It was at Dr. Houghton's residence in San Fernando that the Cactus and Succulent Society of America was born. His loyalty, enthusiasm and encouragement also inspired the creation of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* and his one book on cacti, *The Cactus Book*, 1930 (reprinted in 1931, 1937, and 1940), started the publication of other related books in this country. He began collecting material for a monograph on the Cactaceae as well as writing another beginners book on succulent plants. However, neither of these projects were completed.

Dr. Houghton was a student of botany. Succulent plants captured his interest early on and he assembled a famous collection which he sold to Arthur Letts (1862-1923) in 1918. (Letts' collection of cacti and succulents was considered the finest private collection in America, if not in the world.)

But Dr. Houghton returned to succulent plants once again and established Houghton Gardens on a 2.5 acre ranch in San Fernando, California, one of the finest succulent collections in the U.S. and issued several commercial catalogs, which proclaimed, "Largest and Oldest Establishment of its Kind in California." His cactus collection contained many specimens from the type collections of Britton and Rose and others, and it was open and available to students.

On January 23, 1938, Dr. Houghton died at his home in San Fernando, California, at the age of 67.

Larry W. Mitich
2223 Amador Avenue
Davis, CA 95616