirement plans had to be put aside by the Dyckmans when, because of his ailing health, they went to live in Twenty-nine Palms three years ago. Until just a few months before his death on May 6, "Pop" kept in touch with the multitude of friends he had made through his willingness to give of himself to those around him.

Besides Mrs. Dyckman, surviving are a sister, Mrs. Wilford Cooley, of Spokane, Washington, eight nephews and seven nieces. Services were in Long Beach and interment at Sunnyside Memorial Park in that city.

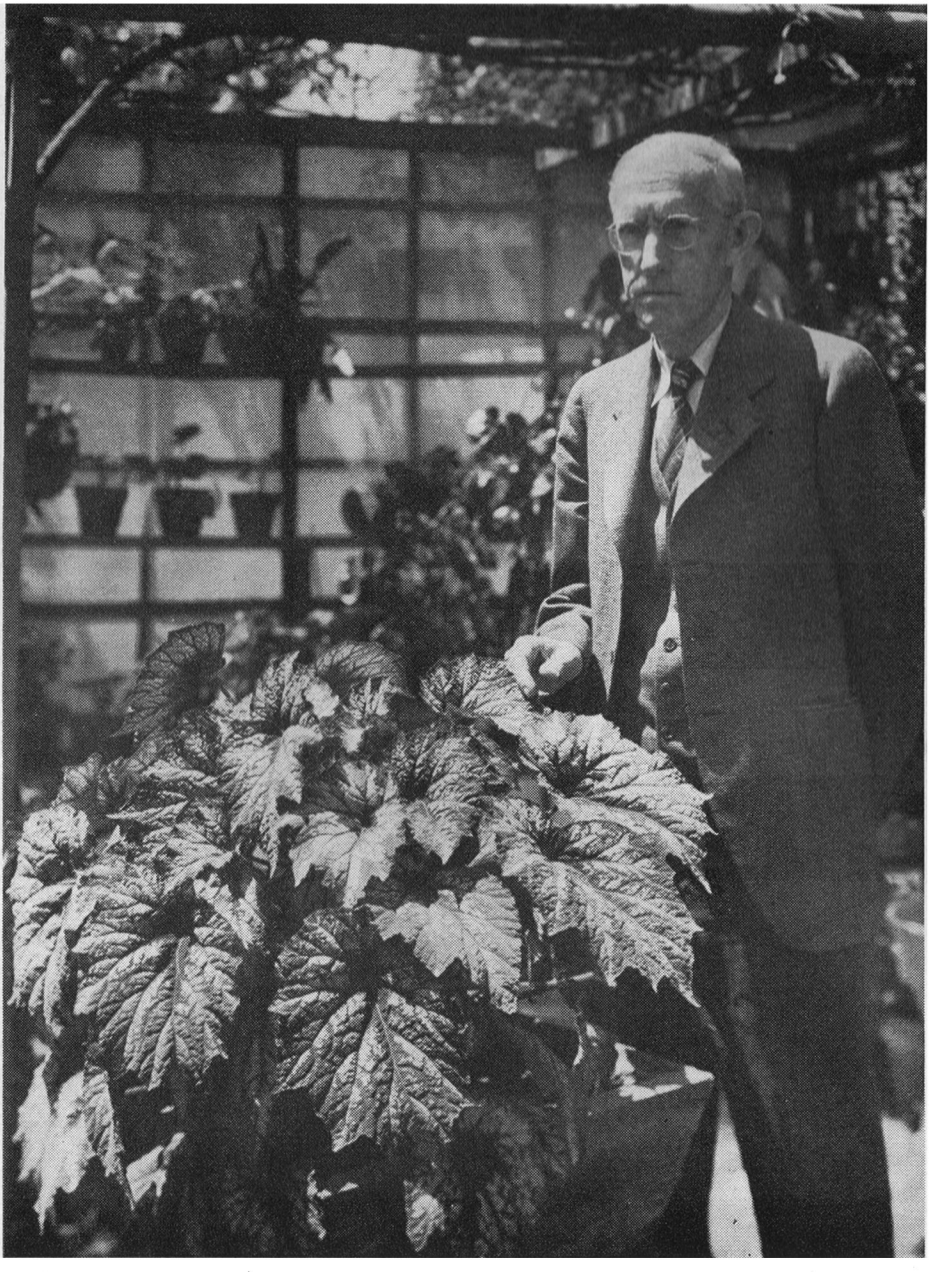
In the Garden

I came to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, Falling on my ear;
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
And the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; Thro' the voice of Woe,
His voice to me is calling.

(Above is Mr. Dyckman's favorite hymn.)



The magnificent begonia pictured with Clayton Kelly is the sensational hybrid "Van-Ex," a cross of tuberous and rex by Roy Berry in 1935. Mr. Berry, an early hybridist and charter member of ABS, was one of the first to work for miniature rex cultorum as well as larger plants.

Clayton M. Kelly, Adventurer

In these days of space travel, when talk of outer distances has become common, it is refreshing to think back to one whose interpretation of "flight" was equally as imaginative in scope, but whose entire conception was peaceful and friendly rather than of an embattled nature. He, too, had a vision of flight, but his was that of little seeds, their wings flying to all parts of the world, carrying the adventurer along, and sowing friendship and spreading nature's wonders wherever they "landed" in the hands of a recipient. The "travels," so imaginattively begun by Clayton M. Kelly have, in intervening years, incredibly enriched the lives of many of his fellowmen. Through his exploring they have been enabled to share in the delights of the tropics; participate in the expeditions of the botanically adventurous; rejoice in the resultant collective beauty in their own domain.

It is, in fact, the continuance of Clayton Kelly's original idea that today has developed into the entirely satisfying functions of that all-important department of ABS, the Seed Fund. It is because of many inquiries from members who correspond with this department, and of others who have written us concerning its workings and origin, plus the editor's personal admiration for one who has contributed so much to others, that this article has been conceived and written.

The August, 1935, issue of the *"Bulletin"* carried an article concerning foreign correspondence, which shows that Mr. Kelly was already hard at work on his idea. In order to secure information from the earth's far corners he had written to Miss Roxanna H. Oldroyd, a teacher in a Luchnow, India, college for information about local begonias. The reply was lengthy, interesting, and most informative. By the end of that year, our adventurer, through persistence and diligence, was recognized at the annual meeting by President Paul Walker as having "linked ABS with individuals... all over the world." So we see, that Mr. Kelly's idea was gaining in scope shortly after its inauguration.

In 1937, Mr. Kelly himself drew up a summary of the progress of his plan. Telling first of having been fired by reading travel articles containing casual references to begonias, followed up by perusal of botanical books hoping for further information, he decided to become a plant and seed collector. Realizing from the first that the begonia fan was thrilled to travel with expeditions, but lost interest quickly among the pages of botanical journals, he tried to add human interest to the subject of begonias. Together with several other "arm-chair" explorers, with a total capital of $33.00, he and his companions began their search. This world tour, conducted through the media of the U.S. postal system and the international mails, had as its object the seeking of begonia species seed not then in cultivation in this country. The years 1935-37 were full of delays and disappointments ,but seed had been traded in India, (esp. Nepal) Java, Mexico City, and from Bolivia, via Germany. An expedition headed by Dr. T. H. Goodspeed to the West Coast of South America sent seed of five species from Peru and Argentina, and were immediately planted and carefully nursed. Mrs. Bessie Buxton, in the east, also helped immeasurably with these early experimental propagations. Much of the seed received did not germinate for various reasons, and indeed the seeming results were often discouraging, progress slow, but the group persisted in their pursuit of the more than 400 species.

