



THE NATIONAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MANCHESTER BRANCH

EDITOR Mr. L. Nyman,
25, Broom Lane,
Salford. 7. LANCs

July 1966

Volume 1 No 4.

EDITORIAL

We are all deeply indebted to Mr. Colin Williams for his factual and lucid account of Professor Jacobsen's visit to us in Manchester recently. To those of us who were fortunate enough to be present at the meeting, we will now have this event recorded. To the less fortunate who were not there, they can at least know something of what they missed.

I cannot help particularly noting Professor Jacobsen's quotation in Mr. Williams article "The reason I write about my plants is because I wish to pass on information about them. Everyone knows something and should write it down, so that others may learn". How true this is, it is also the reason for this journal being in existence, and although this has been said before, regrettably our branch members are just not making the effort to supply this their journal with material. Many of us have surely got something to say about this hobby of ours. Why therefore can it not be put on paper for all of us to know about and digest. This does not require a literary genius but simple straightforward language in much the same way as you would be writing a letter to any friend.

If you consider the collection and study of Succulents worthwhile, then it must also be worth while to contribute to all the activities of the branch. Your committee is aware that there is a general apathy here in Manchester, we have 150 members and at our last meeting we had an attendance of 22, and even on the good days it is never more than 40. At our annual show recently although over all we had a good turnout this was due to the exhibits of 15 people. Your committee is devoting itself to increasing enthusiasm and general interest, but this cannot be a one sided affair. Our worthy chairman Mr. Partington who has also something to say on this topic elsewhere in this journal is attempting to start the ball rolling by inviting any branch member and their friends to view his collection on the 31st July. Everyone who has seen his plants will know that this visit will be worthwhile and those of you who haven't will certainly be in for a real treat. Do avail yourselves of this opportunity, it will be sad if this invitation is not accepted by as many of you as possible.

-o-o-o-o-0-o-o-o-o-

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

September 11th Summer outing to Wyck Hill Nurseries. Stow-on-the-Wold.

October 22nd Dr. K.V. Mortimer, Chairman N.C.S.S. The Cultivation of Difficult Succulents.

-o-o-o-o-0-o-o-o-o-

Visit of Dr. Hermann Jacobsen to Manchester on Saturday 7th May 1966.

by C. Williams.

When Mr. Nyman asked me to write an article describing the visit of Dr. Jacobsen, I wondered what I should write about. Having heard his lecture and had the pleasure of his company for the whole of Sunday, I still wonder what I should write about. Should I catalogue the slides he showed? Should I try to pass on the knowledge I gained whilst talking to this man? Should I write about his background in horticulture? I think the best I can do is to record his visit as it happened, writing about his lecture in some detail and following this with my general impressions of the man.

The story really starts on Monday 2nd May, 1966 with Mr. Partington telephoning me and in his inimitable way "suggesting" I might like to extend a certain amount of hospitality to Dr. Jacobsen. This I readily agreed to do, at the same time having a certain amount of apprehension, since I had never met the man before. Saturday the 7th May, 1966 arrived, the weather being hot and sunny. What did the week-end have in store for me? I arrived early at the meeting in order to be introduced to Dr. Jacobsen, and to have a few words with him before the meeting. My first impressions of him were that here was a very jovial man, obviously enjoying himself and very pleased with the reception which he had received on arriving in Manchester.

