

THE DAFFODIL BULLETIN
The American Daffodil Society

Summer Number

July 1956

FROM THE SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

THE PRESIDENT

"We want to thank you", says Mrs. Lawrence R. Wharton, Vice-president of the Middle Atlantic Region and our official hostess at the April Convention in Washington. And I say it also--especially to our guests of honor, Guy Wilson and Reggie Wooton; to our Convention Committee comprising Freeman Weiss, General Chairman; Bob Wilson, Willard King, Willis Wheeler, Rita Butterworth, Ellen Luce, Mildred Benton, Jac Lamond; to our speakers Dr. John Wister, Dr. Ray Allen, Adrian Frylink, Serena Bridges, Mrs. Robert Walker; to our masters of ceremonies in the person of Fred Lee, Dr. Emsweller, Frank Reinelt, Hubert Fischer, Alita Weaver, Grant Mitsch, George Lee, Mrs. Jesse Cox; and to all of the kindly, good natured people who attended our First Annual Convention.

1957 Convention

In 1957 the Annual Convention will be at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ray Allen--the Director of Kingwood. The date probably will be around April 15th.

One feature of this second convention will be a show test garden of new varieties.

And to you--Mr. or Mrs. Hybridist--send your hopefuls and new items to Ray Allen for entry. Same for the wholesalers and retailers of bulbs--if you have some items you want to show to this big group of daffodil enthusiasts--or if you want to set up a "trade exhibit"--again I say, contact Ray Allen. Won't cost you anything but the bulbs, but Ray must receive them for planting in the special display plot at beautiful Kingwood on or before October 1, next.

1958 Convention

The 1958 Convention will be at Atlanta, Georgia--E. Fay Pearce, Chairman. And the 1959 Convention place will be announced shortly. All of which conforms to the Board's policy of setting up dates 3 years in advance thereby permitting adequate time for planning and for getting the test and show gardens in.

We have colored slides of the items on the 1955-56 Daffodil Symposium. If you want a set for lectures to garden clubs, etc. contact our Librarian, Mrs. John S. Moats, 5609 Harwick Road, Washington 16, D. C.

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Correspondence regarding membership, dues, etc. should be sent to the treasurer. Communications for the Bulletin should be sent to the editor, or to Associate Editor Mrs. Channing M. Bolton, Box 179, Rt. 2, Fairfax, Virginia.

All Committees have now been appointed. The heart of the Society lies in the work of these Committees. And this first set of Committees is especially important because they lay the groundwork--cut the pattern for the future.

Carey E. Quinn

THE EDITOR

The process of birth is always something of a trial - even for fathers - though maternal aphids seem to accomplish it with amazing ease. So it is with the birth of a new society and the establishment of its news organ in the already congested journalistic field.

The American Daffodil Society should be over its birth pains by now, this being the third year of its existence, but difficulties have still attended the bringing forth of its news letter (or Bulletin) and even more the launching of an annual publication or yearbook.

Some of these difficulties have had to do with finding the right printer, even for so modest a sheet as this; "right", that is, from the standpoint of accessibility to the editor, and also to the treasurer who keeps the membership list. With the printer, the editor, and the treasurer spatially separated by from 15 to 40 miles, confusion and some errors have occurred in keeping the members' address list correct and up-to-date, and in getting the news letter delivered with regularity. We ask the indulgence of those who have been neglected and inconvenienced in this way, and we think that we have effected arrangements that will eliminate such lapses in the future.

Accompanying this news letter, which is being sent to all members of record up to July 1, we are sending back numbers of the Bulletin for the present year (as far as they are available) to those who have joined the Society since April. The supply of back numbers is limited and may not go all the way around. It seems to us that the report of the Daffodil Symposium of 1955 was the only item of lasting interest in the Winter and Spring Bulletins, and if you have failed to receive it we will have it re-issued. Please notify the editor if you still need a copy.

The Bulletin will continue to be issued four times a year, ordinarily in January, April, July, and October. Arrangements have now been made for the publication of a Yearbook, scheduled for November or December. Suggestions for topics to be covered in the Yearbook will be gladly received by the editor. Better still, tell us who can or will expound the topic you want covered (yourself, perhaps) and present us with an author or even an article. The editor is only a compiler, not a reporter. What is your news?

