

Mrs. Dudley Ward on the Cat Tax Danger.

CAT GOSSIP, April 13th, 1927

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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Mrs. Oglethorpe's Blue, "Day Dream of Henley."

Gossip of the Week.

Mrs. OGLETHORPE'S beautiful Blues, whose portraits appear this week, are well known to lovers of this variety. Day Dream is a daughter of Milord o' Mendip, ex Autumn Mist. As we recorded last week, she unfortunately had a fight with another cat recently, with the resultant loss of her expected litter by Dazzler of Henley. Dewdrop (by Bunkie, ex Little Britain) was 1st in female kittens at the



Mrs. Oglethorpe's Blue, "Dewdrop of the Court."

Palace in 1922. She excels in coat—which is a pale blue of beautiful texture—eyes, and shape and size. Amongst her progeny are numbered Little Boy Blue, who won the special for best coat at Croyden in 1923; his brother, Simple Simon, another winner; the lovely Thistledown of the Court, best kitten in show at the B.P.C.S. Show, 1925; also Dainty Lady, who is the mother of Perdita. Dainty Lady, alas, was the antagonist of Day Dream in the fight above referred to, and, like her opponent, suffered the loss of her litter.

OF DEWDROP, her mistress writes: "I still have Miss Frances Simpson's letter saying—'I have now a very pale Blue, born June 22nd, a perfect gem, with deep orange eyes, a certain winner for Croydon. Could you run up and see her, and take her home if you like her, and there will be no doubt of that!' And that is how Dewdrop came—she was too lovely for words!"

IS IT QUITE wasted breath—or wasted ink—to beg S.H. owners to "buck up" a bit and show they are not yet dead? Nowadays publicity is the thing; without publicity nothing can succeed. The S.H. Fancy is adept at hiding its light under a bushel—but that is not the way to push their varieties, which are in a fair way to become, if not extinct, at any rate of but little importance.

MRS. TIMMS—who, by the way, echoes our plaint as to the apathy of the S.H. Fancy—suggests that a number of articles describing how and why leading owners took up the Cat Fancy would be of interest. We think so too! Recently Sir Claud Alexander related how the purchase of a ten-shilling cat in Leadenhall Market proved to be the step which caused two of the most important exhibitors to join the ranks. Probably there are other equally interesting narratives available. For the sender of the best short article on "How I became a Cat Exhibitor," "Cat Gossip" will publish a portrait of any cat of which the owner likes to send in a photo, and give the block to the winner. The story should not exceed, say, 500 words, and be written on one side of the paper. The sender must be a subscriber to "Cat Gossip," and it must be understood that all "yarns" submitted become the property of this paper.

WE ARE gratified by the news that the White L.H., Gaybrook White Prince, exported to the U.S.A. last year by Miss L'Estrange Walsh, has won first every time shown over there, at Boston, Springfield, and other shows. He was a son of Ch. Minley Guiding Star. Miss L'Estrange Walsh has not been well lately, but hopes, as the better weather comes, to feel more fit and equal to devoting herself to the expected litters, both of the celebrated Whites and of wire-haired terriers.

WEST COUNTRY cat lovers might well show a little more energy, and let more be heard about them and their stock. There has been some talk of running a Cat Show in Taunton next season. Taunton runs a first-class Dog Show every year, but is absolutely a deserted village as far as cats are concerned. Still it would be very convenient for all Western fanciers. Will some of you state your views on the matter? The would-be promoters would welcome some encouragement.

MRS. LAWRENCE (Tatsfield) sends us the following remarkable proof of reason (as distinct from mere instinct) in the cat:—"I have a blue-cream L.H.

queen, whose intelligence seems to be rather above the average. Lately she was lost for six weeks, having escaped from a house where she was 'visiting.' At the end of that time she reappeared in the garden of the house, having no doubt decided that, as her lying-in time was near and she could not find her way home she had better return to the place where she last saw me. Her experiences appear to have sharpened her wits. For two nights running I left her in the kitchen, a covered saucepan containing cat-food on the stove. In the morning I was amazed to see how little the saucepan contained, but as it was still closely covered thought I had made a mistake. On the third morning I caught her red-handed. She had removed the cover, extracted the meat, and then replaced the cover so that I should notice nothing wrong! Yet there are people who say that animals cannot reason."

