



SHORT-HAIRED TABBY KITTENS.

(Photo: C. Reid, Wishaw.)

CHAPTER XXV.

SHORT-HAIRED CATS.

AND now I will take a general glance over the other short-haired breeds commonly called English or British cats.

As regards points, these are the same as in the long-haired varieties. I give a list as drawn up by a sub-committee of the Cat Club for the use of fanciers and judges:—

SHORT-HAIRED CATS.

White.—Colour, pure white. Eyes, blue.

Black.—Colour, pure and rich black; no white. Eyes, orange.

Tortoiseshell.—Colour, patched yellow, orange and black; no stripes; no white. Eyes, orange.

Tortoiseshell and White.—Colour, white, patched with yellow, orange and black; no stripes. Eyes, orange.

Silver Tabby.—Colour, silver grey, marked with rich black stripes or bars; no pure white. Eyes, green or orange.

Spotted Tabby.—Colour, any shade of light colour, evenly marked with spots of a darker shade or black; no stripes; no pure white. Eyes, orange, yellow or green.

Brown Tabby.—Colour, golden brown, marked with

rich black stripes or bars; no white. Eyes, orange or green.

Orange or Red Tabby.—Colour, light orange or red, with darker stripes or bars; no white. Eyes, hazel, or golden brown.

Tabby and White.—Colour, any shade of tabby with white. Eyes, orange or green.

N.B.—Where more than one colour is given for the eyes, the first one is to be preferred to the second or third.

The Sub-Committee,

FRANCES SIMPSON.

GAMBIER BOLTON.

It will therefore be seen that texture and length of coat are really the distinguishing points between the two varieties. It is just as grave a mistake for a Persian cat to have a short, close coat as it is for one of British type to possess any of that woolliness or length of fur which denotes a *mésalliance*. The commonest species of all short-haired cats may be said to be represented by broken-coloured specimens—that is, orange-and-white, tabby-and-white, and black-and-white. These sorts

of cats we most frequently see about our public streets and in the homes of country cottagers. At our shows this type of cat—which would be classed as “any other colour”—is fast disappearing from our midst. In America I observe that a class is still specially reserved for orange-and-white cats, and it would seem that this is rather a favourite breed with our cousins over the water.

A good black, with rich glossy coat and deep amber eyes, is, to my mind, one of the choicest of our short-haired breeds. These cats are often marred by the white spot at the throat, and, of course, green eyes predominate to a very great extent. As in the long-haired cats, blue-eyed whites are coming much more to the fore, and on the show bench, at least, we do not see many other specimens with yellow or green eyes.

Our British tabbies—orange, brown, and

silver—are always well represented at the principal shows, and of late years competition has been much keener in these classes. It is when we come to markings that the long-haired breeds must take a back seat, so to speak; and the British puss has an easy walk-over. In the short, close coat, the broad or narrow bands of the darker colour show up in grand relief on the ground-work of a rich, though paler, shade. The rings round the neck and tail, and the bars on the legs are seen to great perfection. It will be easily understood, therefore, that markings in short-haired tabbies claim the first and greatest consideration, and that these should be sharp and distinct, great care is needed in mating and breeding.

A serious and rather common defect amongst silver tabbies is a tinge of brown about the face—generally on the nose. Orange-tabby



ANOTHER VIEW OF LADY DECIES' CATTERY.

(Photo: Cassell & Company, Limited.)

females are rarer than males. The peculiar species known as spotted tabbies is becoming very rare, and whereas formerly some of this breed were generally exhibited at large shows, we now seldom see them. Spotted tabbies are usually brown or silver. I do not recollect having heard of an orange-spotted tabby. The spots should be spread uniformly over the body, feet, and tail, and if on the face so much the better. A perfect specimen should not



LADY DECIES' "CHAMPION XENOPHON."

(Photo: E. Landor, Ealing.)

have a suspicion of a stripe or bar anywhere. Harrison Weir considers that the spotted tabby is a much nearer approach to the wild English cat and some other wild cats in the way of colour than the ordinary broad-banded tabby.

Amongst writers on cats—such as Harrison Weir and Mr. Jennings—priority of place is given to the tortoiseshell cat, and this breed heads their list of short-haired breeds. So also formerly in the Crystal Palace catalogue, to which I have before alluded, tortoiseshells lead the way. Here, again, the patchy nature of the three colours is—or, at least, ought to be—the distinguishing feature, and the long-haired cat of the same variety loses some of its individuality by reason of the length of fur, causing a mingling or blurring of the colours.

