SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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PLANT NUTRITION

By Dr. David Appleman,

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University of California at Los Angeles

(Digest of a talk given at the March 1946 meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society.)

I am deeply impressed with the display of color on the flower tables here tonight. But I am thinking of some other beauties—beauties of performance—beauties which only the best gardeners see, those who can judge the welfare of the plant by its looks.

A plant in its performance may be compared to the acrobat high above the circus crowd performing beautifully and rhythmatically. The molecules in the plant, particularly in the leaf, perform in a beautiful synchronous manner; the functions of which culminate in the production of the plant and its fruits.

If one analyzes the dry matter of a plant it is found that 98% of it is organic in nature, while the remaining 2% is inorganic. The 98% consists of Carbon, Hydrogen, and Oxygen—three substances which the plant obtains from the air and water, and Nitrogen, which it obtains from the soil. The 2% are the mineral constituents which the plant obtains from the soil. These are Calcium, Potassium, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Iron, Copper, Manganese, Boron, Zinc, and Molybdenum.

I should like to here distinguish between a plant food and a nutrient. Food is a substance that can yield energy, such as a sugar, fat, or protein. A nutrient is a substance which does not yield energy, but without which neither the plant nor the animal could obtain and assimilate energy from food.

The plant is the only organism which utilizes "'atomic energy." It obtains it from the sun and converts it, in the form of foods, into stored energy. This process, which is performed only by green plants, is called photosynthesis—that is, the synthesis of food materials with the aid of light. It is estimated that approximately one billion tons of food are produced daily by the plants on this planet.

In order to perform efficiently the plant requires other conditions besides light. These are: the mineral elements mentioned earlier, sufficient moisture, a suitable temperature and a sufficient supply of carbon dioxide.

There is another process—respiration—which is performed by all plant cells, regardless of whether they are green or not. This process is concerned with the breaking down of the stored food materials and thereby releasing the energy, in a usable form, for functions of the plant such as growth, absorption of elements, and reproduction.

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PLANT NUTRITION (Continued)

I should like to point out that although the process of absorption by the ro of the plant is not fully known, one thing is certain; and that is that the pl absorbs against the "gradient." This means that the plant absorbs substan from a very dilute solution and concentrates them within the cell sap. In or to accomplish this "uphill" process the plant has to expend energy. Anot condition for adequate absorption by plants is that the substance to be absor should be present in the soil in an available state. A plant does not absorb s stances at random—it absorbs selectively. For example, the Valonia Seaw found off the coast of Florida grows in water containing fifty times as mu Sodium as Potassium, still in the cell sap only Potassium is found, and that a concentration very much greater than in the sea water in which it grows. T does not mean, however, that a plant does not absorb substances toxic to it.

In connection with absorption I should like to dispel an old belief am some gardeners that a plant absorbs only at certain times—day or nig Actual experiments show that, other conditions being equal, absorption equally efficient in the dark or in the light. The conditions necessary for g absorption are that a plant should be in good health and should have a heal and extensive root system.(A single rye plant may have a root totaling 3 m in length and having a total surface of 7000 square feet.) A soil which restr root growth is therefore undesirable.

The importance of studying soils and their reactions is to be able to m them a suitable medium for proper root development. I have pointed out so of the complex processes that take place in a plant which indicate what a se

e organism a plant is and how easily it may be disturbed. The soil in which e plant grows is no less complex. It is not a dead thing—just dirt; on the con- ry, it is a well-organized and dynamic body. If you consider that a single bic centimeter of good soil may be inhabited by as many as 400 million bac- ia and in addition by hundreds of the organisms such as fungi, you would e at once that it is not an inert medium. Besides this, there are many inter- lated chemical reactions that are constantly taking place in the soil.

The water in the soil reflects to a large extent the dynamic state of the soil. lifornia soils, as a group, are generally high in soluble salts. Usually all of e required elements except nitrogen are found in amounts sufficient for plant owth. In some soils some of these elements, although present in fairly large antities, are in an unavailable state which may be due to the reaction ("pH") other conditions of the soil.

