

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## LONGHAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

OUR English Black Champion L.H. Male, Ch. Heathside Flauark, is soon to cross the water, and become the property of Mrs. Foreman, of Toronto. Ch. Flauark is widely known as a consistent winner on the show bench, having annexed in all ten championships—the last being won at the late S.C.C.C. Show, on January 27th, 1927, his daughter, Mrs. Adams' Black Susan of Barnsley, being awarded the female black championship. Flauark was born June 28th, 1922, sire Lanark Lad, dam Princess Flandria, breeder Mrs. B. H. Soame, from whom Mrs. Sydney Evans purchased him as quite a young adult.

Mrs. Aubrey, just returned from a pleasant Devonshire holiday, sends the following interesting notes of her young stock:—"I'm afraid, having reduced my cattery this year, I haven't very much news to relate, but those little pets I have are quite promising. Ch. Beauty has four little girls, by Peter of Aldwych, all full of life and fun! Two of the four have very good heads, and all have those big round eyes, which are always so attractive in our Chinchillas. Ch. Sunshine had two kittens, also by Peter of Aldwych, but unfortunately one was stillborn; 'he other, however, is a big bonnie boy, above the average weight, with the promise of the same sparkling coat his mother has. He also has wonderfully good eyes, in fact he is a nice type all round. My other queen, Butterfly, has yet to litter, and I'm hoping she will present me with some nice male kittens, for, sired by Ch. Langherne Felix, they should be good. I am having more more pleasure with my pets this year, owing to the smaller number. It is a pity to make the work of one's hobby so heavy that one loses the pleasure and recreation to be obtained from it, and I am sure the pussies themselves are happier because they get more individual love and attention."

Everyone, I think, knows Mrs. Aubrey's lovely Langherne Chinchillas. I have received much courtesy from both Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey at the various Midland Shows, Mr. Aubrey being Treasurer of the M.C.C. and Delegate to the G.C.

From Mrs. S. E. Tomlinson, whose prefix is "Maythorpe," comes the following sensible advice:—"To Novices, a Cheshire Fancier's experiences. Avoid handling young kits as much as possible unless com-

plications arise, as the mother can perform all that is necessary far better than we can. When kits are quiet it is a good sign, and after about five days, when the mother begins to leave her kittens for a longer period, you see the kittens cuddled up together asleep. This denotes progress. Don't allow strangers to see or handle young kits, especially in the presence of their mother, for this usually leads to the mother carrying them away from their warm bed, and hiding them probably in some colder and less desirable quarters, so they contract cold and eye trouble. After three weeks I begin teaching them to lap, giving either "Cow and Gate" or "Glaxo" twice a day, just as much as they will take, gradually increasing to three times a day. About five weeks old I introduce Robinson's Patent Groats for one meal, also a little cow's milk, and boiled fish with bones removed, mixed with boiled rice. I never hurry to give raw meat. Mrs. Campbell Fraser's prediction last year that my Lady Maythorpe, mated to Ch. Endymion of the Balcony, the progeny should be good, was indeed so; besides winning, they sold well, as good stock always does. This time I mated her to a Blue, Mrs. Furniss' Kemlin Mask Marvel; result excellent, two Reds, one Blue, bonny healthy kits. My red tabby female, Sandstone, has been mated to Mrs. Nathan's Little Slam. I am hoping Sandstone will make her debut at some of the forthcoming Ch. Shows and do as well as she has at Chester and Manchester as a kitten. Sandstone was sired by Lancashire Evening Sunset, and her mother was my late Tortie queen, Sphinx. Thanks to the kind friends who have sent me "Cat Gossip," I wish the paper every success, and intend to become a subscriber.

