

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 1

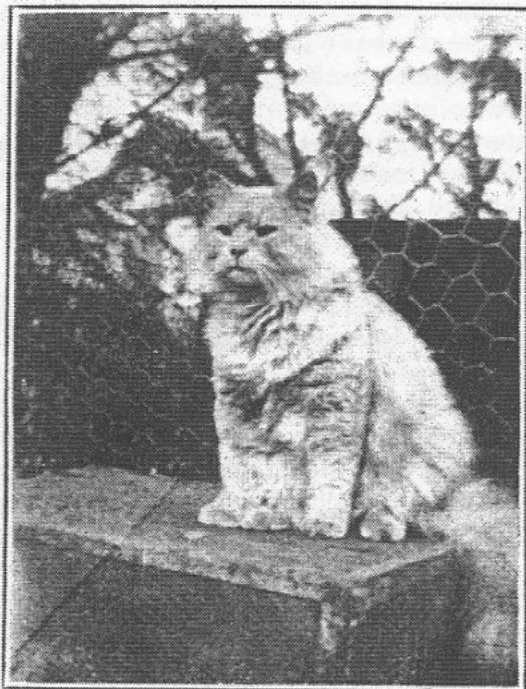
Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No 18

APRIL 6th, 1927

Price 3d., post free



Mrs. MacWatt's Cream Stud,  
BUBBLES OF HANLEY.

## Gossip of the Week.

WE GIVE this week a portrait of Mrs. MacWatt's grand young cream stud, Bubbles of Hanley. This cat has as yet only been exhibited on one occasion, at the Kentish Town last January, when he obtained the Challenge Certificate and a number of cups and other prizes. Our reporter wrote of him: "A great fine cat, massive bone." This son of Milord o' Mendip is at stud in our columns, and has already sired some promising kittens.

THE QUESTION, meat feed or not, seems to be agitating many of our leading lights just now. Some hold that a plentiful meat diet makes for savage tempers, especially in studs. Now, with the exception of Sir Claud and Lady Alexander, we dare swear that there is no one, nay, let us say no six persons in the Cat Fancy who have had the experience of carnivorous animals that we personally have; and we

certainly do not believe that meat feeding, even raw meat feeding, makes a sweet-tempered animal savage, unless at the moment of feeding, especially with fresh-killed meat. In the 'nineties, when we usually had some forty dogs, half-a-dozen wolves, and maybe twenty cats, some of them wild ones, we used to feed almost exclusively on meat, usually raw, and frequently within a few minutes of killing. Our Manx toms, Ch. Katzenjammer and Ch. Bonhaki, reared from early kittenhood on raw meat, lived together in amity. The white wolf, which ran loose in the house, as described by a writer in "Our Cats" twenty-five years ago, and slept before the fire with various dogs, cats, and a bantam, would growl and snarl over a piece of fresh-killed goat, and then curl up with the rest with the bantam on her back. The Indian red S.H., who, like the cat described by Sir Claud Alexander, would not touch a rat turned out for him, but would kill any he found himself, ate practically nothing but raw meat, yet a sweeter-tempered cat, bar with other toms, one could not wish to meet. We believe bad temper to depend far more on **health, treatment, and individual character**, or temperament, than on feeding. You may have two pups, or two kittens, or two wolf cubs, from the same litter—one may be an angel—the other a regular fiend. Temperament! But naturally if a cat or another animal is highly fed and gets insufficient exercise, he is likely to be sulky or ill-tempered.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago occurred the following curious incident, thus described in a letter to "Our Cats," at the Victoria Hall Cat Show, which caused a good deal of talk at the time:—"There was a very good young black kitten, called Nig, exhibited in the Novice Maux class. It did not get a card, Miss H. Cochran (the judge) saying it had a stump. It had no stump on the Thursday, and there being no sore place it cannot be assumed it had been nibbled off during the night! On Thursday it was examined by Miss Frances Simpson, Miss Dresser, Mr. Louis Wain, and others, who all pronounced it **absolutely tailless!** Great injustice was done to its owner, Miss Goddard, by such careless judging. I understand Miss Cochran refused to look at Nig again, saying it had a stump the day before. "Nig" was purchased by Mr. H. C. Brooke, became Champion King Clinkie, and was later sold to Lady Marcus Beresford. By

the way, this judge was the same one, if we remember rightly, who awarded a prize to a ring-tailed Lemur in the foreign cat class at the Crystal Palace! A WRITER in a contemporary does not remember having seen a tortie-and-white Manx. We have known several, in fact, we remember exhibiting a wonderfully long-hind-legged one at the Botanic Gardens some twenty-five years ago!

