



THE NATIONAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MANCHESTER BRANCH

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EDITORIAL

It is to be hoped that 1967 will be an eventful and successful year for us in Manchester. It has already got off to a good start, we had our first mid week meeting on January 11th when we were treated to a most interesting slide show given by Mr. Cowgill of Ecclesfield. The meeting was well attended and this was encouraging.

It would appear that some of us have had disturbing losses of plants so far this winter, and this has also been my own experience. The general opinion is that the autumn and winter have been excessively damp. The autumn in particular did not allow new growth to ripen and plants to dry out, and the continuing damp weather made the situation worse. The temperature also has been generally high and therefore we have mistakenly not used our heating appliances, or used them insufficiently for fear that the temperature in the greenhouse would go too high. On reflection, I think faced with the sort of problem that we get in this part of the world with the weather, we have to choose the lesser of the two evils. The first essential therefore is to keep the greenhouse dry, even if we have to maintain a higher temperature than that which is desirable. We must also not forget to take every single opportunity of letting air into the greenhouse. On dry days do not lose the opportunity of opening windows even if it just for an hour or so get the air moving inside the greenhouse, this is your best way to minimise losses.

I am sure everybody will sympathise with Mr. Gaulton (see, "The Problems Of Space"). Who among us has not had the problem of insufficient space in the greenhouse, and the tantalizing problem of wanting to acquire more plants and no place to put them. How we envy the large greenhouse that we sometimes see on our travels which appears to be empty, and the thoughts that start running riot in our minds when we dream of how we would like to fill it, only to come back to earth again when we realize we are driving on the wrong side of the road. There is no answer to the problem, but let me take the opportunity of warning all unsuspecting beginners, it will also happen to you. You may think you are immune to this but let me assure you that unnoticed it will creep up on you.

The moral of all this is when you are setting up a new home the first and most important thing to do is to inspect the garden. Normal people like to visualise where the furniture should go in the house, but we are condemned to planning the position of the succession of greenhouses we would like to see going up over the years. Cactophiles console yourselves, you cannot extricate yourselves from this destiny.

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PLANTS AND SHADE

by C. Williams.

In all greenhouses, even those in the middle of an open field, there is a shady portion. This may be under the bench, under a shelf, next to the electricity supply panel or some such place. These shady areas are looked upon by some people as areas to be avoided or at best to be tolerated; other people consider them as useful portions of the greenhouse. In this article, I wish to show you how useful these areas can be, and to draw your attention to some of the plants which can be grown there.

Not all plants like to be grown in full sun. This is evidence by scorching on leaves, stems turning reddish-brown, or plants just refusing to grow. As a general sort of guide, and it is very general, plants having close spination prefer full sun, these plants having few spines prefer some shade. Experience quickly tells you which plants can be grown successfully in full sun and those which are best in deep shade, but there are innumerable plants which prefer something in between. For example, *Echinocactus grusonii*, likes full sun, the *Epiphyllums* grow best under the bench, but *Echinofossulocactus* (*Stenocactus*) *lamellosus* likes a fair amount of sun during the day but also appreciates a little shade. This seems to be a contradiction in terms but the situation can be resolved by arranging the plants on the bench so that the type of plants mentioned is shaded by a bigger plant for a portion of the day. Experiment with the lay-out of your plants and you will quickly discover the positions in which they grow best. By using this technique of "natural" shading one need not apply shading to the outside of the greenhouse. word of warning though, check the plants frequently to make sure they are not getting etiolated.

Many of the *Gymnocalyciums* fall into the above category. *G. mihanovichii* turns a deep red colour if put in full sun; growth remains stunted, but the plant quickly recovers if placed in more shady place. Over the years, I have come to the conclusion that if you want growth in plants, then they must be shaded; if on the other hand you want highly coloured plants (and I am now thinking of some of the *Haworthias*, *Mesemb*s, *Sedums*, etc) then they must be grown in full sun with very little water. One can grow plants in deep shade without getting them drawn provided you do not try to make them grow too fast. A tray of *Haworthias tesellata* which I have under the staging receive water about five times a year (pure neglect on my part) and the plants are a mahogany colour. Only one plant in the box has flowered. I am growing one plant of *H. tesellata* immediately under a *Pereskia* bush; the plant is dark green, no evidence of getting drawn and it has sent up three flower stems this year.

