

# CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 1

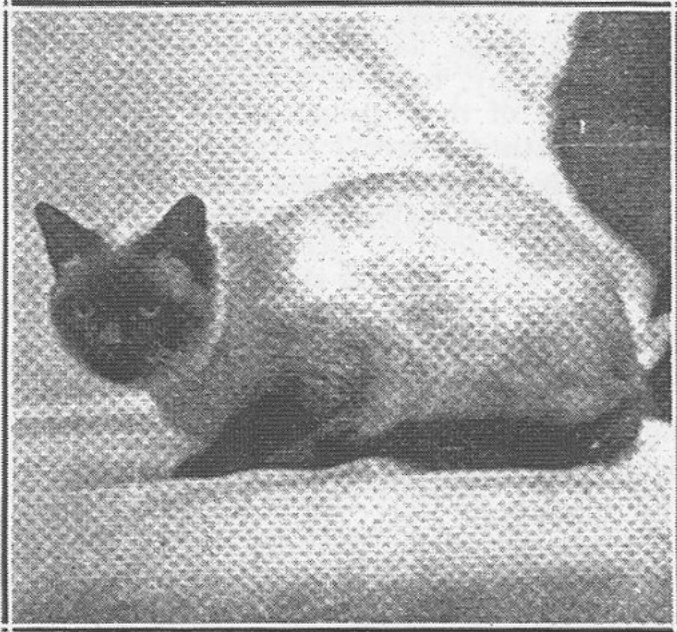
Phone : Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 11

FEBRUARY 16th, 1927

Price 3d., post free



Mrs. Allen-Maturin's Southampton Shipmate o' Mine

## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

THERE was a foolish clerical error in the permanent Sir Claud Alexander's suggestion last week. 1895 was, of course, the proper year to be mentioned, neither Sir Claud nor the writer being such kittens in the Fancy as not to have commenced showing till 1905!

EMINENT scientists, it will be noted, disagree with Mrs. Veley's Civet-Cat hybrid theory. We ourselves do not believe in the possibility of a fertile mating of Viverrine and Feline, as we stated a few weeks back in CAT GOSSIP.

SHIPMATE O'MINE. Mrs. Allen-Maturin's Siamese, whose portrait appears this week, is placed at stud in our columns. He is, it will be noted, an imported cat.

THE following par was by error omitted from the end of Mr. Traynor's article last week:—The Animal Lovers' League is prepared to arrange for a model theatre performance to be given in schools and on other suitable occasions, and the writer will himself be only too

pleased to give any advice or help in his power. If you are interested in this new and attractive propaganda get into communication with the honorary secretary, 11 Tunley Road, London, S.W.17.

THE question of Siamese tails—straight or crooked—is agitating French and Belgian breeders, and being argued in the columns of *Chasse et Peche*. Dr. Jumaud, of the Cat Club de France, and many French amateurs, like the crooked or "broken" tail. Most Belgian breeders, including our valued correspondent M. Steens, prefer straight tails. Dr. Jumaud writes that he considers "the scientific characteristic of the Siamese breed consists in the nodosity or kink in the tail. This is a fact given due value by the learned Professor of Zootechnics, Cornevin (before whose opinion fanciers and veterinary surgeons must bow). For 18 years amongst more than 500 imported specimens I have examined, only 16 had long tails, and even of these two had a kink at the tip!" This sounds very well, but, lo, our late gallant opponent, M. Armand Steens, retaliates: "If Dr. Jumaud only found 18 long tails amongst 500 imported cats, that to me only proves one thing, that in Siam they keep for themselves the first-class cats and make money with the second-raters. Business is business!" So that's that.

A WRITER in a contemporary says: "Wild Cats I have seen bear a very strong resemblance to our best show brown tabbies." Then we can only assume that she has never seen any *real* Wild Cats! for the difference between say, Xenophon, or Ch. Brown Star, and a typical wild cat, is very great: true, they are both striped, but in perfectly different ways, and the typical "tabby" marking is *not found in any wild feline!* it being entirely a product of domestication. The "mackerel-tabby," which strictly speaking is not a tabby at all, is a nearer approach to the striping of the Wild Cat; but as "the *best show* brown tabbies" are explicitly referred to, we imagine the writer of the lines referred to did not have these in mind.