This same year, (1937) his fellow members took cognizance of Mr. Kelly's activities and their importance to ABS, when speaking through D. M. Dunkle, retiring president, they said, "He has literally combed the world... which perhaps explains the spread of our membership to all parts of the U. S. and elsewhere." Twenty-one years later, in this year of

1958, that statement still stands, as we shall see as we follow the development of the Seed Fund idea.

At the third annual begonia show in 1938, accomplishments of the Research department, which was supported by the Seed Fund, were graphically shown when it placed on exhibit thirty-five species grown from imported seed. The plants were of different ages, from mature ones in flower down to seedlings. The seed had been distributed among the Fund sponsors who grew the plants displayed at the show. These early "explorers" were Rudolf Ziesenhenne, L. E. Day, Mrs. Mary Congdon, F. M. Harrison, J. A. Hayden, A. Sim, Leslie Woodriff, and Mr. Kelly. Plants included species from India, Java, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, South America (from Dr. Goodspeed's '36, '37 expeditions), and South American tuberous (Brazil) from seed purchased in Germany.

During these early years the pages of The Begonian are graphic evidence of the activities of Clayton Kelly, for they are interspersed with numerous articles about new importations of seed, progress reports on their growth, and, in early 1939, resulted in the first offer of seeds to the general membership-from Costa Rica. His long hours of research into origins, and his incessant correspondence with specialists in other countries are reflected in the thoughtful accounts that he shared with fellow-members through the pages of the magazine.

What amounted to a milepost in the annals of ABS occurred later that same year when a special bulletin, titled, "Annual Report of the Research Department" was published. Compiled by Mr. Kelly and edited by M. B. Dunkle, its printing had been entirely financed by that department, and covered the beehive activities of its members. Contributions to the '39 Goodspeed expedition to the Andes had been made, also an original German text of *"Die Begonien"* by Karl Albert Fotsch had been procured, and given to the University of California for translation. The English version sent by the school was a valuable addition to the Society's library. Various departments had been set up to better spread the work of the burgeoning project. An enlightening happening was also recorded in this interesting account of the year's activities when, in an effort to extend the interest in begonia culture free seed or bulbils were offered to readers of *Sunset* magazine. Over 500 requests were received and volunteers were called upon to cope with the tremendous task of mailing. Informational literature and aims and purposes of ABS were sent out along with the free seed or bulbils which had been donated by members. The undertaking resulted in wide publicity and added a large number of new members, and through contacts made, several new branches were added to the list.

1939 established, for the first time, The Seed Fund as a duty of the Research department, under the attention of Mr. Kelly. Commercial seed collectors, plant expeditions, and amateur botanists were contacted in those countries where begonias grew as wild plants or from botanical institutions which had introduced them. Sponsors (contributors) to the Fund who promoted the activity and participated in the distribution of seed numbered at this point forty-five. Sixty kinds of seed were gathered and distributed during this twelve-month period, and a complete record of such dispersal was kept, a report on growth requested, and results were tabulated. Roots and tubers were also obtained by gift or limited purchase and placed in the hands of two members to propagate. This presentation of activities ended with a contribution to the Kingdon Ward expedition to Central India, which was handled through a special fund. This same report carries highlights of the annual meeting, which was addressed by Rudolf Ziesenhenne and was attended by 400 members—What a change today!

These constant enterprises of Clayton Kelly, mute but substantial evidence of which is found in perusal of his notes, records, and letters, shows an almost unbelievable concentration on the subject closest to his heart—begonias. The Dean,

Alfred D. Robinson, of San Diego, was in constant touch with him, as was Bessie Buxton in the east. Ernest Benary, in Germany, Dr. C. A. Purpus, Mexico, and others in remote corners of the world were in constant contact. Here at home, Rudolf Ziesenhenne and Constance Bower were among the many who were included in this voluminous correspondence. But Mr. Kelly's letters did not confine themselve to the "experts" for he answered, in detail, any person who had been drawn into the ever-widening circle of begonia fanciers.

One wonders how Clayton ever found time, after so carefully formulating his extensive correspondence, to do the reading and research that his papers so unmistakably disclose. And remember—he also grew many, many of the plants that he wrote about—results HAD to be proved! His yard, in the Belmont Heights section of Long Beach, was filled year after year with living proof of his labors. Surely here was a man whole-heartedly dedicated to his subject, one who, in spite of a frail body, by means of indomitable spirit, left as his legacy the means with which to experience one of the beautiful things of life.

Suddenly, in 1942, Mr. Kelly's death brought an end to these manifold enterprises as far as he was concerned, but we all know, of course, that he had blazed a trail for us to follow. When the Begonian went to press in March, the first page of that issue carried certain resolutions and a tribute, "In Memoriam," written by Sybil M. Fielder which concludes, "His devoted friends are reassured that there is no beauty as joyous and everlasting and as incapable of passing into nothingness as a human life lived fully and with eagerness, tempered with experience and completed with dignity and restraint."

The years have rushed along since 1942—the small group of begonia fanciers has grown to a world-wide organization, embracing many members. Year after year loyal and willing hands have taken up the important tasks of the Seed Fund, which has grown along with its parent, the American Begonia Society. Many have contributed, many have gained, and time has heightened the interest in this activity of the Society.

Mrs. Florence Gee, administrator of the Seed Fund for the past four years, lives in a house surrounded by nature's beauty. For almost twenty years Mrs. Gee, and her husband, Frank, have busied themselves with this large (50' x 200') city lot, encouraging plants to grow. The gate, arched over with roses, ushers one into a nice, but not particularly unusual, front yard, but open the garden gate and eager growth rushes to greet you. That steamy, warm fragrance of life in rampant growth assails your nostrils, while your eyes delight in beauty on every side. Along the house—lush tropicals and begonias—not sedately lined up in pots, but happily growing in the carefully prepared soil, growing so lustily that they are higher than the windows.

There are roses of every hue, reflecting back the sun, a large bulb bed, and a Burmese honeysuckle with its bright green leaves and orangish flowers crawling over the garden house. All of this sparkling foreground is backed by knowing placement of shrubs and trees, and there is a pool, too, over which a picturesquely curved aralia bends. A corridor devoted to ferns displays specimens of show quality—just growing and spreading in this ideal environment which has been provided with knowing and loving care. Getting to the mundane things, there is a potting shed, and "incubator" for baby plants, and compost pits of copious size, among other facilities of practical use in this development of a wonderland.

In the garden house, which is provided with a barbecue and other cooking provisions, as well as comfortable chairs and lounges, I asked my questions. I wanted to learn the facts about the functions of the Seed Fund—1958. Mrs. Gee, who is not as assembly line, but one person, does all the work involved herself—and so, I had come to her for the answers.

