The Camellia Bulletin

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1957 Illges Award Winner
"TOMORROW"

—Courtesy Schwabacher-Frey Co.
and Mrs. Ross H. Hayes

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THE CAMELLIA IN ENGLAND

Sir Giles Loder

(During the spring of 1957, besides other more private occasions it was our distinct privilege to have shared company at an evening's program in Los Angeles with Sir Giles Loder, master of the beautiful estate "Leonardslee" at Horsham, in Sussex, England, who, with the charming Lady Loder, was at that time on an extended tour of this country. Our discussions of the differences in camellia culture between California and England were to me both interesting and enlightening and the magnificently done color slides which Sir Giles showed of camellias, azaleas and particularly rhododendrons, with which his family name is of course immediately identified, emphasized one point in particular; that camellias bloom in England with a mass effect unknown in this country.

It is to be regretted that everyone interested in harmonious and beautiful companion plantings of this sort, done on the grand scale, could not have had an opportunity to see these wonderful pictures. It occurred to us that the next best thing would be to get an expression of Sir Giles' views as to the significant differences noted in camellia culture and performance between the English estate and the California garden. The following interesting account which he so kindly contributed covers the essential points, but it does not, of course, portray the widely different surroundings and overall effects arising from a matured environment and a century of plant growth as compared with our relatively brief two decades or so of intensive camellia culture here in California.—D.L.F.)

I am hesitant to be authoritative on the conditions likely to be met at all times of the year in California, having visited the state only for a short period in March, 1957. However, I can perhaps give a fuller picture of the conditions prevailing in this country for people in California to draw their own conclusions.

Our unpredictable climate — the cause of many jokes — is undoubtedly the key to our different camellia culture. In winter, we are liable to get frosts from October to April, though the hard frosts are usually in January or February, bringing 20° F. of frost or even more. However, these frosts, even in wet conditions, do not harm the camellia plants, which may be coated with ice. Occasionally an old plant will crack off a branch weighted down by the ice and this same danger is also experienced in snow time. Our summers have no excessive heat nor extreme droughts, so that camellias planted and established out of doors thrive without watering — even without a shade canopy. On the western seaboards the rate of growth is faster due to the greater moisture in the air, but even in the east the yearly growth is most satisfying.

However, the transition from winter to spring creates the biggest difference in our two countries' camellia habits. Apart from periods of an occasional unseasonable mild spell, the average camellia grower here has not seen a flower on his japonica plants until the first warmth of spring comes along. Then, in the brief period of a few weeks, his shrubs are covered with blooms. This short, but profuse, flowering season is normal over here, occurring from mid-March to mid-April, varying slightly from season to season. It provides a spectacle whilst it lasts. A photograph of a *C. 'Donckelarii'* taken then shows that a plant 12-ft. high and as much across has more red flower than green foliage, no daylight being visible from the opposite side — much like a gigantic azalea.

With these conditions in mind, it should be remembered that the average camellia grower has the majority of his plants out of doors, usually with other shrubs, amongst which the dark green foliage of the camellias shows up well. Lathe houses are unknown and so are (with a few exceptions) camellias in pots (containers are unknown over here). Probably due to this outdoor treatment, diseases are very rare. An early autumn frost may freeze the grown buds and cause bud-drop later; likewise, a late frost may catch the flowers and even the young growth, but will cause no permanent harm to the plants. Due to this predominance of outdoor culture, the extremely large-sized, semi-double flowers are not so popular over here, the stronger formal-double type providing the robustness for these harder conditions, including heavy winds and rain. An occasional

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COVER FLOWER

A chance seedling of *Enrico Bettoni* parentage which, incidentally, is a most dependable performer, *Tomorrow* appears to be the camellia of today, widely acclaimed everywhere and winner of the coveted Illges Medal as the best introduction for 1956.

Developed by Mrs. Ross H. Hayes, of Tick Tock Nursery, Thomasville, Georgia, the discovery of this fine camellia and the way it got its name is as interesting as its popularity has been sensational. Marked for understock after its first bloom, this seedling's real character did not become evident until the following season. While busily engaged in arranging blooms of her as yet unnamed seedling on a show table, Mrs. Hayes was asked "What are you going to name it?" and, in her pre-occupation, gave the quickest answer she could think of: "Tomorrow". To her great surprise, her inquisitor remarked that that was the best name for a camellia he had ever heard. After mulling this over a bit when time permitted, Mrs. Hayes finally put that name on her entry card. Thus, through having mistaken the inquiry of "what" for "when" this fine camellia got its name.

The striking flower may be described as strawberry red in color, always very large and having a beautiful, high-centered form which will vary somewhat from an irregular semi-double to a loose peonyform. As the illustration shows, grafted plants will sometimes give variegated blooms, but the characteristic flower is self-colored. The plant is a strong grower with good foliage, slightly open in habit but having sturdy stems that support the heavy flower well.

Its originator prides "Tomorrow" for its hardiness and dependability as much as for the beautiful bloom, which your Editor can confirm insofar as most of the Southern States are concerned because it was consistently good everywhere seen last winter, in what was a rather difficult season for camellias in general. It blooms about mid-season.

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BOOK REVIEW

"CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED", by Morrie L. Sharp, sponsored by Oregon Camellia Society — Western Trail Publishers, Portland 4, Oregon, 1957 — $5.00.

This 176-page, spiral-bound 5½" x 8½" book is a revised and enlarged edition of the popular publication brought out ten years ago by the same people, which enjoyed three printings. It contains 555 illustrations, of which 99 are in full color, and is quite an improvement over the original except as to the binding, which, although it does have the advantage of opening perfectly flat, seems to leave something to be desired.

The coverage, though concise, is quite comprehensive, dealing with the history, classification, culture, propagation and use of camellias in sufficient detail for the average person. As the title would indicate, its primary attraction is, however, the very broad scope of its illustrative material, combining in this modest-sized book what constitutes perhaps the greatest single collection of camellia flower illustrations ever brought together under one cover, including many two-tone pictures of new hybrids and species published for the first time. The color work is, in general, pretty faithful although there is sometimes a tendency for the shades to be too deep, particularly with the pinks — flower shades, will, however, vary somewhat according to locality.

On the whole, the book must be rated quite worthwhile and a good value. Of particular interest to those in the colder areas will be the thorough treatment accorded their problems, and the valuable classification of camellias according to blooming season, exposure and cold tolerance. Camellia societies will be interested in the worthwhile discount available to them in quantity purchases for sale to their members and others at retail.

GRAFTING CHATTER

*W. L. Stoeckle, Concord, California

Now is the time of year to check that rusty trusty grafting blade and get it in shape for the grafting season. There is a good chance that your friends' Kunming Reticulata plants have put on enough growth in the past year to afford you a few scions.

