



Newsletter Editor :
Mrs. M. H. B. EVANS
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The National Cactus & Succulent Society

NEWSLETTER

On October 4th the Officials of the London Branch organised a meeting at Caxton Hall, so that Secretaries of branches could get to know one another and have a sense of belonging to a Society in which people are interested all over the world. The following members were present:—

	Branch
Miss W. E. Dunn	London
Mr. W. Austin-Smith	Eltham
Mr. P. Hills	Oxford
Mr. D. Nutt	Oxford
Mr. A. Smethurst	Wolverhampton
Mr. L. J. Parslow	Berkhampsted
Mr. P. J. Measures	Northampton
Mrs. P. J. Measures	Northampton
Mr. J. W. Bond	Sussex
Mr. P. C. Ryan	Tunbridge Wells
Mrs. A. Evans	Grimsby
Miss Brown	Grimsby
Mrs. M. J. Maret	Woking
Mr. W. Ruggles	S. E. Kent
Mr. S. Dedman	Godalming
Mr. A. Othen	Godalming
Mr. H. G. Stonley	London
Mr. I. F. Newman	London
Mrs. D. C. Richardson	Ipswich
Miss E. Aldridge	Luton
Mr. R. Strange	Basingstoke

Miss Dunn (Chairman) opened the proceedings at 2.30 p.m. with a welcome to all delegates. Mr. J. H. Hampshire sent a letter of apology for his absence and wished the meeting every success. Apologies for absence were also received from Messrs. Walker (Abingdon), Petty (Croydon), Thompson (Southampton), W. A. Miles (Stoke-on-Trent), E. Curphy (Portsmouth) and Miss Messer (Harpenden). Members introduced themselves and Mr. Strange of Basingstoke was specially mentioned as the member who gave us the idea of having such a meeting.

Discussion followed on various matters, including raising funds at Branch meetings, the Journal and News Letter, and Membership figures. It was generally felt by all, that it would be an excellent idea if we could have a week-end convention, and thereby meet the officials of the Society, and members of other branches.

Thanks are due to all who attended, and it is sincerely hoped that we shall meet again at the A.G.M. at Nottingham on 18th April 1959.

May we wish all our members a Happy Xmas and a New Year blest with more Sunshine than the last. We are fully conscious of the amount of work hundreds of members have put into Shows and Exhibits all over the country. We thank them very sincerely and hope that their work will be rewarded by increased membership.

WOKING

A photograph of Mr. Lewis, Chairman of Woking Branch was published in the Woking Review, with a "write up" on his collection and the advantages of being a member of the N. C. & S. S. This article was also

copied in the Addlestone, Byfleet Review and so has great publicity in the district.

Matters of interest in any district should be sent to Mr. Hewlett our Press Officer.

ANOTHER NEW BRANCH

Tees-Side Branch was inaugurated on Oct. 17th. Mr. K. Robinson of Manchester was inaugural Officer. Members from Manchester Branch sent plants for a "Dutch" Auction to give a good send-off to Branch funds. Mr. Thompson of Darlington acted as Auctioneer, and Mr. Walker, Darlington Branch Hon. Sec. gave a short talk on Branch activities. The new Branch Hon. Sec. is Mr. T. Lavender, 62 Finchale Ave., Billingham.

MR. BULMER

It is with great regret that we announce the retirement of Mr. Bulmer, our Hon. Librarian. Mr. Bulmer has dispatched over 2,000 books since 1948, each with that little friendly note we have all enjoyed. He has also distributed over 140,000 packets of seeds and this enormous task he is going to continue. At the Executive Meeting in Manchester on Sept. 13th he was presented with a cheque for £25 as a small appreciation for all that he has done for us.

Mrs. Singleton is our new Hon. Librarian, her address is: Ridgmont, Esholt, Shipley, Yorks.

SOCIETY TROPHIES

Will all Hon. Secretaries please note that applications for Trophies must reach Mr. Donaldson before December 31st.

When returning Trophies please take care with the packing and register the parcel.

An additional Trophy, donated by M. H. B. Evans for 1 *Epiphyte*.

CROWTHORNE, BERKS.

Our thanks are due to Miss B. Sellwood and Mrs Bell who for the past two years have put up a display of Cacti and Succulents at the Annual Show of the Crowthorne, Finchampstead and St. Sebastian's Horticultural Society. This year the Horticultural Society had 3 classes for Succulents and interest in the District is growing. Miss Sellwood and Mrs. Bell are not attached to any Branch but they displayed a notice to say they were members of the N. C. & S. S.

STAPELIA VARIEGATA

Mrs. B. R. Farren sent us a photograph of her *Stapelia variegata* showing a four petal flower, (September Journal), Mr. C. P. Adkins tells us this is a common occurrence. Mr. Adkins has a *Stapelia gigantea* which has flowered a six petal flower, he would like to know if this is unusual. He says the flower measured 5½ inches across this is not large for a *Stapelia gigantea* flower, last week I saw one which measured 12½ inches across and the same plant had borne a 14 inch flower earlier in the season. Mr. Adkins is a member of Wisbech Branch, his address is 5 Craske Cottage, Terrington St. Clement, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.