Agave stricta and *A. parviflora* are two more plants which I have found grow better under shady conditions than in full light. Two more plants which do better with the root-stock in quite heavy shade are *Testudinaria elephantipes* and *Fockea crispa*. What I would suggest here is that the top growth should be allowed to climb up into full light. At present I am trying to find the best place to grow *Leuchtenbergia principis*. A mature plant appears to be quite happy in partial shade, but a seedling has shown no growth in over five years even though it has been in full sun, partial shade, and at present in full shade. On balance I would say that it is happiest in partial shade, but I may have a full answer in about two year's time.

I am finding by this process of using natural shade that many plants which the book say should have full sun, in fact grow better when given shade during part of the day. A plant which immediately springs to mind is *Monanthes atlantica*. In full sun the plant flowers well, but the leaves are small and withered looking, the plant not growing very fast. In a more shady position, the leaves are larger and dark green, flowers are produced abundantly and the plant grows new stems quite freely.

As I have already said, by adjusting the amount of water given to a plant in a shady place, good compact growth can be obtained without any signs of etiolation. Therefore, one is able to get the amount of growth required one year, and if so desired grow it in a more open position and get colouration the following year.

Why not give this method a try? You will find that not only epiphytic plants can be grown under the staging or in the shady corner. An added advantage of this method is that because plants are being found new places in the greenhouse the plants get examined more frequently and so epidemics of mealy-bugs etc. are prevented.

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POTTERING ROUND THE GREENHOUSE

by H. Middleditch

The middle of January can be a time when there is very little activity in the greenhouse, both on the part of the plants and their owners. This will be especially so if watering is discontinued in autumn and practically none given until the following spring.

This was the system I adopted in my own greenhouse until three or four years ago, when the acquisition of one or two stemiform and caudiciform succulents necessitated the judicious application of water during the winter months.

About this time I paid a visit to Bill Putnam in Croyden, to find him sporting a very nicely grown plant of *Crassula portulacea* (often called *Crassula argenta*) carrying numerous flower heads, a sight I had never seen before that date. When asked how he produced such an uncommon performance, he quite cheerfully waved his hand and observed that his plant did that every year.

After recovering from the surprise of this back home, I decided to try giving my own *Crassula portulacea* some encouragement by watering it in winter at the same time as my stemiform *Cotyledons*, low and behold. Next winter came along and with it quite a number of flower heads on the plant. At the same time, water was given to *Crassula* "Blue Bird", acquired on our 1963 continental cactus tour on the occasion of our visit to "Succulenta" at Wageningen. This gave a very fine display of flower and has continued to do so every winter. The first flower of 1967 came out in the middle of January and it will continue to flower for five or six weeks. *Crassula* "Tom Thumb" obtained with "Blue Bird" is also a very reliable winter flowerer,

the top of the plant being almost completely covered by a mat of dainty white flowers. This comes out into flower very early in December and continues in flower for six to eight weeks.

Crassula marnieriana, named after Marnier-Lapostolle, the French collector with the largest private collection of succulent plants in Europe, was originally a welcome cutting from Mr. C. Scott, our ex society secretary. This is a nice neat looking plant, which is in flower about the same time as "Tom Thumb". It is still fairly uncommon in the north-east, but much less so now that I have been able to take cuttings.

Rather more years ago than I care to remember, my wife and I paid a visit to the Society's No. 1. Member, at Shipley, Albert Baynes. At the time we had only a few plants on a window sill, but we left Mr. Baynes full of good advice and better off by at least a dozen leaf cuttings. One of these was a leaf of *Adromischus mammillaris*, over the course of several years the one leaf slowly became two, then three, and finally after a hard struggle, four. So much did I have to show for perhaps fifteen years cultivation.