Each month contacts in France, South Africa, Brazil, and Germany must be kept alive by letters as well as the large

growers in the U.S. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain new and choice seed, and this can only mean that Mrs. Gee must work harder, contact more people, and spend more time at her task. This department, which functions only for the membership of ABS and for their exclusive benefit, is thus offered seed not obtainable from any other source. What a rare and wonderful opportunity for plant lovers, and what a source of new members for ABS! Naturally, collectors all over the world, as will be demonstrated later in this article, are attracted by Mrs. Gee's exlusive offerings

All seed received is tested, not only by Mrs. Gee, but also by three other members, for germination, so-if your's did not grow, do not blame the seed, but look for other causes for failure.

When enough seed is on hand, in Gee's estimation, to fill the orders that will result, it will be offered in the monthly list. This requires another 2 to 3 days a month, and it must be done carefully—each item checked and described so that our members may choose. Often this part of the job becomes a small research job in itself.

After *The Begonian* is off the press, the orders start coming in, and Mrs. Gee can accurately check the time the magazine is received—from west to east, north and south, and far away places. Beginning with a trickle, the mail raises to flood—sometimes 25 or 30 orders are arriving a day, varying from one item to the entire listing. These must be filled daily for to hestitate would be lost in the rush, Mrs. Gee said, and she would never "catch up." The seed packets must be cut, folded, and labeled—then the tiny seed, spread on a white sheet to be counted, inserted. This, in turn must then be inclosed in a labeled manila envelope for safety, and weighed for mailing purposes. Then come two hand-stamps, in order not to injure the inclosed seed. All these transactions are entered in two sets of books, and there are frequent trips to the bank as most payments are by check. The "tour of duty" includes daily trips to the post-office. Sounds like a full time job, doesn't it? Yet, our Seed Fund Chairman is often required to answer all types of questions sent in by members, and although her task does not include this, manages to squeeze in the time. Often, too, unusually popular offers must be reordered from the original source, requiring back-ordering and consequently more work all along the line.

A peek into the mailbag reveals the expected addresses in the United States, with heaviest mailings to the middle west and east, but did you know that there are begonias growing in Anchorage, Alaska? Mrs. Gee knows, she sent the seed to three optimistic growers. A doctor in El Salvador sends in regularly for seed, as well as several other "regulars" in Canada, South Africa, and England. When the prolonged freeze hit Florida this past winter and members wrote in to replace their entirely lost plants, Mrs. Gee wrapped the seed in insulation—an example of her careful handling of orders.

The conclusion to this article could be written only by those "armchair" explorers who have participated and delighted in the Seed Fund, so, during these past months, while the idea of this article has been "simmering," letters have been saved. The current answer, proving that Clayton Kelly's idea remains a vital and satisfying force to this day, may be found elsewhere in this issue. The members have thus written their own "ending" to this article—but 'tis an ending in print only—the service and resultant satisfactions will continue. A. B.

——B——

CALIFORNIA GARDENING

With blooms so high they can't be reached,
And bulbs increasing like the hares—
The weeds that grow too fast to dig.
Each gard'ner in the State has cares.
The bugs are thicker than the grass,
There's reason, sure, for moans and wails—
We fight the aphis, sowbugs, ants,
And most of all the drooling snails!
With Nature's hues a dazzling sight—
And beauty greatest to be found—
The gard'ner passes final test
If he can take it — all year round!

MARTHA MACFARLANE
in Sacramento *Begonia Leaf*

Members Write About Seed Fund

RIDERWOOD, MARYLAND

Plants have held a large place in my mind and heart all my life, from the time I was about 5 years old when I dug a plantain from our lawn, brought in into the house, and watched it grow. The family eliminated it eventually but thereafter, any weed in the lawn was referred to as, "Ellen's houseplant." I took many years to live that one down.

When the time came that I could garden, I really DID it, and outside plants were not enough—I must have window plants also, and these had to be begonias. At first I bought plants from various sources, some from Rudolf Ziesenhenne. Then, having become a member of ABS, I came into knowledge of the Kelly Seed Fund, and that was at once one of the most enjoyable experiences I have ever had. Immediately I began sending for seed which grew into rare and beautiful plants.

At the time when life dealt me the blow of a paralytic stroke, and I was taken to a nursing home, my seed boxes were thrown out for no one knew how to care for them. Now, home again, I am able to care for only a few begonias and some ferns but dare not undertake caring for more.

I would say to any lovers of begonias to join ABS at once and take advantage of the Seed Fund—the seed is good and viable, it comes from many countries, and the money expended is very little but brings great and enjoyable returns. Yes, I am "rooting" for the Kelly Seed Fund, "rooting" for it because I have so successfully rooted from it.

ELLEN PAGE HAYDON

ED: *These excerpts from letters are but a few of the many received, and were chosen because they are representative in content. Miss Nancy Dare Sitterley, who tells us about her project elsewhere in this issue, was also contacted through the Seed Fund.*

JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA

In the relatively short time that I have been actively engaged in the cultivation of pot plants, I have made it my business to concentrate on the rare and unusual, with the result that I have bought seed from a variety of sources, both in America and elsewhere. I can honestly say that the seed which I have purchased through the pages of The Begonian compares more than favorably with the germinating qualities of the best seed I have purchased from other well known sources. A point that struck me most forcibly right from the outset was the variety of unusual species... from world-wide sources. In fact, my sole complaint... has been due to my disappointment that, owing to the lateness of my orders, my requests were no longer available.

Not least on my list of appreciation is the prompt, friendly and efficient manner in which Mrs. Gee attends to my orders, which indicates to me the enthusiasm with which she applies herself to her arduous task.

In summing up, I think my feelings are best expressed by my actions in requesting the monthly seed listings be airmailed to me, at my expense, so that I can take full advantage of this unique service.

A. L. BAMFORD
Four Furrows Nurseries

——B——

LEXINGTON, OHIO

There are so many begonias that I would love to grow, but just haven't the room indoors, and we have just experienced over a week of zero weather and lots of snow. I'm proud of my plants of "Crispula" grown from seed from the Seed Fund. They are exactly like the one pictured in last month's Begonian, grown by H. Heuscher at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

MRS. J. DALE SHULER

Cover Article

Brazilian Semperflorens Near Boston

Ruth and Pene Merry, of Needham, Mass., sent us our cover picture this month via Mrs. DeCoursey, our Eastern editor. The plant in the photograph was grown from a cutting from one of the original seedlings from seed given the Merrys by the late Bessie Buxton. She originally procured the seed in California in 1953 from the Kelly Seed Fund. It is a Brazilian semperflorens and quite pretty; the flowers are shell pink, the ovaries much deeper salmon rose.

Mr. Merry continues:

"I have grown quite a few of the heterosis semps. purchased from the seed fund and have very good success with them. This year I had the red Tausendschoen and Sleeping Beauty. They make much better plants than the plants taken from cuttings; plants in three or three and a half inch pots are very saleable to the general public; of course, the fancier wants more special species and varieties.