Perhaps the most important constituent of soils is the colloidal or clay frac- n. This constituent has the ability to fix or hold certain elements either an available or an unavailable state. Thus, for example ,it has been found at soils having colloids of the "Kaolinite Type" hold phosphate with a force too eat for most plants to overcome. The force with which substances are held the colloid may be likened to that of a magnet. Thus, a colloid may hold tassium with a certain force but if the plant root can exert a greater force it n pull the potassium away from the colloid.

The term "base exchange" refers to the process of exchanging a certain iron ich the root may give off for another iron which is held on the colloids and ich the plant wants.

There is another important fraction of the soil which to you as Camellia owers is of particular interest. It is the organic matter. This fraction orig- ates from plant and animal residues. It is found in amounts from approxi- ately 0.5% to 100% of the total soil. A peat is 100% organic matter. The erage, arable, California, virgin soils have approximately 1% organic matter. e amount of organic matter that a natural soil has depends upon the climate the area. To illustrate: Two adjacent orchards near Redlands, both the same all respects, were observed. On one has been added approximately 10 tons organic materials per acre for the last 15 years. On the other no organic terial has been added during that time. An analysis shows that the soils in e two orchards have the same amount of organic matter. That does not mean at to add organic matter is a waste of money and effort. Although it does not main in the soil permanently, it has certain temporary benefits which e extremely important, particularly for such plants as camellias, azaleas, be- nias, etc. These benefits are due to the fact that organic matter, as it decom- ses, releases, besides the normal constituents required by plants, organic acids ich have not only beneficial effects on the plants growing on the soil but also effect on the soil structure.

Physically, soils have two qualities; namely, texture and structure. The mer is determined by the size of the particles that make up the soil. Thus y soils have a large percentage of very small particles and light or sandy ils have a small percentage of small particles. The structure is dependent upon e way in which these particles are built up into crumbs. A desirable structure one in which the crumbs are large and fairly loose so that the soil may have od drainage and good aeration. Organic matter helps in producing such a irable structure. Organic matter also acts as a "buffer"; that is, it prevents e soil from sudden changes. (There are other substances, besides organic tter, that have a buffer effect on soils.) Southern California soils in general e well-buffered.

To summarize, organic matter improves the aeration and drainage of the il; because of its "sponginess" it increases the water-holding capacity; it im- oves its structure; has a buffering effect; is a source of food and energy for e microorganisms of the soil; and adds plant nutrients.

Regarding the microorganisms, I should like to indicate that the microorganisms increase depending upon the amount of organic matter available for them. Thus, for example, when organic matter in the form of straw or manure is applied to the soil the number of microorganisms increases rapidly. Then as the food is slowly being exhausted they decrease in number in accordance to the supply of food or organic matter. The value of microorganisms to the soil is very great. They are responsible for decomposing the organic material and making it available to higher plants. They make it possible for the cycle of life to take place.

Now I wish to discuss fertilizers and soil amendments. A fertilizer is a substance used for the purpose of adding a nutrient or nutrients to the soil, such as potassium, nitrogen, phosphate, calcium, etc. An amendment is a substance used to improve the physical condition of the soil. Ammonium Sulphate, Potassium Sulphate, or urea are examples of fertilizers. Lime, sulphur, gypsum, aluminum phosphate are examples of soil amendments. An amendment, by improving the soil, may make fertilizing substances more easily available to the plant. In adding a fertilizer one must keep in mind that the fertilizer and the soil react and that under certain conditions the reaction may be of such a nature as to "fix" the fertilizer so that it may not be available to plants. Under all conditions whenever you add anything to a soil, the equilibrium of the soil is disturbed and a series of reactions take place tending to reestablish the equilibrium. These reactions may be beneficial or harmful. It is thus possible to do harm by adding a fertilizer which one would normally expect to do good. We know, for example, that calcium is a necessary element for plant life. But an excess of calcium may bring about many harmful effects such as lime-induced chlorosis and certain other micro element deficiencies. Again, it is well-established that iron is essential for plants, but it has been equally well-established that an excess of iron may interfere with the metabolism of magnesium and thus produce undesirable effects. Therefore, when applying a fertilizer we must keep in mind the following: Is a fertilizer necessary, and, if so, which fertilizer is best for a particular soil? In general, as has been stated earlier, California soils have sufficient amounts of all necessary elements with the exception of nitrogen. Our soils, being low in organic matter, are naturally low in nitrogen. The questions that one might ask oneself regarding the type of fertilizer to use might be of this nature: (1) Is it desired to have an alkaline or acid soil? (2) Will the fertilizer contemplated damage the roots? (3) Will the fertilizer remain long enough in the soil to accomplish the purpose desired or will it drain down quickly and be lost beyond the root zone? (4) What effect will the fertilizer in question have on the physical structure of the soil? (5) Will it increase or decrease the porosity or will it in any other way injure the structure of the soil?