One autumn, two or three years ago, some water found its way to this *Adromischus*, by mistake, my first indication of this was when I suddenly found it growing. With some trepidation I deliberately gave it a little more water for a month or two, later finding I could be much more liberal. After two winters of this kind of treatment, it is now almost a semi shrub, about 8" high and 10" across.

An even bigger shock was in store in autumn 1965, when one of my *Adromichus* actually flowered. Needless to say, the first person I found to tell this wondrous news immediately informed me that he had had a dozen or so *Adromischus* and they all flowered every year.

This success encouraged trials with further *Adromischus* and at the time of writing (mid January) *A. cooperi*, *festivus*, *kubisensis*, *grandiflorens*, *marianae*, *roanensis*, *maculatus*, and *mammillaris* are in bud or in flower. The very mild weather probably accounts for the current activity, for the late autumn or early spring would seem to be the more usual flowering time for *Adromischus*.

The mistake of dribbling water over plants one did not intend to, in winter, can have rather surprising results. I have now found my *Cleistocactus* like to grow in winter, new shoots proceed apace at this time of the year. My *C. strausii* has acquired a third limb, which from first appearance in the late summer of 1965, is now 2' high. Many other South American columnar plants, to some of which I cannot even put a genus are also growing quite well through the winter.

This winter I have tried watering many *Mammillaria*: my *M. parkinsonii* is showing some determination to grow for the first time for years (yes, I have watered it before . but not in winter) *M. surculosa* is producing one or two fruits, which are almost emerald green when new, rapidly turning a dirty yellow-green. An unlabelled *Mammillaria* which looks like *M. woodsii* is producing four cornered club shaped, bright deep pink fruits, which seem to appear full size one day, or is it perhaps that one glances round the greenhouse too quickly?

M.schiedana has produced four or five long, thin, scarlett red fruits. This plant had the growing tip nibbled by mice last winter, after which it broke away and now has three heads. One of these has now lost its growing tip as well, evidently to a snail. Any ideas for converting a mouse-trap for catching snails will now be very welcome!

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UNCOMMON SUCCULENTS

by L.E. Newton.

It is with considerable pride that the greenhouse owner points to his choicest plant and says to his visitor 'This is quite an uncommon species'. The joy of possessing a rare species. It is surprising, however, to find that the majority of growers make little effort to seek the rarer succulents. This statement is based on my observations in Branch Shows (including monthly Table Shows) and collections, made during my journeys to various parts of the country as guest speaker for Branches.

There are probably about 10,000 species of succulent plants (including cacti). In the absence of a statistical survey I would estimate that fewer than 3,000 of these are commonly met in cultivation in this country. Thus there is a very wide field for the collector who wants something different.

What is an uncommon succulent?

The answer to this question depends mainly upon time. If you read the two volumes of 'The Cactus Journal', published in London at the end of the last century, you will read of great rarities such as Cerpegia woodii (now C. linearis spp. woodii) and Bowiea volubilis. In the early 1950's plants in genera such as Ariocarpus, Obregonia and Strombocactus were scarce and costly; to-day one can buy a good imported Ariocarpus for as little as 4/- Only a couple of years ago Ariocarpus agaveoides (formerly Neogomesia) was regarded as the rarest of the rare; to-day anyone with £1 to spare can own one.

The answer also depends upon the district. Among the few cactophiles who have really made an attempt to acquire uncommon plants is Dr. Keith Mortimer, the Society's Chairman. He has propagated and distributed many of his plants, and so a species normally regarded as quite uncommon may be seen in most collections in the Leeds area. Similarly, I have distributed a number of uncommon plants among the members of my own Branch of the Great Britain Society.

The uncommon plants fall into two categories. Firstly, there are the little-known species in the well-known genera, such as Aloe and Euphorbia. The smaller Aloe species in particular are very attractive, free flowering, and easy to grow. In my lecture to the Branch in April I tried to emphasise the charm of many of the miniature Opuntias. Secondly, there are many genera which are not normally represented in collections, so that their names are unfamiliar. These include especially the caudiciform plants, i.e. those with a large perennial stump from which annual shoots arise with leaves and flowers. If you have never examined Dr. Jacobsen's 'Handbook of Succulent Plants', borrow a copy from the Society's library - it will really open your eyes!