"I am anxiously watching the anigozanthus grow that I started from seed fund seeds a year ago. Of course, they do not grow as fast here as they do with you, and it remains to be seen whether they mature enough to flower. I have seen color slides of many of them taken by Miss Creighton of Wellesley College, who spent a year in Australia on the Fullbright scholarship. She is head of the botany department at the college. Wellesley is the next town to Needham and we are about twelve miles south of Boston.

"I am waiting to see if Florence Gee ever gets any more Paulensis or Xanthina seed. Sometimes it is only through the seed fund that we can add to our collection, since not as many are available to us in the East as you have on the Pacific coast. We can always send to you for them, but it is not the same as choosing them on the spot."

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

The Kinds of Bulbs

HOW MANY times have you gone into a nursery and asked for a dozen gladiolus bulbs or two or three begonia bulbs? You are incorrect in doing so as neither gladiolus nor begonias are bulbs. Gladiolus are corms and begonias are tubers.

The odd thing is that the majority of the items generally classed as bulbs are not bulbs at all but belong to any of several different groups. A brief rundown on the different classes of bulbous plants should not only prove interesting and straighten you out technically, but also enable you to understand and therefore to better grow the different kinds.

The true bulbs are the scaley bulbs. Some examples are the true lillies, onions, narcissus, and tulips. The bulbs are made up of layers of scales that are actually modified leaves. The whole next year's plant, embryo buds, leaves and all, is already formed inside, just waiting for the proper conditions to bring it growing forth.

That is why it is so important to keep the plant growing well this year, to form a good plant for next year.

Similar to a bulb is a corm. The corm is more or less solid and not composed of loose scales. It is actually a modified stem and if you strip away the husk, as on a gladiolus, the lines you see are where the leaves were attached to the corm and the husk is actually the leaf bases. In a corm the future plant is not

(Continued on Page 143)

Minutes, National Board, Apr. 28

THE MEETING of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Coe at 7:40 p. m. April 28, 1958.

President-Elect Slatter read "The Aims and Purposes of the Society."

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Lovejoy being absent, his report was read by Mr. Walton. Report approved by the Board.

President-Elect Slatter gave a brief report on his visits to branches.

Vice Pres. Alva Graham reported she had sold two begonia pins and some stationery.

President Coe read a letter from Third Vice-Pres. Fitch relative to Liability Insurance for the A.B.S. and branches. Motion made and carried that the matter be referred to the finance committee for further study.

Membership Secretary Walton reported 62 new members for the month and 100 renewals. Mr. Walton also reported that few magazines are being returned now and he believes this is a sign our address file is in good condition.

Begonian Editor Mrs. Brest reported that the Eastern Assistant Editor, Mrs. DeCoursey, is doing a very good job that much additional interest is being shown by eastern members. She stated that Mr. M. B. Dunkle, past president and former editor of the "Bulletin" who now lives in Fallbrook extends an invitation to A. B. S. members, who might be in his vicinity, to call at his place. Address Rt No. 2 Box 235-B, Fallbrook, telephone 8-7075. Advance notice would be well as he is often away from home.

Research Director Sylvia Leatherman stated she had some plants, grown from seed obtained from the Missouri Botanical Garden. That anyone interested in getting one of the plants could obtain it by donating 75c to the Research Department.

Report of the Seed Fund Chairman, Mrs. Florence Gee, was read by President Coe showing $110.00 remitted to the National Treasurer.

Advertising Manager John Thieben reported advertising for the month amounted to $83.75; money collected and paid to the Treasurer $117.20.

Public Relations Chairman Mr. Hall was unable to be present, his report was read by Mrs. Hall, a brief account relative to advertising on the Conn. radio station.

Awards Committee Chairman, Mrs. Arbuckle, stated there had been considerable discontent with the way the awards certificates had been held until certain requirements had been met. She asked if the motion relative to this matter could be rescinded. Motion made and carried, that the former motion relative to holding certificates until questionaires had been filled out and sent in be rescinded.

National Librarian Mrs. Lucy Sault gave a complete report on her department. She asked for advice as to where certain books might be obtained for inquiring members. Mrs. Leatherman stated she could supply some names where they might be obtained.

Discussion was held as to obtaining quarters for future Board Meetings. As no place had been located, Pres. Coe asked that everyone check any place they thought might be available and report at the May meeting. The May meeting of necessity will be held in the Recreation Hall on Bellevue Avenue.

Pres. Coe read a letter from the "Flower Grower" advising that "The Begonian" had won third place in Class Four of the Flower Grower's Publication Awards, and that our award would be a copy of "The Complete Book of Chrisanthemums."

Pres. Coe brought up the question of an official A. B. S. representative to the State and County Arboretum. Motion made and carried that Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman be appointed as A. B. S. representative.

Mr. Walton reported he would need some small leafleats oridinarily handed out at shows, etc. Motion made and carried to order 4000 of the leaflets. The question of combining bulletins "Growing Begonias from Seed" and "Cultural Bulletins" was brought up and Pres. Coe appointed Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman and Mr. John Thieben as a committee to revamp and combine the two publications.

Branches reporting—El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Branch, Redondo Beach, Riverside, San Gabriel and Ventura.

The Ventura Branch Director asked about extra copies of "The Begonian" to hand out at their meetings to prospective new members, whether they could be purchased and what the price would be. After some discussion it was decided that this matter be tabled for future consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting adjounred at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Irma Jane Brown
Secretary

The Begonian Wins Award

Mr. William Walton, Membership Sec.
"The Begonian"
American Begonia Society, Inc.
1415 Acacia
Torrance, California

Dear Mr. Walton:

Congratulations! Your magazine has won third prize for content in Class 4 of the FLOWER GROWER Garden Club Publications Awards. Your award, a copy of *The Complete Book of Chrysanthemums* by Cornelius Ackerson, will be sent to you shortly.

Thanks for helping to make this contest so successful.

Sincerely,
Frances B. Roberts

Michigan Student Outlines Project

By NANCY DARE SITTERLEY

(ED: Nancy Dare Sitterley, now attending the University of Michigan, and new member of ABS, sends in this illuminating report of a project she has undertaken in the botanical study field. We feel that this is interesting not only from the standpoint of one learning about our speciality, but equally as a glance at the "long view" of education in this particular field at a school long interested in botany. At this time, when our educational methods in all pursuits are under fire we think you will be encouraged to learn what is being done concretely to educate those with a future place in our field.

Miss Sitterley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit C. Sitterley, of Lancaster, Ohio, whose hillside home is surrounded by many gardens. Through the interest of her parents in gardening she developed her own, which culminated in the choice of biology and her major at the University.)

MANY people are unaware of the great opportunities which are offered to university students in any chosen field of study. As a sophomore majoring in biology at the University of Michigan, I have begun selecting courses which most interest me, at the same time fulfilling my distribution requirements for graduation. There are so many courses offered that it is difficult to decide which ones will be most useful in future years.

One of the courses which I am now taking is Botany 2, sometimes called "Applied Botany." It involves the botanical principles, methods of propagation, cultivation, and breeding of plants. It also deals with their protection against diseases. In other words, everything learned in Botany 1 is put to practical use in Botany 2.