For the right time of year to graft, the old grafting rule still stands — when your friends give you the scions. This time may not be convenient for you, but be sure to accept the scions; they can be stored for as long as three weeks and you will still have good results grafting them. Place a moist paper napkin in a jar, then the scions, and seal the jar with a screw cap. Keep under refrigeration. If you are given a scion that has a dormant eye, do not fail to use it. My experience with this type of scion has been very good. The scion will callus before the eye starts to grow; this makes the removal of the jar a very easy step. This type of scion is the best if the grafter has no source of heat or does his grafting outside. It is also the best type of scion for late season grafting. I have had just as much luck with grafting a recently transplanted plant as with one that has not been disturbed, if the plant is a healthy one.

When grafting stock is at a premium we often use a sick, weak plant that we are not proud of and do not want in our garden. If you use this kind of plant, do not be surprised if the graft does not get off the ground. You will be far ahead if you repot this plant, prune, fertilize and care for it until the next grafting season. If I have several scions of one variety I sometimes try one on a sick plant but if I have only one scion I try to choose the healthiest understock in the garden.

Everyone who has done grafting has had the sad experience of finding out that the red-hot variety he grafted is a stinker. If this happens to you, and if your graft was made three or four inches above the soil level, you can cut off the plant below the first graft and put on another red-hot variety.

It is fun to graft. The anticipation of seeing new varieties come into bloom keeps up our interest.

In the late grafting season — April — when the bark is apt to separate from the understock try cutting the understock at a 45° angle from two sides and split the understock along the ridge to receive your scion. The after-care of grafts, to me, is the most important part of the grafting operation. At frequent intervals, check for mold. During the first two weeks after a graft is made a check every day is not too often. If you find mold, wipe clean and leave the jar off long enough for the scion and understock to dry. Air seems to be the best way to stop mold.

I have been warned many times not to fertilize grafts for a period of at least one year. I have found, though, that I can fertilize as soon as the scion and understock are united. I have used liquid fertilizer at half-strength once a month and found that it promotes growth and had no ill effect on the grafted plant.

When you are doing grafts this year, try Gibberellic Acid on a few; you will be surprised. I was.

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*Long a top competitor and sweepstakes winner, Bill Stoeckle is well known for his outstanding blooms, though now retired from competition. The writer would like to say "Amen" to his comment on fertilizing grafts. Having made two this past year of leaf mutations which did not hold, we experimented by fertilizing as herein indicated. These two grafts responded so well that all our 1957 grafts have now been so treated and the results are exceptional growth and overall appearance, some buds, and not a single sign of damage. We have reference to grafting plants in containers—not in the ground—which circumstance might affect these conclusions.—Ed.

CAMELLIA COLLECTIONS IN THE NEW ORLEANS AREA

James W. Nolan, New Orleans, La.

The visitor to New Orleans for the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society January 30 - February 2, 1958, will find the "America's Most Interesting City" sobriquet as appropriate as does the more casual sojourner. For, in addition to the many other attractions, the ACS visitor will discover the Camellia season in full flower and Camellias themselves splashed with breath-taking largesse over a wide canvas.

Nor is there an approach to the city that does not offer an exciting introduction to Gulf Coast Camellias. To the north, across Lake Pontchartrain and accessible from the city by way of the new 24-mile lake causeway, is one of the nation's top Camellia-growing areas. St. Tammany parish (county) and neighboring Tangipahoa parish are dotted with notable Camellia plantings. Climate, soil and pine woods make this picturesque country ideal for Camellia development.

Outstanding in this area is the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz at Covington. Rare Camellias may be viewed in profusion and hundreds of varieties observed with minimum effort since the gardens are given over almost entirely to the genus and the plantings are compactly grouped.

North of Covington on the Folsom Road is the matchelss planting at Beechwood, estate of Mr. and Mrs. Mayer Israel. In naturalistic setting, Camellias are displayed in seemingly endless panorama and rare varieties clamor in abundance for the visitor's eye.

At Lacombe is the distinguished collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Judice. This is the home of the brand-new Camellia japonica Irma Judice and Camellia japonica David Wirth. Close by and not to be missed is the extensive planting of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Menard. Other gardens in this vicinity that should be mentioned include those of Mr. Warren Smith, Covington, and Mayor H. G. Fritchie of Slidell.

A tour of Bayou Gardens at Lacombe (entrance fee here) is a must since Camellias dominate the scene at this show-place. Several commercial nurseries in the Pearl River, Slidell, Covington, Abita Springs area specialize in Camellias.

New Orleans proper has numerous rewarding collections. Special mention should go to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. J. David Wirth. Infinite riches in a little room here, so many are the choice and rare plants in relatively small space.

Among the many other noteworthy collections (space prohibits any attempt at complete listing) are those of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Ciolino, Mr. and Mrs. John Thurman and Mr. Emile M. Doll. The latter specializes in container culture.

Camellias in City Park are of especial interest. The planting in the park's Marcel Montreuil memorial garden is sponsored by the Men's Camellia Club of New Orleans.

Just across the Mississippi line to the east are Darwood and Holly Bluff gardens (entrance fees at these two). These adjoining estates contain excellent Camellia plantings. Nearby, at St. Augustine Seminary, Bay St. Louis, is the home of Father Christian Baker's seedlings, including House of Gold, Dr. W. C. Hava's interesting garden is a few miles away at Waveland. And any visit to the Mississippi coast should include a stop at the T. S. Clower garden in Gulfport. Seedlings originating here include Simeon, Louisiana Purchase and many more.

West of New Orleans and south of New Iberia are the famed Jungle Gardens (entrance fee) at Avery Island which no Camelliaphile will want to bypass. Here one can imagine the Buddha in the temple in the midst of the gardens

> Annihilating all that's made
> To a green thought in a green shade,

so lavishly amassed with rare and exotic plant material is the island landscape. Nevertheless here too the Camellia is pre-eminent. Indeed, a Camellia pilgrimage to the Lafayette - New Iberia section, the setting of many venerable specimens of Camelliadom, will prove a fitting companion tour to that of the more immediate New Orleans area.

IF YOU WOULD WIN A RIBBON!

Richard C. Brown, Sacramento, California

The coming of the early blooms coincides with the start of planning by the Camellia Societies for the shows which are not too far distant. So perhaps a few reminders and suggestions may be in order regarding what the exhibitor who aspires to win a ribbon or two should do by way of preparation to assure of this result.

Preparation for prize-winning blooms actually begins with the spring growth right through to the time of blooming, of course, as the condition of your camellia plant will largely determine the quality of its blooms. However, elsewhere in this issue will be found some suggestions regarding what to do by way of preliminary preparation — this has to do primarily with the procedure you should follow right at show time.

It is a good idea to make a survey of your possibilities a day or two before the Show by carefully looking over your plants to determine what varieties and flowers you may reasonably expect to be able to enter. Of course, we all know that, for outdoor-grown camellias, we are at the mercy of the weather to a great extent, but even so you will be able to locate here and there a hidden or protected bloom that will probably be undamaged in any case, which you might overlook entirely if left to the last minute. By thus keeping a close check, you will also get an indication which flowers may be expected to be freshest on the morning of the show and thus in top condition. This is important because it is always wise to sacrifice size for condition — the average judge will not go for an old flower!