Why are these plants uncommon ?

I would suggest that there are three main reasons. Firstly, many are from inaccessible habitats and are rarely collected. If these plants are also difficult to propagate, the few collected plants will remain rare. An example is Fockea crispa, from South Africa. One plant discovered in 1795 was sent to the Schonbrunn Gardens Vienna (where it is still growing - the oldest known pot plant), but it would not set seed. It remained the only specimen in cultivation until 1906, when it was rediscovered by Dr. Karloth - who had been searching for it since 1833 ! Even to-day it is not very common, though I have found that it is very easy to grow.

A second reason is that some plants are extinct in the wild. A good example is Borzicactus malisoniorum (Submatucana for those who follow Backeberg). This remarkable plant, looking like a Lophophora with a papillose epidermis, was discovered by Paul Hutchison in a remote part of Peru in 1957. It is reported to be extinct at its type locality because of grazing goats. My own plant is slow growing, and so this species will possibly not be common for some years unless it proves to be prolific in flower and seed production.

The third reason is simply that some plants are difficult to grow, at least in normal greenhouse conditions. How many plants of Astrophytum asterias or Melocactus species have been imported, and lost during the following winter ? Raise the greenhouse temperature to a minimum of 60 deg.F. in winter and a Melocactus will be no problem. However, since few collectors are likely to do this such plants will probably remain uncommon in this country. I should add here that a polythene tent built on one end of the greenhouse staging enabled me to grow several touchy species for some years before I got around to having a hothouse built for them. Why not do the same ?

Where can one find these plants ?

Letters in the National Journal have complained that the commercial dealers in this country have very limited stocks of succulents. If plants need higher temperatures and more care in cultivation, who can blame the dealer for fighting shy of risking his money on keeping stocks of them ? Some uncommon species of Haworthia can be obtained from the S.P.I., but apart from this one must look overseas for sources of uncommon plants. Two good sources are the I.S.I. and the New Mexico Cactus Research. Many plants may be obtained through private correspondence with people in the countries of origin. Seek and ye shall find !

S.P.I. Succulent Plant Institute, 63, The Drive, Morden, Surrey.

I.S.I. International Succulent Institute, lists from Mr. N.E. Wilbraham,
7, Marlborough Drive, Tytherington, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

New Mexico Cactus Research, P.O. Box 787, Belen, New Mexico, U.S.A.

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DESIRABLE PLANTS 111

by C. Williams.

In the preceding two articles I dealt exclusively with cacti. In this final part I will try to bring one or two of the other succulents to growers attention. Much has been written in the past twelve months or so of the Madagascan succulents, such plants as the Pachypodiums, *Didierea* etc. I will not add my observations to those of other authors since a quick look through the last two or three M.C.S.S. Journals will present the reader with a fairly picture. Instead I will concentrate on plants which I find interesting and are to be found in some catalogues.

The first group which springs to mind is the family Euphorbiaceae. Do these really need any introduction? The succulent plants of the Euphorbiaceae are almost exclusively African in origin, coming mainly from the south. There are the stem succulent Euphorbias typified by *E. horrida* a beautiful blue-grey striped stem about 3" diameter and 12" high, freely sprouting from the base. The ribs are twisted round the stem and in common with many of the Euphorbias the flower stems remain as spines after the flowers die. Another interesting plant is *E. scheunlandii* which does not have ribs as such, but which has very flattened tubercles. This is a plant worth searching for, especially the mature specimen.

Euphorbia obesa is a plant well known to everyone, but how many have seen or acquired some of the interesting hybrids which are sometimes bred. One of the best I have seen is *E. obesa* x *E. bupleurifolia*. *Bupleurifolia* (or "Buppy" as it is sometimes affectionately called) has a corky stem formed from the remains of the leaf bases. The leaves are about 3-4 in. long, lanceolate in shape. The hybrid has smaller leaves on a globular body, having as one would expect the combined characteristics of the two parent plants. *Obesa* x *meloformis* has the body colouring of the *obesa* with the floral remains of the *meloformis*.