DR. JACOBS DE LAIRE, writing in *Chasse et Peche*, considers that it will be as simple, when the matter has been studied, to establish the identity of a Dog by its nasal prints as of a human by his thumb-prints. In time the science may be extended to Cats, and we may be able to prove ownership of a lost pet by exhibiting its sign-nasal. But mind, this will cut both ways, and if Fluff breakfasts on the neighbour's dove or canary, or sneaks the chops he intended for lunch, you will not be able to deny liability if the bereaved one produces the print of her dear little nose which he took the trouble to obtain before turning her loose to note in which direction she took her homeward way!

AN American paper gives a delightful picture of two good-sized Silver Foxes with their foster-mother, a tabby Manx. One of the foxes has its "arm" over the cat's shoulder and is evidently licking it. In another American paper is a photo of a silver tabby with her family, two kittens and an adult brown rat. It is not known how the rat came to join the family circle, which has been visited by hundreds of people at the building of the Michigan Telephone Co.

WE note that Miss Ruby Cooke has presented a new Cup to the Siamese Club. Miss Cooke is sister to Sir William Cooke, of Newbury, who is well known in the "horse" world, and has a number of Abyssinians, including some very remarkable albinistic specimens, creamy-tinted, with blue eyes, and a rabbit-coloured dorsal stripe and ears.

THE Siamese Club, we are pleased to observe, starts on a new year's working in a favourable financial position.

THE *Isle of Man Times* contains an appeal to Island breeders not to neglect the native cat. WE note with pleasure that the young Blues, Cyrus, and Tamar, of Downside, sent by Mrs. Kidd to M. Steens of Antwerp, did very well at Ghent last week, taking the Cup for best Brace of Blue Persians, also, with a mate, the Cup for best team of cats in the Show.

MRS. STEVENS' well-known studs enter our columns this week. We give a portrait of that good sire Milord o' Mendip, and can recommend a study of their announcement.

MISS LEATHERDALE tells us her recently exported Siamese, Pumalet is dead, to the grief of the purchaser, Mrs. Stroud, who hopes to visit England this summer and purchase several Siamese. Canada, it appears, possesses no stud of this breed.

**Next Week:**

**Miss Sydney Fairbrother on  
"White Australian Cats."**

## A STRAIGHT TALK

TO be, or not to be? that is the question. Do you wish CAT GOSSIP to continue, or not?

My colleague, for various reasons, I regret to say, has given up the paper, which reverts to me. Fond though I may be of the Cat Fancy, my affection is not so great that I can afford to lose a considerable sum weekly on it! Which of YOU would do so? At the outset, I appealed for FAIR PLAY and a SPORTING CHANCE. At the outset, some of you have given me this, but, alas, it is common knowledge that from the outset, a certain section, or shall I call it a clique, has done its level best to kill the paper, nay, to stifle it at its birth! Perhaps some of these people would feel a little less self-satisfied were I to print some of the comments I hold on their policy, made by persons of the highest standing in Catdom! Nay, more, numerous people now holding, or who have at one time or another held, positions of principal importance in Catdom, have not hesitated to declare that it was the duty of the G.C., which is supposed to watch over all the interests of the Cat Fancy, to at least extend a welcome to an honest effort to provide the Cat Fancy with what every other Fancy of any importance has, an organ of its own! Is it worthy of the British, the Mother Cat Fancy, to be content to accept the hospitality of the Rabbit Fancy, when Young America can run four all-cat papers, and even Baby France has one? What but good can possibly result to a Fancy from having a paper devoted solely to it? or from having its interests catered for by *two* papers?