If possible, cut your blooms the morning of the show, which is the best assurance they will look fresh when you place them and remain so throughout the show. There is nothing more pitiful than an old bloom which has fallen on its face by the time the judges get around to it. Some exhibitors cut their flowers with stems as they will usually hold up better than those cut or twisted off the twig. However, many camellia shows do not permit the entry of blooms with leaves and, if that is the case (which you should first determine by obtaining a copy of the show regulations) it would be necessary to remove the leaves (stems usually are permissible) before placing them.

Be sure to select only those flowers that are typical of the variety. *Do not* enter freaks, regardless of their beauty, if your object is to win a ribbon! This is a very common mistake by exhibitors. Judges are charged with the responsibility of choosing blooms which are true to the variety and, all other things being equal, that will usually be the deciding point. However, it is true there are some camellias quite variable in form, and even in color, for which allowance usually will be made. Because color and form are highly rated, however, you should avoid entering faded out or distorted blooms.

It is not enough to grow good blooms — they must reach their position on the viewing table in that condition. Nothing is more tragic than to have a blue-ribbon-quality flower when you leave home and wind up with an also-ran because it was damaged enroute to the show. Blooms are discounted for *any* imperfections whatsoever in judging condition. If you have a better flower in other respects than the one next to it, but yours has a bruise and the other is perfect, the absolutely clean one is likely to be chosen. To avoid damage in transit, it is wise to prepare a suitable container in which to carry them before you cut your flowers. A florist's box is best but any sturdy cardboard box or carton is suitable if first lined with wax paper to prevent collapsing from the moisture. In this should be placed an inch or so of cotton batting, tissue paper or shredded newspaper, to serve as a means of holding both the flower in place and moisture to keep it fresh. Some even use ordinary sheets of newspaper, wetted before inserting on the bottom of the box. However, the other material has depth and thus you can form a cup in it to hold each flower in place so that it will not rub against others enroute to the show. Do not crowd your flowers as this is risky — allow plenty of room between them and they will arrive in top condition. You have then only to be careful in placing them on the table, and here is where some precautionary advice is indicated.

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EDITORIAL TIDBITS

An interesting pamphlet recently issued to its members by Pacific Camellia Society of Glendale, California, and designed largely as a Directory contains some very worthwhile information concerning historical matters. Among other things, we learned from this that Pacific was organized in February, 1946, and held the first all-camellia show in Southern California in its first year. This "first" was followed shortly by another when it issued a 40-page publication entitled *Camellia Nomenclature* — the first ever issued in the United States devoted solely to that subject.

In 1949, Mr. Roy T. Thompson was named Editor of Pacific's quarterly publication "Camellia Notes", which continued until June, 1955, when Mr. Thompson became an Associate Editor of this *Bulletin* concurrently with the Pacific Camellia Society's participation. Of recent years, it has joined forces with other Los Angeles area camellia societies, through the Los Angeles Camellia Council, in putting on an outdoor show at Descanso Gardens, where it will be held again this year. Pacific prides itself on its sociability and good fellowship, which is exemplified by the fact it is the only camellia society we know of which puts on an outdoor picnic in mid-summer so that its members can get together at least once during the long off-season.

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A recent communication informs us that the San Diego Camellia Society is itself about to come out with a "first" — the "First Annual Super Sweepstakes" — which will be held concurrently with its regular Camellia Show in the Conference Hall at Balboa Park, February 15th and 16th. Only those exhibitors who have won at least one Sweepstakes Award are eligible to compete — in other words, this is a conclave of champions. Qualified persons are invited to contact Wm. L. Gibson, Show Chairman, 3765 Pio Pico St., San Diego 6, Calif.

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One of our favorite correspondents is the wholesome and always-interesting originator of the award-winning camellia *"Tomorrow"*, which is our cover flower for this issue — Mrs. Ross H. (Rhea C.) Hayes, of Thomasville, Georgia — co-proprietor of the Tick Tock Nursery, but first and foremost a genuine camellia fan and really an amateur at heart. As has long since been said so aptly, the Illges Award could not have been made to a more charming and deserving person and our congratulations are belated simply because we wished to time them with an illustration of the celebrated flower.

In a recent letter, Mrs. Hayes advises that the "South Georgia Camellia Society" has just been organized by a group of enthusiasts (and this designation is somewhat an understatement) in and around Albany and Thomasville, Georgia — quite a camellia center as we found out last year! They will hold their meetings at Radium Springs (of fond memory) and, because we know the sort of people who will form the nucleus of this new Society (the Adamses, Hilsmans, Shackelfords, Waldens, Wines and others too numerous to mention, besides the Hjort, Powell and Tick Tock nurseries, just to name those we know of personally in the area), its success is assured from the start. To them go *The Camellia Bulletin's* congratulations and very best wishes! Central Georgia, from what we saw of it, is practically ideal camellia country and the rolling country around Albany and Thomasville altogether charming.

Our esteemed correspondent advises that their blooming season has been much earlier than usual (this seems true almost nationwide) and that fine flowers of *Chichester, Mary Ann Houser, Ethel Davis, Indian Summer, Flowerwood,* and *Tick Tock,* among others, have been seen already (December 9th), in addition to the usual typically-early bloomers. Sam Hjort showed good blooms of *Tomorrow* on Thanksgiving Day (if his new beautifully red-marginated sport of *Betty Sheffield* holds it will be in great demand, in our opinion). Mrs. Hayes comments about sports that she finds the sports come nearer holding if a cutting is first rooted from the limb and the grafts made from the cutting. Here are her own words:

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OPTIMUM FLOWER DEVELOPMENT

Elsewhere in this issue appears some extremely sound advice by an acknowledged authority on what you should and should not do at show time if you aspire to win a ribbon or two. This counsel is based upon many years' experience, both as an exhibitor and judge — not to mention the baptism of fire of a camellia show chairman. All but the most experienced exhibitors who desire to compete in the shows — and this we would like to encourage — would do well to pay careful heed to the sound counsel of Dick Brown, who certainly has the reputation of practicing what he preaches.

In order to obtain top quality blooms consistently, there are, of course, many things that must be done before show time rolls around. It really begins with the selection of a sound and healthy plant and includes such things as ideal environment, thorough knowledge of the subject and a considerable amount of plain hard work — or let's call it physical effort, for nothing that you like to do is really work in the strict sense. It also involves a cute trick or two, such as knowing when and how much feeding to give a particular variety at the stage where it will exert the maximum beneficial effect upon flower development. Where the climatic environment is not optimum for flower development, at least as to size, there are, nevertheless, a number of things of a compensatory nature that may be done which will help materially. This involves, primarily, the creation or utilization of an immediate environment known to be conducive to optimum flower development; for example, in a cooler, more temperate climate, the placing of a variety, such as *Paeoniæflora,* which does best where it is warmer, in an exposure as favorable to this as possible — such as on the westerly side of the house. Or, in a hotter climate, the placing of a cool-situation variety such as *Lotus* in almost complete shade. In so doing, the most favorable immediate climatic environment will be obtained and the results had in more favored sections will be approximated.