ATTENTION, REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

From George S. Lee, Jr., 1st Vice-President of the Society, comes this worthwhile suggestion for activities of the regional vice-presidents. The editor will be very glad to establish a department for reports by the regional V.P.'s if they will send in their communications. This is an invitation to do so. The October Bulletin will be coming up soon!

"It might emphasize the fact that we are a national organization if each regional vice president was asked once a year to contribute a brief resumé, say half a page, in the quarterly, of activities and events in his area. This would divide into two or three per issue.

I suspect there may be considerable interest in how group purchase of bulbs is handled. There is such a project around Washington as you know, and Mrs. Capen, who is vice president for New York and New Jersey, mentioned what seemed to be a large operation

of this kind in Northern New Jersey. An article in the Annual describing the procedure followed might interest other areas where there are groups of garden clubs. Since bulbs are especially susceptible to group purchase, it might prove to be an effective way of getting more people to grow better daffodils."

NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is extended to the following listed persons who have joined the Society since the Spring Bulletin was issued. Not only are your officers pleased to present their names but we are sure that other members will find in this list a neighbor, perhaps, or someone in your community whose acquaintance you will want to make. It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Mrs. Kenneth B. Anderson
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Mrs. Anna Fae Dawson
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Mrs. William Dennison
R.R. 2,
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Dayton, Ohio

Mrs. H. C. Donohoe
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Reidsville, North Carolina

Mrs. Percy Gillie
4 Whitehorn Lane
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Mrs. Harold E. Goff
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Ocean View, Delaware

Mrs. W. S. Kies, Jr.
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Greenwich, Connecticut

Mrs. John R. Kingsboro
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Shelby, Ohio

Ernest Lannon
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Mrs. George H. Littell
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Mrs. C. H. Luce
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Belle Haven, Alexandria, Virginia

Mrs. J. Everett May
New Springfield, Ohio

Mrs. Archer Mayes
Stoney Creek, Virginia

Mrs. H. C. McGee
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Beffield, Alabama

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THE AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY CONVENTION

The convention of the American Daffodil Society, held on April 5-7, 1956, at the Shoreham Hotel, in Washington, D.C., chalked up several firsts. It was the first convention of the three-year-old organization and attracted some 250 persons from states as far west as California and Oregon as well as those in the Middle West and East. It was the first time that the guest of honor, the noted Irish daffodil breeder, Mr. Guy L. Wilson, had visited the United States, and, last but not least, Mr. Wilson's extraordinarily beautiful "Empress of Ireland" was shown, for the first time, to the majority of Society members through the courtesy of Mrs. Theodore Pratt of Little England Daffodil Farm, Bena, Virginia.

Under the general chairmanship of Dr. Freeman A. Weiss, Mr. Robert J. Wilson, Co-chairman, and Mr. Willis H. Wheeler, Program Chairman, the convention featured an informal pre-convention get-together, daffodil chatter and show-it-yourself slide show, a meeting of Round Robin participants, and an Educational session in three parts, a Garden tour, two luncheons, a dinner, and a banquet.

Judge Carey E. Quinn, Society president, opened the convention with a business meeting which was followed by Part I of the Educational Session, Dr. S. L. Emsweller, U.S. Department of Agriculture, presiding. Talks were given by Mrs. William A. Bridges, Towson, Maryland, on "Judges, Judging, and Awards"; Dr. John C. Wister, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, on "The Daffodil Trial Garden"; Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville, Virginia, on "Classification and Registration"; Dr. Emsweller in place of Dr. G. H. M. Lawrence, Curator, Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, on "Standardization of International Horticultural Nomenclature"; and Dr. R. C. Allen, Director, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, on "The Culture of Daffodils."