Would one not imagine that up-to-date Fanciers, and up-to-date Club Secretaries, would see that such an organ, that increased publicity, would and must in time be in every way beneficial? and therefore help. Some sections of the Fancy have loyally extended a helping hand; others seem steeped in that apathy which is the curse of England to-day: but yet another section, I grieve to say, has resorted to every possible means to down this paper—means, in some cases, infringing every canon of fair-play, fancier-like treatment, or journalistic decency. This section I hope and believe to be but a small minority.

We are now approaching the end of our first quarter. I want EVERYONE who desires CAT GOSSIP to continue, to *at once* send me a postcard, saying to what extent I may count on their help, in *advertisements*—without which no paper can live—and subscriptions. I am not out to make a fortune, but surely if I do

all the hard work I may expect the paper to pay its way? At the outset, I invited collaboration, and expressed the desire to meet the wishes of Cat-owners in every possible way. It is most disheartening to find such apathy prevail. Well, the matter is in your own hands; will you help me? will you enable me to provide the Fancy with an all-cat paper, or will you tamely allow an organised clique or opposition to dictate to you what your catty literature is to be? For that is what it comes to when we find a determined effort is made in certain quarters to stifle a new paper at birth without giving it a chance to make good! Again, I ask, will YOU ensure for me *Fair Play* and a *Sporting Chance*? Is this too much to ask?

H. C. BROOKE.

### Why Egerton House Douglas was not at Kentish Town

By The Hon. Mrs. McLAREN MORRISON.

OH, yes, I had every intention he should go. He was to have worn a bright red bow, and to have looked quite "the thing." Unfortunately, being ill, I would not be able to accompany him.

He retired to rest as usual on one of the dining-room chairs, and there I fear, he and his lady put their heads together and hatched a wicked plot! Anyway, when his attendant came to

call him in the morning with the friendly remark hand for a reluctant Douglas, he drew it back rather quicker than he intended to, embellished with Douglas' visible objection and remark: that it was time to start, and stretched out a "That where his mistress went he went, and where she did not go . . . !" well, he clearly expressed what he meant. He then departed from his chair, but his attendant (who is somewhere near six foot) emitting what he fondly believed to be notes of "Sweet Nothing," stalked him round the table. This was too much! Douglas concluding he was being funny at his expense, with a "quick-change-trick" vanished completely, and his friends had to go without him.

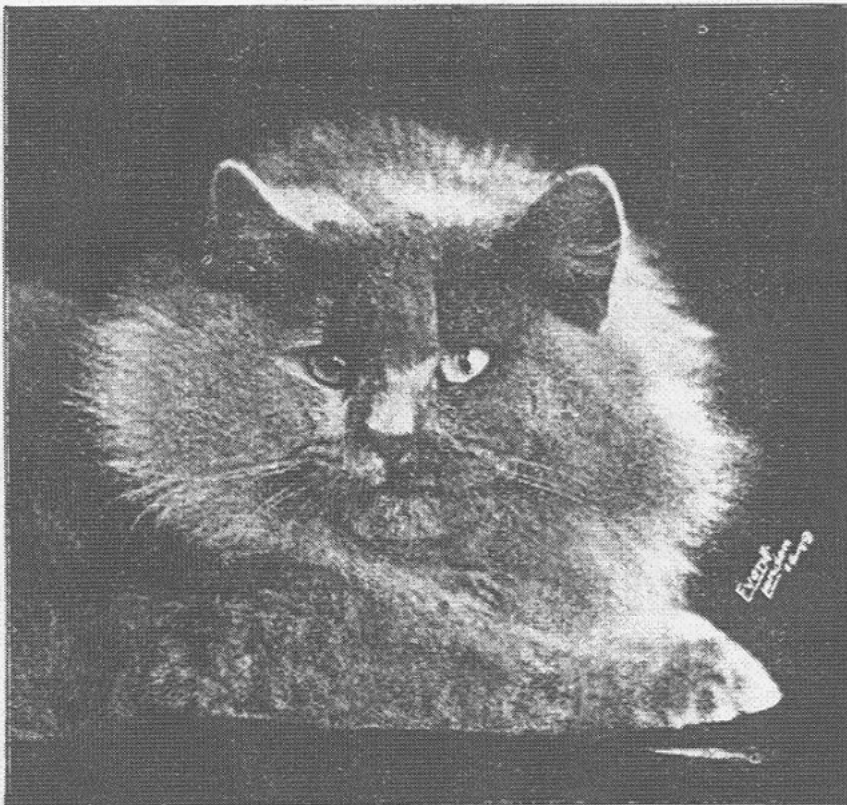
Not till the last note of the departing taxi sounded on the early morning air, did Douglas reappear, innocently to attack his breakfast. I trust I was mistaken but something very like a wink seemed to pass between him and the young lady on his right, as they bent over their morning saucers.