While I would not wish to give you the impression that this will completely offset the advantage inherent in what might be called an ideal camellia climate, nevertheless results from close adherence to this technique are impressive and the person who thus achieves competitive size and quality is deserving of considerably more credit for his persistence and ingenuity, besides evidencing a thorough knowledge of the varieties. There can be no doubt that the camellia, generally speaking, prefers a rather wide swing in temperature from summer to winter to a more uniform climate and, of course, it does love humidity.

This brings me to another indispensable element in the development of superior blooms — water — copious, persistent and continuous moisture during the period in which the camellia is trying to develop its blooms. In my opinion, this is without doubt the principal point on which the would-be blue ribbon winner consistently stubs his toe. Particularly is this true of camellias grown in containers. Besides the more restricted root area, there are the factors of far greater evaporation to content with and the fact that, in many cases, the containers are under a shelter which prevents the plant having even the benefit of the rains. I do not pretend to know the exact optimum amount of moisture to give a camellia in a container — circumstances alter cases — but when it is in bloom I will venture to say that it would do it more good than harm if it were watered *every day* — especially at the peak of bloom and a week in advance of the camellia show! Twice a week for plants in the ground, having proper drainage, would not be too frequent. You do not *have* to do this, but I think you will find your flowers, which are probably 98% water, will be better for it.

Besides water, for optimum flower development there seems definitely to be a need for at least a moderate amount of feeding — and I am referring to nitrogenous fertilizers. As Dr. Robert K. Cutter's article in our last issue would seem to establish, feeding with 0-10-10 or other non-nitrogenous combinations does not seem to do the trick. Looking at it from the standpoint of the camellia in its natural environment, which I do not think we should ever get too far away from, it is hard to make out a case for

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RATING CAMELLIAS — A PROPOSED STANDARD METHOD

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

Prefatory Remarks

It is rather remarkable that, in more than a century and a half of camellia literature which includes much that is analytical and technical, there does not appear to have been a single instance of an effort having been made to classify, or even list, the separate characteristics which, taken together, constitute a camellia's whole character. That this is true is, in itself, ample evidence that no systematic attempt has ever been made to evaluate, or "rate" camellias in accordance with accepted mathematical principles. The practical value of so doing is, of course, perfectly obvious as it would be an easy matter to attach a numerical rating to a camellia that would be immediately indicative of its desirability — at least in theory.

This concept is not merely theoretically possible of implementation — the identical principle has been employed for many years by the American Rose Society, whose many members attach great value to such ratings, which are adjusted annually. In fact, the section of the Rose Society's "Annual" devoted to this, which bears the colorful title of "Proof of the Pudding", is widely regarded as one of its highlights, as well as constituting one of the most important services rendered by the Society. Roses, like camellias, have faults as well as merits and also vary in performance a great deal according to climatic and environmental conditions. Thus it may fairly be said, we believe, that a tried and proven principle of evaluation in the case of one would be applicable to the other, although not as to details, of course. On this subject of evaluation of varieties, the similarity between roses and camellias does not end here for, oddly enough, in both cases a commercially-sponsored organization has been created for the purpose of making an annual "selection" of the best new variety. Unfortunately, however, these projects have not yet demonstrated that they are of advantage to the general public and, being extremely limited in scope anyway, obviously were not designed to grade camellias generally. The camellia plan, in particular, has been under heavy fire because of its controversial performance to date as well as the fact the actual basis of appraisal has never been publicly disclosed. Consequently, this first step in the direction of rating camellias has, so far at least, not answered the need.

We all know, of course, that it is very easy to criticize, especially when something new is being attempted about which it is quite natural that there should be some difference of opinion. However, it is always more helpful and far more convincing if something better can be suggested. This appears to have been the thought of Mr. Walter G. Hazlewood, of New South Wales — himself a retired nurseryman, incidentally — who came up with the constructive idea a little over a year ago of trying to work out some systematic method of rating camellias according to accepted mathematical principles. Knowing that the writer had spent some time on a study of the faults with which camellias are beset, Mr. Hazlewood solicited his views in this regard, submitting a list of points which he regarded as vital. Out of this initial contact a most extensive interchange of views has developed, involving, among others, Mr. Charles Puddle of Bodnant Gardens, North Wales, who has contributed valuable suggestions based on the British viewpoint. Sailing a wholly uncharted course, it was found necessary to tack and reef occasionally, and, among other things, in the course of our discussion it was decided to broaden the scope of the plan so that it could be applied to *all* camellias — not merely the newcomers.

This interchange of views proceeded for more than a year, until it had become evident that the three of us were unanimously agreed in principle and largely as to details, as well. Before devoting more work to the subject, it was felt desirable at this point to broaden the basis of discussion by submitting the plan to a number of qualified persons for criticism and then publicizing the matter, with an invitation for comment and suggestions. Perhaps because of a greater similarity of climatic conditions, it was found that the English and Northern California viewpoints as to details seemed to coincide a little more closely than with the Australian — or it may be that the individual

backgrounds had something to do with it. What is more important is that indispensable contributions were made by both amateur and professional and, where differences do occur, they are slight. In fact, the essential point involved here is that there has been rather complete agreement in principle.

The ultimate object of the plan is to develop and put into operation throughout the English-speaking camellia world at least, a standard method of evaluating and rating camellias by means of a set of fixed rules, which would constitute the basis of appraisal, and a standard scale of points, by which the results of the appraisal may be plainly expressed. This — and this alone — is what might be called the *universal* objective. Everyone who has been consulted to date seems to agree that *the rating itself* would have universal application only in rare instances, due to differences in climate, local environment and cultural practices. Thus the *immediate result* of the rating would be primarily of regional or local importance, while a "universal rating" (an average of all regional ratings) would be largely a matter of secondary interest. It is contemplated that the regional ratings will be determined by qualified local judges — preferably not less than three — on a basis of strict adherence to the applicable rules and as free from partiality and personal preference as possible; which is, of course, merely a statement of the fundamental qualifications of a good judge, whether it be for this purpose, a camellia show, or what not. It is hoped that accredited judges will be named, and as many of their ratings published annually as possible, by such organizations as the American Camellia Society, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society, which last-named organization, incidentally, has already taken an active interest in this project and will, we understand, publish an article expressing Mr. Hazlewood's views fully in their 1957 Annual. A final object would be to have the regional ratings, at least, appear in the local publications, catalogs or lists.

With this general statement of the origin and objectives, to complete this preface perhaps we should endeavor to set down a list of what might be called the basic essentials required of any camellia rating scale. As we see it, there are three:

(1) Completeness — all the principal factors relating to evaluation must be included.

(2) Accuracy — although exactitude will be difficult, it is essential that the apportionment of values between these factors be in proper balance.

(3) Treatment — the reasoning behind the handling of the factors must be valid.

If the method proposed is sound in these absolute essentials, on which it should be very closely examined, then there would be real hope for success.