It is a strange fact in natural history, which no one has attempted to explain, that the

tortoiseshell tom is a most rare and uncommon animal. A number of clever fanciers and breeders have used their best endeavours and patiently persevered in the fruitless attempt to breed tortoiseshell male cats. In my long experience I have never known of anyone who has succeeded, and those specimens that have been exhibited from time to time have been picked up quite by chance. I recollect, many years ago, at the Crystal Palace show, seeing

the pen of a short-haired cat smothered with prize cards, and the owner of the puss standing proudly by, informing inquirers that it was a tortoiseshell tom that lay hidden behind his awards. This man had been paid a shilling by a London cook to take away the troublesome beast out of her area! He had taken it away to some purpose, and his surprise at finding himself and his cat famous was amusing to behold.

A very beautiful cat is the English tortoiseshell-and-white when the colours are well distributed, the red and black showing up so splendidly on the snowy ground-work. I must say I far prefer those cats to the tortoiseshells, which are often so dingy in appearance. In this breed the male sex is conspicuous by its absence. The two breeds that have made great strides of late years amongst long-haired cats—namely, creams and smokes—are very rarely met with in the short-haired varieties. I know, however, of a silver tabby that, when mated to a black, throws smoke kittens. These are quaint and pretty, with bright green eyes. The under-coat is snowy white, and gleams through the dark outer fur, giving a very distinguished appearance. It is a pity some fanciers do not seriously take up the breeding of cream short-haired cats, as I think they would repay any trouble spent over them. They should, of course, be as pale and even

in colour as possible, without any markings, and with deep amber eyes. I can only recall one or two, and these not at all perfect specimens.

Amongst our present-day fanciers of short-haired cats I may mention Sir Claude and Lady Alexander, who have splendid specimens of many of the breeds. Mrs. Collingwood has recently almost discarded Persians for the British beauties, being specially partial to silver and orange tabbies. Lady Decies for many years owned the invincible "Champion Xenophon"—a brown tabby of extreme beauty—who died in 1902. There are several fine short-hairs at the spacious catteries at Birchington.

Mrs. Herring's name has always been associated with "Champion Jimmy," the noted silver tabby, and she is also the owner of "King Saul," one of the few tortoiseshell toms that appear at our shows. Many other specimens have been bred by this well-known fancier. Mr. Harold Blackett has a trio of famous prize-winning silver tabbies, and Mrs. Bonny is a noted breeder of browns and silvers. This enthusiastic fancier writes:—"For many years past I have devoted myself to the cult of the British tabby cat; it has been my one hobby. Really good specimens of browns and silvers are scarce. Certainly silvers have increased in numbers during the last few years, and the quality has improved. They are difficult to rear, more especially the males." Mrs. Bonny's celebrated brown female tabby, "Heather Belle," died in 1903. A silver tabby, "Dame Fortune"—her daughter by Mrs. Collingwood's "Champion James II."—created quite a sensation at the Westminster and other shows. Miss Derby Hyde has always been faithful to short-haired, blue-eyed whites. Mr. Kuhnel is noted for his gorgeous-coloured and finely marked orange tabbies. Many breeders of Persians keep one or two short-haired specimens, and I cannot help believing that, as time goes on, we shall have a larger number of fanciers taking up British cats.

Harrison Weir, in comparing the two varieties, writes:—"I am disappointed at the neglect of the short-haired English cat, by the ascendancy of the foreign long-hair. Both are

truly beautiful, but the first, in my opinion, is far in advance of the latter in intelligence. In point of fact, in animal life, in that way it has no peer; and, again, the rich colourings are, I think, more than equal to the softened beauty of the longer-coated. I do not think that the breeding of short-hairs is yet properly understood."

A correspondent writing to *Our Cats*, complaining of the classification for short-hairs at shows, says:—"All fanciers of that beautiful animal the British cat feel how they are handicapped when they receive schedules of the various shows and compare the classification of short- and long-haired cats. Far better it would be honestly to announce a 'foreign cat show,' with a rider that a few English may compete if they choose. 'Tis a pity, in many ways; for, given a little encouragement, the standard of the poor, everyday, homely pussy would be raised, and we would not see so much wanton cruelty and neglect attached thereto."



AN AMERICAN BEGGING CAT.
(Photo: A. C. Hopkins.)



"EBONY OF WIGAN."
OWNED BY MISS JOAN WOODCOCK.
(Photo: S. Richardson, Standish.)