A Daffodil Symposium, led by Mr. Hubert A. Fischer, Hinsdale, Illinois, was Part II of the Educational session. A panel composed of the following persons discussed "Novelties with a Future," Mary A. Becker, Orville W. Fay, Loretta B. Guilkey, Eleanor Hill, Mrs. Charles M. Mackall, W. H. McNary, Charles Meehan, Grant E. Mitsch, George H. Pride, Mrs. Ben M. Robertson, Harry I. Tuggle, and William H. Wood. This was followed by an informal nomination by the audience of "Successful Daffodils", some persons illustrating their choices with Kodachrome slides.

Part III, and the final Educational Session, was devoted to an illustrated lecture on "The Development of a Naturalized Daffodil Garden" by Mr. Adrian Frylink.

The dinner on the first night of convention was enlivened by Mr. Frank Reinelt, Master of Ceremonies, who, in connection with a surprise award, The George Robert White Medal of Honor, conferred by the editor of HORTICULTURE, Dan Foley, in behalf of that magazine and the Massachusetts State Horticultural Society, told of his experiences with daffodils in a most entertaining fashion.

Speaker of the evening was Mr. C. Reginald Wooton, who accompanied Mr. Wilson on his overseas flight. A Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, and one of the leading members of the Midland Daffodil Society, Mr. Wooton was well prepared to present "A Plea" (for more interest by younger people in breeding more and better daffodils).

The meeting of Daffodil Breeders and Commercial Growers co-chaired by Mr. Grant E. Mitsch and Mr. Frank Reinelt was both informative and noteworthy for it probably brought together at one time more distinguished amateur and professional breeders, growers, and admirers than can be managed again.

Highlight of the three-day convention was the closing banquet with the accomplished Mr. Frederic P. Lee as toastmaster and the always delightful teller-of-tales (Prof.) Fred Lang as entertainer.

Then came what all had looked forward to, seeing and hearing Mr. Guy L. Wilson, The Knockan, Broughshane, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. "Fifty Years of Daffodil Reminiscences" were revealed in a most ingratiating manner followed by a question period which was an inspiration to all.

Though the last day of the convention was cool and dreary and few actual flowers were in evidence, all four chartered busses were full for the tour of gardens. Mrs. Horace Butterworth, Chairman, selected those listed as being representative of various types of gardens in the nearby Virginia and Maryland area: Arlington, Virginia - Mr. Charles W. Culpepper (breeder); Mr. Willis H. Wheeler (breeder); Bethesda, Maryland - Mr. Willard A. King (an all-season garden with many fine daffodils, including Salmon Trout - which refused to bloom for the occasion) and some fine unnamed seedlings of Grant Mitsch); Frederic P. Lee (a noteworthy azalea planting, interspersed with daffodils and other spring bulbs); ADS President Carey E. Quinn (outstanding novelties in a small test garden containing about 700 varieties).

An additional very pleasant feature was the exhibition of choice blooms from Ireland, sent by air-express. J. Lionel Richardson contributed Himalaya (particularly striking and rated No. 1 by many); Weisshorn, Interim, Yellow Idol (attention getter), Ceylon; Tebourba, Corofin, Compton McKenzie, Spellbinder, Narvik, Blarney's Daughter, Salmon Trout, Air Marshal (striking goblet cup, best of red and yellow); Sun Chariot, Sun Prince, Court Martial (a little wider orange cup), Killaloe (ruffled trumpet), Tudor Minstrel (fine size, white); Moonstruck, Armada, Green Island, White Prospect, Ark Royal, Namsos, Trousseau and Content (older but fine); Blarney, Bombay (orange edge); Chinese White (good); Galway, and Deodora. Guy L. Wilson showed Spellbinder, Jezebel, Cantatrice, Dungiven, Guardian (smooth); Bahram (wonderful); Moonstruck, Matapan, and all with long stems; Kanchenjunga (immense); Golden Torch, Home Fires (ruffled cup); Preamble (beauty); and Priority (large).