The concept of the Plan, explanatory material and the proposed Scale, itself, follow. It should be kept in mind at all times that, while the scale deals primarily with merits, in application it employs the discount principle, so that the permissible deduction for a vital fault should be such as to insure the overall rating will never be any higher than the possession of such a shortcoming would justify. Put simply, no plant lacking satisfactory Vigor should ever carry a "Satisfactory" final rating — thus the permissible maximum deduction on this score must be at least 30 points. Any recommendation for change in the proposed scale must not fail to recognize this vital principle.

Basic Premise

The appraisal of the worth of any plant involves a study of its individual and several characteristics which, collectively, constitute its nature and merit or lack thereof. In a camellia, this requires that a great many such items be considered, both good and bad, but to be practicable any rating scale should be limited to as few evaluation items as possible for the sake of simplicity. In the suggested camellia rating scale shown herein, the standard evaluation items have been limited to ten that are to be judged from the merit standpoint and one consisting solely of demerit characteristics and thus listed separately. These eleven items therefore constitute the framework or details of the "Normal Rating" Scale, encompassing all the essential characteristics possessed by the average camellia.

The prime requisites of a good camellia concern the quality of the bloom and plant and its performance. Therefore, it would seem that the first essential of any rating system be that proper balance exist between these three categories. This has been recognized by classifying the ten merit evaluation items in the scale and the one demerit item under their respective sub-headings and showing the point sub-total for each category — a step taken for the sake of orderliness in the arrangement of the items as well. The first test that such a scale must meet, therefore, is whether the relative weight assigned to each of these categories is correct. Obviously, if there is imbalance here the scale cannot yield an accurate result. The proposed scale presumes that the Plant should constitute 45 percent of the point value and the Florescence 55 percent, the latter divided between the Flower (35 points) and the Flowering Habit (20 points).

The "fault" section of the Normal Rating Scale concerns the unpardonable sin of Balling, or Bud-Drop. This is so serious as to require that the penalty be sufficiently heavy in itself as to practically assure that the possessor of this fault will bear a final rating no higher than "Fair", notwithstanding it might be a practically perfect camellia otherwise. Obviously, faults may not properly be combined with merits. To deal with this situation, and at the same time recognize it will rarely be encountered, a "Demerit" category has been set up in the "Normal Rating" section, whereby the camellia will first be pointed in the usual way, then discounted for such fault, if present, the net result, or figure, being the final Normal Rating.

In devising the Rating Scale, a fundamental concept is that the value of a camellia must be determined primarily from the standpoint of its desirability to *the general public.* This means that the scale must be so arranged as to show, first, the evaluation determined solely by reference to the *basic characteristics* common to camellias in general. The result thus obtained has been designated the "Normal Rating." Were unusual or abnormal characteristics included in the basic scale, the great majority of fine camellias not possessing these features would be penalized, although they might be of the highest quality. This would be very misleading, because the use of a single numeral in expressing the overall value of a plant imposes considerable limitation and thus a fundamental weakness might be offset by the mere possession of uniqueness. We must also consider that the scale is designed to have universal application and, where some unusual quality might be highly desirable in one part of the world (such as Extreme Hardiness, for example), it might be unimportant or completely meaningless in another. Thus to include such unusual characteristics in the standard, or normal, scale would tend to destroy its usefulness from a comparative standpoint, as well as to the general public, whose judgment should be guided primarily by normal standards, not the novelty and frills that are so appealing to the collector and connoisseur.

It is, nevertheless, true that *all* of a plant's attributes and faults of any importance should enter into consideration if it is to be properly evaluated. Where rare or unusual qualities do exist, credit must be given in some way. However, this test must be applied with great discrimination, otherwise it would become meaningless. As previously stated, the limitations of a single numeral are such that the Normal Rating should be confined to only the usual or customary characteristics. It would follow that any added special qualities should be separately evaluated and the credits therefrom shown *in conjunction with* (not combined with) the Normal Rating. A ready way to accomplish this is simply to show both figures in conjunction with a plus sign (+). To illustrate: a "Good" camellia with a Normal Rating of 78 and special credit of 10 points for supreme Cut-Flower Value would be rated thus 78 + 10. The fact that not everyone requires that a camellia have Cut-Flower Value (many are purchased merely for their show in the garden) is sufficient evidence that these two figures should not be combined into a rating of 88, which could be very misleading, as it would convert a "Good" camellia into a "Superior" one.

There is one further matter to be considered, which has absolutely nothing to do with the Normal Rating of a camellia because it is neither a horticultural fault nor a

common one. That is the matter of rating a camellia which is so similar to one already existing as to make it undesirable for a person to have both. We call this "Duplication." In dealing with this problem, it must first be clearly recognized that it is something separate and distinct from all the other considerations. The question will immediately arise as to which one of two camellias greatly similar should bear the onus of Duplication. It might be argued that priority should govern, but this would not only be impracticable because of nomenclatural problems but would actually operate to prevent improvement. There seems to be but one solution and that is not to deviate from the basic principle of judging each camellia solely on its horticultural merits and letting the "duplicate" with the higher rating prevail. In so doing we will never stand in the way of progress. How, then, to express such a situation in the rating? Obviously, it is necessary to show, not only that Duplication exists, but also what camellia it duplicates. It is also necessary that the *degree* of duplication be indicated. This cannot be expressed in figures, however, as to do so would complicate matters too much. It is felt that only three degrees of Duplication should be necessary and that this may best be taken care of by having the numerical rating contain a suffix consisting of one to three capital letters "D": a single D to reflect resemblance that is slight but sufficient to constitute lack of originality; DD if very similar and DDD if practically identical. The rating must then be followed by the name of the camellia duplicated and its normal rating, so that a preference is indicated. Thus a perfectly satisfactory camellia as to performance will be so rated but, if its numerical rating contains one or more "D's", this will serve warning that it contributes nothing new *unless* its rating is higher than the variety it duplicates. For example, 'Anemoneflora Variegata' is very similar to 'Elegans' but inferior. Assuming its Normal Rating to be 84 and that of 'Elegans' 95, the full rating would appear thus: "ANEMONEFLORA VARIEGATA = 84-DD (Elegans-95)." Anyone familiar with the rating system would therefore ignore the former in favor of the latter.

The suggested Scale is shown below followed by a Glossary explaining in detail what is meant to be covered under each of the 15 separate items comprising the Scale.