In view of all that I have said of the "complexity" of the plant and the soil you may wonder whether it is possible at all for human beings to grow plants intelligently. Fortunately, both the plant and the soil have compensating forces in them. One can often get by with quite a few mistakes because of these "buffer effects." It is, however, desirable to know something about plants and soils so at least you can guard yourself against some unscrupulous salesmen who may come around trying to sell you "cactus juice" or "photosensin." Besides there is more pleasure in growing plants when one has a better understanding of what is going on.

QUESTIONS:

Your program chairman has stated a few questions which you have asked from time to time and asked me to answer.

(1) Should we use Aluminum Sulphate, Iron Sulphate, or Epsom Salts?

Aluminum sulphate is used as an acidifying medium. It has the capacity to hydrolize and thus produce acid. This produces an acidic soil. If you dissolve approximately 140 gm. Aluminum Sulphate in a quart of water you will get a solution which will be four times as acid as vinegar. This would normally be too acid a medium for plants to grow in. However, aluminum sulphate does not dissolve at once in the soil. It goes into the soil slowly and that gives compensating factors in the soil time to go to work and prevent the soil from becoming too acidic. Iron sulphate may be also used for acidifying the soil. It produces a less-acid condition. It also increases the iron content of the soil and is there

e used in cases of iron deficiency. Epsom Salts (MgSO4) is used only if there a magnesium deficiency in the soil There is no other purpose for using it. lphur may also be used as an acidifying medium. It acts more slowly than minum sulphate or iron sulphate. Gypsum is used for its slight acidifying dency, but primarily for the effect it has in aiding the penetration of water ough the soil—in other words, in "opening" the soil. Gypsum should be used th care because it may increase the calcium of the soil to a dangerous con- ntration.

estion (2) What is the value of redwood bark and shavings and tan bark? Redwood resists moistening and therefore is not readily incorporated into e soil. Redwood shavings become incorporated better but sometimes have a ic effect on certain plants. I know only that in the case of orchids they oduce no bad effects. As far as tan bark is concerned, it is useful only in that s organic matter. Off-hand, I can see no reason why it should be preferable other forms of organic matter . If tannic acid is desired for some particular rpose, then it would be cheaper to buy a pound of tannic acid than a ton of n bark.

estion (3) Shall we use soil-testing kits, and if so, what kind? Tests made by ordinary soil-testing kits may be very misleading when done a novice. Particularly when used on the extract from soils as high in organic tter as those which are used for growing camellias. These extracts would highly colored and would therefore obscure most of the tests which depend on color reactions. Personally, I would advise against the use of soil-testing ts unless you are familiar with chemistry.

estion (4) What is this pH stuff?

pH is a measure of acidity or basicity of a substance, in the same way that e inch or the foot are measures of length. It runs from pH 0 to pH 14, pH O ing very acidic such as Hydrochloric acid, and pH 14 being very basic such lye. pH 7 is the neutral point where the substance is neither acidic or basic. r the sake of clarity, an acid is a substance which we recognize by its sour ste, like vinegar or lemon juice. A base is a substance such as soda, which s properties opposite to that of an acid. Soda and lye are examples of bases.