We will now move on to the *caput melusae* type of plant. These have a central stem from which radiate long thin stems. More attractive are the smaller growing plants *E. fusca* and *E. pugniformis*. The central stem on these plants is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter and the arms are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter by 1" long; *fusca* is globular in shape whereas *pugniformis* has a flattened top to its main stem.

There are of course many other Euphorbias about which one could write, for instance why not talk about *E. pulvinata*, why not *E. hislopii*, why not.....but one could go on like this for a large number of pages. Sufficient to say, the Euphorbias are all desirable.

The next group to be discussed is the stemless mesembs. Amongst these, I would single out *Muiria hortense* (anyone let me have one to replace mine?) as being the most difficult to obtain and keep. It is extremely succulent requiring very little water and as much sun as one could possibly give it. Following this plant, I would rate the *Monilaria* species. These are winter growing and require very careful treatment, otherwise they will soon rot. In general, I have found that with the mesembs. care in watering and attention to correct growing periods leads to success, the plants rewarding one with some very brightly coloured flowers.

Going now to particular plants, rather than groups of plants one thinks of Fockea crispa, a plant having a bulbous stem immediately above ground (a caudex) from which grow long thin stems. It does not seem to mind being watered in summer or winter, apparently not resting at any time of the year. Other plants in the caudiciform group are the Testudinarias, the one most commonly found being T. elephantipes. Again, this is a winter grower, requiring little of water and a shady position; placed under the foliage plants is an ideal place. The caudex grows fairly quickly, the top growth vines are up to 3' in length, form each year, drying off again at the end of the short growing period. I leave the majority of dead stems on the plants to act as a framework for the next years growth, this saves me having to make a cane framework for the vines to twist around.

One could continue writing about desirable plants for weeks. Mention could be made of Alluaudias, Fouquierias, Aloe polyphylla (a plant much in the news recently), some of the Agavaes, (for instance Agave parviflora), some of the Crassulas, for example Crassula mesembryanthemopsis, C. tecta etc. but time and space are running out.

If I have missed out your particular favourite, this may be because my personal taste does not coincide with yours, but I make no apologies for the plants I have mentioned. These are all plants which have given me pleasure both in finding and in growing, and I look to the time when I find, tucked away in some nursery or other, more desirable plants.

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CRITICAL COMMENTS

by Ron Ginns.

When I was an undergraduate at Manchester University there was a saying of which we were very proud. It ran "What Manchester thinks today London thinks tomorrow". After reading Mr. Taylor's comments on Grantley Hall I fancy this must now be modified to read "what Manchester thinks to-day Northamptonshire thought years ago". Unless of course when he writes about "this country" he is thinking of Strathclyde and not England.

Actually the first N.C.&S.S. week end was organised ten years ago at Kettering by the Northants branch. It was not residential but covered Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday with speakers of national standard, in case it is thought that being non residential puts it out of the running, in 1964 the Northants branch organised another residential course at Knuston Hall, an institution comparable with Grantley Hall. So I think I can claim that Northamptonshire took the lead with Cactus Weekends. Neither of these weekends were confined to Northants branch members.

I must thank Mr. Gaulton for the complimentary remarks about Desborough and the Kettering branch. Of course the meeting was small compared with Manchester's but our total membership including juniors and associates, is only 35. However the population of the area is only a tiny fraction of

that of the Manchester branch area. It will be noted that we are fortunate in not having to terminate the meeting at any fixed time like other branches have to. Only the need to catch infrequent buses to outlying villages led to the meeting closing at 10 o'clock.

I notice that Manchester members are in favour of visits to collections in private cars. May I suggest that some of you might like to make up a party to visit Desborough. Don't say its too far as I used to cycle from Desborough to Manchester. The stretch of the M.I. from Derby to Lutterworth has considerably shortened the distance since those days. You would be sure of a welcome, but do fix up the visit in good time. Our weekends in the summer get booked up very quickly.

One thing on which the Kettering branch prides itself is its magazine, now in its third year. Each issue contains 18 pages and it appears quarterly, price 1/-. Contributions are almost entirely from Kettering branch members.