Approximately one hundred and fifty students are enrolled in this course during the fall and spring semesters. The entire course is conducted in a specially designed laboratory at the Botanical Gardens where each student raises his own plants. Therefore, the purpose of the Botanical Gardens is to support all botanical interests on the University of Michigan campus, by providing living plants and plant collections for undergraduates and graduate instruction and for research by students and faculty.

The grounds of the Botanical Gardens, which are open to the public, are located two miles from the main campus. The university furnishes bus transportation for its students. The physical plant of the Botanical Gardens consists of forty acres of land, 18,000 square feet of greenhouse space, and a teaching laboratory. The outdoor plantings are loosely arranged into systematic groupings and include native and introduced woody and herbaceous materials. Several acres of tillage land are reserved for field experiments of various kinds.

Four large houses—orchid, palm, temperate, and cactus, and a succulent corridor contain the garden's permanent display collections of indoor planting, numbering over 21,000. Many of these plants were collected by past and present staff members and students of the Botanical Gardens and Department of Botany in various parts of the world. The collections are housed somewhat according to the ecological requirements of the plants.

Botany 2 is a relatively new course, having begun during World War II by Professor E. B. Maines, Director of the Herbarium, and Dr. E. Clover. Dr. Clover, who is my instructor, after receiving her degree from Peru State Teachers College in Nebraska, received her masters and doctors degrees from the University of Michigan. Her main interests, cacti, and desert plants, have led her into many parts of North and Central America, particularly Guatemala and Mexico.

Botany 2 students are required to have their own projects and are given ample

space and time in which to work on them. Students have a wide variety of topics from which to choose. Some of the projects which my fellow classmates are working on now are cacti, aquatics, classroom plants, annuals and perennials, succulents, tropical plants, vines, and the families which include the lily, Oxalis, African violet, and Fuchsia.

I chose "Begonia" for my project. Perhaps it was because I have seen my mother struggle year after year to get a nice bloom from a tuberous begonia. But the main reason for my choice was an attraction I have always had for the Begonia—this family consisting of so many species—each unique and delicate in its own special way.

First of all, I wrote letters to people all over the United States hoping to find material which would facilitate my work. I received numerous replies including a very special one from Mrs. Julia M. Nisbit, Brooklyn, Connecticut. She sent me by special handling an excellent collection of cuttings. I now have started healthy plants from these cuttings which include the following species; "Thurstoni," "Red Compra," *B.* "Dichotoma," *B.* "Kellermanii," *B. ruba odorata, B.* "Angularis," *B.* "Boweri" (eyelash B.), *B. deliciosa,* and *B. foliosa.*

As is the purpose of any project, research on all phases must be conducted. Thus I read extensively to enable my knowing how to best root Begonia cuttings. Since this is a typical phase of my project, I will give a brief resume on how I obtained plants from cuttings.

A stem cutting is prepared by removing some of the lower leaves and slicing the bottom of stem with a sharp knife just below a node. It is optional whether the cut is made near a node; the advantage is that there is more food available at that point to supply to the new root.

After the cutting has been prepared, the cut surface is covered with rootone, a protective measure against fungi as well as to initiate the development of roots. The cutting was then inserted into a flat of clean moist sand which has been firmly packed.

Newly inserted cuttings must then be covered in order to insure a moist atmosphere at all times. There are many coverings which can be made. A plastic tent was used in this case; many times glass bell jars are a convenient way of achieving the same result.

After four or five weeks new roots appeared from the base of the cutting; it was then ready to be planted into a small pot.

Most of my cuttings were made on October 12 and were transplanted on November 12. The new plant, with more than adequate roots, was transplanted into a mixture of 2 parts loam to ½ part leaf mold, and ½ part sand.

A leaf cutting of Rex Begonia was also made. A leaf of this kind is prepared by cutting the petiole with a sharp knife to the length of about one inch. The same procedure is used as before, with the exception of making sure that the base of the petiole rests on the bottom of the hole and that the cutting is set firmly.

Some weeks later when the cutting is taken from the sand, a cluster of growth buds and new roots are visable at the base of the petiole.

In *B. rex-cultorum,* many veins are cut on the underside of the leaf, at vein junctions. New leaves of young begonias will arise from various points on the upper surface of the old leaf where veins were cut.

The success or failure of leaf cuttings depends mainly on the moisture content of the sand and soil. If watered too much, damping off is likely to occur. Because I could not control this variable by daily care, my cuttings were the victims of too much moisture. This is an area, given the time and conditions, in which I would like to further experiment.

The same scientific procedure could be summarized for the sowing of Begonia seeds. This hardly seems necessary since the readers of this magazine know the procedure perhaps better than I, since experience is one of the best teachers.

Mrs. Florence Gee sent me a nice letter

enclosing the following seeds: *B.* "Frosty semp.," *B. dregei -spp., B.* "cane type pink," *B. schmidtiana, B. cyprea, B. maculata.*

I was able to propagate healthy young seedlings from all of these as well as from many others, some seeds of which I took directly from living plants. The above mentioned seeds were sown October 18 and on November 14, the seedlings were transplanted into thimble pots. where they immediately began to develop strong leaves.

One lengthy paper could be written about the favorable conditions in which to grow begonias. Two conditions which are important are temperature and light.

Since nearly all begonias are native to tropical or semi-tropical regions of the earth, and hence require a warm climate, the need for warmth is a characteristic of them. 50° - 70° is the range in which most begonias normally thrive. When they are grown indoors, they need all the sunlight they can get during the darker months of the midwinter.

Another necessity for growing healthy begonias is the correct soil mixture. Mixtures vary according to experience and preference. The main point to remember is that soil should be coarse and porus so that it permits free drainage and at times the humus content should be sufficient to insure retention of moisture about the roots, well rooted manure adds humus as well as nourishment to the soil, and is most generally recommended as a fertilizer for begonias. Bonemeal and charcoal are likewise sometimes added.

Of all the begonias, those of the semperflorens group are most tolerant of strong sunshine and, indeed, if they do not receive adequate amounts, they soon develop weak and spindly stems and are poor in their production of bloom. Begonias semperflorens and cultorum group, those with single flowers such as the green- *B.* "Christmas Cheer" with scarlet flowers are excellent for the beginning gardener for they are easier to grow than the double flowered kinds. Thriving in fairly heavy soil under average house or garden conditions, a first try at growing a *B.* semperflorens will usually produce excellent results. In the Northern climate this variety is especially used for bedding purposes.

For a decorative foliage border or edging of a border, few plants ars as colorful and fascinating as the multicolored varieties of *B. rex cultorum.* In our Northern latitudes these can be used to supply summer color in sheltered shady spots in our garden. On the other hand, Rex begonias are exceedingly sensitive to intense sunshine and are quickly harmed by undue exposure. Atmosphere conditions in a greenhouse differ from those in a house. When the days lengthen and the sun becomes warmer, and before the

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intense light and heat of summer become unendurable for Rex begonias—shade must be provided.

Projects are an important part of Botany 2 but are by no means all of the course. After completion of the individual projects, reports are given in order to enable others to broaden their knowledge on a number of different fields.