In America short-hairs have not "taken on," and at the various shows the specials offered are as small in number as the entries made. I never hear of any exportations of British cats to American fanciers; but perhaps some enthusiast of the breed will start a short-haired cattery. There is certainly room for such an enterprise, and the sturdier Britisher would more easily resist the trials of an Atlantic trip and the terrors of a three days' show.

I have been fortunate in obtaining the kind assistance of two of our best authorities on short-haired cats—namely, Mr. H. E. Jung and Mr. T. B. Mason. Some notes by these competent judges will be read with interest.

Mr. H. E. Jung says:—

"It is a matter of regret that this variety at shows is not so fully represented as it should be, taking into consideration the large number of cat exhibitors. There is no doubt that the prettier long-haired variety secures greater support from the lady exhibitors.

"In addition to the characteristic of being a native production of the British Isles, they have certainly a great advantage in their racy, workmanlike appearance, which is lacking in the long-haired variety. What is handsomer than a sleek-coated black, with its grand,

golden-amber eyes; the workmanlike spotless white, with its clear blue eye; the aristocratic silver, with its rich tabby markings, its soft emerald or orange eye; or the pale, lavender-hued blue, with its coat of velvet-like texture?

"Thanks to such enthusiastic breeders as Lady Alexander, Mrs. Herring, Lady Decies, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, Mr. R. P. Hughes, Mr. Kuhnel, Mr. Louis Wain, and several others, we are not likely to allow the English short-haired variety to deteriorate. I myself think there has been a great improvement in the specimens penned the last few years. The fault we must guard against is the loss of size and stamina, which can only be averted by judicious mating. The increasing number of shows in America, the Colonies, and even on the Continent, should stimulate breeders of the short-haired variety to extend their catteries, for no doubt in a few years there will be a strong demand for the English-bred, short-haired cat. Up to the present only in England has anything like a systematic rule been followed out, which is most essential: in fact, the only course possible to obtain good specimens is to follow out a system of breeding as near perfect as possible—for, as in everything else where breeding is concerned, the old maxim of 'blood will tell' holds good.

"The stud books should be kept up to date, and stud registrations should be followed out, just as in the dog world. I can imagine many of my readers who do not take up cats as a hobby saying, 'The ordinary common garden cat suits my purpose; he is affectionate, he catches mice, and that is all I require.' But how much more satisfactory it is to be able to say, 'My cat is blue-blooded, has an aristocratic pedigree, is handsome; he goes to shows, perhaps wins, and he is still affectionate; he also catches the mice as well as his brother of lower birth and less striking appearance.' You must also bear in mind he does not require any daintier feeding. I consider it is always pleasanter in cat, dog, or horse to own a distinguished-looking animal than an ill-bred, ungainly one that neither pleases nor satisfies the eye.

Others of note were 'James II.,' the property of Mrs. Collingwood; 'Sedgemere Silver King,' owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss. Prominent in the female classes were the noted queen, 'Champion Shelly,' owned by Mr. H. W. Bullock, shown some years ago; by that noted sire, 'King of the Fancy,' owned by Mr. Sugden. It is notable he sired both 'Champion Jimmy' and 'Champion Shelly.' 'Silver Queen,' winner of many firsts and specials, the property of the Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison; 'Sedgemere Silver Queen,' owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss; 'Silver Queen,' the property of Mr. Harold Blackett; and that grand female, 'Sweet Phillis,' the property of Mrs. Herring.

"Very few good brown tabbies are benched, and breeders, I am afraid, get very disheartened at the result of their efforts. I despair to think of the litters I have seen, and not a good one amongst them. The rich brown sable colour is very seldom met with, and now that the world-renowned champion of champions, 'Xenophon,' is no more, we have only 'Flying Fox' and 'King of Lee' anything like the type you expect in this handsome breed. Of 'Champion Xenophon' I am afraid we can truly say, 'We shall ne'er look on his like again.' His wonderful colour, markings, and size approached the ideal short-haired cat. I believe he was either bred by Mr. Heslop, or came under his keen eye, and, like a good many others, was brought down south by that fancier to make a name.

"He was claimed by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, who showed him for some years, and he secured for his owner numerous champion-

ships, first prizes, and specials, afterwards changing hands and becoming the property of Lady Decies, still following up his winning career after an unbroken record of 'second to none.' I think I am correct in saying this cat has won more money and specials than any short-haired cat ever exhibited.

"Red tabbies, again, are one of the difficult varieties to obtain. The dense, dark red tabby markings against the light red ground is only the result of judicious mating and breeding.