FROM Mrs. Taylor, of Chicago, Editor of "The Cat Courier," comes this kind appreciation:—"I think your little paper is getting better every issue, and surely the cat fanciers in England need such a paper, when I was over judging the Croydon Show they talked to me about an exclusive cat paper, telling me of the need of it in your country, so surely they will come to the front and support you!" Here, indeed, is "a word to the wise!"

MANY years ago—half-a-century or so—we often used to see a rather pretty variety of the S.H. Tabby, which now seems quite extinct. We ourselves were, so to speak, brought up with one, and saw other individuals in London streets, but never elsewhere. The ground colour was a creamy tint, and the markings, always rather narrow, a reddish brown.

MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE writes us from the Prince's Theatre, that she has two British cats, which she adores.

MISS MORANT writes us of some of the quaint idiosyncracies of her cats. One queen insists on making her bed in a large basin on a high shelf. A Manx neuter, who talks loudly and volubly until he gets his saucer of weak tea, is called the Nursemaid, because he loves to nurse and play with young kittens.

WE ARE very sorry to hear from Miss Savory that she has lost her beautiful Manx, Annis of Emberton, after a very short illness. Annis was a very consistent winner, in fact, did well wherever shown, except on one occasion, when she was "up against" the males.

WE WISH to draw the attention of the Fancy to the—we believe unrivalled—terms we offer our regular advertisers, who have good portraits of their cats to publish. For the sum of £1 2s. 6d. we will make Blocks, of two cats, publish them, with descriptions, in "Cat Gossip," and present the blocks to the owners for their future use as desired! This wonderful offer is only for a short time, and, of course, confined to our advertising subscribers. Two portraits must be ordered together; for one only the terms are higher, though still reasonable. When the **good and clear portraiture** we provide is taken into consideration, this is surely a remarkable offer!

DO PLEASE, in the interests of yourselves, the Fancy, and "Cat Gossip," send on all catty news items at once!

THE mystery of the Chinese Drop-eared cats will, we fear, never be solved. We are beginning to think that the Chinese gentleman whom we met once and who assured us, "With a smile that was childlike and

bland," that he knew them well, was indulging in "terminological inexactitudes." In which case we shall quite agree with Bret Harte that

"For ways that are dark  
And for tricks that are vain  
The Heathen Chinese is peculiar,  
Which that same I am free to maintain."

ON THE face of it, a cat with hanging ears seems most unlikely. Yet when we consider the extraordinary modification domestication has effected in the dog and the rabbit, the wonder seems rather that the cat has remained for thousands of years unaltered. We have inquired of naturalists all over the globe; of the Chinese Embassy; of Hagenbeck's, the great Hamburg animal dealers; of a certain well known author, who has lived for years in China and knows that country well; the American Express Co. have very kindly instructed their representatives at Shanghai and Peking to make inquiries, without result. Animal dealers in Shanghai, they say, do not believe in the existence of such a cat. None of our wild animal dealers know it. Against this we have the detailed description given by the German naturalist, Brehm, last century—and he was usually very accurate—and the fact that forty-five years ago we saw a stuffed specimen, half-coated with yellowish white fur, in a Continental museum! This, however, we have always thought might be a fake, or a cat with its ears deformed by canker, and possibly presented in all good faith. At any rate, we are afraid the Drop-eared cat, if it ever existed, is now extinct. This fate has overtaken many interesting local races, usually from their characteristics being bred out by mixing with common strains. For instance, we doubt if any pure specimens now exist of the remarkable Phu-Qoc, or Fu-Oc Dog, the hair on whose back grew pointing towards the head. Whilst of the New Mexican Hairless Cat, specimens of which were yet alive in 1900, absolutely no record seems to exist, here or in New Mexico, except the photo and description we were fortunate enough to secure for science.