The following were selected for special mention from those exhibited by American growers: Waltz Brothers - Lecuwanhorst (beautiful combination of colors); Casa Blanca (wide trumpet bi-color); California Gold (red and gold); Mirth (wide trumpet bi-color); - Little England Daffodil Farm - Home Fires, Fox Hunter, Likovan (very good and nominated for No. 1); Empress of Ireland (mentioned earlier in this report - a beautiful flat perianth and flanged trumpet- pure white); - Daffodil Mart - Quirinus, Straight, White Monarch, Kingscourt, Supreme, Hardy, Fortunes' Pride, Aflame, Jenny, California Gold, Silver Standard, Zero, Moonstruck, Yellow Sun, Crescendo (smaller red goblet); Patria, and Orange Frilled (all very good and worthwhile).

An exhibit which attracted attention was the Model Daffodil Show set up by the Hunting Creek Garden Club of Alexandria, Virginia, with daffodils contributed by Mrs. Theodore Pratt, Little England Daffodil Farm, Bena, Virginia, and under the direction of Mrs. A. Slater Lamond. Varieties, by classes, were IA - Ark Royal, Antwerp, Hunter's Moon; IB - Spitzbergen, Preamble, Trousseau, Glencairy; IC - Himalaya, Andes; IIA - Suda, Red Goblet, Jaguar; IIB - Tudor, Daviot; IIC - Jules Verne, Parkmore; IID - Binkie; IIIA - Ballysillan, Apricot Distinction; IIIB - Consort, Paprika, Bantry; IIIC - Moon Dance; IV - Hollandia, Mrs. William Copeland, Cheerfulness; VA - Rippling Waters, April Tears, Raindrop; VB - Pearly Queen, Silver Chimes, Sidhe, VIA - February Silver, Peeping Tom, Charity May; VIIB - Cherie, Trevithian; VIII - Cragford, Abundance, Early Perfection; IX - Shannach; X - Odorus Rugulosus, Watieri, Tenoir.

The Advisory Committee for the convention was composed of Mr. Hubert W. Fischer, Mrs. C. M. Mackall, and Mrs. T. J. Smith. In addition to those already mentioned, the Committee in Charge included Mr. Willard A. King, Budget and Finance Chairman; Mrs. Clifton R. Luce, Decorations and Reception, and Miss Mildred Benton, Registration and Records.

Another exhibit of interest, although of quite a different type, was the informational display of daffodil literature by the Washington Daffodil Society.

Officers were re-elected for another year. They are: President, Mr. Carey E. Quinn; First Vice-President, Mr. George S. Lee, Jr.; Second Vice-President, Mr. Grant E. Mitsch; Secretary, Mr. Willis H. Wheeler; Treasurer, Mrs. William A. Bridges; and Editor, Mr. Freeman Weiss.

- Mildred Benton

The Knockan, Broughshane,
Ballymena, Co. Antrim
N. Ireland.
10th April, 1956.

My dear Carey,

I am home safe and sound and thankful. We had a roughish trip from Washington to New York through cloud and some snow on Sunday morning. Our plane from New York to London was at least $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours late in starting. Once she started we had a perfectly lovely

trip all in one hop from New York to London airport, arriving there 3 p.m. which meant I did not get home here till 10.30 p.m.

I find to-day my flowers have been growing slowly but look in splendid shape. I am just hoping that we don't get bad weather to knock them about before the London Show.

I think I am fully as good as the average person at expressing my feelings on paper, but this time I feel completely stumped to find words to express my gratitude to all of you dear kindhearted, warm-hearted, wonderful people who entertained us during the past week so amazingly kindly. I know now that I have a wonderful group of friends over there that will be friends for always. I think your handling of the whole affair was marvelous.

Much as I would like to I cannot write to you all individually, so will you please tell everyone that I thank them all with a full and overflowing heart.

Ever yours and theirs,

Guy Wilson

FROM RANK AMATEUR TO AMATEUR

Listening, learning and trying to keep from showing one's ignorance was the order of the day, if one was the rank amateur this member happened to be at the recent First Annual Convention of the American Daffodil Society. The only requirement for membership in our Society is a love for the flower itself - not a knowledge of its culture, although that too helps.

But we of limited horticultural knowledge are welcomed by the experts as their equals - for tomorrow we will be the experts, thanks to them. They wish to impart every particle of knowledge and experience to us newcomers at the game, so that we in turn can benefit from their mistakes.