During the course of a semester, field trips were taken to Ferry-morse Farms, Inglis Estate, Wilt's Farm, and along the Huron River.

As a finale for Botany 2 students, a Botanical Garden's Open House highlights the pre-Christmas season. Students who have spent many hours perfecting their projects now have an opportunity to display them to the public. The students also serve as guides through the main gardens enabling them to share their knowledge about some 100 house plants with the some four hundred guests who usually come.

The University of Michigan, which is one of the few universities in the nation who offer such a course should be proud of the accomplishments they have made in this field. No other course which I have taken or hope to take will apply more directly to my future life. Any young girl dreams of a house of her own some day. And now I have dreams of a little house with flowers around it. As for the present, I shall take my project home and show my mother how to grow a really beautiful "begonia"!

Fuchsias

By ROSANNA HORTON

THE OLD-FASHIONED Victorian conservatory used to house many examples of the fuschsia, and again today the flower is proving very popular, These "ladies ear drops," as the Victorians called them, can supply a most modern note in Violet Gem, with red sepals flaring back from a central core of blue-violet petals. Others are a genteel all-white, like flying Clouds. Coastal cities in California have a great advantage in raising fuchsias because they have sfficient moisture in the air and cool enough summers for fuchsias to grow out-of-doors.

One of the most ardent exponents of fuchsias in this area is William L. (Jack) Taylor of Anaheim, who took up shade gardening when he retired from service as a naval officer, due to disability. Now he is national president of the California National Fuchsia Society. He recently affiliated with the Orange County branch of ABS because he is a fan of begonias also.

In a talk before the Orange County branch Taylor noted that of the 800 fuchsia varieties in general use, most will grow in Southern California. They are in increasing favor because they are one of the few plants that grow to shrub size in one season. Their flowers can

(Continued on Page 138)

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No. 2 B. rex—Germany. Just received a new supply of these popular seed from Germany. The demand was so great we decided to offer them again for the benefit of new members or those who did not get them before. Here are a few lines from the collector's letter: "These seed are the finest in existence and great care should be taken in sowing being careful not to let the seed pans become too dry or too wet. In case of success the joy is manifold, because the happy grower will obtain for little money a great number of plants showing moreover different colors and designs, so that he can select a dozen or more for propogation by leaf cutting. A trial is warmly recommended." Above .50 per. pkt.

No. 3 B. "Stitchleaf"—Small rhizomatous plant with medium green leaves with brown veins. .25 per. pkt.

No. 4 B. cyprea—(B. metallica seedling) Erect, to about three feet tall, bushy, white-hairy; leaves broad-ovate, pointed, olive-green veins; flowers large white or pale pink. .25 per. pkt.

5 B. Fleecealba—A hybrid by Florence Knock—The first two leaves on the seedling are shiny and green; the third and succeeding leaves are covered with pure white fleece. As the leaves grow, the felt becomes more sparse and have a firm glossy texture under the fleece. This is an unusually sturdy and easy to grow plant and its large clusters of white flowers and its fleece foliage attract attention in any collection. .25 per. pkt.

No. 6 B. picta — Low, leaves broad-ovate, pointed, green, mottled with lighter green and bronze. Flowers are clear pink. Ornamental. .25 per. pkt.

No. 7 B. Rosabella—Europe — Extra dwarf semperflorens for bedding and pot culture — Rose-pink flowers. .25 per. pkt.

No. 8 B. semperflorens Gruga — Germany. Heterosis strain with carmine flowers. small growing. .25 per. pkt.

No. 9 B. Hexe — semperflorens — Germany—Small, compact and weather resistant. Red flowers. .25 per. pkt.

Greenhouse plants—

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

Sinningia regina — Tuberous species having ovate—pointed leaves of bronzy green beautifully patterned with ivory veins; red on back. Profusion of nodding 'slipper' type violet flowers. Very small pkt. .25.

Alloplectus vittatus—(E Peru). Beautiful, erect, fleshy plant with showy, ovate, quilted, crenate leaves having bronzy moss-green with silvery feathering along the mid-rib, and covered with white hairs; red purple beneath; clusters of yellow flowers having orange-red calyx, and red bracts. .25 per. pkt.

Crossandra infundibuliformis — Attractive pot plant with glossy, gardenia-like foliage, and flower spikes of clear solman florets. Crossandra is a native of India and likes at least 70 degrees night temperature for germination and growing. Germination is best in spring months and starts in about fourteen days extending over several weeks. For potting use a mixture containing liberal quantities of humus. Four seed for .25.

Hoya Carnosa—Vine—"Wax Plant." Waxy, dark green foliage. Flowers are pink and white, fragrant and have the appearance of being waxed. Can be grown out doors in mild climates but requires greenhouse care elsewhere. Seed are scarce and packets will be small. .25 each pkt.

Fern spores—

Platycerium grande—Magnificent species, native of Australia and Phillipine Islands. The barren fronds are rounding,

ascending, and upper edges divided into a number of broad blunted segments. They are light green, covered with a woolly substance when young, but free of any trace when fully developed. The fertile fronds are large and are of a pendant nature, bearing a repeatedly forked division toward the extremeties. Propogation is by spores as this fern does not produce off-sets however the process of growing from spores is long and takes much patience but is well worth the effort. .50 per. pkt.

Pteris cretica albo-lineata — Beautiful fern with green and white fronds—Fairly hardy and medium growth. Ours are planted in deep shade and the white stripe on fronds is more pronounced than those that are grown in strong light or sun. .25 per. pkt. Good fresh spores from Germany.

Adiantum cuneatum var. fragrantissimum — A vigorous moorei hybrid with long lasting, dark green fronds set loosely with wedged-shaped leafleats, stems are strong and black. A truly beautiful fern that will add great beauty to any collection—From Germany. .35 per. pkt.

Pteris argyrea. One of the few really effective variegated ferns, and is highly esteemed on this account. Does not like direct sunlight but requires good day light to maintain its distinct variegation. .25 per. pkt.

Pteris wimmsetti — Crested form — Robust, hardy fern with leathery leaves—medium growth. .25 per. pkt.

Pteris tremula.—A handsome, graceful fern of pale green, nice for pot culture. Prefers dry soil and a moderately sunny location. We have many of these ferns that have sprung up on the fuchsia baskets and in the crevices of stone and brick around the garden. We started with one plant and now have about a dozen. Quite effective when planted in groups of three or more. .25 per. pkt.

We have a friend who lives in North Island, New Zealand and have received choice native spores from her which we offer for your consideration—Two varieties are tree ferns but don't let this discourage you because they can be grown in your green house in large containers and make beautiful speciman plants. Grow them out doors in mild climates also would like to add that N. Z. ferns require a longer period of time to germinate than some of the other varieties—

Dicksonia squarrosa—A medium-sized tree fern, with slender black or dark green trunk and stripes, fronds are nearly horizontal, dark green above, paler below. .25 per. pkt.

Cyathea medularis—"Black tree fern." Monarch of the grove and one of the handsomest tree ferns in the world. Fronds are numerous, dark green, trunk black. .25 per. pkt.