MRS. OGLETHORPE writes:—"My great tragedy this Spring has been the loss of a promising litter by John of Bedale, ex Dainty Lady, and another by Dazzler of Henley, ex Day Dream; the latter is a quaint little soul, and hates other queens; on this occasion they met with only a sun-blind between them. Within an hour Day Dream had lost her kits, and shortly after Dainty Lady gave birth to three premature kittens, two of which lived for three days. Five days later she gave birth to two more, one of which was alive, but she had no milk, so the kittens died too, though Mrs. Wade and Miss Harmer did their best to try to obtain a foster. I suppose I am lucky to have saved the mother. I seemed to spend all last week burying kits, and felt very miserable. So now all my present hopes are centred in Dewdrop, and I feel like keeping her in a glass case."



THE SIAMESE tails discussion still rages abroad, and Madame Noclain wrote to Chasse et Pêche in favour of the kink.

MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER and Mr. Western have been re-elected G.C. Delegates of the Southern Counties C.C. The Annual General Meeting of this Club will be held on April 14th, at 82, Eaton Square, by kind permission of the V.P., Mrs. Zoe Bell.

MRS. HIGGINS (Ipswich) writes that she has bred quite a number of white cats, and, in fact, has ten now—and never a deaf one. She has also two Tortoise-and-white Manx queens, and hopes to breed some more. She asks if ever any but white cats are known to have odd eyes? We cannot call an instance to mind. Of course, in dogs one sometimes finds one "wall" or "glass" eye; and pied mice occur with one eye black and the other red, a peculiarity we've never noticed in rats, though we've bred over 3,000 of these animals.

MISS MORANT writes that it was, of course, her beautiful young Abyssinian queen, Zeila, winner of the Lilmay Cup at Croydon, who is to be mated to Saka, and not Zoey, the Manx, as stated in a contemporary.

## VISITS.

April 4th.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's Dainty Lady of the Court to Mrs. Wade's John of Bedale.

March 31st.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's Day Dream of Henley to Mrs. Bergman's Simeon of Westfield.

IT IS not easy to study a cat. They are like sensitive plants, and shut themselves instinctively away from the human being who does not care for them. They know when a man or woman loves them, almost before they come into the human presence, and it is useless for the unsympathetic persons to try to study them. But the thousands who do love cats know that they are the most individual animals in the world. There is as much individuality in cats as in people.

PEOPLE who do not care for cats sometimes quote the fact that they prey upon smaller animals as disqualifying them for our regard. But do not the same people eat the pretty sportive lamb and the pigeon, and wear the wings of beautiful birds shot to gratify their vanity?

She: The cat has eaten our pet bird!

He: The wicked beast must die!

Then She sat down to quail on toast,

And He ate pigeon pie.

CAT language has been reduced to etymology in several tongues. In Arabia, their speech is called naoua; in Chinese, ming; in Greek, larungizein; in Sanscrit madj, vid, bid; in German, miauen; in French, miauler; and in English, miauw or mew.—(Concerning Cats.)

## THE AILMENTS OF THE CAT.

Motto:

So sickly cats neglect their fur attire,  
And sit and mope beside the kitchen fire.

Bombastes Furioso.

ECZEMA, which seems to be very common amongst cats nowadays, is usually considered to be a non-contagious skin disease, as contrasted with the various forms of mange proper, all of which are contagious. On this point, however, "I hae me doots," and should not be surprised if certain forms of eczema are not also contagious. The prevalence of this troublesome disease nowadays is without the shadow of a doubt largely due to the unnatural lives led by many of our cats, and also to unnatural feeding. It is undoubtedly hereditary at times, and certain strains are more subject to it than others. It may—and in dogs often is—caused by poorness of blood; and I have often known people to "dock the vittles" of a dog thus affected, thinking to benefit him; whereas really the poor tyke would have been better served by more nutritious food.

Eczema is usually worse on the back, especially at the root of the tail, and the irritation at times causes the animal to go nearly frantic. The skin often gets very red, almost raw; in fact, it may actually bleed, and the animal will suddenly start licking or scratching it in a perfectly frenzied manner. The fur will probably be brought off by the secretion which will form. It may be brought on by any sudden thwarting of the natural functions—a cat losing her kittens for instance, may get it, especially if no attention be paid to her milk supply. Some consider that neuters are more subject to it than tom cats, personally I have not observed this.