IT IS good news to read that the B.B.C. is allowing itself to be used as a means of inculcating kindness to animals by lectures in the Children's Hour. The first story, having reference to the stray Cat, was recently broadcasted by Captain McCunn. These instructive talks to children must be beneficial in the long run. We wish we could see members of the Cat Fancy taking a more active part and interest in the welfare of cats generally. Their love and appreciation for their own pets should render them all the more anxious to ameliorate the lot of less fortunate felines.

THE KENNEL contributor to our contemporary, "Eve," that well-known breeder and judge, Mrs. Carlo F. C. Clarke, copies in extenso Miss Leatherdales' humorous recipe for steamed kitten, and makes the following kindly reference:—"I make no apology for quoting the following paragraph from that bright little weekly, entitled 'Cat Gossip' . . . The editor of which is Mr. H. C. Brooke, the famous dog expert, who has forgotten more of many breeds of dogs than many of us know."

ST. GEORGE MIVART says: "Though the cat is less demonstrative in affection than the dog, yet cats differ as men do, and some individuals manifest strong feelings of regard for one or other of the family." Champfleury explains this as follows: "Here the difference between meditative beings and active natures manifests itself. The barking of a dog has an irritating effect on the delicate organs of the former, while those who like to rule, and love show and fuss, prefer the noisy demonstrativeness of dogs, and make little of the thoughtful animal who, without any noise about it, manifests its independence and eludes the hands that try to hold it. These are traits and distinctions that escape the notice of persons who regard life simply as a hunting field."

CATS IN Rome, a friend writes to Mrs. Oglethorpe, are almost all black and white, and not at all beautiful.

Mrs BAZELEY, whose team of L.H. Blues enter our stud columns this week, has five lovely kittens by Billy Bumpet, ex Colneside Bluebell. One is already "bespoke" to go to Holland to start a cattery there. Another is booked for Birmingham. Her tortie, the only not-Blue cat she possesses, and who last year became mother of the lovely Cream Bunne and Cream Cracker, has just had two Blue female kits, and an unmarked red male.

AS WELL as those who, with true English apathy, "can't be bothered" to worry about the Cat Tax, there are, alas, well-meaning but misguided persons who approve of the Bill because it is ostensibly aimed at lessening the number of stray cats. **Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes!** Shall we blindly grasp at the proffered gifts of an enemy? Do not forget that the authorities of the body fostering this wicked Bill are **not** animal lovers, but largely **supporters of vivisection, faddists**, who regard everything alive in the light of a germ-carrier and disease-spreader, and so forth. Mrs. Dudley Ward, who is well and widely known for her militant work in the defence of cats and other animals, has something to say on the matter in another column.

THE PORTRAITS of Mrs. Oglethorpe's cats are a fair sample of our last week's offer to make blocks for our advertisers. Whilst much depends on the photos, in this case we can truthfully say the blocks are better than the originals.

Mrs. LEANING writes us:—"Although the name for the Cat is given in 31 languages by the author of "The Tiger in the House," he omits a few that I have gathered at intervals from scholars, as opportunity permitted. These are: The Sanskrit, **margara**, meaning a cleaner (Max Müller, with careful study of context, showing that it was the cat that was meant). **Katula**, the Hebrew, and Greek, gale—from my father's Greek-Latin lexicon. What has puzzled me is the unlikeness between these three words. But the Sanskrit witnesses to the great antiquity of the cat; and there was a cat's skeleton found in the excavations at Pevensey into the Roman remains, which the local archaeologist comments on as of interest on this very point, of the domestication of the Cat among the Romans." In No. 14 we gave reproductions of ancient pictures proving that those who claim that the domestic cat was unknown in Europe until towards the Middle Ages were mistaken, and that it was well known to both the Greeks and Romans some two thousand years ago.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' CAT CLUB.