Athyrium japonica (of Japan) syn. Dipiazum japonica. A small, delicate, pale green fern, very rare. Found growing on shady banks of creeks, or sometimes on hillsides. Fronds six to twelve inches long by two and one half to five inches broad, pale green. .25 per. pkt.

Asplenium shuttleworthianum—Handsome species—Rhizomes short, tufted. Fronds vary in size erect or drooping, smooth, leathery, yellowish-green. .25 per. pkt.

Other genera—

Pandorea ricasoliana—Vine—So. Africa. Pink flowers sometimes red striped.

Campsis — (Trumpet creeper) Strong grower, lacy foliage, clusters of orange-scarlet trumpet shaped flowers.

Scarlet wisteria—Tree type with red flowers.

Poinciana gilliesi—Shrub or small tree with fragrant, orange flowers with red stamens. Requires sun and not much water.

Capsicum — variegated. Ornamental pepper with variegated foliage and red fruits. Nice greenhouse plant.

Ficus elastica—Rubber plant—Grown in doors as a house plant or can be grown out doors in mild climates.

Coleus hybrids—Rainbow colors — Lovely pot plants or grown out doors in the shade garden as perfect companions to begonias, ferns et cetera.

All other genera—.25 per. pkt.

Net income for the month of March was $100, not approximately $10 as stated in the Condensed Minutes of the National Board meeting March 24.

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

Fuchsias . . .

(Continued From Page 135)

be in any known shade, except yellow.

March is the time of year when a fuchsia begins its season's growth, but Taylor started planning for it in September. Then he covered the nurseries and gardens of friends to choose new varieties. He took softwood cuttings, pinched out their tips, and dusted the bases lightly with a rooting hormone. Wooden flats were sterilized with bleach and boiling water and then filled with vermiculite or sponge-ro. The cuttings were inserted ¾ to 1 inch deep, and about an inch apart.

For three or four days the flats were set in the shade, then moved to mild like for a few weeks. By this time the cuttings had struck roots and could be moved to pots. Taylor said he used 60 per cent commercial planting mixture of peat moss and leaf mold, 30 per cent soil, and 10 per cent sand. At the bottom of the pot he put gravel for better drainage. In the course of the next few months he moved the plants to successively larger pots.

In March fuchsia plants are set out in the garden or in their final containers. Taylor's recipe for the final planting mix is for 27 cubic feet, and is a larger quantity than would interest the casual fuchsia grower. He is also trying out the University of California mix and two commercial planting mixes, Black Magic and Blue Whale, and is keeping records of his results with these.

By March pruning of older fuchsias should be completed. This means cutting them back even if blooming because they can bloom this year only on new wood. They should be pruned one or two nodes away from heavy wood. In the past a basket-type fuchsia was pruned to the rim of its basket. Now one fourth of the branches can go over the side and be pruned back only half way between the rim and the base. The remaining branches are pruned back to the rim, as formerly.

After pruning he puts on an insecticide, and repeats a spray treatment every week to 10 days. He fertilizes the fuchsias with a commercial liquid at half strength every seven days beginning in March. He explained that the plant is a steady feeder rather than a heavy feeder.

Annual Fuchsia Show

THE ANNUAL Fuchsia Flower Show, which features fuchsias and other shade plants, sponsored by the California National Fuchsia Society, will be held Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29, in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, Calif. Twenty thousands square feet of floor space will be open to the public from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and from 12 noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Admission will be 90 cents and parking wil be 25 cents.

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Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

HOLLYWOOD

Emery Beaufore, of Culver City, lectured on, "Planning and Building the Shade Garden." He is President of the Los Angeles Flora Study Club and is a Past President of our own Hollywood Branch. Mrs. Lucy A. Sault, of Rolling Hills, and Librarian for The Begonia Society give a short talk on the worthwhile books now available free to members. Cora Lee Walters and Mabel Anderson had interesting notes about some unusual plant specimens. A door prize and resfreshments ended the meeting.

——B——

INGLEWOOD

Program for the May meeting was "Flower Arrangements From Your Own Gardens"—with Jack Lavarese as speaker. Mr. Lavarese introduced new and better ways of using the plants most of us have in our own yards, as floral arrangement materials. The very thought of this was intrigueing to every one of us and fascinating it proved to be.

Convention and Flower Show time is coming and it is not too early for you to be preparing your plants to be entered in the show. The competition is fun and there is always the chance of an award. While you are trimming your prize babies, make a few cuttings for the plant table—they are wanted and needed.

——B——

LOUISIANA CAPITAL

The new officers that recently took over in the Louisiana Capital branch are; Arthur McDaniels, president; Mrs. J. B. Hubbs, vice-president; Mrs. Amy Reddy Rushing, secretary-treasurer, 4938 Annette St., Baton Rouge, La., Phone EL. 5-5541.

We welcome any correspondence with individuals of the ABS and will be happy to answer any questions about our branch.

MISSOURI

The day of our April meeting was like spring should be in Missouri," writes our correspondent, Mrs. R. H. Hyatt, who reports a very pleasant meeting, with nine members present. Mrs. Mary Wood gave a talk on tuberous begonias. We hope to hear more from this group through Mrs. Amy Breshears, their nomenclature speaker.

——B——

NEW ENGLAND

A round table discussion of begonias and unusual plants was held at the last meeting of the New England branch. Joy Loyce Martin told of her experience with some of the larger begonias in the greenhouse, and Orpha Fox about the cane types in her home. Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury told of the Rhode Island branch that is to be started, which was exciting news for the members. Following the meeting the Wyman nursery greenhouses were visited and several also went on to the Butterworth orchid houses.

——B——

PHILOBEGONIA

Meeting the Philobegonia Branch met at the home of Mrs. Ann Hofstatter with an attendance of twelve. Our lesson was an interesting one. We took flowers apart and looked at them through the magnifing glass. Our program chairman Ruth Allen had a microscope and as we looked through that we were amazed at the wonders of nature. We are planning a trip to Mrs. Ballards in Chestnut Hill, she has greenhouses and grows begonias. We expect to visit her on the Twenty-fifth of April.

Our first lesson on plant structure, covered the leaves. We learned that Begonia leaves are alternate, usually simple (rarely palmately compound), petioled, and usually two ranked.

In our following lesson on plant struc-

ture, we studied the flower. Applying this to Begonias, we learned that Begonia plants are monoecious. Their flowers are incomplete, imperfect, and they may be either regular or irregular. Their perianth parts are free from union with each other.

Continuing our study of the flower, and applying our lesson to Begonias we found that the begonia androecium consists of many stamens, free, or sometimes briefly connate at the base. The begonia gynoecium is three carpelled (usually), and syncarpous. The inferior ovary is three loculed (usually), with axile placentation, having many ovules on the intruding placentae. Female flowers are epigynous.

The next two or three months will be devoted to dissecting various flowers from our gardens in order to fully understand the lessons we have had and to see more clearly how the Begonia flower differs from the flowers of other plant families.

——B——

RHODE ISLAND

The RHODE ISLAND BRANCH of The American Begonia Society held their First regular meeting at Daly's Gardens, Route 3, Coventry, Saturday May 3rd with the Election of Officers.