It is very often the case that a remedy which will quickly benefit one patient will have no effect on another. Some cases of eczema are very obstinate, and take a long time to deal with, and break out again just when one thinks the cure is complete. It is generally a pretty safe proceeding to effect—of course rationally and after due consideration—a fairly radical change in the manner of life of the patient, and to alter his diet. Some cases of eczema are greatly benefited by a course of good sound raw meat, and this is best given so that the cat is compelled to thoroughly chew it. Non-splintering bones are also beneficial, the extra salivation caused acting on to the stomach. Old animals with faulty digestions are often sufferers from eczema. Plenty of good growing grass of different kinds is a desideratum. No heating, farinaceous foods, please! Nor am I a believer in much milk for adult cats. Once allowed to become chronic eczema will be most difficult to get rid of. Slight and newly-commenced attacks may be treated with some blend of cooling local applications, changing these if after a short trial no benefit is observed.

There are various makes on the market which are

the result of years of experience, and some of these may be tried with advantage; an internal course of tonic will almost certainly be helpful. A simple and cooling ointment which cannot possibly do harm is made up of equal parts of sulphur and oxide of zinc mixed with olive oil or vaseline. This may be applied daily, or even twice daily, wiping off all not absorbed by the skin. Allow plenty of exercise, fresh air, and observe the greatest cleanliness. Make sure there is no constipation; if acidity of the stomach is indicated, treat for this. Seek, in every way possible, to tone up the system of the patient. Should there be doubt as to the nature of the complaint, a microscopical examination of the secretion from a pustule will prove beyond doubt whether it is a question of eczema or parasitic mange.

\* **Important Note.** Bear in mind that any carbolic or coal-tar preparations, often very useful in the case of the dog, are highly dangerous to the cat!

### CATS' BEST FRIEND.

#### IN QUEST OF DAINTIES.

#### THE STRONG MAY NOT OPPRESS THE WEAK. IGNORANT RABBIT-SKINNER PUT RIGHT.

By GEORGE CECIL.

#### A WOMAN'S DEVOTION.

ALTHOUGH the Parisians usually consider that charity should begin—and end—at home, there is one extremely bright and shining exception. For an old woman of seventy, who, happily, remains hale and hearty, devotes the morning to picking up scraps in the market, with which to feed stray cats. The scraps, however, proving insufficient, this charitable person devotes part of her meagre income to purchasing lights and cod's heads, the French grimalkin being very partial to both delicacies. Later on in the day she cooks the collected dainties in a huge cauldron, and, as evening falls, a tiny hand-cart, bearing the cats' supper and propelled by the two small grandsons of Madame, makes its way to the now deserted market. The pussies in the neighbourhood, their appetites sharpened by hunger, and attracted by the combined odours of boiled lights, cod's head, and what-not, follow in her train—as a poet might say. Upon arriving at a given point, grandmamma calls a halt, and little Jean and Camille act as waiters. Grandmère sees that each mouser gets fair play, holding back the strong till the weak are in a position to walk away with stomachs properly distended. Should a greedy and lusty animal, eluding her vigilance, snatch a morsel from a weakling, it has no more supper that night.

Madame, if charitable, does not allow greed to go unpunished.

#### BRUTAL AND GALLOUS.

This good-hearted woman is much hampered in her

Christian task by some of the stallholders, who brutally refuse to contribute to the feast. Even on New Year's Day, when all Parisian hearts are supposed to be filled with the milk of human kindness, these hard-shelled people decline to contribute so much as half-a-pound of lights which have lost their pristine freshness. The most anguished supplications are met with cruel gibes; not content with being deaf to the prayer of the benefactress, the market people, lifting their raucous voices, cut unfeeling jokes. . . "Why don't your cats eat mice?" demands a burly ruffian who earns his undistinguished living by skinning rabbits. . . The ignorant fellow, upon being informed that the "felix domesticus" cares only to kill the little rodent, bursts into ribald laughter as he says: "Then they are not so hungry as you pretend!"

Sometimes a remark of this nature calls forth a reproof from another rabbit-skinner, who quotes the learned Buffon in support of Madame and her superior knowledge. The twain thereupon aim kicks at each other's chins—the favourite Gallic method of attack.