Owing to our busy Editor's absence in Paris, where he has been judging, I am poaching on his "Short Hair Preserves" by adding to my notes the following Siamese memo, kindly sent me from the pen of Mrs. M. C. Benthull, Countess Wear House, S. Devon:—"I feel sure all readers of 'Cat Gossip' will sympathise with Mrs. Carr, of Netley Abbey, in her tragic loss. Sita Mana, her Siamese queen, was due to have her first litter (by Paddi of Petaling) on May 5th. About ten days before this date a stray cat came into her garden and fought her. She seemed all right until the 3rd inst., when her kittens were born dead, and, in spite of all the vet. and her

devoted mistress could do. Sita died on the 5th. Poor Mrs. Carr feels her loss sadly, as they simply loved each other. This is the first attempt she has made to rear Siamese in England; she was, however, well known as a breeder in India, and some of her cats' photographs were reproduced in the 'Lady's Field' in 1913. Her queen, Room Sing (Siamese for Your Ladyship), was actually born in one of the Palaces in Bankok. She told me this queen was killed by a leopard in the Himalaya, leaving orphans ten days old. These Mrs. Carr successfully reared on a bottle, the sire cat doing all the cleaning and keeping them warm. I believe I am right in saying that Mrs. Carr had a Siamese kitten in Ireland who was killed by a dog! I do hope that when she can bear to see another cat she will have better luck. Sita Mana was a daughter of my Suki Mana. I have just sent another kitten up to Edinburgh; he has only been there a week, but has won 'all hearts,' and is perfectly happy and smacks the dog's face. He had a 15 hours' journey, and was previously such a nervous kitten that I took him motoring in his basket one day to prevent his possibly dying of fright on his way to Scotland."

Mrs. Wade is the new member of Committee for the B.P.C.S.

Mrs. J. M. Fisher's Hustler of Hadley, exported to Vancouver, has become a full Champion.

Mrs. OGLETHORPE has sold the Blue Persian, Day Dream, to M. Armand Steens, of Antwerp, through "Cat Gossip."

WE ARE SORRY to say certain items have been delayed through being sent to us during our absence from home, and thus they have been following us about. I gave full directions in a recent number. After June 8th please send everything direct to us, as hitherto. We also regret being unable to supply the second half of the description of the Paris Cat Show, as we were taken very ill that night, the climax of about three weeks' ill-health, and were unable to visit the Show on the second day. The subscriptions of many who subscribed to "Cat Gossip" for six months from the beginning, expire with No. 26, and it will greatly help us if subscribers will renew without waiting for reminders. We also regret to see the printers placed the birth of Mrs. Raper's kittens under "Deaths." Absit omen!—THE EDITOR.

### BIRTHS.

May 24th.—Miss Atkinson's **Tinette**, two kittens by Mrs. Kidd's **John of Downside**.

### VISITS.

Miss L'Estrange Walsh's queen to Mrs. Kidd's **John of Downside**.

May 27th.—Miss Grayton's **Dinah** to Mrs. McClure's **To-To**.

May 28th.—Miss Jacob's **Catriona** to Mrs. McClure's **To-To**.

May 30th.—Miss Drummond's **Bird's Flame** to Mrs. McClure's **To-To**, The Pear Tree, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

### COMING CATS.

I PROPOSE in the subsequent issues of "Cat Gossip" to run through the names of the winning kittens of the different L.H. breeds, shown last season at the six Championship Shows. Their names will be interesting to follow, in order to discover whether they fulfil their early promise.

#### No. 1. BLACK L.H. KITTENS.

Mrs. Yeates, Desert Chief; Mrs. McClure, Patsy Dinah; Miss Appleby, Endora; Miss Birdseye, Count Monty; Mrs. McClure, Hellington Nigroid; Mrs. Mackenzie, Black Dot; Miss Appleby, Ronald; Mrs. Tomlinson, Zebo, Mrs. Gilbert, Corbo.

The names which stood out—Desert Chief, Patsy Dinah, and Hellington Nigroid—were from a litter of six kittens bred by Miss Balaam, dam Heathside Black Chiffon, sire that veteran cat Black Justice, grandsire Midnight Mail, grand dam Black Empress. Black Justice won a championship at the S.C.C.C. Show 1921; he was born in 1917.

With the exception of two or three other black kittens the foregoing constitute all the stock shown of this variety last season. At Newbury Show there was not a single entry.

It is really grievous for the Fancy that the "Lucky Black" is not more bred. Everyone admires a handsome black cat, and for those keen on showing there is plenty of room. Wake up, ye novices, go in and win! We have not far to look to find one young fancier who did so last season.