"Among the many notable males, 'Ballochmyle Perfection,' the property of Lady Alexander, winner of some 100 first prizes, championships, and specials, the sire of 'Champion Ballochmyle Goldfinder' and 'Ballochmyle No Fool' (the mother of 'Ballochmyle Red Prince'), stands out very prominently. 'Champion Perfection,' despite his ten years, has still the grand dense markings and colour as of old. In 'Ballochmyle Perfection' we have a chip of the old



A BLACK-AND-WHITE BRITISHER.
(Photo: A. Warszcawski, St. Leonards-on-Sea.)

block. Then a later red tabby, Mrs. Collingwood's 'Clem,' is a good-coloured red. Mr. Kuhnel, of Bradford, for many years held his own in this handsome breed—in fact, most of the present-day winners can be traced from that fancier's cattery.

"Blues (self-coloured). There seems to be a great difference of opinion as to the shape and make of head of these cats. Some judges look for a round, full head of the English-bred cat; others, the long head of the Eastern variety. I think that difference arises to a great extent according to where these cats originally came from. I have heard the opinions of some who give Arch-

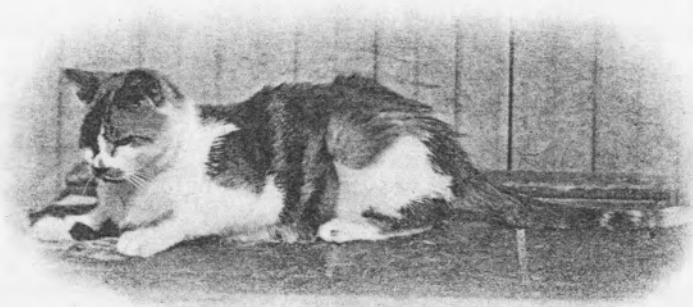
angel as the port of origin; others, Malta. If the cat originated from Archangel, one would naturally expect a long head of Eastern type. The specimens, however, from Malta have certainly the round head and more of the English-bred type. The chief points, in my opinion, apart from the shape of head, is body colour, shape, colour of eye, and closeness of coat. They are no doubt a very handsome breed. In colour they are a light blue, with a delicate lavender bloom pervading the whole coat.

"Of the many good ones that come to my memory, 'Moscow' (Russian-bred), a big

difficult fault to breed out. It is noticeable that the females in this breed are so very small, and in marked contrast to the toms.

"The chief points one desires in this breed are closeness of coat, size, and a distinct light blue eye (not washy). Among the numerous winners are 'Ballochmyle Snow King,' formerly owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, and now the property of Lady Alexander; 'Ballochmyle Billie Blue Eyes' and 'Biddy Blue Eyes,' the property of Mrs. Herring.

"Blacks, I am sorry to say, are somewhat neglected, considering how striking they are. The dense black coat, the contrast-



"CHAMPION BALLOCHMYLE OTTER," TORTOISESHELL-AND-WHITE.
OWNED BY LADY ALEXANDER.

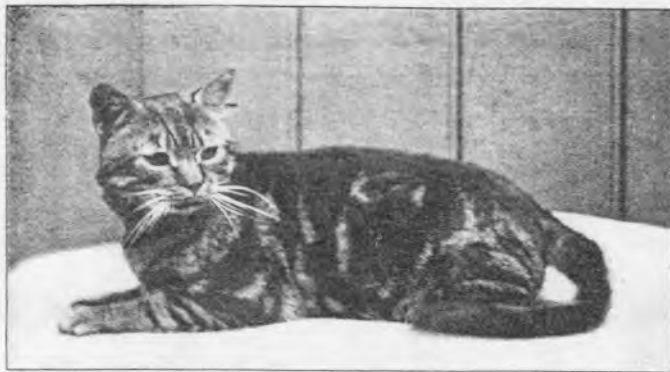
winner, owned by Mrs. Carew-Cox; 'Champion Ballochmyle Blue King,' winner of seven championships and first prizes, owned by Lady Alexander; 'Champion Brookside Iris,' late owner Mrs. Pownall; 'Blue Boy,' owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss; 'Ballochmyle Brother Bump' and 'Ballochmyle Sister Goose,' the property of Lady Alexander—a big winner.