The pH of a soil is a very important property since it determines the solu- lity of certain soil constituents and in turn their availability for plants.

estion (5) How do you provide drainage in a heavy soil?

Drainage in a heavy soil may be bettered by improving the soil structure. soil that has a sufficient amount of calcium will as a rule have good drainage, d therefore, calcium sulphate is quite often used for that purpose. However, the soil has an impervious layer in its sub-soil nothing could be done except ovide drainage through tiles.

estion (6) Does barnyard manure contain hormones or growth activators? Undoubtedly it does, but there is nothing specific to indicate that it is bene- ial primarily because of that. Manure is a very good material both for im- oving soil structure and as a source of plant nutrients. It is, in most cases, safe fertilizer to use.

THE MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS

Both the March 14 and April 11 meetings, held in Odd Fellows Temple, ere marked by short business sessions, unusual in our routine.

In the March meeting, the amendments to the constitution and by-laws rinted in the March bulletin were adopted. These related principally to the reation of an editor and business manager for the Bulletin. The report of the minating committee was received, after which the Program Chairman, Ethel mpbell, introduced the speaker of the evening, Professor David Appleman, ho spoke on the subject of plant nutrition. Dr. Appleman's talk was exceed- gly valuable in giving a broad understanding of the biotic mechanism by hich plants are nourished, together with the part played by soil characteristics d soil condition. Dr. Appleman's talk, in digest, appears in this issue of the ulletin.

The members' door prize was won by Albert Wirz; the exhibitors' prize b Mrs. Albert Collins; publication fund prize, Mrs. Russell Loar; test garden fur prize, No. 1, Robert Casamajor; No. 2, Frances Merritt. Three redwood tul were donated by George Woodman of San Gabriel. The name of the first wi ner was not obtained; tub No. 2 was won by Mrs. Bessie Ashenbrenner and th third by Mrs. Herbert Milliken. The attendance was approximately 325 and fine display of camellia blossoms marked the occasion.

The April meeting opened with a short business session. Treasurer's repo was accepted and is printed elsewhere in this issue.

A resolution from the Board of Directors recommending that the Society l incorporated, was placed before the membership and adopted. Resolutions we adopted empowering the Board of Directors to take all necessary steps leadi to the incorporation of the Society. The business session was then adjourne until the October meeting. This action postponed the election of officers unt that time, a technicality which is fully explained elsewhere in this issue.

Robert Casamajor, chairman of the Horticultural Research Committee, the introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. James Bonner, Associate Profess of Plant Physiology, California Institute of Technology. Dr. Bonner gave a mo interesting report of research carried on with camellias at Caltech. A digest

Dr. Bonner's talk will appear in an early issue of the Bulletin.

Leslie Marshall gave a short talk on the problems of camellia transplantin look for it in an early Bulletin.

This meeting marked an innovation in that the prizes were all donated b amateur members of the Society. Nineteen camellia plants were donated b C. E. Peak, Dr. John Taylor, Henry Prucha, Thor Petersen, Mrs. Wm. Vine Wm. Huested, Dick Wagoner, Mrs. John Long, Ebon Carl Tourje, Mr. and Mr Boorman, Monty O'Reilly, Pete Flamminnio, Wm. Back, Dr. J. Walter Reeve Robt. Ward, Anne Galli, J. K. Krum, and one from "a friend." Plants donate were: Mathotiana, Empress, Blood of China, John Ingels, Colonel Firey, Jos phine Hearn, "R. C.", Adolph Audosson, Matosi, Dai Kagura, Elena Nobil Youtz, Belgiana, Chandleri Elegans, Crane, Chandleri, Meredith Lake, Empor Wilhelm, Ruby Glow, Alexander Nowlin. The prizes added $96.25 to the stat funds.

Certainly "amateur night" was a great success and appreciation goes to th new secretary, Stephen Peak, whose suggestion it was.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

It is interesting to trace the trend of membership as compared with th of attendance during the last two years. While membership has climbed steadil attendance rises to the height of the blomming season, then tapers off to the en

1944-45 Season	Members	Attendance	1945-46 Season		
November	185	160	November	290	250
December	—	125	December	333	220
January	—	174	January	—	280
February	210	227	February	412	415
March	239	218	March	469	325
April	253	181	April (?)		