Mr. Reginald Wooten, of England, as his topic, A Plea, stressed the need for more hybridization by the amateur grower, particularly in the smaller variety groups that are of necessity not covered by commercial growers.

The need for a more thorough investigation into the background of the planned parentage of your desired seedling was explained in detail by Mr. Frank Reinelt, well-known hybridizer, and Mr. Grant Mitsch of daffodil and iris fame. Their mistakes, (and costly ones they were when measured in man hours wasted), were brought to light, for our consumption and benefit. Hybridization, in their words, is a heartbreaking affair, and except for the anticipation of one's own "Empress of Ireland", possibly not worth it. However, as Mr. Wooten stated, one gets younger with the process and simply can't stop raising seedlings once he has made a stab at it. And one simply cannot die, for that next batch of seedlings might bring forth a new and better variety - straight of stem, strong of neck, clear in coloring, and YOUR VERY OWN.

How happy it must make that very great gentleman from Ireland, Mr. Guy L. Wilson, when he sees so many blooms here and abroad, that indirectly his efforts have produced. What a great heritage to leave behind when our Maker calls us home. It is no wonder that when Mr. Guy L. Wilson's name is mentioned, a hush envelops the room and his every word is drunk in avidly by us amateurs - and most all of us are amateurs compared to this great and humble gentleman.

Of course his contributions did not stop alone with the blooms he has hybridized and perfected. With all of us he has left a part of him, his enthusiasm and hope for a

finer and healthier daffodil of tomorrow, and the Willard Kings, Harry Tuggles and Carey Quinns and yes, my own humble self, should be here to help carry it on. I place my name with the present well-known amateur raisers of daffodils, for along with many other convention goers, I have emerged from the ranks of RANK AMATEUR to that of AMATEUR.

Thank you, Convention Committee, for enabling me and others to emerge from our cocoons and let's hope we can prove ourselves in the days to come. - Betty Straub
(Mrs. C. E., Jr.)

WHY DAFFODIL BULBS ROT. HOW TO PREVENT IT.

Summer, a season of rest for daffodil bulbs, is a time of special activity for some of the diseases and pests to which the narcissus - like every living thing - is heir. Most troublesome in the home garden cultivation of daffodils - sometimes in commercial culture too - are the bulb rots. Sometimes the bulbs show incipient rot when dug. More often they appear sound then but begin to decay after they have been out of the ground for several days. Too often for comfort, and especially when expensive varieties are attacked, many of the bulbs that were carefully dug, cleaned, and laid away for summer storage, are found to be only shrivelled mummies when planting time comes. What causes this, and what can the daffodil grower do to avoid this loss?

Some kinds of bulb rots result from bad cultural conditions or from careless digging and subsequent handling. Daffodils that are grown in poorly drained, heavy soil may show a moist brown rot of the outer scales and roots when first dug. Bulbs that are mutilated in digging or that are left exposed to hot sun afterwards are prone to rot. The kind of rot that follows sunburn or mutilation is typically malodorous, is gray or watersoaked in appearance, moist in texture at first then becomes paper-dry, and finally destroys the bulb completely. Obviously, the prevention of this kind of rot lies in the avoidance of the conditions that cause it. Bulbs that are carefully dug without cutting or bruising, and are promptly removed to a cool, airy place to dry, will not become affected.

Some forms of bulb rot are a sequel to damage by other pests, such as infestation by the bulb nematode or the large narcissus fly. The small bulb fly, on the other hand, is a scavenger and only invades bulbs that are first attacked by fungus rot. The control of nematodes and the large narcissus fly is a special subject, which space does not permit treating here. Information about them can be obtained from bulletins of the Federal and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and from books on daffodil culture, such as were mentioned in the January, 1956 issue of this Bulletin.