"White English cats appear to have lost less in size than many others, as two of the largest winners of to-day—viz. 'Ballochmyle Snow King' and 'Ballochmyle Billie Blue Eyes'—will testify. The white retains the racy, workmanlike character of the true English-bred cat. One fault is very prevalent: they lean very much towards a broken coat (a good many of the white cats penned to-day have this failing); it is, no doubt, a very

ing grand amber eye, should always find a weak spot in the heart of every exhibitor of the short-haired varieties. The points we look for are chiefly closeness of coat, the black of great density, pure amber eyes set in a good round head topped with small ears. I can well imagine my readers will say, 'A pure amber eye—how is it to be got? It is such a rarity.' I know, however, that by careful mating it is not only possible, but most distinctly certain, as Mr. R. J. Hughes, the late owner of that lovely female 'Amber Queen,' one of the best-eyed cats I have seen, can testify. He, in fact, has bred many of the best-eyed winners of late years: 'Amber Queen,' winner of numerous firsts and championships, the property of Miss Una Fox; 'Ballochmyle Black Bump,' owned by Lady

Alexander, and formerly the property of Mr. Hughes; 'Sedgemere Black King,' winner of several championships and first prizes, originally owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss.

"An explanation may be deemed due to my readers for having included blues amongst the English types, but as the clubs have recognised this breed, and sanctioned their being catalogued amongst the English exhibits, I felt justified in adopting this course; more



"CHAMPION BALLOCHMYLE PERFECTION."

OWNED BY LADY ALEXANDER.

particularly as the country of origin still remains a matter of speculation."

Mr. T. B. Mason's name is a household one in the cat fancy, and this most popular judge has been kind enough to set down some of his many experiences, and a little of his universal knowledge, for the benefit of my readers.

"For more than twenty-five years I have taken a very great interest in all our minor pets, so the breeding and exhibiting of cats has had a large share of my attention. I look at the past, and compare it with the present, and I am more than satisfied with the progress made and the high-water mark of excellence attained. In the 'eighties, when that noted North Country breeder the late Mr. Young, of Harrogate, was hard at work laying the foundations of markings and colour in the silver tabby, orange tabby, and the tortoise-shells, which has resulted in making the strains

of the North Country short-hairs so far ahead of all others, he had little or no idea that in so brief a time the cat fancy would develop into such an important one as it is at the present time. In recent years we have seen the National Cat Club, the Cat Club, and a great many specialist clubs formed for the special object of breeding cats to perfection in colour and markings. Standards have been made and issued by noted breeders, who have met together and have exchanged ideas, so that at the present time we have standards that are ideals of perfection. Shape, colour, markings, coat, and colour of eyes for each separate variety are all plainly stated. All this interest, together with the holding of many big shows in different parts of the kingdom, have brought into prominence a great host of fanciers, including many ladies holding high positions in the best class of society. No wonder, then, that there should be a call for

a standard work dealing with all varieties of cats. In the few remarks I have to make on short-haired cats I shall take the self colours first. They are, I believe, our oldest variety; the black or the white cat is to be found in many a household. In some parts of the North when I was a boy it was said to be a sign of good luck to have a sound-coloured black cat, with a coat like a raven's wing, with not a white hair to be found in it. If you have one like this in your home, with a good round head, neat ears, and rich orange eyes, let me ask you to take great care of it. If you reside in a district where shows are held—either in connection with the local agricultural society or in the winter time in the town hall in connection with the local fanciers' society—by all means enter it, and you will find you have an exhibit of real value. We possess grand examples of first-class blacks in Lady Alexander's 'Black

Bump,' Lady Decies' 'Charcoal' and 'Shamrock,' Mrs. Nott's 'King of Blacks,' and many other present-day winners. In self whites Lady Alexander's 'Snow King,' 'Billie Blue Eyes,' and 'Snow Bump'; Mrs. Western's 'Prickly Pearl'; and the Hon. A. Wodehouse's 'White Devil' are about the best living, and in condition and coat hard to find fault with. The eyes of the self white must be a rich-coloured blue. The shorter and fuller you can get both the self black and the self white the better will be the chances of their winning prizes; a long, coarse coat, big or badly set-on ears, and long, thin, snipy faces are little or no good in the show pen. In your breeding arrangements you do not need at this time of the day to make many experiments. In breeding self whites the great aim is to obtain shape and colour of eyes. So many good sires are to be obtained that if you are deficient in bone, shape, or colour of eyes, you can with careful mating obtain these—in some cases with the first cross. My opinion is that in breeding whites no other colour should be mixed with them. In the breeding of blacks you are altogether on another matter. It is a well-known fact that the cross with the self blue is a most distinct advantage. It not only gives tone and soundness to both the blue and the black, but it also adds lustre.