The curve of attendance rising from a low at the first meeting of the bloor ing season reaching its height in February at the height of the blooming seas and tapering off to the close, indicates that our Informal Flower Show mu play a large part in attendance, even though we grant that the general intere of all growers, both professional and amateur, members and non-membe rises to a peak during the most active part of the blooming season.

It was at the February meeting of 1946, when there were ten large libra tables covered with blossoms, in the formal flower show, that 415 perso crowded the room and the corridor beyond. It was then too that casual visito

wded old members from their seats. All this suggests the thought that Feb-ary is the time to put on a formal flower show—a real show—and let non-mbers pay for admission!

SPEAKING OF FLOWER SHOWS. Incoming President Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor d Director J. Howard Asper attended the recent Camellia Show in Sacramento. ey were quite embarrassed by the enthusiasm with which they were received d the eagerness with which the Sacramento Society members quizzed them out putting on a Camellia Show. Not long ago the Secretary had an inquiry m a newspaper in another part of the State, asking particulars as to how we t on our Flower Show! It was embarrassing to explain that we had never t on a show of our own! We have, of course, joined twice with the Horticul-al Institute to put on a camellia show for a special joint camellia meeting in s Angeles; twice we have put on a camellia division in the Pasadena Spring wer Show at Brookside Park. It still remains, however, to put on a **real** mellia show **of our own.**

CONCERNING THOSE RETURN POST CARDS—REMEMBER? Eighty-ree cards were returned with a list of favorite varieties in the latest poll. ghty-three cards from over 400 members is not too good a showing! Is your rd still lying around or tucked in a pigeon-hole in your desk? Please dig it t, make up your list and send it in. Just in passing—Debutante still takes the d in the 83 cards returned, with Alba Plena a close second.

We have more material concerning favorite varieties; lists from several our experts, amateur and professional; also the list given and described by illiam Woodroof at a recent meeting. We will dole this material out to you rough the summer—it will be both interesting and a valuable guide—if you ll do your part by sending in that return post card!

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS—AND INCORPORATION. On Tuesday, arch 26, the Board of Directors devoted an evening very largely to problems of ganization induced by the increase in membership, assets and activities of the ciety. The work of the officers has become considerably more burdensome; s was especially true of the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the Bulletin. e Secretary was authorized to employ an assistant to be known as "Assistant the Secretary," whose duties shall be to do all the clerical work for the cretary and Treasurer, Editor and Business Manager of the Bulletin. Roy uer moved that a vote of the members be taken to ascertain the late season, vorite camellias. This was done in the return post card mentioned above. nother reminder—send in your card with your list of favorites!) The question incorporating the Society was discussed at considerable length and a motion obtain legal opinion relative to it, was moved, seconded and carried.

On April 2 the Board of Directors met again with the Society's legal advisor. e question of incorporation was exhaustively discussed and a resolution was opted recommending to the membership that the Society be incorporated.

On April 11 the resolution from the Board of Directors recommending incor-ration was read to the members. The membership adopted the resolutions eviously prepared for it by the legal advisor, authorizing the Officers and rectors to proceed with the incorporation, to turn over to the new incorporated ciety all of the assets of the old unincorporated Society on condition that all embers in good standing of the old Society should become members in good anding of the new, incorporated Society.

At this point it was explained to the membership that the legal advisor ad given his considered opinion that it would be preferable to postpone the lection of officers until the October meeting. This in order that the present fficers and Directors, who had been educated in the various aspects of the roblems of incorporation, should continue to the completion of the process. At e first meeting of the Directors of the new corporation, the old Directors whose rms of office in the old Society had expired, would resign and in their places

would be elected the new Directors nominated for office in the old Society, wh stood unopposed, ready for election to office. This Board of Directo thereupon receive into full active membership all members in good standing the old Society. The assets of the old Society would then be turned over the new Corporation. The Directors of the new Corporation would then proce to elect the officers nominated and ready for election in the old Society at th April meeting.