THE result of the recent election of officers is:—President, Mrs. Forsyth Forrest; G.C. Delegate and Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Aubrey. Committee: Mrs. Aubrey, Miss Chichester, Miss George, Miss Langston, Mr. F. Steevens. Hon. Sec.: S. E. Yeend, Freelands House, Cropthorne, Pershore, Worcs.

THE CAT-TAX PERIL AND CAT-OWNERS' APATHY.

BY MRS. DUDLEY WARD.

THIS proposed Bill by the College of Pestology is iniquitous. Many people, whilst viewing it with horror, seem relying on a false optimism that it will never be passed. (The usual slack and apathetic attitude of too many people in England to-day as concerns most matters!—Ed.) But the only safe attitude towards the Government, as far as the cause of animals is concerned, is for animal lovers comprised in the four words, "armed to the teeth." I am getting up a Cats' Protection Circle, and hope to hold a meeting in London early in May, when all present will pledge themselves to DO something against this Bill or give something to help the fight against it. I do hope that you and all Cat lovers who possibly can will attend. The meeting will probably be held at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Kingsway. I have had a Press controversy with the chief sponsor of this Bill before now. He is out to wage war on Dogs, Cats, rabbits, squirrels, fowls, sparrows, etc., all of which are germ carriers according to his view. Yet he poses as a humanitarian! Several lovely puppies belonging to him were (according to recent Press statements) found poisoned. It was said that he manifested "acute distress." The Press account added that the puppies were kept in a shed adjoining the College of Pestology, and were **intended for experimental purposes**. I wrote to him, and said I thanked God and the assassin that the poor little creatures were free at least from him and his machinations!

(NOTE BY EDITOR.—This, we hope, will show our readers the real spirit of the enemy the entire Cat World has to face. Will any be so foolish as to support, so weak as not to oppose? Is it not an insult to all that our Cats should be ranked by these people as PESTS, and considered fit subjects to be dealt with by a College of Pestology, as if they were weevils, wireworms, or mosquitos?)

THAT KRUSCHEN FELINE!

ANOTHER friend informed Mrs. Oglethorpe that she had cured a cat of long-standing skin trouble by the use of Kruschen Salts, and Mrs. Oglethorpe is now giving it to all her cats in their morning milk, and she considers it keeps them very merry and bright. Perhaps this is why Adam, her old pet neuter, often wakes his mistress at night by scratching at the door. His Kruschen (?) exuberance has led him to catch a rat or squirrel, which he brings in with great pride, and, of course, it would hurt his feelings to reject his offerings. On one occasion, however, Adam had to own himself beaten, and that was when he found a hedgehog! His great joy in the spring is to pick a daffodil in the garden, and with this in his mouth he runs all over the house.

DR. JOHNSON AND HIS CAT.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

BY M. OLDFIELD HOWEY

(Member of the Incorporated Society of Authors,
Playwrights, and Composers).

As our Editor has more than once remarked in the columns of "Cat Gossip," there is still a lingering fallacy that cats are especially the companions of old maids. I am not now proposing to trace this superstition to its origin in the cult of Dianism, and its degenerate daughter, Witchcraft, or to give a category of the great men who have loved and admired Puss since the day when Mohammed cut off a portion of his robe, rather than disturb the cat who had seated herself thereon. But I think cat lovers of to-day will like to be reminded of the fondness which Dr. Johnson displayed for his favourite Puss. This animal rejoiced in the unromantic name of Hodge, and the great doctor's adoring biographer, Boswell, says he shall never forget the indulgence with which Hodge's master treated his pet. Dr. Johnson would go out himself to buy oysters for his cat's delectation, lest if he asked the servants to take that trouble they might regard the "poor" animal with dislike. Boswell confesses that "unluckily" he himself had an antipathy to cats, and was always uneasy if in the same room with one, so that he often suffered much from the presence of Hodge. Still, for his friend's sake he tried to put a good face on the matter, and when one day the cat, with much satisfaction, scrambled up Dr. Johnson's breast, whilst that great man, smiling and half whistling, rubbed down his back and pulled him by the tail, Boswell loyally remarked that Hodge was "a fine cat." "Why, yes, sir," replied Johnson, "but I have had cats whom I liked better than this." Then, as if feeling that Hodge might be hurt by his words, added: "But he is a very fine cat, a very fine cat indeed."