I am sorry I was unable to trace the first prize kitten at Croydon, 114a, evidently a late entry. Will the owner kindly communicate?

#### Next Week: No. 2. White L.H. Kittens.

G. CAMPBELL FRASER.

Bequests in favour of cats are now not so very uncommon. The first recorded instance aroused much criticism, and was referred to by Pope in the line:

"Die, and endow a college or a cat."

This testator was "La Belle Stewart," afterwards Duchess of Richmond, who left annuities to certain female friends conditionally on their maintaining her favourite cats.

When the celebrated actor, Foote, first opened his shows at the Little Theatre, in the Haymarket, over 200 years ago, he proposed to entertain the public with a "Cat Concert," imitations of cats, by a man nick-named Cat Harris. The man not turning up at rehearsal on one occasion, Foote sent a messenger for him, who, knowing the court in the Minorities where he resided, but not the house, set up a loud caterwauling on entering the court, whereupon the other, opening his window, replied with a similar cantata. Come along, said the messenger, I want no better information—Mr. Foote is waiting for you.

## CHARLES DICKENS AND HIS CATS.

THE immortal writer, whose works are but insufficiently appreciated by a Charleston—and football—crazy generation, possessed a considerable comprehension of canine and feline character, although he scarcely introduced them into his works as much as one might have expected. At Gad's Hill he owned a cat rejoicing in the name of Wilhelmina, who, on the occasion of her first "increase," insisted on bringing her six hopefuls into his study. This he attempted to prevent, but puss persisted in bringing them in through the window, and laying them at his feet whilst giving him a beseeching look, until he felt compelled to let her have her own way.

One of these kittens proved to be deaf, and, fearing for its welfare in strange hands, Dickens kept this one himself after homes had been found for the remainder of the litter. This cat was known to the household as "The master's cat," and always sat with him when at work, or accompanied him when he walked in the garden.

One evening when he was sitting quietly reading at a rather late hour, the candle at his shoulder was suddenly extinguished. Thinking it due to an accidental movement on the part of the cat, he re-lit it and again began to read, when he was surprised to see the cat deliberately dab her paw on the flame, at the same time looking wistfully in his face. The

wonderful intuition of the master showed him at once what was wanted. He left his reading, and devoted a little time to play with his pet, who had chosen thus to assert her claims to his attention.

## BOOKS REVIEWED.

### THE MIGHTY ATOM.

We have, all of us, read Mr. H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" and many another thriller, comforting ourselves with the reflection that the events could not really happen, or, if they can, we can meet and destroy them. But what shall we do when man really harnesses the atom, as he does in this latest fantasy of Karel Capek? He goes farther, and shows us a world in which not only is a mighty force let loose among mankind, but with it a new religion. But it is no gospel of peace which faces the populace. For a time it loosens all sympathy and understanding, and the "rich man loves the poor man," gives all he has to him, and the lion lies down with the lamb. Soon, however, the new faith sets all the world ablaze, and we stand appalled at the ravages inflicted on suffering humanity. Here we have no comfort. The harnessing of the atom is a possibility, and the author of R.U.R. presents a disturbing vision as well as a magnificent piece of satire.

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## THE HAIRLESS CATS OF NEW MEXICO.

By THE EDITOR.