Shortly after the April meeting of the Society, the Board of Directors aga met with the Legal Advisor who read to the Board the Charter and By-la for the new corporation. After discussion of the various features of these doc ments, they were approved and the Legal Advisor was authorized to proce with incorporation.

The organizational set-up of the Society will remain practically unchange As in all corporations, the officers will be elected by the Board of Directo The Board of Directors will nominate new Directors prior to the annual electi of officers. Provision is made for additional nominations to be made by th members, should they so desire.

The number of Directors will be increased from five to seven. Five of th Directors will be elected from zones within a stated radius of Pasadena. The zones will be surveyed annually and their boundaries adjusted so that membe ship in the various zones will be approximately equal. This will provide equal representation on the Board of Directors. We have, however, many membe throughout the State and quite a few from other states outside of Californ In order that these might be represented also, there will in future be two Dire tors at Large who may be elected from within or without the five zones, but wh will represent the membership living outside the zones.

The procedures for incorporation are proceeding toward fruition and it our hope that the next Bulletin will be able to announce the completion of th incorporating of the Society.

Meanwhile the new President and Officers are laying their plans, buildi their organization, to carry on the work of the Society during the coming ye

THE TREASURER'S REPORT for the period beginning April 12, 1945, an ending April 11, 1946.

General Fund

Balance on hand as of April 12, 1945		$162.52
Memberships paid during period		676.00
		838.52
Less Expenses		
Books purchased for library	$ 22.05	
Rent	60.00	
Printing	267.47	
Postage and envelopes	78.42	
Badges	20.50	
Camellias purchased	40.75	
Black velveteen	53.06	
Stenographic service	28.50	
Miscellaneous	10.37	581.12
Balance on hand in general fund		257.40

TREASURER'S REPORT (Continued)

Publication Fund

Balance on hand as of April 12, 1945		259.45
Received from drawings		270.15
Received from sale of Camellia classification book		264.10
		793.70
Less Expenses		
Envelopes	4.00	
Printing of Camellia Classification Book	138.38	
Stenographic service	16.75	159.13
Balance on hand in Publication Fund		634.57

Public Address System Maintenance Fund

Received from drawings during period		165.00
Received from rental		10.00
		175.00
Purchase of one public address system		150.00
Balance to be maintained for repairs		25.00

Test Garden Fund

Received from drawings during period		78.75
Received from rental of public address system		10.00
Received from sale of pamphlet "Reticulata"		11.50
		100.25
Less Expenses		
Camellias purchased for test garden	26.39	26.39
Balance on hand, Test Garden Fund		73.86

Registration Fees

Received from registration fees		4.00
General Fund		257.40
Publication Fund		634.57
Maintenance Fund		25.00
Test Garden Fund		73.86
Registration Fees		4.00
Grand Total	994.83	994.83

Memberships as of April 12, 1945	253
Memberships as of April 11, 1946	453
Total increase for period	200

(Signed) ROBERT A. WARD, Treasurer.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

On April 12 the San Diego Camellia Society elected the following officers for the coming year:

President	E. W. Miller
Vice-President	Mrs. Genevieve Bovet
Secretary	Mrs. Clarisse M. Carlton
Treasurer	Stanley W. Miller
Directors	Joseph W. Sefton
	A. L. Moore, M.D.
	L. H. Murdock, M.D.

Mrs. W. C. Brown demonstrated the making of corsages from camellias and cymbidium orchids, as well as cellophane containers to hold them! The ladies drew for the corsages and Mrs. Alice M. Clark, a guest, drew one; Mrs. J. D. Kelly the other. A. P. Carlton gave a talk on "Summer Care of Your Camellias."

On May 9 the final meeting of the year was held at Grant's Rancho, nor of Old Town. It seemed as though all of the sixty-two members must have be present, to which add one caravan from "The Mother Society" as the San Dieg members call it. By special invitation, President and Mrs. Dave McLean, Pre dent-elect and Mrs. John Taylor, Secretary and Mrs. Thor, Treasurer and M Bob Ward and Reception Chairman and Mrs. Jack Hudlow also graced (?) t scene.