The hall filled, very slowly it seemed, with members and friends, all no doubt wondering what they would hear and see. On being introduced to the audience, Dr. Jacobsen gave a short introductory talk on his early career and on his previous visit to this country. Speaking in very good English he explained that his first visit to England was in 1936 as a guest of Mrs. Vera Higgins, and the Cactus and Succulent Society of Great Britain. His next visit was in 1949, when he was the first German lecturer in this country after the war. On that tour he visited Manchester and so for him, it was a renewal of old acquaintances. His interest in succulent plants began when he started work as a gardener. He chose the other succulents as his main study since Baceberg had already begun studying cacti and he, Dr. Jacobsen, wanted to plough a lone furrow. He began by collecting all the available literature on these plants and founded his personal library of books etc., which dealt exclusively with the other succulents. When he went to Kiel, he worked for Professor Schwantes, getting ready and arranging the plants required during the various lectures. It was around this time the Schwantes founded the collection of Mesembs. at Kiel and Dr. Jacobsen took a special interest in these plants, Professor Schwantes acting as his tutor. Work was started on developing the gardens at Kiel, Dr. Jacobsen arranging the layout of the whole garden, both outside and under glass. Plants were grouped together as in habitat, with various other plants being introduced in order to give a semblance of the natural conditions of growth; thus one finds amongst the South African Succulents such non-succulents as Gerberas and various other grasses; annual Crassulas are also grown so that there is always something of interest for the visitors, both botanists and non-botanists. The greenhouses cover 200 sq. m. (approx. 220 sq. yds.), all plants in them being planted out, no pots are used anywhere in the gardens, not even in the outside displays which are replanted every year.

The lecture proper was divided into two parts, the first covering the other succulents in general, the second part being exclusively plants from the family Mesembryanthemaceae. To me, out of all the slides shown I would pick out for special mention the following:-

Adenia pechuelii, the age plant being estimated at many hundreds of years; *Haworthia obtusa* v. *dielsiana*, which was a bright red plant, being shown in its resting period; *Senecio johnsonii*, shown as a habitat slide, these plants were very large, no small ones being found in the vicinity. Two plants from South America were shown as being of special interest. The first was a succulent *Oxalis* from Peru. In the first view of the plant, the branches carried what appeared to be leaves, but which were found to be the pedicels of the flowers, the petals etc. forming later. The second plant was a very curious relative of our native nettles, its name is *Pilea globosa*. The leaves as the name suggest, are globular and viewed from above have the normal green/red epidermis. When viewed from below it is found that the undersides of the leaves are transparent windows. Equally curious are the flowers, there are many red female flowers on the plant, and only a few white male flowers. As the pollen ripens, the flowers "explode" scattering the pollen over a wide area, thus fertilising the female flowers.

The second half of the lecture dealt exclusively with the Mesembs. Here we saw common, easily grown species such as *Oscularia deltoides*, *Faucaria* sp. etc. and the rare, difficult, highly succulent plants such as *Muiria hortensae*, *Mitrophyllum* sp. etc. Mention was made throughout of the cultivational aspects of the plants, in particular the various *Glottiphyllum* species. Here it was said that the water should only be given for three months of the year, the plants being kept dry and in full sun for the remainder of the year. One would then obtain specimens which look like the habitat plants. Of special interest were the slides of the seed capsules. These macrophotographs showed that there is hidden beauty in the plants if one would take the trouble to look.

At the end of the evening one came away over-whelmed with a vast amount of information which had been given out by Dr. Jacobsen in the course of two hours. Fortunately I was able to talk to him, question him, and consolidate much of the information the following day.

His supply of knowledge seemed never ending. Not only did we discuss succulent plants, and people he knew such as Schwantes, Bolus, N.E. Brown, etc., but he talked with equal authority on dendrology, on Alpine plants, and the natural flora of his homeland. A trip with him into the fells on the Sunday produced more information about the plants to be found on the roadside, in the fields, and in dry-stone walls, as well as stories of his collecting trips in the Alps. A second viewing of his slides in the evening produced comments and discussions. All too soon it was time to retire to bed.

The following day, having seen Dr. Jacobsen safely on his way to London, I looked back over the week-end to try to decide what I had learnt. I had learnt about cultivation, taxonomy and classification; I felt pleased with myself that I had shown him that it was possible to take leaf cuttings of *Fenestraria*, a bit of cultivation he had never seen or heard of before. But the one thing which has stuck in my mind ever since is his statement that "The reason that I write about my plants is that I wish to pass on information about them. Everyone knows something and should write it down so that everyone may learn". I am certain our editor would readily agree with this, and I

hope that by writing this account I have passed on my impressions of the man and some of the knowledge I gained from talking to him.

May I close by saying thank you to Dr. Jacobsen for so freely giving of his knowledge, and to the organisers of the trip for giving me the opportunity of having the pleasure of his company.