Boswell tells us how his hero described picturesquely the despicable state into which a young gentleman of his acquaintance had fallen, by saying, "Sir, when I heard of him last he was running about town shooting cats." And then, suddenly remembering his own favourite puss, and perhaps apprehensive that his speech might cause the creature fear, he quickly added: "But Hodge shan't be shot; no, no, Hodge shall not be shot."

How vividly these recollections of the adoring biographer bring the doctor before our mind's eye; "a man whose talents, acquirements, and virtues were so extraordinary," and yet who so lovingly stooped to wait upon a small and furry friend, and credited it with a human understanding and sensibility.

Would that we had him among us to-day.

H. OLDFIELD HOWEY.

SMOKE PERSIANS.

BY MISS BOWDEN-SMITH.

OUR EDITOR has been kind enough to ask me to write something about Smoke Persians, a variety which, I feel, is sadly neglected by most fanciers.

Four years ago I went to my first Cat Show, and the Smokes took my fancy more than any others. I had never seen one before, and I could not tear myself away from their pens. The little black face coming out of a huge silver frill was too attractive for me, and I came away having bought from Mrs. Singleton "Cinderella of The Cottage."

It seems to me now that there is a very great deal of improvement needed. So few that are seen in the show pen are really my idea of what a Smoke should be like.

An absolutely black mask is essential; a marked face is so ugly, and all the character of a Smoke is lost if the contrasts are not very pronounced.

Smokes are rather difficult to breed, and this, I suppose, is why so few people go in for them. But it is the difficulties that make breeding them so interesting to me. I am crossing my Smokes with Blues this year, to try and improve the quality. They seem to be getting so small for one thing.

Cinderella I have sent to Magnus o' Mendip, and I am going to get a Blue queen for my Ch. Goblin.

Of course, I shall get a big percentage of Blues, but they are useful for breeding, and one stands a good chance of getting a real Blue-Smoke, which is now a recognised variety. I bred three last year. There is no mistaking them when they are born, for they have the same white-marked face a Black-Smoke has. I do not honestly think I should ever like them as well as the Black-Smokes. The contrasts, of course, cannot be so pronounced. All the same, they are a very pretty variety.

Mrs. Nathan bought two Blue-Smoke queens from me. I am delighted she is going to start breeding smokes. Mrs. Flanders also has bought the two Black-Smoke kittens from me that I showed at Kentish Town. So I do hope next show season we shall see the Smoke classes better filled, and in time be able to breed only with Smokes, and thus eliminate the Black and Blue element.

JUST TWENTY-FIVE years ago some one writing in "Our Cats" observed:—"On going round the Short-hair section of the Westbourne Grove Cat Show one could not but be struck with the advance in quality, colour, and markings of the exhibits, especially in the tabby varieties, whose dense and correct markings were most noticeable and would have rejoiced the heart and eyes of that staunch supporter of the S.H. cats, Harrison Weir."—How far have we got on since then?

"A CERTAIN LIVELINESS" TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO.

BY THE EDITOR.

1901 was certainly an exciting time for the Cat Fancy! We did "see life" then, even if not so peaceful (and apathetic) as to-day! In the beginning an epidemic of gastro-enteritis was raging all over the country. January saw the formation of a Siamese Cat Club, with Miss Derby-Hyde as secretary. Next came the Cat's-Meat-Men's dinner, which we recently described. The Cat Club's Show at Westminster "proved a splendid success"—though it was afterwards announced to have resulted in a loss of £113! Mrs. Carew-Cox was the only judge who is yet an active "catter." Next, we read in the Press of the day that Miss Derby-Hyde started a "Manx and S.H. Foreign Cat Club," on the advice of Lady Alexander. It did not prosper, and was afterwards divided into the British Cat Club and the Manx Club. There were violent quarrels in the ranks of the Silver Society, and acrimonious correspondence ensued. The Blue Persian Cat Society was founded on February 20th at 35, Longridge Road, Earl's Court. There were "ructions" in the Cat Club's Managing Committee, and Miss Simpson resigned. The Silver Society held a meeting, from which the Press were excluded. Resignations began