They were:

Pres: Mrs. Virginia Withee, Coventry Centre; V-Pres: Mrs. Earl Harrington, Edgewood; Sec: Mrs. Geraldine Daly, Coventry; Treas: Mr. John J. Grady, Providence; Rep. Dir. to the Nat. Board of the Am Beg. Soc.: Mrs. John McShane, Fiskeville.

CHARTER MEMBERS: Mrs. Walter Brown, No. Providence; Mrs. Gerald Coxe, Warwick Neck; Mrs. Geraldine Daly, Coventry; Mrs. C. B. Decatur, Warwick; Mr. John J. Grady, Providence; Mrs. Elsie Hughes, Coventry Centre; Mrs. Bertha Hahn, Warwick; Mrs. Carl Harrington, Edgewood; Miss Ruth Harrington, Providence; Mrs. William Moody, Warwick Neck;; Mrs. John McShane, Fiskeville; Mrs. Ralph Olney, Coventry; Mrs. Rudolph Pearson, Warwick Neck; Mrs. Arthur Sisson, Edgewood; Mrs. Virginia Withee, Coventry Centre; Mr. Howard Withee, Coventry Centre.

Out of town guests were: Mrs. Nancy Alvord, Pres. of The New England Branch of the Am. Begonia Soc., and Mrs. Jeannette Kingsbury, No Eastern Chairman Public Relations of Am. Beg Soc.

Guest speaker was Stuart Bastow of Pawtucket R. L., and member of New Eng. Branch, he spoke and showed slides on Tuberous Begonias. The slides were very beautiful, and with his keen sense of humor and interesting talk it was greatly enjoyed. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Gerald Coxe, Warwick Neck, hoping that it will be a fair day so that the meeting can be held in the garden. We will have a general discussion on Begonias each member to bring a plant if they wish that is interesting.

——B——

SACRAMENTO

Roland Wise from the California Spray Chemical showed the film, "How to Grow Beautiful Fuchsias and Begonias." The first section of the movie dealt with Fuchsias, the proper type for your specific scheme and proceeds with proper care, repotting, feeding and spraying to control insect and fungous pests. The second part on growing Begonias shows step-by-step scenes from starting tubers, through rotting, transplanting and maturity. Importance of snail and slug control was also covered.

——B——

SAN FRANCISCO

The key speakers of the May meeting were drawn from our own membership, and they devoted a good portion of the program to a panel discussion on begonia culture. The panel was comprised of Hyacinth Smith, Jim Miller, Carl Pehrson, George Kuthe, Carl Meyer, and Art Boissier.

Orris Martin sounded the keynote for our April meeting; as he entered the hall, he was heard to say, "Anyone coming out tonight should have his head examined."

Well, there were 45 of us who underwent cranial scrutiny and in spite of the torrential rains, we had an enjoyable evening. Mr. Kelley gave us some excellent pointers on bringing plants into the home, and original approaches to plant arrangements. We wish to thank Beth Sackman for some practical pointers on the pruning of fibrous plants. Our thanks, also, to Art Mann for some tubers which he donated to our newer members. After the usual toothsome refreshments, we all donned our waterwings and swam home.

——B——

SAN GABRIEL

"Begonias are Easy to Grow" was presented by Rowland A. Maddox to the San Gabriel Valley branch on April 23. Mr. Maddox is senior entomology laboratory technician at the University of California, Riverside Experimental Agricultural Experiment Station. He also has had charge of greenhouses and is a landscaper. An interesting experience in this field was the landscaping of a French fort in Africa during the war. With the help of two Arabs, he carried out this landscape project using the native plants, bulbs and oleander.

In Maddox' department of the experiment station, work is done on the insect pests such as thrip, and soft and armored scale. Test boxes are made of a wood frame which is covered with either cloth or screen. Into these isolation boxes various species of insects are placed with specific plants to study the damage to the plant and the growth habits of the insect. The insects are then subjected to tests of different spray material where the toxicidity of the insecticide is studied with relation to the kill and length of the time the spray is effective. The plant is tested separately to find its reaction to an insectide. Effective control measures are then determined in field tests. Citrus, alfalfa, cotton and garden truck are used in the field test of an insectide. Insects are smarter than people as they build up quickly an immunity to certain insecticides.

In Memoriam

The Ventura Branch of the American Begonia Society lost one of its most beloved members on April 16. Herman Weitz was truly a fine example of what a member should be to an organization. Always present and on time, ready to pinch-hit if the speaker didn't arrive, always ready to do whatever chores there were to be done and always bringing more than his share of plants for door prizes or the plant table. Never uttered an unkind word, always ready to create peace. His fund of knowledge in the plant world was deep and understanding and he never stinted in giving of this knowledge; and ever eager to learn more. We will feel his loss tremendously. He was well known for giving many lectures, and visiting the various branches.

Mr. Weitz and his wife organized Theodosa Burr Shepherd Branch in May of 1937, she being its first president and Mr. Weitz the second. They were instrumental in organizing many branches throughout California.

Calendar

June 9, 10, 11—Ventura Branch — Flower Show in conjunction with Auto Show.

June 14—Competitive Flower Show, San Gabriel Valley Branch, Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia. Potluck-50c. Proceeds, Arboretum Glasshouse.

June 28-29 — Annual Fuchsia Show, Long Beach Municipal Auditorium.

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Seed, Seedlings and Hybrids

(Continued From Page 130)

wholly preformed, but a larger corm means more and larger flowers therefore plants must be cared for after flowering to develop larger corms.

Besides gladiolus other examples of cormous plants are crocus, freesias, and cyclamens.

Tubers are also modified stems. An excellent example is the potatoe, and other examples are begonias and gloxinias. Something that is not a tuber is a dahlia.

On a tuber, as on a stem, there are a number of eyes or growth buds. When conditions are right several or all of these growth buds will grow. We utilize this in the potatoe by cutting it up and growing several plants from one tuber. In tuberous begonias we cut all but one shoot so the strength of the plant is not divided between several stems. . .

The dahlia is actually a tuberous root. In order for it to produce a shoot it must have a piece of the stem left on it. If the narrow neck that attaches the stem to the tuber is broken the tuber is useless as it cannot grow shoots.

The final catagory of bulbous plants to be considered here are rhizomes. Bearded iris, cannas, and—f o r g i v e me—devil grass, are all examples of rhizomatous plants. Here again we find a modified stem. It has not become completely bulbous but does contain a lot of starch and therefore allows the plant to c a r r y through a period of little or no water.

This is, of course, the main reason that bulbs came about. Annual plants solve the problem of going through a period of bad weather, be it drought or cold, by producing seed and then dying.

But when the better times do come it takes time for the seedlings to grow and develop. The bulbous plants with a large supply of food already stored up are ready to start growing with all the stops pulled out. Thus they have made a unique and successful adjustment in the age old battle of survival in nature.

We humans utilize them to make a rapid showing in the garden because they grow so much larger and faster than do most of the plants that must be raised from seed. We utilize their stored up energy in another way too, as for example, potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, garlic, and so on.

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