-o-o-o-O-o-o-o-

CRITICAL COMMENTS

by Ron Ginns

The question of composts for our plants leads to interminable arguments, each protagonist being convinced, as Mr. Boggide writes, that his is the best. I have come to the conclusion that the actual constituents of the compost are unimportant. The final mixture should be nutritious, retentive of some water whilst allowing free drainage. Both Mr. Innes and Mr. Lamb have large collections of well grown plants so, having unlimited supplies of leaf mould I follow their lead. As Mr. Boggide states that numbers of Adinias and Idrias are now available perhaps he will tell us where.

P.H. values are of course tied up with the composition of our composts but I fancy that most species of succulents will tolerate a fairly wide range of values. Thus Buxbaum advocates an acid compost although many cacti come from alkaline regions. I must query some of Mr. Taylor's statements. All Hydrogen ions are positive; Hydrogen in combination with Oxygen forms the Hydroxyl ion which is negative. This however does not conflict with the rest of his argument.

I think it was with Mr. Williams that I had an argument on repotting at a "brains trust" at a meeting of the Manchester Branch years ago. I take strong exception to his statement that only people with no practical experience who advocate the use of just moist compost for repotting. My father was a nurseryman and as a boy I helped with the potting of thousands of pelargoniums and other bedding plants. Just moist compost was always used. During dry weather we are always urged to water the ground before, rather than after, planting. Cacti being more tolerant than other plants to dry conditions, will doubtless put up with Mr. Williams methods but that doesn't mean that they wouldn't do better with the more conventional way. I must also query his method of simply tapping the base of the pot on the bench to settle the soil instead of firming lightly with the thumb. This is intended to bring all the rootlets into close contact with the soil. Probably the expression about "green fingers" refers to the ability of the person concerned to exert just the right pressure with the fingers when planting. I wonder whether Mr. Williams has ever tried his method with tomato seedlings and if so what results have been obtained.

I agree with Mr. Williams that Copiapos are more interesting as young plants when a wide variety of body colours are available. I have such a collection of imported mature plants reputed to be all different species but they all looked alike with the chalky-grey body of Copiapos cinerea.

I found that Leuchtenbergia principes gave no flowers until it was large enough for a 5" pot. Since then it has flowered regularly but not until August and September. Last year it flowered three times. I grow it in full sun, and here there is no industrial haze as in Lancashire.

For the benefit of Mrs. Bunyan I would state that my Eriocactus leninghausii first flowered when it was a foot high. It was offsetting freely before it flowered.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

A REPLY TO THE CHAIRMAN

by Ron Ginns

I am fully in agreement with everything that Mr. Partington wrote in his 'random jottings'. To take his last point first, some years ago an attempt was made to bring about an amalgamation of the two main societies, although it was not widely publicised. The attempt failed, mainly through jealousies in high places. As there are now new officials in both societies, another attempt in the near future might be more fruitful. I have heard similar opinions to those of Mr. Partington voiced in other parts of the country.

The question of the many small societies that continue to be formed in many parts of the country is somewhat different. The attitude of some people who cannot always have their own way is to break away and form their own society. They prefer to be a big fish in a small pond rather than a little fish in a big pond. By doing without the Journal they are able to cut the amount of the annual subscription and so get members. It is surprising how many people will spend a pound or more on tobacco, drink, pools, in a week, consider that a pound is too much to spend on an entrancing hobby in a whole year.

Whilst by no means advocating this, I wonder whether the solution could be found by adopting the American pattern of a federation of small societies, with a national journal.

Regarding the specialist societies such as the Mammillaria and the African Plant Societies, the reason for their existence is that the Journal, with such an enormous field to cover cannot adequately deal with everyone's interest. This could be overcome by having supplements to the Journal dealing exclusively with special genera or groups of genera but only sent to those members paying extra subscriptions, approximating to the subscriptions paid to the societies. This could be done with a considerable saving on administrative charges, postage etc. whilst the Journal with its supplements could become much more of an international force. There would be space for more scientific work which is necessary if the Journal is to receive world wide recognition.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

by C. Williams

The genus *Lophophora* is interesting in that it contains plants associated with the religion of Mexican Indians. The story of *L. Williamsii* is so well known that I will not repeat it here, sufficient to say that the plant contains fourteen different alkaloids, the chief one being meskalin. This drug is also contained in *Pelecyphora asselliformis*. The most frequently seen *Lophophora* is *L. Williamsii*; it is a slow growing very low plant which offsets freely. During winter, the plant feels very soft and inexperienced growers may think that rotting is taking place. However, the plant soon recovers when watering is commenced in the spring. *L. zieglerii* and *lewini* can be recognised from *williamsii* by the smaller number of areoles and ribs, the plant bodies of the former plants being green, whereas the plant body of the latter is a blue/grey colour.