### BOOKS FOR THE LEISURE HOUR.

By MARION SHERIDAN JONES.

#### *A Lovely Book of Nature.*

In these dark days, when winter still surrounds account of the wild life which inhabits our woods us, it is a real joy to read this very unusual and fields, our hedgerows, sea and waterside. Most attractive is the story of the two humans who make the little creatures their study and friends. Old Isaac Pharoah, who finds an abandoned baby boy and brings him up to love the outdoor life which surrounds his tiny cottage, is a real creation. Disappointed by his sweetheart, alone and bitter, he turns to the birds and beasts for consolation. The little boy brings back the warmth to his desolate heart and together they journey about the fields, rivers and woods, watching and nurturing the teeming life inhabiting them. So truly are they presented to us that we lie in the shadow with them and watch for the shy voles, the brown rats, the rare birds and the thousand and one creatures which are their constant study. A book to read and re-read and to treasure on our shelves.



Mrs. Stevens' Milord o' Mendip.

*Buck the Super Dog.*

Black Buck, one of those mysterious dogs which occur in even the best regulated litters, is useless for show purposes, and passes into the keeping of a settler in the backwoods. His master cruelly murdered, and himself seriously injured by a shot through the nose, so that his sense of smell is destroyed, the great dog is compelled to fend for himself and has to think out how to get his food by methods unknown to his kind. He triumphs, and the story of his exploits is delightful reading. Buck is a wonderful fighter, and many a gallant stand does he make against the wolves, bears and all the animals who prey upon each other in the woods around him, and who are his natural enemies. He has a *penchant* for the fair sex but is disappointed by their fickleness. The softly tinted she wolves, who stay with him but a short time, only to leave him more desolate than before, wound him deeply, but even more hurt is he at the brutality of the few humans he meets. He finds them all against him and even when he saves them from the attacks of the wood creatures, Buck realizes that his own life is being hunted by the very beings he has fought so hard to protect. The life of the forest is vividly described—the constant struggle of creature against creature, the wonders of nature, the terror of the storm—help to make up an enthralling volume.

*The Secret of the Wild*, by W. R. CALVERT.  
(Hutchinson, 12s. 6d. net.)

*The Fang in the Forest*, by CHARLES ALEXANDER.  
(Melrose, 7s. 6d. net.)

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**TO FRIENDS OF "CAT GOSSIP."**

Our good friend Mr. Percival suggest the formation of a small syndicate. He will guarantee up to £5 if 19 others do the same! I now want 16 more guarantors, when I will run "Cat Gossip" for six months, when a balance-sheet would be presented and the position reviewed. I may say I see no possibility of there being a call for £5, but there might be one for £2 or £3. Can the Cat Fancy rise to this? I should suggest that at the end of 3 months, on demand of a majority of guarantors, the position be reviewed. If our friends will only work to get us advertisements there would probably be no need for any call on the guarantors. Who will help to preserve England's **ONLY ALL-CAT PAPER?**

**CAT CALLS**

*From Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, Sec. of the Zoological Society.*

*To the Editor, CAT GOSSIP.*

Referring to articles which have appeared in your paper, I do not believe in the identity of the Siamese with the ancient Egyptian Cat. Civet and Cat, or Genet and Cat, hybrids are unknown at the Zoological Gardens, and I do not believe in the possibility of such. I know of no Siamese Viverrine such as described, and I do not think the Bay Cat had anything to do with the Siamese Cat; but I do not doubt that the Siamese is a very old domestic race with many centuries of selection behind it.