"For a long time we have called the self blues Russians. No doubt they, in the first instance, came from the East; but since they were imported into this country they have been mixed in a great measure with self blacks, and in some cases with long-haired blues, to get strong, short, round heads, so that at the present time we have very few pure-bred Russians in this country.

"My advice to those who are breeding self blues or self blacks is, by all means put one cross of blacks in the blues, especially if the black has orange eyes. It is in eyes that most of our self blues fail. Let me, however, give here a word of warning. Do not mix the colours too often, or you will get the blues too dark or nearly like black. If you get one cross of the black and blue, use it as it should

be used, by mixing the offspring well together. I know a great many breeders are not in favour of this in-breeding. This is, without doubt, their loss. In all branches in-breeding is the sure road to success.

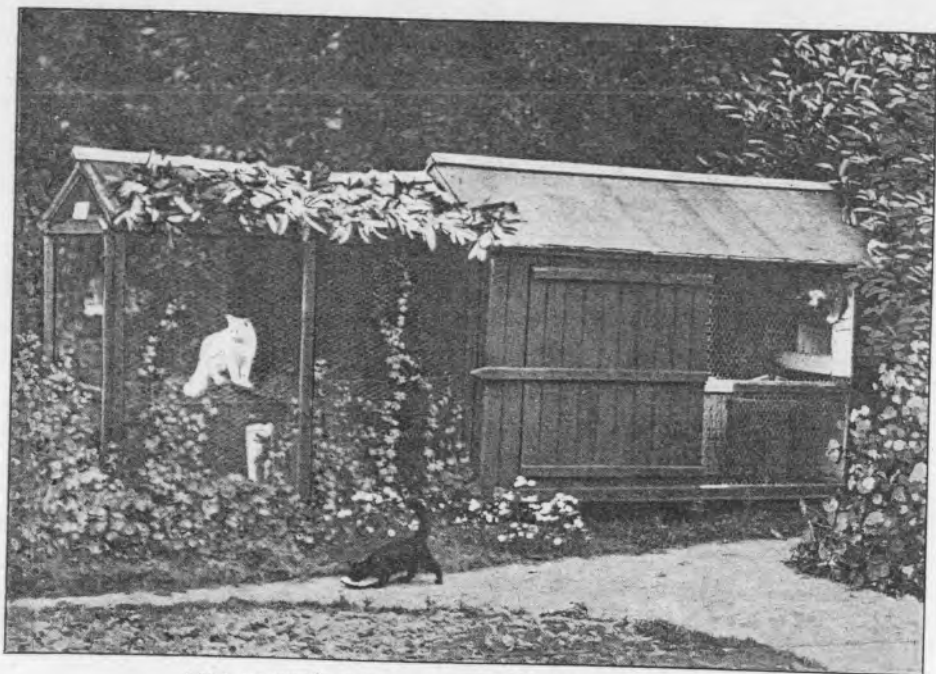
"To go outside at every cross, or too often, brings with it a lot of trouble and disappointment. To all my advice is, having got the strains of noted sires in your youngsters, so mix them that all the good and little of the bad points will come out as the result of your breeding. That you will not get all winners is a sure conclusion, but my experience is—and it is formed after thirty years' breeding of fancy pet stock—that in this way you are more likely than in any other to breed winners. Anyone who has seen Lady Alexander's 'Brother Bump,' Mrs. Hughes' 'Alexis,' Miss Butler Ayton's 'Blue Bell' and 'Blue Stockings,' Mrs. Carew-Cox's 'Fashoda,' and Mrs. Dewar's 'Firrens' cannot but fall in love with this colour. All that is needed to make this one of our most popular varieties is uniformity in shape. In my opinion these cats should be judged on the same lines as our self blacks and self whites.

"I now come to the tabbies—silver, orange, and brown. What a lovely variety they are, and what a fine picture any of the