The most common *Pelecyphora* is *P. asselliformis*. This plant is very distinctive in that the hatchet-shaped tubercles are covered in a spine formation resembling the appearance of a wood louse. The deep magenta coloured flowers are borne in the centre of the plant and are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. In age, the plant forms quite large clumps. Two other plants included in this genus are *P. pseudopectinata* and *P. valdeziana*. Both these plants have pectinate spines, the latter having a woolly look about itself. As with most plants the problem is not so much how to grow them, but where to obtain them. Sometimes confused with (and sometimes included in the same genus with) these plants, ~~the~~ *Solisia pectinata*. This plant is about 1" diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high. The spines are very pectinate (hence its specific name) the flowers appearing just below the top of the plant. As a very small seedling it is possible to confuse it with *mammillarias* and one case is known of it being on sale with a batch of *mammillarias*, a find indeed!

Amongst the spineless cacti is to be found *Astrophytum myriostigma*. This is quite common, along with its many varieties such as *potosina*, *quadricolor* etc. The more desirable plants however, are *A. asterias* and *A. capricorne senilis*. The former is very low growing, spineless, disc-like plant with rows of large felt-like areoles. The latter has a similar form to *A. ornatum*, but much longer spines, the spines forming a complete wiry covering to the plant. All the *Astrophytums* have thick tap roots, especially *A. asterias*; all require a dry winter rest and as much light as possible. During the summer they will stand a fair amount of water providing the compost is well drained and that they have as much sun as possible.

The genus *Wilcoxia* is not very well known amongst collectors, probably the only well known species being *W. schmollii*. All the *Wilcoxias* are similar in that all have a large "turnip" root from which grow the thin stems of the plant. The spines are placed very close together, completely covering the stem. The top growth has a habit of dying-back during winter, but provided the root is still sound new growth quickly develops. The flowers of these plants are surprisingly large when one considers the diameter of the stems. For example, *W. viperina* has a stem of about $\frac{3}{16}$ " diameter, and a red flower about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. My experience with these plants is that they require a dry winter rest and only small amounts of water in summer, the plants being placed in full sun.

Amongst the very close spined plants which are sought after are the Epithelanthae. This genus has a number of plants, All similar in habitat but with variations in spine formation. Consequently they have been moved backwards and forwards between specific and variental status. I personally would place them as varieties of the one plant, Epithelantha micromeris. Regardless of naming all the plants are very attractive, the individual heads being up to 2" in diameter; large clumps of upwards of 100 heads are, or have been available in this country. The spine formation varies from being fairly open in V.gregii to extremely close in the type plant. Full sun and a little over average water, with an open compost suits these plants. All of them are very slow growing.

Encephalocarpus strobiliformis is another plant in a monotypic genus. (It is amazing how many desirable plants are monotypic !) It is a slow growing small plant, looking like a flattened pine-cone (hence its name). I have two of these plants, one very flat with the overlapping flat tubercles grey-green in colour, whilst the second plant is much brighter in colour and is growing tall (relative that is to the more normal plant). Both get exactly the same treatment, full sun, lots of water in the summer, and a dry winter rest. I cannot account for the difference in behaviour between the two plants. Has anyone else seen this type of growth in this plant ?

