



Newsletter Editor :
Mrs. M. H. B. EVANS
THE DENE - HOOLE ROAD
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The National Cactus & Succulent Society

NEWSLETTER

We offer our deep sympathy to our Chairman, Mr. J. H. V. Hampshire in the great loss that he has sustained. To those of us who knew Mrs. Hampshire, she was an inspiration, her knowledge and love of succulent plants enriched all those who came in contact with her.

HARRISIA MARTINII

We are amused that his beautiful night flowering *Cereus* should be described as "a wicked thing, a nightmare pest." It was first introduced into Queensland as a pot plant but has now over-run vast areas of the State's out-back. The Queensland Government has spent about £200,000 since 1951 in vain attempts to check its spread.

IN THE NEWS

Mr. J. Measures who writes "Cactus Corner" and illustrates it with some fine photographs in "Garden News" is a member of Northamptonshire Branch.

Mr. David Paterson of Nuneaton is writing a series of articles for "The Greenhouse."

EUPHORBIA MELOFORMIS

In the September, 1958 issue, some members may have noticed that Mrs. Ingham's plant was wrongly named; it should have been *Euphorbia meloformis*. I am grateful to Mr. R. A. Dyer, Chief Division of Botany, Pretoria, South Africa, for bringing this to my notice and for his reference to the habitat of this plant. Mr. Dyer says that the plant Mrs. Ingham is holding approaches very closely to forms of *E. valida*, N.E. Brown. *E. meloformis* forms clusters while *E. valida* makes a much larger plant. The obvious difference is one of size which makes it all the more difficult for amateur growers. I have had these two plants for some years; the *E. meloformis* has made a large cluster while the *E. valida* is still a solitary head. Many thanks to Mr. Dyer for his help—we look forward to hearing from him again.

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

Birmingham Branch will hold their Annual Exhibition at the Botanical Gardens on Saturday, June 6th. All friends from other Branches will be welcome. There is good coach accommodation and there are restaurant facilities. Any special parties could reserve tables if application were made to the Curator, Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16.

Chester Branch will hold their Annual Show on Saturday, May 9th in St. Peter's Hall, Hamilton Place, Chester. Members and entries from other Branches are invited. Mr. Ginns will judge.

Northamptonshire Branch will hold a Show and Exhibition at the George Hotel, Kettering, on June 12th and 13th. They look forward to renewing old friendships with members from other Branches and to making new ones. Branch parties will be assured of a warm welcome.

Leicester. Branch will hold their Annual Show on June 18th, 19th and 20th at the Adult Education Centre, Belvoir Street, Leicester.

Portsmouth will stage a Branch Display at the Portsmouth Horticultural Society Spring Show, South Parade Pier, on April 8th and 9th, and again on August 3rd, 4th and 5th at City Floral Fete and Fayre, Castle Field, Southsea.

A NEW BRANCH

Another new Branch to be known as Teeside Branch was inaugurated by Mr. K. Robinson of Manchester, on October 17th, 1958. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. T. Lavender, 62, Finchale Avenue, Billingham, Co. Durham.

CHANGES OF BRANCH HON. SECRETARIES

SHEFFIELD : Mr. L. Sewerd, 38, Cardoness Road, Crosspool, Sheffield 10.

NEWCASTLE : Miss O. J. Webb, 2, Norma Crescent, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

BERKHAMSTED : Mr. J. Healing, Rumbolds, New Road, Chipperfield, Herts.

MANCHESTER : Mr. Frank W. Otway-Smith, 71, Ainsford Road, Withington, Manchester.

POOLE and EAST DORSET : Dr. H. G. Stubbings, M.A., 9, Overbury Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

LUTON : Mr. C. F. Feetham, 5, Richard Street, Dunstable, Beds.

PORTADOWN : Miss C. Lutton, Cherryville, Tartaraghan, Portadown, N.I.

LEEDS : Miss M. W. Rowe, "Hilltop," The Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds, 17.

OXFORD : Mr. D. Candy and Miss D. Candy, 5, Burdell Avenue, Headington, Oxford.

AUSTRALIA

Mrs. Y. D. Blake, Jandowae, Queensland, Australia, would like to have a pen friendship with one of our English members. We feel sure that some of you will write to her and tell her about your own collections; she says she would love to pop in from the other side of the world and see yours. A wish, that she says can never be fulfilled, is to see our countryside in Springtime.

We all send our good wishes to Mrs. Blake and thank her for all the nice things she has said about our Journal.

LEEK, STAFFORDSHIRE

Our eight members in Leek continue to work hard to increase our membership. At a recent Show they were interviewed by a reporter from the local newspaper. Later they had a 5 in. column entirely devoted to explaining that the main reason for the Displays was to attract members and thereby form a Branch of their own.