SUGGESTED CAMELLIA RATING SCALE

SECTION 1. NORMAL RATING (MERIT SECTION)

Item No.	*Characteristic*	*Maximum Point Value*	*Sub-Total for Category*	
	PLANT			
1	Vigor	30		
2	Growth Habit	10		
3	Foliage	5	45	
	FLOWER			
4	Form	10		
5	Color	10		
6	Substance	10		
7	Size for type	5	35	
	FLOWERING HABIT			
8	Quantity of Blooms	5		
9	Duration of Bloom	10		
10	Self-Grooming	5	20	
	TOTAL — MERITS:			100
	FLOWERING HABIT (DEMERIT SECTION)			
11	Balling, Bud-Drop, etc.	—30	—30	—30
	FINAL RATING — NORMAL CHARACTERISTICS:			70

SECTION 2. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS (UNIQUE OR UNUSUAL)

Item No.	*Characteristic*	*Maximum Point Value*	*Sub-Total for Category*
12	Exceptional Cut-Flower Value	+10	
13	Abnormal Blooming Season	+15	
14	Outstanding Hardiness (Plant or Flower)	+20	
15	Uniqueness of Flower or Florescence	+25	
	SPECIAL MERIT RATING ("PLUS FACTORS"): (to be shown separately)		70

(Caution: this section applies only to exceptional camellias)

BASIS FOR DETERMINATION OF POINTS AND FINAL RATING

Grade 1 = Supreme = 90 - 100 points or %
Grade 2 = Superior = 80 - 90 " " "
Grade 3 = Good = 70 - 80 " " "
Grade 4 = Fair = 60 - 70 " " "
Grade 5 = Poor = 0 - 59 " " "

Illustration: Good Vigor = not less than 21 nor more than 24 points.
Final Normal Rating, 85 points = Grade 2, Superior.

DUPLICATION SCALE

D = slight resemblance, lacks originality.
DD = very similar to existing variety.
DDD = practically identical to existing variety.

GLOSSARY

Item No.

1 — VIGOR: relates to Plant Growth and health characteristics, not necessarily to rapidity of growth — disease resistance and hardiness — strength of root system, twigs and branches; ability to leaf out well.

2 — GROWTH HABIT: refers to form largely, overall beauty as a shrub except for foliage, symmetry vs. legginess, density, etc.

3 — FOLIAGE: concerns amount and quality of leaves, color, glossiness and ability to withstand burning, fading and yellowing.

4 — FLOWER FORM: Beauty and individuality of petalage and stamen formation, orderliness in formal types, height and overall grace in others.

5 — FLOWER COLOR: Reds that are bright, whites that are pure, markings on variegated forms, sheen, iridescence, pleasing shades, veination.

6 — FLOWER SUBSTANCE: Keeping quality of blooms, on plant and when cut, freedom from weather and other damage, ability to hold form well, lack of tenderness.

7 — FLOWER SIZE: Not simply largeness, but desirable size for type of bloom — if single or semi-double normally should have greater diameter than more double sorts, if miniature type must be real small — the size should be commensurate with the form and color to make the most pleasing overall effect.

8 — QUANTITY OF BLOOMS: To be regarded in the light of other factors, such as size and type of flower, overall garden effect vs. individual specimen blooms, etc. — not necessarily governed by greatest number as can be too many under some conditions.

9 — DURATION OF BLOOM: Extent of blooming season and to be judged in the light of the desirability thereof — also relates to the ability of the plant to keep up a good show.

10 — SELF-GROOMING: Neatness of the plant, whether from the standpoint of dropping spent blooms, shattering of flowers where petals must be picked up and maintaining good appearance whether in bloom or not.

Abnormal Factors:

11 — BALLING, BUD-DROP, Etc.: Any camellia which chronically refuses to open its flowers properly, or drops its buds, should be penalized very heavily as such characteristics at their worst make the variety practically worthless. Some will do this only occasionally, depending upon the weather, and the penalty should be modified accordingly. If one year in three, the penalty might be one-third, or 10 points; similarly if only one-third of the buds drop or refuse to open.

12 — EXCEPTIONAL CUT-FLOWER VALUE: Varieties that are exceptionally useful when cut or that have outstanding and unusual value for personal adornment. Must be quite exceptional to rate the full award.

13 — ABNORMAL BLOOMING SEASON: Extremely early bloomers or very late where that is desirable because of cold — includes varieties which flower over abnormally long periods but the credit value in such case should be moderate.

14 — OUTSTANDING HARDINESS: This refers to both plant and flower and relates only to those camellias which will perform in climates where the average will not — whether it be due to heat or cold. Points here should be awarded very sparingly.

15 — UNIQUENESS OF FLOWER OR FLORESCENCE: The bloom must possess some special, original or otherwise individualistic feature that marks it as separate and distinct from the normal such as fragrance — or the flowering habit must be unique, such as axillary-blooming, for example; pendant or otherwise broadening the usage of camellias. Or the color tones or form must be new, including new shapes and sizes.

The reactions to the foregoing to date have been, on the whole, most encouraging. The principal questions raised concern the following:

(1) that Item 1 (Vigor) may be too heavily weighted (30%), while Item 7 (Flower Size) may be under-rated at 5%;

(2) that Flower Shattering and Flower Tenderness (purely local considerations) appear to have been ignored;

(3) that the importance attached to Flower Color (10%) may be too great, one authority expressing the view that this is largely a matter of individual preference (but are not form and size, also?);

(4) that Growth Habit may be overweighted because this is largely controllable by proper pruning and shaping (but this overlooks the fact the plan is designed to apply to the general public rather than the more skilled collector or specialist).

It would be difficult to prove that the proper ratio of PLANT to FLOWER-PLUS-FLOWERING HABIT is more properly 45-55 than 40-60 and the writer has no absolute convictions on this point. However, Vigor is vital and the possible penalty here must be sufficient to disqualify a camellia on that point alone (at least 30 points). It might be better, if the 40-60 ratio be more correct, to deduct 5 points from Growth Habit and add them to Flower Size. (However, we must not forget that extreme size may more properly be recognized in the Special Characteristics (Item 15). A better plan might be to drop Item 10 entirely (thus reducing the headings by one), adding the points (5) thus gained to Flower Size and changing "Self-Grooming" (a merit factor) to "Untidiness" (a demerit factor), which would then put this in as an additional sub-division of Item 11. The same reasoning might be applied to Flower Shattering and Flower Tenderness — purely local considerations but quite important regionally. To allow for these additional demerit factors, perhaps the permissible deduction under Item 11 should be increased to 40 points. The fact that all of these factors have close relationship would seem an additional reason for doing so, as Balling, Bud-Drop, Shattering, Untidiness and Tenderness all relate to flower performance.

The foregoing is quite illustrative of the potentialities by way of alteration of the scale according to individual viewpoints, but it also serves warning that the reason for any change should be rather compelling, otherwise the problem will become endless and highly confusing. We should never lose sight of the fact the scale is designed to have universal application and that it should be affected as little as possible by purely local considerations, so that, where differences in rating do exist they will simply be reflections of environment.

This is certainly no simple problem, nor casual undertaking. The hours of effort devoted to this matter have long since dispelled any illusions in that regard. However, it would seem that the goal, if it can be attained, would make the effort well worth while. It would be difficult to think of any single more valuable service the camellia societies could render to their members than a reliable guide such as is contemplated here. To that end, the helpful assistance and participation of all interested and qualified persons, who will give this subject the study it deserves, is cordially solicited.

SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA FESTIVAL

The Sacramento Camellia Festival Association, which is doing a wonderful job of publicizing camellias, submits the following schedule of events for its forthcoming FOURTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL:

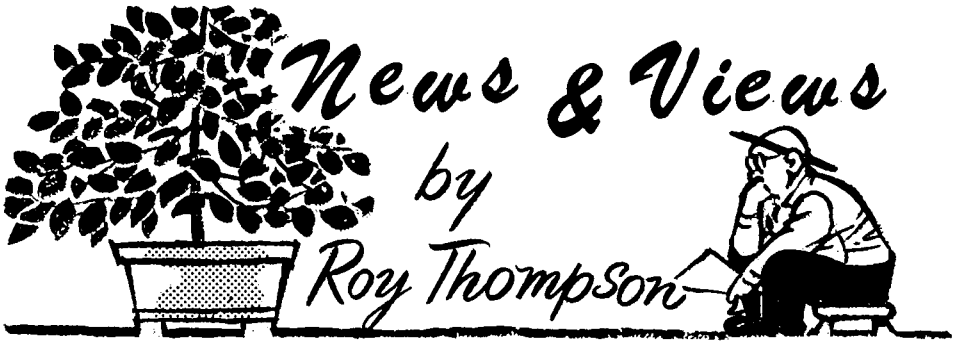
Date	*Event*	*Sponsor*
Feb. 25	Escort Dinner	Past escorts
Mar. 7	Kickoff Breakfast	Sacramento City-County Chamber of Commerce and Camellia Society of Sacramento
Mar. 8	Camellia Ball	Sutter Hospital Auxiliary
Mar. 8-9	Camellia Show	Camellia Society of Sacramento
Mar. 12	Luncheon honoring past Camellia Queens	Mercy Hospital Guild
Mar. 15	Children's Camellia Parade	City, County and Parochial schools and City Recreation Department
Mar. 16	Camellia Folk Dance Pageant	Northern California Folk Dance Federation

In addition, this organization under the dynamic chairmanship of Mr. E. A. Combatalade, is distributing thousands of camellia seeds each year, to youngsters, certain foreign applicants and even to prisoners in a California penitentiary, accompanied by directions how to grow them. Many other novel methods of publicizing and encouraging the growing of camellias have been devised by this very live organization and we only wish we had the space to go into this in greater detail. Keep up the good work, Ed!

EDITORIAL TIDBITS *(Cont. from Page 8)*

> "I can graft the lightest flowers of *Adolphe Audusson* and get real nice dark red flowers on the grafted plants — same is true of *Ville de Nantes,* so I put in cuttings of limbs that bore the light ones and they came out all light flowers. True, it takes a *Ville* some time to grow on its own roots, but the plants are quite healthy and actually do just about as well as grafts, once started. Then I tried grafting scions from these own-root plants and got a much higher percentage of light flowers. We once had a sport limb on a *Lotus* and grafted the top eye and rooted the next section. The graft brought back plain old *Lotus* but the cutting came almost exactly like the original sport; not enough different to do anything with but a fuller flower and prettier."

In closing, Mrs. Hayes informs that a recent phone call from Mr. Lee G. Lowe advises that everything seems to be blooming unseasonably early around New Orleans and they are beginning to get apprehensive about flowers for the Show — however, we might observe that the weatherman has a habit of evening things up and rather imagine there will be plenty of blooms when the time comes.—D. L. F.



One of the most constant characteristics of camellias is their inconstancy. They habitually violate the patterns which they previously established, so much so that experienced camellia people feel reluctant to make positive statements about them. The blooming season in my part of Glendale is normally a month or six weeks later than it is in other sections of Southern California, but this season it has moved ahead from four to six weeks. In other words, February camellias began blooming about December 1st. *Mrs. Charles Cobb* comes out about Feb. 15th, but this year had fine blooms on Dec. 1st. On Dec. 2, *Jessie Katz* had a pair of fine blooms, a very exceptional thing for this variety. On Dec. 15 *Lindsay Neill* had a dozen fine blooms and *Herme* its first bloom of the season. (*Herme's* final bloom of last season came out June 15, just six months before.) The same week saw *Mme. Hahn, Duncan Bell,* and *Mrs. K. Sawada* in bloom while at Christmas time *Lotus* established an all-time record by opening two fine blooms on Dec. 23, along with *Grace Bunton, Nagasaki, Emmett Barnes,* and *F. M. Uyematsu* (Star No. 1). The latter is no doubt a variant of *Adolphe Audusson,* but it always blooms much earlier.

There may be some connection between this early blooming season and the temperature of the Pacific Ocean; at any rate it is worth mentioning. The Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla recently announced that the temperature of the Pacific from Panama to Alaska has been from 2 to 5½ degrees warmer during 1957, and that subtropical fish have been taken for the first time near Seattle. This, the Institute says, may have profound influence on our climate, especially if the trend continues. Hence, the camellias may have been triggered this season into an earlier blooming period by the warmer temperatures.

Two sasanqua varieties which bloomed in the latter part of September, some two weeks before their "normal" blooming time, still had not opened their seed pods before they bloomed. They were in a great hurry this year.

It is a well known fact that live-oak trees offer an almost perfect environment for camellias which are planted in their shade. The falling oak leaves furnish a mulch which not only retains moisture but also supplies nourishment to the camellias. The shade given by oaks is not too heavy, but is filtered — just what camellias require. But there is a prevailing opinion that oak trees are of such slow growth that, unless one can buy a place with them fully grown, it is useless to plant them. The truth is that California live-oak trees are not abnormally slow of growth; they are not fast growing, but fast enough to make it worth while to plant them about one's place. In ten years' time (and that isn't long these days) they will furnish shelter for many camellias and will keep increasing in size at a rate which will surprise many people.

This morning (December 28th) my three-year-old *Masterpiece* has eight fine blooms, all tight formals and each one perfect. Heretofore somewhat dubious about this variety,

which has not performed too well in the past, its show at the moment has raised it again in my estimation. When at its best, I know of no other white formal which can equal it. Later on, the blooms will lose their tight, regular patterns, but right now they are "perfection personified."

THE CAMELLIA IN ENGLAND *(Cont. from Page 3)*

late frost will blacken all blooms, but semi-double types seem to be more subject to frost damage because of the pollen and stamens. Furthermore, due to our more temperate climate in summer and possibly because of a paucity of grafted plants, the amount of variegation in blooms is much less.

This brings us to the matter of propagation culture. Except in the most favored sites, generally seed does not set on the japonicas readily, hence seedlings are not common, nor is grafting stock. However, due to the moist climate, cuttings strike easily and are the source of most propagation and this is really a very satisfactory method.

The annual R. H. S. Yearbook on "Rhododendrons and Camellias" gives the details as to any new Royal Horticultural Society awards to camellias. In addition, the several hundred varieties of camellias planted out in its Wisley gardens gives English enthusiasts the opportunity of seeing how they fare under garden conditions.