A most amiable English lady, who had watched the cats' devoted friend at work, recently contributed a hundred francs to the benevolent scheme. A ration of raw liver per cat was the greatly-appreciated result.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

By MARION SHERIDAN-JONES.

#### AN AGE OLD PROBLEM.

The author of this book raises the age old problem of whether a woman can sacrifice her virtue and be happy. I would have preferred to have the problem worked out less theatrically. Anne Lester makes the plunge from virtue to the other thing to save her war shocked brother. She must raise the money to get him out to a warmer climate. But she makes the mistake of not telling her future husband, and when he finds out for himself she is surprised that he does not like it. However, all ends happily, as it should do when wrong is done in the cause of others. Personally, I should advise women never to do these things and expect to find themselves appreciated. They are invariably left to regret their impulses, and although Anne's brother grew stout and married happily, I doubt if he would have appreciated his sister's lapse on his behalf.

"THE DOOR IN THE WALL," by ALMAZ STOUT.  
(Stanley Paul, 7/6 net.)

"I NEVER had but one cat, and he was rather a friend and companion than a cat. When he departed this life I did not care to do as many men do when their partners die, take a 'second.'"—Chas. Dudley Warner, in "My Summer in a Garden."



## THE CAT-TAX MENACE.

By THE EDITOR.

WE ARE very much surprised to hear from Miss Northcote, whose poem, "The Railway Cat," appeared recently in "Cat Gossip," that she is all in favour of taxing cats. Her arguments are based upon the undoubted fact that thousands of very poor people rear unwanted kittens for their children to treat as toys, and then turn them loose. This, she considers, a cat-tax would stop. "But," as another writer very justly observes, "would it do so? There is a much higher dog-tax. Has it stopped the production of thousands of unwanted puppies; if so, why are so many thousands of dogs yearly destroyed at various institutions?" From the very nature of it, the cat-tax would be infinitely more difficult to collect, and its collection would lead, if earnestly and conscientiously carried out, to a system of spying and inquisition which would be about the final touch to reducing us to slaves—we've got pretty far on that path already one way and another. If left to the police, their numbers must be augmented at our expense, or they must neglect their other duties. If fresh officials be appointed again we pay; and in any case it is probable many of the tax-collectors would avoid risking unpopularity in the lowest and roughest neighbourhoods where half-starved cats do swarm

most, but would concentrate on the "easy mark" presented by the fancier, the breeder, who, they know, would not salute their inquiries with "arf-a-brick"! Let it not be forgotten that this Bill is not being brought forward in any good spirit to the cat, but in a spirit of hostility, such as displayed recently by a Lady Farren writing a scare article in "Tit Bits," accusing the cat of causing tuberculosis amongst children. She admits that the cat probably gets it from tuberculous cow's milk; is it then not reasonable to suggest that if the child gets it too it is from the milk, and not via the cat. But this all forms part of a campaign against the cat. What is required is a higher standard of civilisation, fewer callous magistrates, and proper education! Not more vexatious taxation.

It is probably but little known that cats are sometimes afflicted with a variety of worm, which lives in the nose. It is a prickly brute, and causes sneezing and great irritation, later discharge of matter, or matter mixed with blood, from the nostril. Such symptoms being noticed, and it being certain that it is not a question of a cold, or of a grass seed up the nose, recourse should be had to a veterinary surgeon skilled in feline practice. He will insufflate a certain powder, when the cat, which should be held, will nearly sneeze its head off, and the obnoxious guest, stupefied by the powder, will probably be ejected.

## Try this Splendid Cat Food.

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Custom has decreed that cats be fed from the leavings on the table. But why? The inadvisability of such promiscuous feeding is as obvious as the fact that the constitution of the cat is widely different from our own.

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## BLUE PERSIAN CATS.

