

South Coast Orchid Society **Summary of January, 1956 meeting as published in *Orchid Digest***

South Coast Orchid Society Annual Dinner

The Sixth Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers of the South Coast Orchid Society was held at the Lafayette Hotel, Long Beach, on the evening of January 23, 1956. The banquet tables were beautifully decorated by members of our society, each table having its own motif.

The invocation for the dinner was given by Mr. J. A. Muller, past president of the Orchid Society of Southern California. After dinner our president, Mr. John W. Hanes, introduced our guests, Dr. and Mrs. L. F. Hawkinson, also the presidents of various orchid societies of Southern California: Mr. Don G. Saurenman, San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists; Mr. John Chadwick, Cymbidium Society; Mr. Joseph R. Hampton, Orchid Society of Southern California; Mr. Emerson W. Charles, Orange County Orchid Society; and Mr. George Dean Field, Orchid Digest Corporation. Mr. Hanes commented on the fine support and unity of the orchid societies of Southern California and expressed a sincere desire that the societies would always display this keen spirit of coordinated helpfulness and unity of purpose. He then introduced the outgoing and incoming officers.

Our program chairman, Dr. J. Lloyd Wallar, was most fortunate in securing Dr. L. F. Hawkinson of Piedmont, California, as our guest speaker. Dr. Hawkinson chose as his subject matter, "Hits, Runs and Errors."

After growing orchids for some 16 years, he believes that 90 to 99 per cent of all greenhouses sooner or later become too crowded and it becomes a question of more glass or grading the plants on hand and tossing out those that do not meet your standards. He feels that disposing of less desirable plants is very important as this keeps only your top plants taking up greenhouse space and gives them more room in which to grow. Finding the proper temperature, both summer and winter, night and day; the humidity spray that works best for you; and the proper amount of shading is most important.

Virus in Cattleyas is on the increase and must be controlled. It can always be transmitted to other plants in your house by your cutting tools, so ALWAYS keep these tools sterile. No cure as yet is known for virus except to dispose of the infected plant by burning. In potting never leave holes around the roots of the plants. Pack the medium, whether fir bark, osmunda, or other medium, tightly. He stated that he is still using osmunda for his mature plants though fir bark is satisfactory for seedlings. The latest reports he has had on fir bark states that its pH is about normal so the addition of lime seems to be unnecessary.

In buying plants, seedling or mature, know your grower and beware of bargains. Most of the finest crosses made in the last few years have been made here on the West Coast, especially so of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis

Mrs. Elva Hanes