OPTIMUM FLOWER DEVELOPMENT *(Cont. from Page 9)*

withholding nitrogen entirely in the blooming season. Because the greatest decomposition of humus occurs in the woods during the rainy season, it would seem to follow that a camellia growing wild would actually find more nitrogen available to it at that time than any other. On the strength of this reasoning, and because I am a great believer in staying close to Nature in everything having to do with horticulture, I have always made it a point to top-dress my camellias in containers with a compost mulch in the fall or early winter. I have no objection if the mulch contains a fair amount of animal manure, either. Perhaps once in November and again just about the time the buds show color I give another feeding — both at not more than half strength — and preferably of a low nitrogen analysis, such as 4-8-8 or 5-10-10. I don't care particularly whether it is dry or liquid and may use one application of each. But here, again, is a case where, because a little seems to do some good, you should not fall into the error of thinking that a lot will be better. Besides distorting the form of the flower, too much fertilizer will cause an unsightly streaking of some varieties, such as *Prince Eugene Napoleon,* and such a misguided effort to develop a "lollapaloosa" will do far more harm than good. Fertilizing a camellia during the blooming season should be regarded in the same light as the use of seasoning — a little adds that spice and zest, but too much leaves a bad taste in your mouth!

In conclusion, to paraphrase a famous business slogan: "Water is most important to our product" — the prize-winning camellia!—D.L.F.

GEORGE HELMS PASSES

We have great sorrow in recording the death on November 3, 1957, of an old friend and widely known camellia enthusiast, George J. Helms of San Leandro, California, which followed a period of incapacitation due to illness. In the years which followed his retirement some time ago as a high-ranking law enforcement officer, Mr. Helms lived in his characteristic quiet fashion in enjoyment of their always interesting garden, with his good wife, Reubena, widely recognized in horticultural circles. One could not visit the Helms' without coming away with spiritual glow and George will be sorely missed by his many friends, in the Northern California Camellia Society and elsewhere.

IF YOU WOULD WIN A RIBBON! *(Cont. from Page 7)*

In most camellia shows, the blooms are exhibited according to variety and identification cards are placed on the tables in advance, usually in alphabetical order. If entered incorrectly, the general rule is that the bloom is disqualified. The reason for this is that there is insufficient time for the show management to check over every flower between the time the entries close and the judging begins, consequently simple directions and arrangements for placing the flower are provided — the rest is up to the individual exhibitor. All flowers of the same variety are grouped together because each different variety is judged separately — an ALBA PLENA does not compete against a PURITY unless it be in the final competition for Best Flower in the Show. Thus, if your flower, no matter how good, is incorrectly entered, it will not be judged. This is an excellent illustration of how important it is, once you decide to enter, to get a copy of the Show Regulations, which are usually obtainable at least a week before the show. I never think of this business of entering blooms correctly that I am not reminded of the time we found an ALBA PLENA entered under VILLE DE NANTES — just about as far apart in both the alphabet and type of flower as possible — and as far for the judges to retrace their steps, besides necessitating completely re-judging the ALBA PLENA group, if the rules did not disqualify it. So you can see how important this is and why this rule is so necessary. It pays to be careful in entering your blooms, otherwise a lot of trouble is all for naught. In fact, I think it is fair to say that the most important advice I could give you in connection with entering exhibits in a camellia show is to use extreme care throughout.

There are, of course, lots of people who are not particularly concerned about winning ribbons and still like to have their flowers in the show. The object of holding a camellia show is primarily educational and it is desirable that the exhibits clearly illustrate the different degrees of success that are possible with a given variety, as well as to acquaint those interested in camellias with as many varieties as possible. Thus, exhibitors of all types and from different localities tend to broaden the scope and therefore the interest in the show. Therefore, do not be hesitant about entering, for your exhibit will be welcome. But if you aspire to win a ribbon or two, the foregoing should be helpful— at least, that is my sincere hope — and I wish you luck!

JOHN PAUL ILLGES

Just at the moment we were going to press, word was received that John Illges, of Columbus, Georgia, one of the founders, a former Vice-President and long a stalwart member and patron of the American Camellia Society, had succumbed to a heart attack on December 27th. Mr. Illges was first stricken last spring and had partially recovered but a recurrence proved to be fatal.

Since the passing of his revered wife a few years ago, Mr. Illges had been a frequent visitor to the Pacific Coast where he made friends wherever he went and those of us out here who had come to know him were as impressed by the sincerity, quiet modesty and charm of this real Southern gentleman as we were by his physical stature.

The camellia public will long remember John Illges by his many outstanding contributions to camelliana quite aside from his invaluable work with the national society. From the very large, bright-red single variety which bears his name, through the several outstanding seedlings he developed, among which were "Plumfield White" (named after his estate) and the more recent "Pink Champagne", there are many living evidences of John Illges' presence. His most notable contribution, however, was the origination of the Illges Medal, awarded annually to the finest new seedling — a fitting testimonial to the deep love and interest he always held for the welfare of camellias. The camellia world has, indeed, suffered an irreparable loss and all of us are deeply saddened by this passing of a great and good friend.

OUR 1958 CAMELLIA SHOWS — DON'T MISS THEM!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.—MARCH 15-16 WEEK-END

This San Francisco Bay area's society's 13th Annual Show will again be held at the Recreational Center Hall, Walnut Creek, California, from 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15th to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 16th, 1958. Admission by membership card, which covers husband and wife, children under 12 free if accompanying parents, all others tickets 50 cents. Exhibitors are cordially invited to enter competitive exhibits. Show Chairman, Walter Peterson.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY — MARCH 1-2 WEEK-END

This Glendale society will again hold its Annual Show in conjunction with the other Los Angeles Area camellia societies, operating through the Los Angeles Camellia Council. As has been the case in the past two years, the 1958 Show will be an outdoor affair, staged in the famous Descanso Gardens, La Canada. The dates are March 1st and 2nd for Cut-Flower Competition, March 8th and 9th for Flower Arrangements.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY — SUNDAY ONLY, MARCH 2nd

The 16th Annual Show of the above Society will be held on Sunday, March 2nd, 1958, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the San Jose Civic Auditorium — admission free. This all-male organization will again hold a non-competitive show, but featuring a beautiful review table display of the most outstanding bloom of each variety exhibited. The general public is cordially invited.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO — MARCH 8-9 WEEK-END

The 33rd Annual Show of this, the pioneer camellia society of California, will again be held in the Memorial Auditorium, Sacramento, on the week-end of March 8-9, 1958, doors open about 3 p.m. Admission is free and the general public is invited to attend and to enter exhibits — a competitive show.

* * *

AN ANNUAL CHECK — HAVE YOU:
CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS? PAID YOUR 1958 DUES?

On behalf of the four societies shown above, we issue this timely reminder and submit below a convenient means of remitting and/or reporting change of address to the Treasurer or Secretary of your Society as listed on the inside of the front cover, thus assuring that your copy of *The Camellia Bulletin* will not be delayed. Or use it to enroll a new member or subscriber!

NAME..... renewal?..... new?.....

CORRECT ADDRESS: No. and Street.....

City..... Zone No..... State.....

REMITTANCE ENCLOSED: $..... for Dues/Subscription. Date..... 1958

DO YOUR CAMELLIA FRIEND A FAVOR — HAND HIM OR HER THIS INVITATION TO JOIN — TODAY!