to pour in. A Chinchilla Cat Club was founded. The cat world provided many beautiful presents for Miss Gertrude Willoughby on her marriage to Lord Decies, on March 12th. The Short-haired Cat Society was formed on March 30th. The Press were formally excluded from all meetings of the Cat Club. The Blue Persian Society became extinct, and two rival clubs were immediately formed to take its place, one by the supporters of Miss Simpson, the other by the friends of Mrs. Strick. At a violent inaugural meeting Miss Simpson's party won, and "the other club quietly slid out of being," it is recorded. On May 9th the National Cat Club formulated a rule to disqualify all cats entered in any register but its own. On May 20th the Cat Club decided to take no steps in this matter. The Sandy Executive decided that all cats shown there must be registered with the Cat Club. This put the fat in the fire, as the National Club, which had also promised support to Sandy, of course had to withdraw it. Its only other course, as Mrs. Ransome wrote in "The Progressive Fancier," would have been to drop its stud book and retire from the scene. "Nearly everyone is agreed upon the necessity of there being only one register. It seems to me that members of the Cat Club who are also members of the N.C.C. are bound to state definitely and clearly why they cannot leave the original register in its present hands, and what they are fighting for." 133 cats were entered at Sandy

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in August. On September 6th the N.C.C. revised the rule, and Lady Decies proposed, Sir Claud Alexander seconding:—"That all cats registered at the N.C.C. be disqualified at shows under N.C.C. rules if shown after January 1st, 1902, at shows where registration other than that of the N.C.C. is made compulsory." The Cat Club held its autumn show at Slough, and caused great dissatisfaction by wholesale amalgamations, which enabled them to devote £101 to the Windsor Nursing Homes. The resignation of Mrs. Strick from the Cat Club was announced, and Miss Derby-Hyde resigned from the Siamese Club after a long dispute. The Crystal Palace Show was a record for quality and numbers. Of the judges, the only two now active were the Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison and Mr. H. C. Brooke. The Cat Club rejected the proposals of the N.C.C. that the two registers be amalgamated, and that then the C.C. receive 20 per cent of the profits, the N.C.C. bearing the expense. The Midland Cat Club was formed in November at Wolverhampton Show. "Our Cats" said "Mr. H. C. Brooke suffered a severe loss in the death of Ch. Katzenjammer, the best Manx cat ever seen." It was decided that at the "Aquarium" Show in 1902 exhibitors might pen their own cats for the first time in the history of the Cat Club. The Manchester Show of the Northern Counties' C.C. was its largest and best exhibition, Chinchillas being specially excellent. As "Our Cats" remarked:—"The year 1901 was a remarkable one for the cat fancy."

BOOK REVIEWS.

By MARION SHERIDAN-JONES.

THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE.

Another story of India—this time among the tea plantations. A young white planter finds himself getting seriously enamoured of the wife of a neighbour, a drunken dissolute brute, who does not deserve the charming young woman who has chosen him for her life's protector. But Fate looks after the young lovers, and kindly kills off the husband just when the other two were thinking of making a "get-away." The story is well told, and the local colour good.

"THE MONSOON BIRD," by W. KOBOLD KNIGHT.
(Cassell, 7/6 net.)

BIRTHS.

March.—Mrs. Waber's Babette, 3 kittens by Mrs. Kidd's Ch. Tarzan.

Miss Markham's Flora, 5 kittens by Mrs. Kidd's John of Downside.

CONTINENTAL CATDOM.

THERE is some "slight unpleasantness" in catty circles on the Continent just now. A new Cat Club, with headquarters in Paris, has just been formed, in rivalry to Dr. Jumaud's Club, and will hold a show in the Salle Wagram at the end of May.