May I point out to your editor that if he indulged in the other succulents as well as cacti he would find plenty of interest in the greenhouse in winter. On January 1st I counted 13 species of Echeveria in flower besides numerous Crassulas, and even some late Conophytums.

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I would like to know where Mr. Ginns got his information from that I didn't indulge in the other succulents? Whatever the source of this information, I am pleased to say it is a little inaccurate, of course I grow other succulents, but I just happen to have a larger collection of cacti. This is probably because the sources from which the better other succulent plants can be obtained are much more limited than they are for cacti.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ginns for his kind invitation to us in Manchester to visit him and we have already been in touch, and arrangements are being made.

The Editor.

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THE PROBLEMS OF SPACE

by H. Gaulton.

The Russian and American Astronauts have their problems about space, but they just don't compare with ours. My early collection very quickly grew too large to be housed on the window ledges, so I moved them into my tomato house on shelves, this arrangement looked real good in Spring but as the tomatoes grew the atmosphere got too humid and they got so big that the cactus and other succulents disappeared in the foliage. The next step was to build a house just for the collection. I made this during the winter and it was in use in early Spring. It was a very modest size 9' x 6' 6", and once the plants were installed somehow they looked lost in it. This I thought was the end of my problems and would suffice for the rest of my days, but the space problem overtook me before I had time to breath.

I had bought a number of plants, swapped some, and had a number of cuttings given to me, luring this time the early plants were growing and consuming more and more space. In addition to this I have been propagating, got trays and pots full of bits and pieces. The branch outings are very enjoyable but they don't help matters, in fact it aggravates the situation, I am always finding something that I want, and even at our meetings I always manage to go home with a pot or two.

After the staging was filled I put up a shelf then it was two shelves, and then to ease things I put suitable plants in hanging baskets, they looked better for it hanging from the centre of the greenhouse but there is a hazard. I always water these hanging plants last so that I can back out and leave them to drip. I usually get caught however, I invariably forget something go back into the greenhouse and get a dose of Dr. Buxbaums salts down my neck. In the summer my Zygocactus plants go out into the garden, when it comes to the autumn their space has become filled with other acquisitions and the situation then becomes impossible. At present the floor is covered with pots, boxes, and pans etc. There isn't even enough room to stand in discomfort.

I have about a dozen Epiphyllums which I have now taken to the place where I work. They stand on a window ledge 10' above floor level so that they are out of most peoples sight. I bring them home one at a time when they are in bud, I know it's a bit of a cheek but we have got to get over these problems somehow.

During the Christmas holidays I found I could no longer fight off the temptation to take the next fatal step. The bicycle shed had to go, and in its place a lean-to greenhouse would appear in its place. It's going to be 8' x 5' with a bench down one side, I am making it in sections in my back backroom which is now also my workroom. I am very proud of the jobs I do when they are completed, but inevitably I always see where improvements could have been made. It will be early Spring before I am able to start erecting it and I can't wait for that day.

Anybody who is thinking of building their own house is welcome to come and see mine. It may help to learn from my mistakes, I am not a joiner by trade and I have a lot to learn, but I am also not thinking of building any more greenhouses. This new house will be the end of my problems. Now I have to start thinking of how I am going to pay for the extra heating next winter, but the summer comes before the winter, and I'll worry about that when I get there. My address is 11, Milton Grove, Glebelands Road, Sale. you are welcome to come any time, but it would be advisable to let me know first.

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I have a feeling Mr. Gaulton that your problems that you feel you have solved are only of a temporary nature. Your lean-to will be filled quicker than you think, I'll see to that!

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The Editor.

THE NATIONAL SHOW 1967

The National Show will be in the City of Nottingham, this being the most central and easily accessible town in the British Isles.

The venue is the DRILL HALL, Derby Road, Nottingham. Here in the show-hall we have nearly 10,000 square feet of floor space of which about 700 square feet will be let for trade stands.

The Drill Hall is close to the City centre and is easily reached by car or public transport. The schedule will contain a sketch-map of the centre of Nottingham. Ample parking facilities are available in the hall grounds. Coaches or cars may be parked there.