MUCH has been said for the popular Blue Persian, and that much is not enough, the Blues seemed to come straight into favour, and have stayed there in spite of everything. Even when I first started breeding, perhaps twenty years ago, I was told the Blues have had their day, your kittens will not sell, too many people are breeding them, the competition is so great the chance of winning a prize is remote, and many such discouraging remarks. I hear the same things said to-day, but still the Blues out-number all others at the shows, and how gratifying to get a prize or even a card in a class where the entries number twenty or more? And people still buy blue kittens for pets, and no wonder, when one sees these charming, dainty lavender blue balls of fluff with their sweet round faces and lovely eyes, lovely while they are blue, and still lovely as they change to orange or copper—and with what anxiety is this changing watched to see if the colour will come deep enough. The greatest demand is for the deep copper eye in the light Blue cat, and this combination is the most difficult to get, though it is becoming more usual. It is comparatively easy to get the dark eye in the dark Blue cat, and the colour is generally more lasting; it is such a pity that the eye colour fades. Some people attribute it to breeding, but I have known many neuters whose eyes have faded in exactly the same way as a stud or breed queen. I think the colour, generally speaking of the Blues of to-day, is not what it should be, and lacks the Blue tone. I have a large number of cats through my hands, and it is surprising how few of them are really blue. In my opinion no Blue cat looks blue at a show, the lights, surroundings, etc., spoil the colour. The ideal place to see a blue cat is on the grass in the sunshine, and how they enjoy the grass and sun! It gives me the greatest pleasure to see my beautiful Ch. Billy Bumpet rolling about on the grass or climbing trees like a great kitten, revelling in the Spring, and what an exciting time for breeders with all the little families coming along. My first came last week, three of the very bluest little Billys, and some more to follow next week. I would like to say to anyone wanting to breed Blues, that I have never had a kitten left on my hands, but I have always bred good ones, and I don't believe the popularity of the beautiful Blue is likely to wane.

RUTH P. BAZELEY.

IN RUSSIA the common people believe that black cats become devils at the end of seven years. In parts of Southern Europe they are held to be serving as apprentices to witches. In Brittany there is a dreadful tale of cats that dance with unholy glee around the Cross, and the Sicilian peasant is sure that if a black cat lives with seven masters the soul of the seventh will accompany him back to the infernal regions.

## STUDY OF A KITTEN.

(AGNES REPPLIER.)

"It is the most delightful comedian in the world. Its wide open eyes gleam with wonder and mirth. It darts madly at nothing at all, and then prances sideways on its hind legs with ridiculous agility and zeal. It makes a vast pretence of climbing the rounds of a chair, and swings by the curtains like an acrobat. It scrambles up a table leg, and is seized with comic horror at finding itself full two feet from the floor. If you hasten to its rescue, it clutches you nervously, its little heart thumping against its furry sides, while its soft paws expand and contract with agitation and relief—

'And all their harmless claws disclose  
Like prickles of an early rose.'

Yet the instant it is back on the carpet it feigns to be suspicious of your interference, peers at you out of 'the tail o' its e'e,' and scampers under the sofa, from which asylum it presently emerges with cautious trailing steps as though encompassed by fearful dangers."

AS FAR back as to the eighth century of the Hegira dates this Arabian story of the origin of the cat. When Noah took the animals into the Ark, his family asked what security there was for all the animals when the lion was on board. Then Noah entreated Allah, and a fever was sent from Heaven and seized on the King of Beasts. Thus originated fever. Yet were they not satisfied, and complained of the Mouse, which would endanger their possessions by its gnawings. Then Noah entreated again; and the lion sneezed, and a cat emerged from his nostrils.

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MRS. EVANS relates that one of her Blue Persians, having presented her with four kits, thought she had done sufficient, and would not concern herself any further in the matter. A foster cat was obtained from a few doors away, and in due course, having reared the bantlings, was returned to her home. One warm afternoon soon after, the kits were placed to enjoy the sun in an open box in an outhouse, and an hour later but one kit was visible. A search was instituted, but in vain, and as a forlorn hope the home of the foster was visited, and the missing kits discovered. The bouncing kits of over nine weeks old had been carried across four gardens with good old-fashioned dividing walls seven or eight feet high. Why had she left the fourth? Could she not count? or was she too tired to return for it: Or did she imagine that one kit left would content the owner and prevent search being made for the three?

MISS MORANT tells of a cat she owned who was very clever at finding hidden objects. No matter where a rabbit's foot—the usual "hidden treasure"—was concealed, on the mantelshelf, behind books, or other hiding-places, he always succeeded in discovering it, and, bringing it proudly in his mouth, would ask very plainly for it to be hidden again for him to try his skill.

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**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, BISHOP'S HULL, TAUNTON.

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