THE Belgian Club, "Les Amis du Chat," in a long report, complains that Dr. Jumaud's Club, which is known as the Cat Club de France et de Belgique, is not justified in assuming the Belgian part of its title. It also protests against the proposition to breed cats for fur, which, it asserts, has been made by an official of the French Club in a certain French paper. The Belgian cat fanciers hope soon to found a home for lost cats.

M. MAX RASQUIN, writing in *Chasse et Pêche*, pleads for the creation of a variety of cat to be specially a Belgian breed; and Dr. G. Hasse, whilst recognising the difficulties confronting such a task, suggests that if attempted it should be the S.H. tri-coloured cat which should be adopted as the national breed.

CHASSE ET PECHE, our Belgian contemporary, notifies an interesting case of a male goat, a proved stock-getter, which also is furnished with a teat from which a small quantity of milk is obtainable. This is not the first case on record, and is, of course, an instance of abnormal lactation, another more frequent form of which is found in those instances, recorded both in the bitch and the cat, in which female animals have given milk and even suckled young, without themselves being pregnant. It would be interesting to know whether there is any instance on record in the cat, analogous to that of the goat

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above referred to. The goat would appear to be more prone to abnormalities of sex than other animals.

A CAT CLUB has recently been formed in Brussels. The Cat Club de France, owing to the crowds which have besieged their shows, find it necessary to decide in future to keep the public a certain distance from the pens by means of a barrier.

THE BOER CAT. A SNAKE EXTERMINATOR.

THERE ARE three accessories to every Boer homestead. These are a Bible, a gun, and a cat. The Bible will be found on the small table in the sitting-room, the gun in a corner, and the cat will be out on the stoep. This is the cat's place, and anyone who should say that the animal is not fully aware of this fact, has never studied cat nature. The Boer is not wilfully cruel to animals, but, in common with all coarse natures, he is indifferent to them. If the cat should lie in his path, he would tread upon it. The cat is aware of this fact, and a stranger passing from the house to the stoep would probably be startled by seeing a dark object dash by as he opens the half-doors. This is the cat, getting out of the way of the "old man's" feet. The quantity of milk that is thrown away on a Boer farm would astonish an English dairyman. Few of the farmers make any butter, and any milk that is over is emptied into large waste-pans outside the kitchen door. The result of this is that the cat gets more than fat. This naturally causes it not to be so keen in annexing any stray mice that might be about, but does not quench its ardour when any snakes are near. The cat is the worst enemy the South African snake has, and this is saying a good deal. The average white man will go out of his way to kill one of these reptiles. The Secretary bird plays his part in diminishing their number, but neither can be placed on the same level with the cat as a snake exterminator, this animal's wonderful quickness making it very successful in gripping the snake by its most vulnerable point, namely, the back of the neck. One grip, and the snake is dead, and the cat can then return to its well earned rest. It sometimes happens that the snake gets the first grip, and then, of course, the cat's minutes are numbered.

VISITS.

February 8th.—Mrs. Whittle's Blue queen:
March.—Miss Vanhear's **Biddy**: Miss Hill-Shaw's **Thea**: Mrs. Haeseler's Blue queen: Mrs. Kidd's **Moonlight**:
April 4th.—Mrs. Tydeman's **Gillian**: all to Mrs. Kidd's **John of Downside**.
February.—Mrs. Spencer Smith's **Lady Jane**: Miss Hill-Shaw's **Pat**.
March.—Mrs. Nathan's Blue, Smoke queen:
April.—Miss Arlett's **Fetnah**: Mrs. Kidd's **Mischief**: all to Mrs. Kidd's **Ch. Tarzan**.

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All Correspondence to be sent to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE, BISHOP'S HULL, TAUNTON.

Assist. Editor, London Agency and Book Reviews: M. Sheridan-Jones, 11, Tunley Road, London, S.W. 17.

AT STUD.

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MISS HILL, of Herne Bay, whose team enters our stud columns, is certainly to be congratulated. She only commenced showing in 1923, and has already bred two full champions—Princess Salyana and her daughter Tiger Lily of Wolborough—and two challenge certificate winners, Whatmer and Galdorn. The latter could not be shown next season as he had a scratch on his neck which took a long time to heal.

AT STUD.

SIAMESE.

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