The most prevalent kind of rot affecting daffodil bulbs is basal or Fusarium (so named from the fungus that causes it) rot. It is strictly a parasitic disease, and may attack daffodil bulbs of susceptible varieties no matter how well grown or how carefully dug. Basal rot begins in the soil and usually enters the bulb by way of the dying roots as the bulb matures, or it may penetrate the scales directly, often in the split where a side bulb separates. It has a distinctive chocolate-brown color, has only a slight odor, is barely moist at first and soon becomes dry; it may invade only part of the bulb scales or destroy them completely. It almost invariably destroys the root plate. Ordinarily it does not progress very far while the bulbs are growing and are underground, because the soil temperature is too low for its development. It progresses much faster in the higher temperature of the atmosphere and in the fully dormant bulb. Of course careful digging, and placing the bulbs promptly in cool dry storage, help to check it but cannot always be relied on to prevent it altogether. It is best to call on a chemical fungicide to help in this case. This treatment can be applied one or two days after digging, when the bulbs have become partly dry and have hardened off a little, but should not be delayed more than 3 or 4 days, else the rot will have penetrated too far into the bulbs for the chemical to reach.

In any stock of bulbs in which considerable basal rot develops during storage the chances are that even bulbs that do not decay will have become contaminated, and it is advisable to treat the whole lot before planting. A fungicidal treatment at this time will also help to protect the bulbs from infection from the soil if they are planted back in a site where basal rot has previously occurred. It is best to avoid replanting in soil that has already borne a diseased crop for at least a year or two. Commercial growers often apply both a pre-storage and a pre-planting treatment, and of course practice a long rotation in their bulb fields.

The United States Department of Agriculture recommends a mercury fungicide known as Mersolite-W for treating daffodil bulbs to prevent basal rot. A little of this material goes a long way, as only one-half ounce will suffice for 25 gallons of dipping solution, and the bulbs need be immersed in it only long enough to wet them thoroughly; five minutes is enough. Being a mercury compound, Mersolite is very poisonous if taken internally, but contact of the hands with the solution is not dangerous if it is not prolonged or repeated too often. Rinsing the hands after each contact is sufficient, though some may prefer to wear rubber gloves and avoid all contact with the solution.

It is best to use a wood, earthenware, or enameled iron vessel to hold the Mersolite solution. Keep it stirred during the treating process. Place the bulbs in a loose mesh bag, or squares of cheesecloth with the corners tied together make a good substitute. Be sure to enclose a label with the bulbs if you are treating a number of different varieties. Use a stick to lift the bags from the solution and let the excess drain back into the vessel. Then transfer the bulbs to trays or shallow baskets to dry further before handling them. When they are dry you can either replant them immediately, or place them in as cool and well ventilated a storage place as you have, to be held for fall planting. If you treat again in the fall, repeat this process, drying the bulbs off somewhat before handling them in replanting.

Mersolite-W can be purchased from the F. W. Berk Co., Wood Ridge, New Jersey. Other mercury fungicides, such as DuPont's Ceresan or Semesan, may be used instead of Mersolite, following the manufacturer's recommendations for these products for treating bulbs, but Mersolite has been found to be the quickest and most effective treatment for the prevention of basal rot.

- Freeman Weiss.

ON ROGUEING AT THE SOURCE

The continued occurrence of virus diseases in narcissus bulbs purchased annually by daffodil enthusiasts is causing increasing concern. Many of the members of the American Daffodil Society consider themselves to be fanciers of the flower and accordingly buy bulbs of the newer varieties which frequently cost a considerable sum of money. When those same bulbs during their first spring in the purchaser's garden produce foliage showing evidence of narcissus mosaic or any of the other virus diseases of the genus, the gardener must immediately rogue such infected plants, without regard to cost, if he is to prevent their becoming a source of infection for the balance of his collection.

Such a situation, if it continues, may well lead to a lessening of the present increasing interest in daffodils, since fanciers will become discouraged over loss in money, time, and pleasure. The American Daffodil Society therefore takes this occasion to urge all growers of daffodils to lay more stress upon the growing-season examination and rogueing of their stocks, to the end that virus diseases of the genus Narcissus shall be reduced to an absolute minimum. We do this with the understanding that the virus diseases of daffodils do not arise spontaneously in a garden of virus-free narcissus, but are brought into the garden from the outside by infected bulbs. Plants grown from those bulbs then serve as the source of inoculum to be picked up by the aphid vectors for transmission to plants that were clean until the moment the disease was injected into them.