We shall be sending you very shortly the schedule and other items relating to the National Show, but in the meantime we give here full details of the arrangements.

In case anyone should be under a misapprehension we wish to point out that this year's National Show is a special occasion. We do not plan to make it an annual event. It is many years since a National Show was held and we are confident that every Branch and every member will support it in all possible ways.

We have no doubt that this show will be an enormous success: a magnificent display of plants and a most enjoyable gathering of the entire Society. But at this stage, when we are forging ahead with all the preparations, we feel we should remind every member that the success we hope for depends upon the support of the entire Society. Coming down to brass tacks, a great deal of money has to be used to stage the show and to give it publicity. This is Society money: your money! If the show is successful there will be a good return for the outlay, both in terms of money and in new memberships. Let us all do everything to make it a success.

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"IT SEEMS TO ME....."

(Random Jottings by YOUR CHAIRMAN)

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN 1967

All Manchester Branch Members should by now have received their Membership Card and Syllabus of meetings for 1967 (assuming, of course, that they have remembered to pay their subscription for 1967!) - and will have noticed that we have arranged a number of monthly meetings on Wednesday evenings. Your Committee has taken this step as a direct result of the demand that came to light as a result of our questionnaire last year. Already we have held one Wednesday meeting and were most gratified by the comparatively good attendance of members. We shall, of course, be keeping a close watch on attendances at week-night meetings in order to decide whether such meetings are in the general interest and should be retained in future years.

There was a most definite demand for a further Northern Area Weekend to be held in 1967 from the delegates who attended the Northern Area Meeting held in Manchester last October. I am therefore pleased to be able to announce that such a weekend has been arranged to be held at Alston Hall, Longridge, Nr. Preston, commencing with dinner at 7.30 p.m. on Friday September 1st, until tea at 4 p.m. on Sunday September 3rd 1967. The approximate cost for the full weekend including board and accommodation will be £4. Details of the programme of speakers and events will be given at a later date, and an announcement will be made in the March issue of our National Journal, giving the address to which applications for attendance at the weekend should be made. I would however warn our Manchester members that accommodation at Alston Hall will be strictly limited to 38 people and they should make application immediately the announcement appears.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1967

May I remind everyone that we hold our annual general meeting at the Milton Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday March 11th 1967. When the programme for future activities will be discussed and the election of officers and committee will take place. All officers and entire committee tender their resignations each year, and if you wish to see new faces in any official capacity, the secretary will be delighted to receive nominations either before, or on the evening of the A.G.M. In this connection may I remind you that you should satisfy yourself that the person concerned is willing to stand for election before nominating him or her.

Your retiring committee has been greatly encouraged by the interest shown by many of our newer members, but somewhat disturbed by the apparent lack of interest shown by many of the society's long standing members. Although attendances at meetings has improved, it could and should be far higher. Another disturbing feature at the present time is the lack of complaints, and your committee would welcome suggestions and your helpful criticisms, we want to hear your views, and we want your active support. It is your duty to come to the A.G.M. when you have the opportunity to air your views, and perhaps be elected to help run things.

"Are you an active member,
the kind that would be missed ?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list ?

Do you attend our meetings
and mingle with the flock ?
Or do you just stay away
And criticise and knock ?

Come to meetings often
And help with mind and heart,
Don't be just a member;
But take an active part.

Having read this, stop and ponder,
For you know right from wrong
Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER,
Or do you just belong ?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forthcoming Meetings

Saturday March 11th Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday April 12th Mr. B. Fearn, B.Sc., Sheffield
"Mexican Journey."

Wednesday May 10th - Mr. C. Pitcher, Leeds.
"Cultivation of Rare Succulents."

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PLANTS FOR SALE

I have a large number of cacti for sale. There are many specimen and mature plants for the established collector, and also there are plants for the beginner. There are about 200 all told, and these are being disposed of because they are surplus to requirements, and they are going very cheaply, because like Mr. Gaulton I need the space. Anybody wishing to come and have a look would be under no obligation, but please let me know you are coming - telephone No. BRO 3150.

Mr. L. Nyman,
25, Broom Lane,
Salford, 7. Lancs.

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