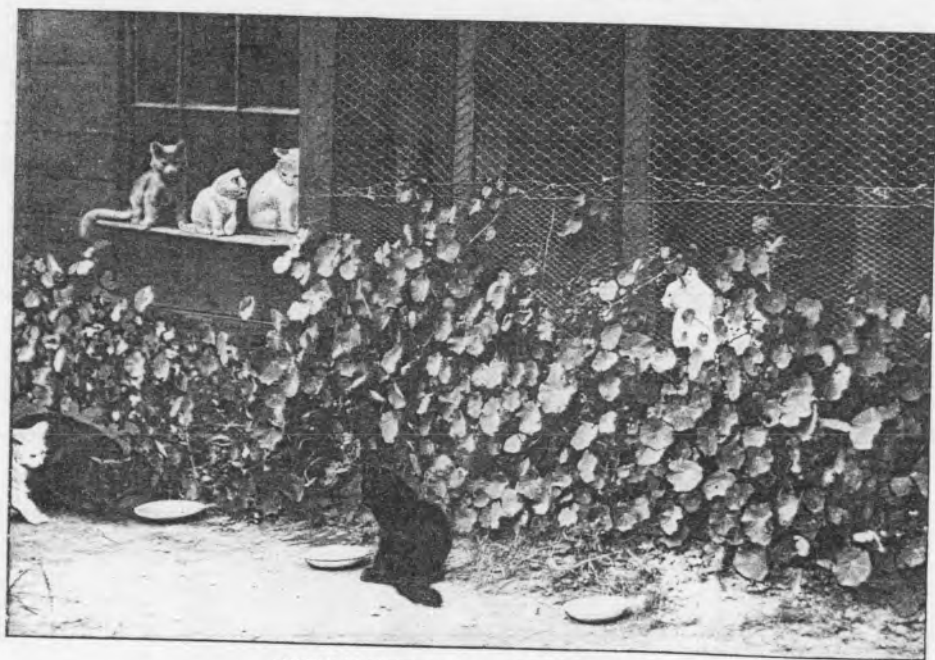


MRS. BARKER'S "TYNESIDE LILY."

(Photo: E. C. Farmer, Bedford.)



MISS HARPER'S CATTERY, BRIARLEA, HAYWARD'S HEATH.



ANOTHER VIEW OF BRIARLEA CATTERIES.

(Photo: E. Harper.)

three colours makes if they are seen in full coat and clear markings! In silvers the old-time champion 'The Silver King' was without a doubt the foundation of most of our present-day winners. Mrs. Herring's 'Jimmy,' the noted female 'Shelly,' and a host of others that at the moment I cannot remember are worthy of

'Belle of Bradford,' Mr. Thompson's 'Red Rufus,' and Mr. Kuhnel's 'Coronation King,' all of them getting close on the standard both in colour and markings.

"In browns the old champion 'Xenophon' is, to my mind, the best tabby of any colour ever seen in the show pen; his



A CORNER OF THE BOSSINGTON CATTERIES.

(Photo: A. J. Anderson & Co., Luton.)

the great deeds of the past. In the present day champions are to be found—Mrs. Collingwood's 'James II.,' Mrs. Herring's 'Sweet Phyllis,' Mrs. Bonny's 'Heather Belle' and 'Dame Fortune,' Mrs. Turner's 'Masterpiece,' Mrs. Western's 'Princess,' and last, but not least, Mr. Blackett's noted team, including 'Silver' and 'Silver Star.' In the orange we have a strong lot, including Lady Alexander's capital team—'Perfection,' 'Red Prince,' 'Miss Perfection,' and 'Mother Pop'—Mrs. Temple's 'Dr. Jim,' Mrs. Collingwood's 'Clem' and

picture is before me as I pen these lines. I well remember giving him the first and special for best cat in the show; since that time how many times he has won the championship I cannot say. His loss will be great, both to the fancy and also to Lady Decies. 'Flying Fox' (the property of Messrs. Ainsley and Graham), Mrs. Pratt's 'Tommy Jacks,' and Mrs. Oliver's 'Danefield Vera' are all good ones; but in this colour of tabbies the competition is not half so keen as it is in silver and orange.

"One standard governs all the three colours. The ground or body colour must be pure, and clear from any other colour. In a great many well-marked ones I meet in the show pen the rusty brown tinge on nose, ears, and brindled in the body markings puts them out of the prize list. It is a great mistake to cross the silver tabby with the brown tabby or with one that has in its pedigree the brown tabby blood. If the black markings need a darker shade, my advice is use for once the self black. If you do not get the desired effect the first cross, the youngsters mated together have been known to breed some really good ones. By all means, if possible, get into your silvers green eyes. I am aware that the standard says green or orange eyes; but in all cases where the competition is very keen the orange eyes are a distinct disadvantage.

"In the breeding of the orange tabby you need to be very careful. The use of the tortoiseshell has been found to be very advantageous; in fact, some of our best orange tabbies have been bred from the tortoiseshells. The mixing of these two varieties, if done carefully, will bring success on both sides; but care should be taken not to bring too much of the tortoiseshell into the orange, or, on the other hand, carry too much orange into the tortoiseshell. The pale yellow eye in an orange is a great point against it winning in the keen competition which we have at the present time.