The last three cacti I would like to mention before going on to other succulents are Toumeya, Navajoa and Pediocactus. No one seems to be certain of the place these plants hold, all three genera having come under much discussion during the past two or three years. In general these plants are fairly small, and about 1" in diameter by 2" high, and have a large tap root. They are particularly vulnerable to moisture around the neck of the plant, so a layer of coarse pebbles should be put at this point. Once established the plants are not very difficult to grow, requiring plenty of sun, a moderate amount of water in summer and a dry resting period. These plants, particularly P.paradinei, are difficult to acquire, and when available one has to be prepared to spend considerable sums of money. (In passing, for the less experienced members, it may be well to mention that the plants are sometimes seen under the generic name of Turbinocarpus).

to be continued

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

"IT SEEMS TO ME

(RANDOM JOTTINGS ...by YOUR CHAIRMAN)

AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE. It seems to me that my remarks in the last issue of "Cactivities" on the desirability of the two major Cactus & Succulent Societies getting together, have rather 'blown up' in my face ! Certainly when I penned those remarks I had no idea that 'Garden News' would, within a matter of weeks headline a proposal for the amalgamation of the two societies, and furthermore suggest that the amalgamation was already a foregone conclusion. The announcement would have been even more startling had there been any truth in it ! It is of course common knowledge that many members of both societies would welcome such a union with all its apparent benefits, but it is also true that there are many almost insurmountable financial and administrative difficulties.....

which are obviously more readily apparent to the officers, and executives committees of the societies concerned. Regrettably the time is not yet ripe for any such amalgamation which could only follow protracted discussion between the officials of both societies, and presumably a referendum of the members of both societies. Your National Executive has already denied any knowledge of the "Garden News" report and requested that they publish a retraction of the misleading headline. Meanwhile the private members of the society who were inadvisedly enough to make these overtures for the amalgamation, and irresponsible enough to leak the information to "Garden News", can look back at their handiwork secure in the knowledge that they have probably delayed any possible amalgamation by several years as a result of their activities.

A NEW AFFLICTION Whenever cactophiles foregather, the conversation eventually gets around to the subjects of pests and diseases. It seems timely therefore, that I should draw all our members attention to a new scourge which is rapidly gaining a foothold in Manchester and District. It is a highly contagious diseases that could if not checked result in the eventual slow, lingering death, not of your plants but of your BRANCH the name of this disease is APATHY. It has already gained a firm grip on many of our members, in a year in which your committee felt that they had prepared activities second to none, they have been disappointed and dismayed at the almost complete disinterest shown by the majority so far as branch activities are concerned. Let us look at our record so far this year:-

- (1) When an internationally famous speaker of Dr. Hermann Jacobsen's stature visited Manchester only 40 of the Branch's 140 odd members bothered to turn up. Had not 43 visitors from other branches and from the independent societies rallied round we should have had an embarrassingly small audience for our visiting celebrity.
- (11) Our much publicised and successful branch visit to the "Northern Area Show" in Leeds was run at a loss because only 15 people (mostly from the committee, felt it was worth 10/- for a day out in Leeds and the opportunity to see some of the finest plants growing in this country.
- (111) Our annual branch show presented a wide array of plants of good quality and a high standard of cultivation to anyone who visited the Milton Hall on Saturday June 11th, but the plants belong to a mere 14 of our 140 odd members (and one of those exhibitors only joined us the night before the show, he won an award, and jolly good luck to him!). I cannot believe that the other 120 odd members of our branch were ALL on holiday, or that ALL the plants of ALL the other members were ALL dead, and even if they were, surely more than 50 of our members could have spared the time, or should I say taken the trouble to visit the show. It is as a commentary on the present attitude of our members that as a result of the circular sent (30/- postage) to members appealing for help only two persons outside the committee gave any response to our appeal.
- (1V) For the branch meeting on the Saturday following the show, we had Mr. Roland Tyrrell (one of the most entertaining and well informed "characters" in our Society) to talk to us, and for this meeting the attendance on a summer evening reached the all time "low" of 20 people! Mr. Tyrrell did not appear to

be unduly "put-out" by this small audience (and in fact delighted them with his talk) but one could hardly blame him if he proves reluctant to journey from Rugby to Manchester again.

It is possible of course that all the foregoing complaints are unjustified. It is possible that your Officials and Committee are to blame. It is possible that the Branch is not providing the services that you require. With these possibilities in mind, and with the sole object of giving members the opportunity to let us know their precise requirements, we are enclosing a questionnaire in this issue of "Cactivities" and we IMPLORE each and every member to fill it in, and return it to me as soon as possible in order that the committee may analyse your replies and do something to stop the creeping apathy so obviously affecting our branch at the moment.