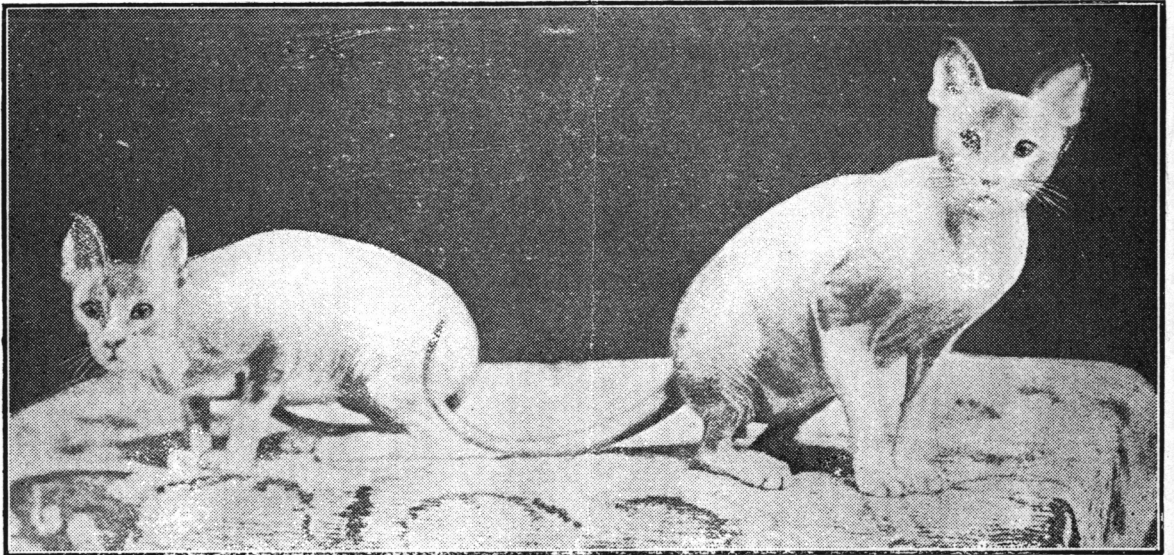
THERE is reason to fear that this extraordinary breed is now extinct, my inquiries at the National Museum, at Santa Fé having failed to elicit any information, even though kindly backed up by the local New Mexican Press. It is, therefore, from the point of view of science, a very fortunate thing that about a quarter of a century ago I got in touch with the resident of Albuquerque, N.M., who apparently owned the last pair in existence of these very remarkable animals, which he very foolishly did not allow to mate because they were brother and sister. Had I not had this good fortune the Mexican Hairless Cat must have remained as great a riddle to posterity as is now to us the Chinese Drop-Eared Cat. The only other specimen I have heard of was owned, long

Indians, and the Jesuit Fathers considered them to be the last survivors of an ancient Aztec breed, though the Albuquerque Curator writes me he has no knowledge of the Aztecs having domesticated cats. At certain periods in the year they grew a short singed-looking coat, which fell off after a few days. I have recorded an exactly similar phenomenon in the case of a certain strain of Hairless Mice I owned; it never occurs, I believe, in Hairless Dogs. The skin of these cats was very soft and finely wrinkled, and they greatly enjoyed being bathed.

## KATS IN KANO.

By MRS. AMOORE.

ALTHOUGH rare, one occasionally here and there finds cats which would pass muster in any average show at



The wonderful Hairless Cats of New Mexico, believed to have been an ancient Aztec breed, and probably now extinct. The only information science possesses as to these Cats is that supplied by the Editor of "Cat Gossip." Their condition presented a certain analogy to that of the Hairless Mice, which is not observable in the better known Hairless Dogs. Block by courtesy of "Animals."

ago, by the Hon. Mrs. MacLaren Morrison. How true it is that "evil is wrought by want of thought"! By not thinking to keep pictorial records and to have the cat preserved, this lady has deprived science of most valuable information!

Alas, there is reason to fear that want of thought has on too many occasions done this injury to science. (Even I, moi qui vous parle, have offended in precisely the same manner, by not preserving specimens of the Green Rats I owned thirty years ago, and of which only one other specimen is on record as having been noted, by a Curator of the Giza Zoo. If I live to be a hundred I shall never forgive myself for this.)

These cats were obtained from a tribe of local

home. During my stay in West Africa I was fortunate enough to have two white Persian kittens of either sex given me. The male was of medium size, with long pure white fur of very fine texture; his head was small and his nose pointed, the eyes large, the ears small and erect. The coat on body and tail was pure white, the latter being particularly fine and lushy. The female cat was small, and much prettier, with a less pointed head and a thicker coat of a lovely pure white. One of her eyes was brown and the other pale blue. From these two I had kittens, which, however, were very delicate and difficult to rear. These cats seem to possess more character than those in this country, and were very affectionate. One of their chief delights was to chase and catch

lizards. The male was extraordinarily faithful to me; after I left for England he would pay periodical visits to our various homes in the district, most of them two or three miles apart; eventually he would return to the bungalow where my English Airedale and the female Persian were guests until my return.

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