"The eyes must be a very rich orange, to match the body colour, which should be two or three shades lighter than the markings.

"In the browns we have two distinct colours—the sable colour and the old brown colour. The old cat that I have referred to of Lady Decies' was a sable tabby. No doubt this colour is the more taking of the two, but both are useful, and the old brown colour must not by any means be overlooked in our liking for the sable colour. In all the colours of tabbies we find that the chief bad points are the white lips in the sables mostly, the white spots in the chest in our orange, and the rusty

mousy colour in our silvers. The colour of eyes, too, in our browns and sables is far from what it ought to be. Some eyes are a pale green, some a pale yellow. All this proves that the breeders at times go too far in the out-crossing, and bring in with it faults that crop up when those crossings are nearly forgotten.

"In the breeding of browns nothing more is needed than what we have—namely, the sable colour ones and the old coloured



TORTOISESHELL MALE "SAMSON."

OWNED BY LADY ALEXANDER.

(Photo: Russell & Sons, Crystal Palace.)

browns. The blending together of these two colours will put any breeder on the highway to success. I am more than surprised that this variety is not stronger than it is at the present time. I am sure, of all the race and colours of tabbies they are the easiest to breed, and yet we find they are the fewest in number at our big shows. In looking for a real good tabby, do not miss the chest, feet, and tail. We have a great lot of good cats if body markings and colour were all that was needed, but when it comes to the ringed tail, the rings around the chest, and the markings right down to the toe ends, then they 'come a cropper,' as we say in the North.



TORTOISESHELL TOM AND SILVER TABBY SHORT-HAIRED CATS.

(From a Painting by W. Luker, Jun.)

“One more important point before I finish. ‘Champion King Saul.’ Females are very strong, and well represented in Mrs. Pratt’s ‘Tib of Rochdale’ and Messrs. Graham and Ainsley’s ‘Sunine.’

What a painful task it is to the judge to find very good all-round exhibits that have plain head markings. The face and cheeks are right in ground colour; and the pencil markings on the fore-face, running into the markings behind the ears, and those on the cheeks are of the faintest colour, and in many cases broken. Such head markings and colour spoil many otherwise really good cats.



MRS. A. M. STEAD'S BROWN TABBY.
(Photo: E. N. Collins, South Norwood.)

“I now come to the tortoiseshells—a mixture of orange and black. I have dealt with mixing of colours in my remarks on the orange tabbies. All I need say here is, mind that in your tortoiseshells you do not get the orange markings. The most successful breeder in the North of this variety—the late Mr. Young, of Harrogate—made tabby markings in a tortoiseshell a disqualification in the show pen. The presence of any white is also a very great drawback, and this is often found in small patches on the chest or on the belly. You can have both too light and too much orange colour, or you can have



MRS. COLLINGWOOD'S "JAMES II."
(Photo: Russell & Sons, Crystal Palace.)

them too dark or too much black. Equal colours and well mixed is about the right thing, with good orange eyes. At the present time we have Lady Alexander's and Mrs. Herring's males—‘Champion Samson’ and

common drawback in this variety is the mixture of tabby with the orange and white, instead of the patches of black. I feel sure

if this variety were only taken up more we should see a remarkable advancement both in markings and in colour. The patches—white, orange, and black—in an ideal specimen should be, if possible, about equal in number, and well placed on the body, head, and feet; they look very charming when you see a really good one. I

hope a few more fanciers and breeders of short-haired cats will be coming forward, so that the number exhibited at our shows may steadily increase.”

In this hope I do most heartily join, for

although my name is mostly connected with the long-haired breeds, I am such a lover of all cats that I feel as anxious for one variety as another to obtain friends and favour. It is specially in the South of England that the interest in our short-haired breeds is on the wane, and it behoves all fanciers to strive to assist in keeping alive the love of the British cat in our midst.

In 1902 Sir Claud and Lady Alexander most generously guaranteed the whole of these classes, and although they themselves made a very numerous entry, yet there was a

deficit to pay of several pounds, a thing which ought not to be.

I find that the Manx, Siamese, and blues are generally able to take care of themselves at shows, or they have clubs and secretaries who look after their interests; but the "common or garden" puss needs a kindly hand to assist in drawing him to the front, for, as that well-known lover of "the domestic cat," Harrison Weir, writes, "Why should not the cat that sits purring in front of us before the fire be an object of interest, and be selected for its colour, markings, and form?"



"BEN-MY-CHREE."

(OWNED BY MISS G. E. SILLAR.

(Photo: J. W. Thomas, Colwyn Bay.)