OPEN DAY Finally—and, I hope, on a happier note! I have recently erected a new and larger greenhouse (20' x 13') and consequently I now have room for one or two people as well as plants in my greenhouse. As talking with people of a like interest inside a greenhouse is one of the delights of our hobby, I feel that it may give me an opportunity to get to know some of our members better. I can never talk to everyone I want to, at a branch meeting. I am therefore arranging to have an OPEN DAY at my greenhouse on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 31st 1966 from 2. p.m. onwards. I have a collection of some 1,200 plants (plus a few odd plants for sale if anybody is interested) and my wife has agreed to provide light refreshments. If you would like to come along for a "natter" and da cuppa" I shall be delighted to welcome you, but if you do intend coming please fill in the slip enclosed at the foot of the questionnaire, in order that I may lay in sufficient supplies to oil the wheels of conversation.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

THE MISSING LINK ? ---- VENTILATION by M. Taylor

I have little doubt that in the last issue of "Cactivities", I upset a few cactophiles by suggesting that one should try a more acid compost. I still believe in this but even more important is the value of experiment, for the common good as for personal gain.

We are quite accustomed to reading articles on feeding, watering, light, acidity etc. the views of their protagonists and antagonists, but little about ventilation and its effects. Again a restricted experiment owing to shortage of material and to that extent inconclusive. The subjects of *Lobivia Wrightiana*.

Most text books agree that the *Lobivia* group being plants protected by dry grass etc. in habitat, do better in shade than in full light, as mature plants. Young offsets $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, barely rooted ought also to receive protection on account of their immaturity. It is also an established fact that light is a factor inhibiting or controlling the rate of growth. Two groups of plants were grown, in a garden frame with the top off, and another in the greenhouse shaded from the sun from approximately 11.30 a.m. to 3. p.m. Both groups were fed with Biopan, both in the same acid leaf mould based compost, and both plunged to the rim in spite of being in plastic pots.

Those in the garden frame were scarcely comparable with those in the greenhouse within twelve months. The former were $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - $1\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter with up to five flowers, those in the greenhouse only 1" and no sign of a bud! The former had larger, stronger spines and a healthy body colour, in fact the smaller greenhouse specimens looked somewhat lush by comparison.

The difference in cultivation were more light, a growth inhibiting factor and greater ventilation which would appear not only to remove the adverse effect of direct sunlight on growth, but also produce better all round characteristics. It would be of interest to hear whether anyone else has had this experience with cacti as opposed to other succulents.

My present view is that I must start redesigning my greenhouse to improve through ventilation rather than relying on top vents to syphon off the excess heat.

In the last issue I wrote on the value of pH in Cacticulture, in a moment of mental aberration I said that it was the positive ion which was magnetically attracted to the particle of clay. My apologies, it should of course be the negative ions which are attracted.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

MONTHLY CULTURAL NOTES

by The Editor

July Give plenty of fresh air when the weather is favourable. Greenhouse ventilators can be left open day and night. When the weather is hot, the plants will benefit by being syringed with tepid water in the evenings. Water frequently this month and keep a sharp look out for pests.

Echeverias, Pachyphytums, Sedums and Crassulas, propagate easily this month from leaf cuttings. Detach a few single leaves and place them in pots filled with sand--the leaves touching the sand, but not buried in it. Give partial shade until growth appears at the base of the plant, when the pot can be watered by immersing in tepid water. When plantlets appear, they can be potted on, leaving any remnant of the original leaf cutting attached. Euphorbia cuttings should, whenever possible be taken at the junction of a branch or section with the main stem. Sometimes if the cutting is given a quick dip into water, this will remove the latex which exudes, and stops the flow. Before setting, dry the cuttings thoroughly for two or three weeks in order that they may become well calloused. Bottom heat is helpful, for they may be slow to root. The base of the cutting should not be buried but should rest on the surface and to hold it in position use a small cane and tie the cutting to it.

