

South Coast Orchid Society

Summary of February, 1955 meeting as published in *Orchid Digest*

A most interesting talk on the Recognition and Manipulation of Quality Control Factors on *Cypripediums* was given by Mr. Everett C. Wilcox, who is a very well known grower of *Cypripediums*. Mr. Wilcox told us our plants need to look robust, have good color and shine to their leaves. The shine indicates good roots and the right watering. *Cypripediums* must never be completely dry. Soak them well after repotting and thereafter keep them damp. Mr. Wilcox recommends a medium similar to E-Z-R-Gro for potting *Cypripediums*. Osmundine is good but is hard on the roots at repotting time. The roots control the shape and size of the flowers. Divide the plants early in the season but don't cut them too small. Stuff the potting medium into the root system first, leaving no air pockets in the roots, then place the plant in the pot, which is about one-third filled with crock, and finish potting. Mr. Wilcox doesn't feel this type of potting medium needs any more fertilizer but be sure to repot as the medium breaks down. Good vegetative growths indicate good culture. Look for them early in the season. Light intensity helps the growths along; 400 to 1800 foot candle light is good for *Cypripediums*. The flower color is not controllable as far as Mr. Wilcox knows, however, some plants have a color variation from year to year. The popular shape for *Cypripedium* flowers is round with no reflex at the base of the dorsal. To help attain this correct angle, stake the flower after it is fully open. A 50° night temperature will help the flowers last longer so that we may enjoy their beauty a little more. Bronze Awards were made as follows: Blc. Lorelei 'Earl Monson' (75.7) and Lc. Rita Cobb 'George Cameron' (79), shown by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hecker; *Potinara* Red Friar 'Daybreak' (75), *Cyp.* Allendale 'Fine' (75.3), and *Cyp.* Esther 'Westonbirt' (76.8), shown by Clark Day, Jr.; Bc. Lynn Redmond 'Marnette' (75.1), shown by the Holmquists. The Holmquists were also given a cultural award for their Slc. Estelle Jewell.

Mrs. Elva Hanes