A short wait in an anti-room was marked by all the spontaneous social e joyment you'd expect in a group of friends gathered for a birthday surprise someone. No use talking, one of the penalties of a large organization is the lo of that camaraderie which makes a smaller group.

An excellent dinner was served during which the "visiting firemen" we introduced and called on for a few remarks. Honors in this round went to guess—none other than our own Secretary Thor, who has always claimed he ju **couldn't** make a speech! . . . The new San Diego officers were installed . . . T group then retired to another room and the northrn visitors showed the Versch felt color slides and views of the California Camellia Test Garden, ending t show with a picture of Henry Prucha's invention for preventing Lotus bloo from burning in the sun.

The visiting firemen retired to Mr. Ulysses Grant's hostelry in San Die feeling that if all of the meetings were as enjoyable as that one, it was no wond the San Diego Society has grown so rapidly.

Next morning, on the homeward trek, the caravan stopped first at the Ca ton nursery on Reynaud Way. While some of the group inspected a fine colle tion of camellias, we must regretfully state that certain pillars of our camell church ran rapidly from one cymbidium table to another with the feverish ze of the cymbidium hound on the scent.

Next stop, the Boyle place in Del Mar where there were thousands of came lias in the making and where a brash cymbidium hound, after sniffing arou asked if there were no cymbidiums about, was properly subdued by three lo boos from the host. Boo and tush, tush, say we. But it was a swell trip.

HERE AND THERE

Some of our local grafters are looking a bit glum. The long, moist, sunle period since the cute little scions were placed "in the stocks," has not been co ducive to light hearts in either the scions, the stocks or the surgeons. All in al though, it has been a good season not only for camellia societies but for camelli themselves. Some are still in bloom—plants, we mean.

Herbert Swim is the author of an article to be published in the Americ Camellia Society's Annual. The topic assigned was "Camellia Culture in Sout ern California." Herb knows his Southern California and his Camellias both, a wrote a most interesting article telling why such an article couldn't be wrtte He modified the title to: "The Camellia—The Chameleon." Enticing title . How does one obtain the Year Book? Simple. Join the American Camell Society. Our Secretary has application forms. And after all, what is (or are three bucks to a camellia fancier?

One of our members has been carrying on a neat little research all his own and producing large results. We have already worked upon this chap, who afflicted with a violent form of modesty. The time is sho' coming when the goo of society at large and camellia lovers in particular will demand that this re searcher report his stuff to the S.C.C.S. Wishing him no ill will and no har luck, we still hope the new program chairman persuades him.

THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY has now attained a membership of [illegible], has $9,106.40 in the treasury. Nice going for an organization less than a [illegible] old. Membership by states (A.C.S. News Letter, April 1, 1946): Georgia, 215; [illegible]rida, 157; Louisiana, 108; California, 84; South Carolina, 80; Virginia, 76; Ala[illegible]ma, 70; Mississippi, 557; Texas, 49; North Carolina, 31; Oregon, 29; Washington, [illegible] Arkansas, and Massachusetts, 6; Illinois and New Jersey, 4; New York and [illegible]nnessee, 3; Michigan, 2; 1 each from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Connecticut, Ken[illegible]ky, Oklahoma, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Indiana, Washington, [illegible]., Canada and Australia.

First affiliated societies are: The Savannah Men's Garden Club, Savannah, [illegible]orgia; Sand Hills Garden Club, Augusta, Georgia; The Virginia Chapter is [illegible]de up of members of the Norfolk Yacht Club. A majority of the members [illegible] these organizations are members of the A.C.S.

FEEDING YOUR CAMELLIAS? Prevent (or minimize?) bud drop next fall by [illegible]ng your plants plenty to drink during the hot dry spells ahead. True, they [illegible]n't like chronic wet feet; neither do they like to parch and parch—and parch.

Cheerio!

Southern California
Camellia Society
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CAMELLIA
Bulletin

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