The seedlings of the seeds sown in February may now require moving into 2" pots or transplanting into larger boxes.

August After flowering a short period of rest for a month is advisable for Epiphyllums. This is a good month to re-pot any plants requiring it. New shoots start to grow in late summer. Epiphyllums will benefit greatly placed outdoors now in shade.

During the resting period these plants absorb a very small amount of water through the roots, but they should never be allowed to get dry, neither should they be too wet.

Start watering Conophytums and Pleispilos, but not too much to start with. Towards the end of the month, cactus and other succulent plants should now be watered less frequently, but continue to give plenty of light and air in preparation for hardening them off for their winters rest. This does not apply to cuttings and seedlings which should be kept growing as long as possible.

September Early flowering plants such as Echinopsis and some of the Cerei should be re-potted early in September rather than in Spring, otherwise flower buds are apt to dry off. After re-potting do not water again for a few days in case of rot setting in because of possible damage to the roots. Many plants continue to make strong growth, and although we may still be having sunny days the nights are getting longer and cooler. Great care should therefore once more be exercised when watering. If the weather is dull and cool, reduce watering to about once a week. Avoid evening watering. Soon plants will be resting and it is necessary now to start preparing them for the winters rest. There are certain exceptions, Stapelias flower well in September and still require fair amounts of water. Kleinias, Senecios and Crassulas are at their best and need reasonable amounts as do Lithops and Conophytums.

At the end of this month bring any plants you may have in the garden or outside the window, back to the window-sill or greenhouse.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

BRANCH NEWS

CHANGE OF SECRETARY Will all members please note that as a result of his increasing business commitments Mr. Fitzjohn has found it necessary to resign his post as branch secretary with effect from a recent committee meeting. The committee accepted Mr. Fitzjohn's resignation with reluctance, and the chairman expressed the sincere thanks of all members of the branch to Mr. Fitzjohn for all his hard work and efficient service in the unspectacular but onerous job of organising our activities.

Mrs. A.K.H. Davison of 17, ROYSTON ROAD, DAVYHULME. M/C phone (URMSTON) 7197 has been prevailed upon to undertake the duties of secretary, and from now on all correspondence etc should be forwarded to her at the above address.

GOING - OR GONE ? Consequent upon his appointment to a post in Canada, Dr. & Mrs. Beare will either be going, or have already gone from our shores by the time you read this.

Dr. & Mrs. Beare have been prominent members of our branch for a number of years, and we shall particularly miss their entries on the show bench. We do, however, wish them every success and happiness in their new home and at the same time would like to express our thanks to Mrs. Beare for the gift of a set of several years issues of Lamb's Notes on the "EXOTIC COLLECTION" and several issues of "SUCCULENTARUM JAPONIA" to the branch library.

CONGRATULATIONS Keith Lewis our Librarian, informs us that he has recently become a "Daddy" we are always pleased to receive reports of 100% germination, and send our hearty congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Lewis on the birth of their daughter.

BRANCH LIBRARY Books listed below are very much overdue and should be returned as soon as possible so that they may be made available to other members.

Cacti and Other Succulents by R. Ginns

A Handbook of Succulent Plants. VOL 1. by H. Jacobsen

Stapeliads in Cultivation. by E. Lamb

Cactus From Seed The Easy Way by. E. Lamb

Cacti for Decoration. by V. Higgins

-o-o-o-O-o-o-o-

The one item in our programme where the general apathy within the Branch is not evident is the ANNUAL OUTING.

I had already arranged for a 41 seater coach but, within a few days of my sending out the application forms, 49 seats had been requested, necessitating the hiring of a larger coach. This, incidentally, was a 49 seater and was the largest the coach proprietors could provide.

Since then 7 late requests have been made but, regrettably, these have had to be returned to the senders.

Last year there were 41 members in the party, and this was an improvement on previous Outings; but this year the 49 members will form the largest contingent from the Branch for many years.

So, at this rate, maybe next year we'll need TWO coaches ? ? ?

As no further notice will be given, will all concerned please note that the coach will leave Aytoun St. (off Portland St.) at 9 a.m. SUNDAY, SEPT. 11 th.

A. A. Fitzjohn.