*From Capt. J. G. Dollman, Assist. Curator of the Natural History Museum.*

As regards the suggested origin of the Siamese Cat . . . a Genet and Civet might cross, but such a cross has never been recorded. The Indian Marten (Yellow-throated Marten—ED.) *M. flavigula*, is the only animal at all like the Siamese in coloration, but, of course, has nothing whatever to do with Siamese or any other cats. I do not think a Bay Cat likely to interbreed with a domestic cat and result in fertility; certainly no cross between a Bay Cat and a Viverrine has been recorded, and I think it very very improbable that such a cross could happen.

To the Editor.

Many thanks for your letter. I really must congratulate you on the perfectly delightful paper you have given us in CAT GOSSIP.

I feel sure it has only to be seen to be appreciated and to insure its instant success with all people who are cat lovers and interested in the Fancy.

I have often talked with the late Miss Frances Simpson on the subject of a paper to be devoted entirely to cats, and she said how much one was needed and how she would have liked to have edited one had her health permitted. I am sure she would be happy to know that her wish had come true and that the Cats so dear to her heart had a paper of their very own.

Wishing you every success.

M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

## THE SIAMESE CAT CLUB

THE General Meeting of above club was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, February 2nd, when there was a good attendance. The Chair was taken by Major E. S. Woodiwiss at 3 o'clock.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected: Hon. Sec., Miss Busted; Hon. Treasurer, Miss F. Dixon; Auditors, Messrs. Barker, Barker and Wood; Solicitor, Mr. H. J. Ricketts. The retiring two members of Committee, eligible for re-election, Mrs. Cran and Mrs. Allen Maturin. The Delegates for the G.C.C.F. are Mrs. Veley, Sc.D., F.L.S., Vice-Chairman of the Club, in place of Mrs. Cran, and Mrs. Allen Maturin.

The Report and Balance Sheet was passed, and a vote of thanks was given to the Hon. Sec. for all her hard work of the past year.

Mrs. Wade brought forward the proposition of Life Memberships to the Club, seconded by Mr. Basnett, and after a discussion of some length this was unanimously carried.

The Siamese Cat Register, No. 2, was discussed, and it was proposed by Mrs. Wade and seconded by Mrs. Duncan Hindley that the Club undertake the publication of this volume, and that a letter be sent out to all members by the Hon. Treasurer asking for support of the same.

The date of the Club Show was fixed for Wednesday, Sept. 21st, and the Judges chosen. The Philbeach Hall was selected, unless the Hon. Sec. found a better lighted one.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Ruby Cooke, for her generous offer of a second "Britannia" Cup for best Brood

Queen, the first having been won out-right by Mrs. Ellaby.

After some further small points were discussed the business terminated. Will all Members please take note, that the Hon. Treasurer, Miss F. Dixon, Southview, Thames Ditton, Surrey, will now take Cheques for Life Membership, and this will include the current year's subscription, if paid members will send their receipts at the same time, to have them stamped.

E. C. BUSTEED, *Hon. Sec.*

## VISITS

Jan. 21st.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's *Dainty Lady of the Court* to Mrs. Wade's *John of Bedale*.

Jan. 27th.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's *Dewdrop of the Court* to Mrs. Bazeley's *Champion Colneside Billy Bumpet*.

## ADVERTISING RATES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

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**ADVERTISEMENTS.** Displayed Adverts., Stud or others, 3/6 per inch, cash, up to 4 insertions; 4 to 13 insertions 3/4 inch; 13 and upwards 2/9 inch. Standing Advs. of Cat Clubs, 35 words, 2/6. Sales, Wants, &c., 1d. per word, minimum 1/6.

**PORTRAITS.** Cats standing at Stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and postage. Block becomes property of owner. Portrait may be repeated within the year for inclusive fee of **One Guinea**. For Cats not advertised at Stud the Portrait Fee with Block will be 21/-.

All Correspondence to be sent to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE, BISHOPS HULL, TAUNTON

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